

# The Iowa Wildlifer

The Newsletter of Iowa's Wildlife Professionals

**Points of Interest:**

- Fall Meeting
- President's perspective
- Officer Bios and ballot
- State Wildlife Grant Programs
- Natural Resources plates

**Chapter Officers**

- President:** Rolf Koford  
**President Elect:** Willie Suchy  
**Secretary/Treasurer:** Doug Harr  
**Member at Large:** Dave Otis

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**If you receive a paper copy of TWS newsletter and have electronic service, please forward your e-mail address to PSchlarbaum@isunet.net.**

**Fall Meeting announced by Willie Suchy:**

The Iowa Chapter of The Wildlife Society will be October 3 and 4 in Ames on Iowa State University campus in the Memorial Union, Gallery Room.

The meeting will start at 1 pm on the 3rd and run through noon on the 4th. The afternoon of the 3rd will feature presentations on current research/management activities. I do not have a schedule of papers/presentations yet. Anyone interested should contact myself or Jim Coffey. The business meeting will follow the presentations.

The meeting on the 4th will feature a training session on dealing with the media. This training session will be put on by Wixed Pope Nora Thompson & Associates, 4401 Westown Parkway Suite 116, West Des Moines, IA 50266

**Overview**  
 Effective communication skills are essential to the success of the Iowa Chapter of The Wildlife Society and the constituents you serve across the country. Communicating with a core strategy throughout the organization is critical to reaching key stakeholders. Complete audience analysis is a prerequisite for communicating via the media, especially for a government agency. Audience-centered communicators are effective communicators. Government agencies are under increasing scrutiny from today's news media - in fact, the public has grown to expect it. This has created a culture in which ICWS members must work harder than ever before to craft messages that are aligned with the strategic business objectives of the organizations.



Female Osprey, H8, at Hartman Reserve Nature Center released in 2001. Identification was provided by photographer Bill Schuerman. Two young fledged at this site, thanks to Friends of Hartman Reserve. Elsewhere there were six nest attempts, with four successes at Boone and Polk Co. and Macbride Raptor Project. A total of eight young were produced.

**Objectives:**

- demystify the editorial process and provide a deeper understanding of the media mindset and how it has changed
- understand the importance of forming strong media relationships
- learn how to connect the need to provide public information with advocacy

**Workshop Title: Media Awareness (4 hours)**  
 This half day seminar is excellent for staff, members, and industry experts - anyone who has the potential to be the first contact with the media. The Media Awareness session discusses the fundamentals of how the media works and how it has changed - we will examine the Media Mindset and Editorial Process - how has it changed in 2006? Participants will learn how to position the need to provide public information with the role of advocacy. A key element will be how to build strong media relationships - relationships that withstand the test of fairness. Other key learning elements include how news becomes news, how to shape a

## Notes from the President — Rolf Koford

Technology is amazing. With devices small enough to get lost in a pocket or purse, or even fit on one's wrist, we can socialize, conduct business, find the nearest steak joint, or determine how fast we are moving. The challenge is to take advantage of this technology and make it work for us individually and collectively instead of letting others take advantage of us. Bosses, colleagues, families and friends all have needs, and technology makes it easy for the needy ones to let us know in a speedy way about how we can help them. Over the last two years, our chapter has been fortunate to have officers and active members willing to set their own agendas and work to keep our chapter going and make it relevant. We have had great meetings and we have entered the electronic age with our newsletter. We are positioned to make further progress in the interests of Iowa's wildlife.

With this issue of the newsletter, which contains a ballot, you can affect the direction the chapter will take in the next two years. A new slate of candidates has agreed to serve if called upon. I urge every member of our chapter to vote. Put yourself in the place of those who have agreed to run for office. Perhaps they had to be talked into running, or have had to join the National TWS. If you were in their shoes, wouldn't you want a large "turnout" so that you felt like the members of the chapter cared about its direction and your leadership? Let's give the new officers a mandate.

Those of you who aren't members of the National TWS should consider joining. The publications are being revamped <<http://www.wildlife.org/publications/index.cfm?tname=pubsfaq>>, with online access coming soon and a single journal coming in 2007.

The officers and committee members have been great!. As long as we can appreciate our history and strengths, and build bridges to others with similar interests, we will continue to thrive. In the end, it's not technology that will conserve Iowa' wildlife; it's the hard work and dedication of the wildlife professionals working with the people of Iowa for the benefit of both. Let's keep it up.

(Continued from page 1) **Fall Meeting**

media interaction, and how media convergence and technology is changing the role and responsibilities of public affairs and communication professionals. Videotape case studies will be used to illustrate the main points of the training session. This session is an awareness program and not a skill building program for spokespersons.

Blocks of rooms have been secured for overnight accommodations:

Memorial Union 515-292-1111

Rooms are available, indicate TWS rates as this meeting includes Student Chapter of TWS

Super 8 1418 Dayton Ave. 515-232-6510

Single \$45.99 Queen sized bed

Double \$50.99 Two full-sized beds

**The annual HawkWatch at Effigy Mounds National Monument will return in September for its twenty second year.**

Coordinated by Pam Kester of Marquette, raptor enthusiasts from all ages and professions enjoy daily activities geared for the whole family. —*It's the best place to be in the universe on the last full weekend of September!*

Sponsored by the NE Iowa Audubon Society, National Park Service and Iowa Department of Natural Resources

On the web at [www.nps.gov/efmo](http://www.nps.gov/efmo)

## Candidates for TWS Member at Large

### *Jim Coffey*

Current Position: Forest Wildlife Research Technician for the Iowa DNR

I first joined the Wildlife Society 1986 as part of the ISU student chapter. The wildlife society should act as a voice for wildlife professionals. This is our arena to openly discuss policies and future impacts on our wildlife resources. As an elected member at large I would work to keep abreast of current issues facing our profession.

### *Bill Bunger*

Current Position: Wildlife Depredation Biologist for Iowa DNR

Like the other candidates, I have worked with wildlife and wildlife related activities my whole life. Professionally my career began in 1982 with Iowa Conservation Commission and have been fortunate to research and manage a variety of species from waterfowl, deer, raccoons, turkeys and feral hogs. Have served as President of Iowa Chapter of Wild Turkey Federation and cherish opportunities to share outdoor experiences with my family, when there is time. Clearly, the most significant professional, conservation organization involves TWS, and I welcome the challenge to assist the Chapter in our conservation mission to preserve and enhance natural resources for future generations.

## Candidates for TWS Secretary / Treasurer

### *Jim Jansen*

Current Position: NE District Wildlife Supervisor for Iowa DNR

Hello my name is Jim Jansen and I am running for secretary-treasurer of the Iowa Chapter of TWS. I have been with the Iowa DNR for 11 years. I received a B.S. from I. S. U. in 1987 and a M.S. in 1992 from U.W. S. P. I am passionate about conservation of our natural resources and have worked in the field in 5 states including Iowa. I have been a chairperson for the Iowa Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society for 13 years dealing with financial reports, funds, and meeting organization. I believe it is very important for Iowa Chapter of TWS be on the forefront of wildlife legislative issues. I think our chapter needs to increase its visibility regarding these issues.

### *Doug Chafa*

Current Position: Wildlife Biologist at the Sweet Marsh Wildlife Unit for Iowa DNR

I have lived, worked, and played in all four corners of the state. I enjoy hunting for waterfowl, turkeys, and deer. My work interests include restoration and fire ecology. As a candidate for secretary-treasurer of the Iowa Chapter, I would strive to expand membership and continue the traditions of making chapter functions a conduit for continuing education.

## Candidates for TWS President Elect

### *Mike Griffin*

Current Position: Mississippi River Wildlife Biologist for Iowa DNR

Hello my name is Mike Griffin I have worked for the DNR for over 20 years. I have worked in NW, SE and NE Iowa in research, wildlife management, and even fisheries. I believe The Wildlife Society role should be in education and information to the public. I also believe that the president has to think big on issues that effect wildlife, habitat, user groups, and the political representatives that in act legislation. If elected I will try to be an effective voice and leader for the TWS.

### *Ed White*

Current Position: Wildlife Technician II at Ringgold Wildlife Management Unit for Iowa DNR

Received a B.S. degree from Iowa State University in 1981. Been with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for 25 years. The Wildlife Society provides an important opportunity for continuing education and information for agency personnel.

## Ballot for Iowa TWS Officers

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**Member At Large:**

**Bill Bunger**

**Jim Coffey**

**Secretary / Treasurer:**

**Doug Chafa**

**Jim Jansen**

**President Elect:**

**Mike Griffin**

**Ed White**

**Please return completed ballot to Doug Harr, Secy/Treasurer TWS, Wildlife  
Research Station, 1436 255th St., Boone, IA 50036**

## STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS NEED YOUR HELP!

By *Doug Harr*

Annual appropriations for the State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program are temporarily stalled in Congress. After 220 members initially pledged to support increasing SWG to \$85 million in FY07, the U.S. House of Representatives in June actually voted to slash SWG funds to \$50 million, a 26% cut from the FY06 appropriation. Similar support for more SWG dollars in the Senate faded when that body voted to keep funding at the same level as FY06, or \$67.5 million. Earlier this year President Bush's budget actually called for \$74.5 million.

Budget work will resume following the traditional August recess, and it appears the SWG program faces two possibilities. One might be a compromise forged in conference committee, which could result in something less than last year's funding, unless Congress hears an outcry from concerned conservationists. Another possibility is that all FY07 budget items would be rolled into an omnibus bill, a tactic often used in election years and which could open SWG up to funding all, nothing, or anything in between.

Every State's Wildlife Action Plan has been completed and nearly all are approved. That was the requirement by Congress in order for SWG funding to be continued. Now that the plans are done it appears the promise for continued or increased funding might have been a hollow one.

Iowa has received an average of \$750,000 annually since 2001 and has matched that with state and private funds, resulting in nearly \$5 million being spent to better manage habitat, conduct important research, establish a permanent prairie seed processing facility, and protect nearly 4,000 acres of land to date. More projects currently are being funded with Iowa's current allocation. This is critical not only for declining species, but many traditional game species as well. At a time when increased funding is an absolute necessity for the future of Iowa's wildlife, loss of even some SWG funding would be tragic. If you're concerned about this situation, it's time to call, write or email your Congressman and Senators, and simply ask them to maintain the Senate's allocation (\$67.5 M) for State Wildlife Grants through the Conference Committee process. That would assure that all states will get at least the same amount as last year. Wildlife needs your help--take action now!

For additional information on the status of SWG, the following websites will provide periodic updates:

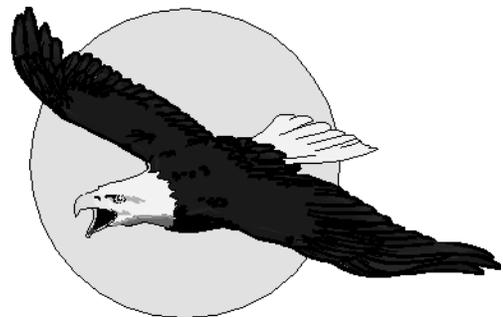
AFWA/Teaming With Wildlife: [www.teaming.com](http://www.teaming.com)

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership: [www.trcp.com](http://www.trcp.com)



Your submissions make for a more interesting newsletter. Electronic submissions in WORD format are desired. Contact Pat Schlarbaum if you need information about submitting a bit of news for the next newsletter.

PSchlarbaum@isunet.net  
1436 255th Street  
Boone, IA 50036  
(515) 432-2823



## Even with price increase NATURE PLATES REBOUNDED

New sales figures for Iowa's natural resources license plates are welcomed news to conservation interests around the state.

While still the state's most popular specialty plate, sales of the goldfinch-wildrose plate had skidded from about 70,000 in 1997 to under 42,000 last summer. Recently adding to the decline, the price of the plate increased in January 2005 from \$35 to \$45, and its renewal cost from \$10 to \$25 per year.

"The cost increase was justified to help fund the state's wildlife diversity program for those 500 plus species of nongame wildlife that are not funded by hunting licenses," said DNR Director Jeff Vonk. "But the new cost presented a challenge. We are just grateful that Iowans are meeting it, head-on."

Last September, the DNR and the DOT unveiled two new design options for the natural resources license plate – a pheasant and a bald eagle. Both designs came from Greg Bordignon, a Cedar Rapids wildlife artist. Since then, the number of plates has gone from a 13 percent annual decline to an 8 percent annual increase.

Plate sales are expected to be on approximately 45,600 vehicles and trailers by the end of June, compared to about 41,900 the previous year. Income is expected to be about \$513,000, compared to \$483,600 last year. Vonk said there is a strong expectation that sales will increase even more in the future. Statewide, pheasant plates were selling 50 percent faster than the eagle plate, but the two still only accounted for about 10 percent of the three-plate total number.

"With the help of DOT, we are monitoring county-by-county sales and we are enlisting wildlife and conservation-minded groups to help market the plates," he said. Money from the plates is divided between the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program and wildlife diversity. REAP distributes money to cities, counties and state efforts for parks, habitat, water quality, historic preservation. The wildlife diversity program is mandated to perform management and research on all nongame species and their habitats.

The top 10 counties with the highest percentage of natural resource plates include: Dickinson, Story, Winneshiek, Mitchell, Audubon, Cerro Gordo, Bremer, Johnson, Franklin and Worth. The top 10 counties for total natural resource plate include: Polk, Linn, Johnson, Story, Black Hawk, Pottawattamie, Scott, Woodbury, Dubuque, and Cerro Gordo.

For more information contact: Ross Harrison, 515-281-5973; ross.harrison@dnr.state.ia.us

## Natural Resource Plates Available

Have you purchased your Natural Resources license plates yet? The traditional American Goldfinch and Wild Rose are just one choice. Iowa wildlife artist, Greg Bordignon's award winning Pheasant and Bald Eagle can also adorn your custom plate and designate money for Iowa's Wildlife Diversity Program and Iowa's Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP). The money that goes to the Wildlife Diversity Program is actually doubled, because it is matched with federal State Wildlife Grant (SWG) money.

Please support Iowa's wildlife diversity and purchase your Natural Resources license plate today at your county treasurer's office.

Pick a plate.



Help Iowa's



natural resources.



## **Just How “Activist” Should We Be?**

**By Robert Brown, National TWS President**

As members of The Wildlife Society, you will soon have the chance to take a look at the first draft of our developing Strategic Plan, and, as promised, you will have a chance to comment on it. Before we determine what we should be doing, we need to determine who we are. That’s why the Strategic Plan contains a Mission Statement and a Statement of Values. No one would argue that we are a conservation organization, and most would agree that we are a scientific society. Some feel that we are not really a professional society, since non-Certified Wildlife Biologists can join The Wildlife Society, but most agree that we are a society of professionals who work in the wildlife field. As such, we also struggle with just how far we should go with our advocacy programs.

When we did our Feasibility Study a few years ago for our Development Campaign, it was clear the 60 senior members of TWS who were interviewed felt that public policy and outreach were the areas we should emphasize with the funds raised for our endowment. Likewise, we’ve found that over the years, every time our Annual Campaign had to do with outreach and policy, the funds donated by our members increased dramatically. But what does “policy and outreach” really mean in terms of advocacy for wildlife issues of interest to our members, and where does advocacy or moderate activism stop and lobbying, or even “rabid, left-wing environmentalism” start?

This year Laura Bies, our Associate Director for Government Affairs, with the approval of our Director Michael Hutchins and Council, has sent letters on behalf of TWS supporting the approval of the federal purchase of the Teddy Roosevelt Ranch in North Dakota, the de-listing from the ESA of grizzlies in Yellowstone, support of the Endangered Species Act and of climate change legislation, against subsidized road building in the Tongass National Forest, urging caution in the use of CRP land for biofuels production, and against the plans to sell Forest Service lands. She has also filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in the Carabell/Rapanos case concerning the Clean Water Act.

In all of these efforts, we joined other conservation organizations in supporting or opposing the legislation or court cases, and we have only “intervened” if we felt the issue was of national importance. Those two guidelines - not going it alone and only addressing national issues - have been unspoken Council guidelines, though they are not necessarily fixed rules. Council is often criticized by our members for not getting more involved in state wildlife conservation issues. Nonetheless, we have, when time has permitted, gotten involved in state issues that Council has deemed of national importance.

We usually avoid state-level issues simply due to our lack of resources. We have only one staff policy person plus some interns, depending on the funding available. Nonetheless, we currently have a volunteer committee looking into the environmental impacts of a planned Navy air base in North Carolina.

This past spring, a policy issue of great importance came before us. Prior to the March meeting of the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Columbus, Ohio, Council was made aware of a lawsuit filed by a group of white-tailed deer breeders in Texas against the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. In a nutshell, the breeders claim that under their TPWD-issued “Scientific Deer Breeder” Permits, they actually privately own the white-tailed deer they are managing. TPWD and the Texas Attorney General’s Office are confident that is not the case, as is everyone who has read the suit. Eventually the case will go before a judge in Travis County, who will put this issue to

rest and set a legal precedent, one way or the other.

Upon hearing of the case, all of the members of Council, as well as just about everyone else in Columbus that week, were concerned about the precedence this might set. Public ownership of wildlife speaks to the very core of what The Wildlife Society is about and what our members value and believe. Wildlife as a component of Public Trust Doctrine is the foundation of the North American model of wildlife conservation, and there have been innumerable articles, court cases and books produced over the history of our country that testify to that fact. At the North American Conference, there was discussion of this suit in innumerable meetings and in informal discussions in the hallways, and copies of the suit flashed around the internet. Council was so taken aback by this assault on our values that we asked Laura Bies, who is also an attorney, to investigate the suit and to recommend whether TWS could or should become an intervener in the case on the side of TPWD.

Subsequently, Laura made contact with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (formerly IAFWA), the Izaak Walton League, the National Wildlife Federation, the Wildlife Management Institute, and the Boone & Crockett Club, as well as with TPWD and the Texas Attorney General's Office. Laura determined that some other organizations have decided not to become involved without a direct request from their membership, or due to complex relationships amongst the organization, some donors, and some legislators who might be in favor of private ownership of wildlife. The Izaak Walton League agreed to step forward with TWS to file as interveners. The Texas Chapter of TWS, though not wanting to intervene themselves, formally asked TWS to help in the case.

With this information Council subsequently debated the issue at length via the internet. Most Council members felt this suit could be an important challenge to wildlife conservation in this country. And, as a result, they felt TWS should be involved regardless of what other conservation organizations might do. One member of Council, while agreeing with the importance of the issue, was concerned that TWS might be setting a precedent of becoming a more "activist" organization than our members might like. We all agreed that we have in the past developed and adopted controversial Technical Reviews and Position Statements, and we have even filed amicus briefs in support of conservation legal cases before both state and federal courts. In that sense, TWS does advocate for various science-based policy decisions on behalf of wildlife and their habitats. We also saw this specific case as a state issue with potentially serious national implications. We were advised that TWS faces negligible liability by entering this case as an intervener, and that private donors in Texas would cover all legal fees charged to TWS and the IWLA. Finally, Council voted 8 - 1 to intervene in the case along with the IWLA. As your President and as a Council member from Texas, I abstained from the voting, although I did express my support for the TWS position.

Although I do not believe this sets a general precedent that TWS Council will want to become involved in every state or even federal legal case that comes along, this particular one seemed so egregious that your elected Council voted involvement. I believe that the fact that TWS, a scientific society of professional wildlife biologists, has teamed with a hunting/fishing-oriented conservation organization (IWLA), to support a state natural resources agency (TPWD) against an attack on our common values exemplifies our dedication to our wildlife resources and the on-the-ground biologists who manage them. As Mark Twain once said, "When in doubt, just do the right thing." We will keep you informed on the results of our actions and the progress of this case on the Society's website.

*Robert Brown, Ph.D*  
*TWS Council President*

Editor: Pat Schlarbaum  
 1436 255th Street  
 Boone, IA 50036

**THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY-IOWA CHAPTER**

**TWS CAP ORDER**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cap Style: (check one) high profile \_\_\_\_\_ medium profile \_\_\_\_\_

Number of hats ordered @ \$15.00 each: \_\_\_\_\_

Make payment to: Iowa Chapter The Wildlife Society

Send order and payment to: Doug Harr

Phone: 515-432-2823  
 Fax: 515-432-2835  
 Email: PSchlarbaum@isunet.net

Wildlife Research Station  
 1436 255th St.  
 Boone, IA 50036

Note: A limited quantity of hats will be kept in stock. You may have to wait a couple of weeks for your order to be

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 15, 2007**

**Iowa Chapter of The Wildlife Society**  
*Membership Application/Renewal*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

FAX \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Cost \$7.00/year New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Iowa Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
 c/o Doug Harr  
 Wildlife Research Station  
 1436 255th St.  
 Boone, IA 50036

## Electronic Newsletter

For several years The Wildlife Society, Iowa Chapter executive board has been discussing an electronic newsletter for a variety of reasons. Cost-saving efficiency would be a predominant consideration. Paper copies of the newsletter will continue to be available for those members without email capabilities, so you will not be penalized.

If you'd like to be included in e-mail newsletter and have not done so, please complete the form below and return to Pat Schlarbaum .

Option #1      Send email message with "TWS E-newsletter Address" in the subject line to :  
PSchlarbaum@isunet.net

Option #2      Yes, I want to save the chapter money! I only need an electronic newsletter.  
Current email address:

Option #3      I want to keep receiving a paper copy of the newsletter; Please make any necessary changes for your mailing address below:

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For paper copy, please return to Pat Schlarbaum, Wildlife Research Station,  
1436 255th St. Boone, IA 50036

*Please consider having your favorite conservation business or organization in your area endorse this movement.*

**Statement of Endorsement**



**TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE**  
*a natural investment*

On behalf of the \_\_\_\_\_, I hereby endorse **Teaming with Wildlife**. Our group is delighted to join the National Coalition and support funding dedicated to fish and wildlife conservation, outdoor recreation and conservation education in every state. **Teaming with Wildlife** is our natural investment in a future teeming with wildlife!

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Please Print:**

Organization or  Business

Signers Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Office Held: \_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to add additional contacts to our lists?

Name/Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

How many members and/or employees does your organization/business represent? \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a company, what kind (i.e. retailer, manufacturer, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a state chapter should you be listed under the national organization? \_\_\_\_\_

*Personal letters of support are appreciated and will be documented as testimony of the growing support for Teaming with Wildlife. Please mail with information about your group to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Diversity Program, Boone Wildlife Research Station, 1436 255<sup>th</sup> St. Boone, IA 50036. 515-432-2823x102 doug.harr@dnr.state.ia.us*

**For information on the Teaming with Wildlife Coalition and how you can help, please visit <http://www.teaming.com/>**