



Ontario Chapter TWS Newsletter – Spring 2019

President's Message

Danielle Ethier, PhD
Bird Population Scientist, Bird Studies Canada

It is with enthusiasm and great ambition that I assume the position of President with the Ontario Chapter of The Wildlife Society. I have been a wildlife professional in Ontario for over a decade, as a field technician, academic researcher, public servant, and currently a scientist with one of Canada's leading ENGOs. I have seen the many sides of our profession, from consultants to public servants, campers to hunters, activists to scientists. I know we each have a critical role to play in wildlife conservation, and our diversity of views and experiences help ensure all aspects of Ontario's landscape (both physical and political) are considered. As your president, I aspire to make broader connections with Ontario's wildlife professionals and make our Chapter more visible. I look forward to working with you over the course of the next year, and beyond!

Election Results

Elections took place in March 2019 to fill several vacant roles on our Chapter Executive. Thank you to everyone that put their name forward! Your new executive members are Scott Pynn (Secretary), Twyla Douaire (Treasurer), and Kelly McLean (Board Member) (see *New Executive Members* section for details). I am also very pleased that Matt Dyson, former Board Member, is now our President-elect and Emilie Kissler has assumed a second term as a Board Member. It is great to have a mix of new enthusiasm and past experience represent our Chapter!

I would like to personally thank Neil Dawson, who was critical in reinvigorating the Ontario Chapter as Past-president, and Morgan Hawkins for her service as Secretary/Treasurer these past two years. You will both be missed on our Executive!

Peter Hettinga now assumes his well-deserved role as Past-president. During his two-year term as President, our Chapter Executive made many notable achievements under his guidance. Some highlights include:

- Commissioning the development of our Chapter logo
- Supporting two student travel awards
- Establishing a website <http://www.octws.ca/>
- Amending our Chapter bylaws to include electronic voting and limiting the terms of the president position to a single year, among other changes.

Chapter Executives are volunteers, and we are very appreciative of any help we can get to make our Chapter more successful. Please see the *Opportunities* section for more details on how you can help!

NEW EXECUTIVE MEMEBERS

Twyla Douaire, Treasurer



Twyla has been employed with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry since 2005, holding numerous positions across the organization. She has two diplomas in Ecosystem Management from Fleming College, and an in-process Bachelor of Environmental Science and Studies at Trent University (16 of 20 credits completed). She is currently the Treasurer for her Union Local, as well as the Treasurer for the annual Federated Health and United Way campaigns at Robinson Place in Peterborough. Twyla has a deep passion for animals and the conservation of our wildlife and their habitats. She is excited to take on the role of Treasurer for the Ontario Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Scott Pynn, Secretary



Hello, my name is Scott Pynn. I am a passionate advocate for the sustainable management of healthy wildlife populations. I am currently working as a Wildlife Policy Intern for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF). In addition to my current position, I have worked with the MNRF in other positions such as a Learn to Fish program coordinator, student enforcement assistance, and an interior park warden at The Massasauga Provincial Park. I have also worked as a wildlife technician in Newfoundland and Labrador, monitoring and promoting the conservation of species at risk like the Piping Plover. I am a graduate of the University of Guelph where I studied Wildlife Biology. I also advanced my education with a graduate certificate in Conservation and Environmental Law Enforcement at Fleming College. I spent many weekends of my summer months during my undergrad volunteering to assist Canadian Wildlife Service biologists tagging egrets and herons, counting cormorants with Parks Canada, and banding passerines in Thunder Bay with Bird Studies Canada. I also enjoy hunting, fishing, camping and hiking with friends and family.

Kelly McLean, Board Member



Hello! My name is Kelly McLean. I am from Woodville, Ontario. I am completing my Master of Science degree at the University of New Brunswick and will be returning to Ontario in May. My master's thesis researches the effects of commercial forest harvesting on the distribution and productivity of forest breeding waterfowl. Prior to beginning my masters I worked as a biologist with the Aquatic Assessment Unit of the Canadian Wildlife Service, completed my BSc(hons) in Biology at Trent University, and a dual diploma in Fish and Wildlife and Ecosystem Management technology at Sir Sandford Fleming College. While at Trent University I was actively involved in the student chapter executive of The Wildlife Society as vice president. I have attended two annual conferences of The Wildlife Society; Winnipeg, MB and Cleveland, OH. I hope to attend this year's conference in Reno, NV. I am passionate about conserving Ontario's wildlife and their habitat. As a board member of the OCTWS I hope to bring awareness to the benefits of being a TWS member and help connect people involved with wildlife management in Ontario from the student to scientist level.

CURRENT OPPORTUNITES

AGM Planning Committee – Are you looking to make an impact and meaningful career connections? Then join our AGM planning committee. The Ontario Chapter's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in Peterborough in March 2020, and we need volunteer planning committee members to make this event successful. You don't have to live in Peterborough to help.

Communications Officer – Is your passion science communication through social media? We are looking for keen members to help manage our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts. No prior experience necessary. Just your enthusiasm is needed to make our organization more visible. This is also a great way to build your resume!

Monthly Member Highlight – Are you working on an interesting project? Or want to discuss the rewards and/or challenges of your wildlife professional career? Share with us what it is like to be an Ontario wildlife professional in our monthly member highlight email. All you need to do is write a short blurb to share with our membership (~250 words). Let's hear what motivates our chapter members to be wildlife professionals!

Newsletter Submissions – Would you like to write a featured article for our Newsletter. Tell us about your research, outreach, or program initiatives? Let's hear what wildlife professionals are doing across our vast province!

Please email info@octws.ca to learn more about these opportunities

Ontario Chapter of The Wildlife Society



2019 Membership Renewal/Application

Join online at TWS's secure website at: <http://wildlife.org/join/> (Parent TWS membership required also)

OR

Join online from the Ontario Chapter website <http://www.octws.ca/membership> (Chapter membership only)

OR

Complete this form and contact info@octws.ca for other payment options

Last Name

First Name

Address

City

Province

Postal Code

Telephone (daytime)

Email Address

Annual Fees:

\$10.00 Regular

\$5.00 Student

Academic Institution: _____

Please make payment out to: TWS Ontario Chapter

Please Note: The Wildlife Society – Ontario Chapter will not share your information with third party organizations, although your information may be shared with The Wildlife Society parent organization for records management. The Wildlife Society – Ontario Chapter may contact you from time to time with updates on Chapter events and activities.