

Summer 2008 E-Raven: A newsletter of the Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Members and More

President's Message by Holly Michael

Change is coming... to our ORTWS Chapter, our profession and to our planet. Are we ready?

Let's start with our Chapter. ORTWS is moving towards a more sustainable future and this first edition of our e-newsletter is the start. Kudos to Lisa DeBruyckere for creating and managing our new e-newsletter. Changing from a paper to electronic newsletter reduces costs and materials, is more engaging to read, and provides an opportunity to interact with our membership in a new way. We'll be asking for your opinions on what the Chapter could be doing to help you with career development, access to information, and other needs. You'll have an opportunity to answer surveys on ideas and topics, and vote on important Chapter business. The Board will also be working on a Business Plan for the Chapter, and will ask for your input as we develop it.

Take a minute to explore this newsletter and answer the first e-survey!

We are streamlining our Committees to better serve you and our Chapter needs. Soon, you'll be able to sign-up to help on Committees or work on individual issues and projects within a Committee. Your Board cannot carry the full workload of these Committees and we need your expertise, time and passion for natural resources to make us successful. Watch for more on this in the next edition of e-Raven.

Our profession is changing too. As it should. We can only be successful in shaping the future of wildlife science when we become the agents of change, and take a leadership role in emerging issues, technologies and decision-making. Emerging issues are driving our profession more each day. Climate change, invasive species, energy and water development, land-use change and other issues are replacing the more traditional wildlife research and management work we've done for decades. There's also an increased expectation from the public that they will have a say in how wildlife are managed, including harvest levels, habitat management and how funds are spent. The National TWS and ORTWS want to help our members keep pace with the rapid changes underway in our profession. The 2009 annual conference for ORTWS will focus on emerging issues and we'll also highlight some topics in upcoming issues of e-Raven. Check out the conference section of this newsletter for more information, and start planning to attend, present papers, learn the latest in these topics and network with your colleagues.

Climate change means not only our profession is changing, but our planet is in transition too. As scientists and policy-makers, we must adapt to a new paradigm that is more responsive to the issue and in the next edition of Raven, we'll talk more about this. Climate change is the biggest conservation challenge of this century and it will affect all aspects of our profession and the natural resources we manage. The 2009 annual conference will look at this issue through many lenses and ORTWS should be a leader in helping develop a strategic, proactive and collaborative response in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. Be part of the team.

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world." That quote from Gandhi compels us to act. Now is the time to make a commitment to change and to being part of the solution. I believe in change. It gives me hope, strength and the energy to keep pushing what seem like immovable objects. Please join us in shaping the future of our profession and our planet. Take action yourself, or by working with your Chapter.

Speaking on behalf of your ORTWS Board, it is a pleasure and honor to serve you, our members.

Profiles - A New Feature of E-Raven

Welcome to Profiles, a new feature of the ORTWS electronic newsletter. In each issue, we will be featuring a member of the ORTWS - a student, faculty member, wildlife professional, etc. The goal of this feature is to provide a brief job history, describe the experience obtained while a student that helped after graduation, activities members do to "stay interested and active" in the profession and why that's important, the biggest challenges facing wildlife professionals today and a comment on how the profession is changing, any surprises after graduating, and advice for upcoming professionals. We hope you enjoy this new feature of our quarterly ORTWS publication. *Lisa DeBruyckere, ORTWS E-Raven editor.*

Christian Hagen, Ph.D., Sage-Grouse Conservation Coordinator

I have worked for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for 4 years); it's been my only job since graduate school. As the sage-grouse lead for Oregon, I am responsible for coordinating and implementing conservation projects across the range in OR to maintain (or enhance) the integrity of sage-grouse habitat and populations. Also, I have responsibilities at the national level coordinating conservation activities (monitoring and reporting) with other states and federal agencies.



My education track is somewhat off the beaten path. I started out in political science and then found the pigeon-hole of prairie grouse ecology and conservation. As an undergraduate, I majored in political science, with hopes of becoming involved in natural resources law. In that context, I took opportunities to be involved in public meetings and plan reviews. As a graduate student in natural resources (studying sage-grouse), I took every opportunity I could to give public presentations (primarily on my research) and experience other aspects (e.g., human dimensions) of the natural resource issues and other systems (e.g., forests). I had the fortune of spending 2 years in Canada for my Master's degree, which opened my eyes to different perspectives on subsistence harvest of wildlife and forestry practices. I was an active member of the Manitoba Chap of TWS (student rep), and served on 2 boards planning a regional and national meeting. As a doctoral candidate (studying prairie chickens), I sought opportunities to provide lectures on topics other than my research, and looked for opportunities to broaden my experience beyond grouse, this included working as a technician on the effects of golf course construction on passerines, and transmitter effects on upland sandpipers.

Because our profession is evolving with changes in societal demands and environmental conditions, it is important to stay engaged and help shape the direction the profession. Taking an active role in a chapter of TWS, or staying in tune with new methods and concepts by attending workshops and seminars is critical for professional development and keeping a focus and interest in wildlife. Most importantly, take time to get out to the woods, deserts, lakes, and rivers and enjoy what it is you are working so hard for!

The greatest challenge facing wildlife profession today is the balancing act of "the green energy footprint" and its effects on wildlife. First we need to quantify that footprint, then we need to identify a reasonable way to mitigate the habitat losses that may occur.

The biggest surprise to me is the role of science in decision making, and how on some occasions it wins the day and others it is but a footnote to a policy decision.

With the ever-increasing demands on resources and the associated impacts, it is important for upcoming professionals to be creative, think-out-of-the-box, and try to look strategically at broad-scales. In my view, cumulative effects models will be the most effective way to conserve wildlife and habitat.

Emily Hamblen Selected for Leadership Institute

Our own Emily Hamblen (previous ORTWS student liaison) was recently selected to participate in the TWS Leadership Institute. The Wildlife Society congratulates the ten recently selected young professional members who will take part in the third year of the TWS Leadership Institute. TWS established the Leadership Institute in 2006 to address the approaching shortage of leaders in the wildlife profession; over 75 percent will be retiring in the next decade. The mission of the Leadership Institute is to cultivate the next generation of promising leaders to guide TWS and the wildlife profession into the future.

With nearly twice as many applicants as available spots in the 2008 class, competition for the Institute was tight. A committee of TWS members and staff selected the ten participants based on their academic record, demonstrated leadership capability or potential, and demonstrated level of excellence in their current position, or in a TWS Chapter or Section. The 2008 Leadership Institute participants are: • LeAnne Bonner, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission • Julie Cunningham, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks • Kelly Douglass, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission • Allison Fowler, The Nature Conservancy, Arkansas • Angela Fuller, Post-Doctoral Research Associate and Associate Graduate Faculty, University of Maine • Emily Hamblen, University of Alberta • Jon Klimstra, Fish and Wildlife Service Patuxent Research Refuge, Maryland • Mayra Moreno, Arizona Department of Transportation • Rachael Ranft, The Nature Conservancy, Texas • Krysten Schuler, USGS National Wildlife Health Center, Wisconsin.

Congrats to Emily!

Erick Larken Selected as New Student Liaison

The ORTWS has a new student liaison. His name is Erick Larkin and he's a senior at Oregon State University in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. He's specializing in forest wildlife and riparian zones, and is also active in the intramural sports programs by officiating sports throughout the year. Also, he managed and played football and softball (if anyone is interested in any of the IM sport programs, please ask him about it). He got a late start in college because he served four years in the U.S. Marine Corps before deciding to return to college. He is excited to be the TWS liaison this year and wants to get many more people excited to be a part of the club and Oregon Chapter of TWS this year. Welcome aboard, Erick!

The TWS-OR List Serve Has Been Resurrected!!

With the upgrades to the National TWS website and server, we are now able to host our chapter email list serve through National. This email list will be used to send important information to chapter members as well as to remind you of upcoming events. To join the new list, please go to http://wildlifeprofessional.org/mailman/listinfo/tws-or_wildlifeprofessional.org

New Website for TWS-Oregon! by Betsy Glenn

We've recently updated our website to make information and services more readily available to you. The Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Oregon State University has generously hosted our website for many years, but with the recent redesign of the National TWS website we felt it made sense to strengthen our electronic connection with the parent organization. Our new site is hosted within the National site, and has direct links to information and services offered by The Wildlife Society. The new website can be found at <http://joomla.wildlife.org/oregon/> ; however, our old website (<http://fwl.oregonstate.edu/tws/>) will automatically redirect you to the new site. The site is still under construction, but don't hesitate to contact me (Betsy.glenn@oregonstate.edu) with any suggestions for things you'd like to see on the new website.

[Print This Page](#)

[Home](#) | [Annual Meeting](#) | [Symposia and Workshops](#) | [Board Meeting Minutes](#) |

[Committees](#) | [Wildlife Biology](#) | [Members and More](#)