

# **Board of Directors Agenda Annual Spring Meeting 2019**

**Saturday April 27, 2019**

## **The Nashville Zoo - Nashville**

The annual Spring meeting was held on April 26-28, 2019 at Baymont Inn at Maryland Farms and the Nashville Zoo at Grassmere in Nashville, Tennessee and hosted by the Nashville Chapter. Field trips were offered to Radnor Lake, Bells Bend, Timberland and the Burch Reserve at Warner Park.

President Steve Routledge (NTOS) called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm Secretary Cyndi Routledge (NTOS) determined there was a quorum. President Steve Routledge (NTOS) thanked the Nashville Chapter for their hospitality and for organizing the Spring meeting.

Approval of Minutes from Fall 2019 – Pam Lasley (NTOS) made a motion to accept the minutes. Correction to Chris Welsh's name. Second – Susan McWhirter (At Large). Passed unanimously

**East TN** – Rack Cross (Kingsport) – no report

**Middle TN** – Danny Shelton (NTOS) – Reported that we have partnered with Metro Parks to install window strike prevention treatments at Shelby Bottoms to act as a showcase. Conducted a successful fundraiser and moving towards completion.

**West TN** – Dick Preston (MTOS) - Ten members of the Memphis Chapter have participated in recent bird banding operations at Strawberry Plains Audubon Center (SPAC) in Holly Springs, Mississippi.

Memphis chapter members have recently erected 15 Barn Owl nest boxes, one Barred Owl nest box, and repaired or placed 45 Eastern Bluebird nest boxes.

The Memphis chapter has partnered with Mississippi Audubon to sponsor a lecture series by renowned author David Sibley at the annual Hummingbird Migration Festival this September at Strawberry Plains Audubon Center.

The Memphis chapter mourns the loss of long-time member Dr. Robert Ilardi. Bob was 84 at his passing, March 6, 2019. For many years, Bob, along with his wife, Ginger, co-led the chapter's traditional first spring field trip, at Wall Doxey State Park, in Holly Springs, Mississippi. A celebration of Bob's life will be held May 4<sup>th</sup>, in Memphis.

**Directors-at-Large:**

E. TN –Susan Hubley – No report;  
Mid.TN – Daniel Moss – No report  
W.TN – AllanTrently – No report

**Secretary** – Cyndi Routledge (NTOS) – No report

**Treasurer** – Pam Lasley (NTOS) – Assets for the Society at the end of 2018 were \$353,196 including cash of \$9,868 and fair market value of our Vanguard investments at \$342,181. The year saw our investments experience a net decline of \$1051 due to overall markets plummeting in the last quarter of the year. By the end of the first quarter in 2019 our market value had more than recovered with an increase of \$22,407.

Total revenue for the year was \$12,837, roughly 88% of that from membership and subscriptions. Total expenses were \$22,694. Publications and communications at \$15,133 is our largest expense and includes 4 issues of The Migrant, The Warbler, website maintenance, and the deposit for our website redesign. We disbursed \$2,440 for research grants and printed a run of Discover Birds books for \$3,000. Insurance was the same as last year at \$997. Overall, the next excess of expenses over revenues was (\$9,857).

Total membership and subscriptions was down slightly, by 11. In 2017, our membership numbers included 12 gratis memberships for the Junior Duck Stamp project; my comparisons will exclude those memberships. Kingsport, Herndon, Bristol, Highland Rim, and Memphis had nice increases in numbers and the other chapters had mostly slight declines. Members (only) for 2018 were 630, down 10 from 640 in 2017.

As noted above, our Investments had a good year until the last quarter. Dividends and interest for 2018 were \$15,128 but a loss in market value of \$16,179 netted us a slight loss. Thankfully at March 31, our portfolio has risen to \$361,659 even after a distribution of \$5,000 in March. In 2018, we distributed \$10,000 to our operating cash account for the year. Returns are 7.7% for 1 year return, 3 year annualized is 8.9%, 5 year is 6.9% and 10 year annualized return on investments is 9.2%. The portfolio remains defensively structured with approximately 46% in equity positions.

**Curator** – Chuck Nicholson (KTOS) – No report

**TN Warbler Newsletter** – Theresa Graham (MTOS) – Thanks to all who contribute. Reminder to send articles in a timely manner and to encourage all chapters to submit an update, especially regarding current presidents and editors so she knows with whom to correspond.

**Migrant Editor** – Bob Ford (MTOS) – Continues to run on schedule. September 2018 issue is in the mail and December 2018 issue will be mailed ahead of time. The Migrant has received several articles and notes important to ornithology in Tennessee. Need to have a discussion about digital/electronic access to Migrant on a timely basis. If given the

green light will develop a proposal including costs to do this and present it at the Fall meeting.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Tennessee Bird Record Committee** – Ruben Stoll (NTOS) – No report

**Conservation and Policy Committee** – Conservation Policy Committee - Dick Preston (MTOS), Melinda Welton (NTOS) Co-chairs, Ashley Heeney (NTOS), Dev Joslin (At-Large), Cyndi Routledge (NTOS), Laura Cook (NTOS), and Kellie Clelland (MTOS)

The priorities Conservation Policy Committee is following include:

- Funding for bird conservation
- Threats to the Endangered Species Act or Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Restricting the use of neonicotinoids pesticides
- Reducing bird mortality caused by: collisions with glass, communication towers, feral cats, habitat loss, etc.

Most of our actions are in response to action alerts sent by the Bird Conservation Alliance lead by the American Bird Conservancy. The objective of the BCA is to “share success stories, action alerts, sign on letters, and other items to help advance bird conservation.” As an organization, TOS is a member and we encourage everyone to join as individual members.

<https://abcbirds.org/get-involved/bird-conservation-alliance/>

The most recent action alert is in regards to legislation to that would require public buildings to incorporate bird-friendly building design and materials. To learn more and sign on to a ABC letter use this link.

<https://abcbirds.org/action/petition-bird-safe-building>

### **CPC actions in the past year:**

CPC letter asking Tennessee members of Congress to prioritize the following issues during the FY 2019 appropriations process:

- 1) Increase funding for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to \$6.5 million
- 2) Increase funding for Migratory Bird Joint Ventures to \$19.9 million
- 3) Oppose harmful policy changes that would undermine the Endangered Species Act.

### **Endangered Species Riders in the 2019 Defense Bill**

(H.R. 6147) and (S. 3073) TOS signed-on to letter apposing this rider, Steve Routledge wrote a letter on behalf of TOS, and several members of the CPC wrote personal letters.

This rider would remove Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections for the greater sage-grouse, lesser prairie-chicken. The BCA position is that by weakening any of the ESA, the entire ESA is vulnerable.

April 2019

**Urge USDA to promote native plants in conservation and restoration projects.**

TOS signed-on to the letter urging USDA to incorporate stronger guidance on the preferential use of diverse native plants as opposed to non-native plants that have historically been promoted. TOS joined 36 co-signing organizations

**Land and Water Conservation Fund**

Congress overwhelmingly made permanent the LWCF which funds Forest Legacy Grants. In 2018 the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation was awarded the largest grant nationwide for \$57,000,000 to purchase nearly 1,000 acres in Cumberland County with sections of the Cumberland Trail and adjacent to Cerulean Warbler habitat. The land will be given to the TN Department of Environment and Conservation.

**Tennessee Wilderness Act**

TOS has actively supported this bill which passed as part of the Farm Bill and will designate 20,000 acres of the Cherokee National Forest as protected wilderness.

**Conservation Research Funding – Dr. Michael Collins (MTOS) – Sent the following report-**

The TOS Conservation and Research Grants Committee received a competitive set of proposals again this year. We received four proposals and thanks to the increase in the funds available, we were able to fund all four grants totaling \$6,068. This year's projects will study the ecology of Barn Owls, migrating cuckoos, parental investment in Prothonotary Warblers, and Northern Saw-whet Owl banding. Over the past seven years, TOS has received 24 proposals and has awarded \$20,988 to 20 projects. Previously funded projects have examined birds across the state and beyond (migrants). Past topics include hormonal regulation of female vocalization in Blue Jays, avian malaria, Cerulean Warbler migration, wintering ecology of American Woodcocks, Loggerhead Shrike habitat use, Louisiana Waterthrush habitat use and hemlock declines, wintering Golden Eagles, and more. We've put these funds to good use! I'd like to acknowledge the hard work of the committee. In addition, TOS began funding Education grants about three years ago.

**Conservation and Research Grants Committee:** Virginia Reynolds (MTOS), Frank Fekel (NTOS), and Jimmy Wilkerson (CTOS) - This year money was awarded to fund three education projects. These projects include a raptor education and rescue program at Hiwassee/Ocoee State Park, a rural busing program to support Friends of Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge and Cross Creeks NWR, and educational signage at the Kingsport Greenbelt. Thanks to Dick Preston and the rest of the Educational Grants Committee for their work to evaluate these projects.

**Publications** – Chuck Nicholson (KTOS)/ Theresa Graham (MTOS) – No report

**Collateral Materials/100 Year Anniversary Patch** – Donna Ward (At-Large) / Steve Routledge (NTOS) – Still have a few 100 Year Patches

**TNBird** - Rob Biller (Bristol) will be replacing Andy Jones and Dave Worley (Bristol) will continue as the TNBird Moderators.

**Nominating Committee:** Susan McWhirter (At-Large), Susan Hubley, (Kingsport) Anita Gaddy (CTOS) – Susan McWhirter (At-Large) places into motion the following slate. Seconded by Anita Gaddy (CTOS). Passed unanimously.

President – Danny Gaddy

VP's – Dick Preston (W), Chris Welsh (E), Danny Shelton (M)

Secretary - Cyndi Routledge

Treasurer – Pam Lasley

Curator - Chuck Nicholson

Assistant Curator – Stefan Woltmann

Migrant Editor – Bob Ford

Directors-at-Large – Susan Hubley (E), Mac McWhirter (M), Allan Trently (W)

## **Old Business**

**Discover Birds Activity Books Report** – Cyndi Routledge (NTOS) 5000 additional books were printed in November of 2018. Distribution continues. We are approaching 30,000 books distributed.

**Wings of Winter** - Dates for 2020 Festival is January 24-26<sup>th</sup>. Keynote Speaker is Scott Weidensaul.

**Website Update** – Ashley Heeney reports that all the navigation and organizational structures are in place. Currently the visual and basic content is being reviewed and organized. Ashley indicated she is looking for a few members to review the site and give feedback.

Ron Hoff (KTOS) made the motion to give Bob Ford the go ahead to develop a proposal including cost and time for digital/electronic access to the Migrant. Seconded by Danny Shelton. Passed unanimously.

## **New Business / General Announcements**

**Fall Meeting** – Elizabethton September 27-29, 2019 – Herndon Chapter will host

Fall 2020 meeting will be held in Lebanon.

**Motion to Adjourn** – Chris Welsh (KTO) make a motion to adjourn. Pam Lasley (NTOS) seconded. Passed unanimously.

Meeting ended at 3:13 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Cyndi Routledge, Secretary

**TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY - Draft**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL SPRING MEETING**

**APRIL 27, 2019**

The Annual Spring business meeting was held at Nashville Zoo at Grassmere in Nashville, Tennessee on April 27, 2019. President Steve Routledge called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm. Secretary Cyndi Routledge confirmed that a quorum had been met.

Steve Routledge began the meeting with the recognition and thanks to the Nashville TOS Chapter for hosting a great weekend event.

Steve Routledge then briefed the membership on the following items:

- Middle and West TN Vice Presidents report
- Conservation and Policy Report
- Conservation Research Funding report
- Treasurers Financial Report
- Status of the new TOS website

President Steve Routledge then presented the Slate of Officers that were recommended and approved by the Board of Directors for the 2019-2021 term and asked for any nominations from the floor. There were none.

President – Danny Gaddy  
VP's – Dick Preston (W), Chris Welsh (E), Danny Shelton (M)

Secretary - Cyndi Routledge  
Treasurer – Pam Lasley  
Curator - Chuck Nicholson  
Assistant Curator – Stefan Woltmann  
Migrant Editor – Bob Ford  
Directors-at-Large – Susan Hubley (E), Mac McWhirter (M), Allan Trently (W)

Chris Welsh (KTOS) made a motion to accept the slate of officers and David Pitts (MTOS) seconded. Passed unanimously.

After the vote the ceremonial ‘passing of the gavel’ took place to newly elected President Danny Gaddy (CTOS).

President Gaddy (CTOS) spoke briefly encouraging all TOS members to ask themselves how they can help TOS and the conservations efforts that we support.

President Gaddy (CTOS) adjourned the business portion of the meeting at 7:10 pm.

NTOS President Cyndi Routledge (NTOS) introduced the Keynote speaker for the evening. 54 year TOS Member and retired Ornithologist Dr. David Pitts (MTOS) who spoke about his research on the nesting behavior of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cyndi Routledge, Secretary