Report 2015

Douglas R. Stephens
Endowed Chair in Wildlife
at the

College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point
**Purpose**

To support wildlife research, outreach and related activities of the Douglas R. Stephens Chair in Wildlife in the College of Natural Resources at UW-Stevens Point. Examples of this may include direct support for research, related professional travel, graduate students and faculty-mentored projects encouraging and promoting partnership with other members of the Wildlife faculty.

This endowed chair honors the memory of **Douglas R. Stephens**, originally from Peoria, IL, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Wildlife Management from UW-Stevens Point in 1991. A top undergraduate student, Doug unexpectedly died only a few months after he graduated while working on black bear research in northern Wisconsin. A classmate described him as having

“...a kind of quiet leadership -- the type of person who had never ending inquiry, a quest to learn.”
Scott Hygnstrom
Douglas R. Stephens Endowed Chair in Wildlife
Director, Wisconsin Center for Wildlife
UW Extension Wildlife Specialist

Accomplishments
(September 15, 2014 – July 1, 2015)

Student Engagement

Teaching
- WLDL 305 Wildlife Damage Management, Instructor, Spring 2015, 11 students
- WLDL 384 Ungulate Ecology, Instructor, Fall 2015, 22 students
- WLDL 100 Wildlife Profession and Preparation, Co-instructor, Spring 2015, 220 students

Advising
- UWSP Archery Club, Advisor, 60 members
- UWSP Student Chapter of Ducks Unlimited, Advisor (pending)
- UWSP Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Contributor, 230 members
- UWSP Men’s Volleyball Club, Contributor, 35 members

Experience
- 2015 Student Leadership Workshop, Facilitator, 56 students
- 2015 CNR Quiz Bowl, Facilitator, 50 students
- Teaching Assistant Training Program, Instructor, 1 student
- Human-Wildlife Coexistence in Southern Africa, Facilitator, 1 assistant, 2 student interns
- Management Plan for Canada Geese in Pfiffner Park, Stevens Point, WI, Service learning project, Instructor, 11 students
- Leigh Yawkee Museum Birds in Art Exhibit, Facilitator, 7 students
- “Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time,” Facilitator, 30 students
- Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow, Advisor and Instructor, 18 students
Extension/Outreach

- UWSP Alumni Reception, 2014 Annual Meeting of TWS in Pittsburgh, PA, Facilitator, 51 participants
- CNR Spring Colloquium on Wolf Ecology and Management, Facilitator, 4 presenters, 460 participants
- Workshop on Nonlethal Predator Management, Facilitator and Presenter, 8 presenters, 30 participants

Research

- Monitoring the 2015 elk reintroduction at Black River Falls. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, $64,875, Co-PI 25%, includes 1 graduate research assistant
- The northern long-eared bat as a Threatened Species: potential impacts of maternal roost protection on the harvest of forest products in the Upper Midwest. USDA-CREES McIntire-Stennis, $89,296, Co-PI 50%, includes 1 graduate research assistant
- Feasibility and impacts of converting excess cranberry acres to wild rice wetlands in Wisconsin. University of Wisconsin Consortium for Extension and Research in Agriculture and Natural Resources, $48,290, Co-PI 90%, includes 1 project assistant
- Translocation of a fox snake hibernaculum, UWSP-CNR Wisconsin Center for Wildlife, $2,000, includes 1 undergraduate student assistant

Publications

Presentations

Invited Keynotes
- *Please save me from the lion’s mouth: our efforts to promote human-wildlife coexistence in Southern Africa,* University Evening, Stevens Point, WI, October 13, 2015

Invited Presentations
- *Humane endings: perspectives from the wildlife control industry*, Symposium on Humane Endings, American Veterinary Medical Association, Chicago, IL
- *Regulated commercial harvest of overabundant white-tailed deer: an idea whose time has come?*, Ignite Session, 2014 Annual Meeting of The Wildlife Society, Pittsburgh, PA

Honors and Awards
- 2014 Career Award. Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society
- UWSP Graduate Faculty, 2014
- USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services-Nebraska, Award of Appreciation, 2014
- UWSP Student Organization Program of the Year Award, 2014-15 (TWS Student Chapter Leadership Development Program)

Planning
- Strategic Planning for the Wisconsin Center for Wildlife (WCW)
  - Developed and met with WCW Steering Committee. Conducted needs assessment and networking with individuals and partner agencies and organizations.
  - **Vision** - Increase the awareness, knowledge, and engagement of people, especially students, landowners, and professionals, in conservation of wildlife and their habitats in Wisconsin and beyond.
  - **Mission** - Engage students, landowners, professionals, and others in sustainable wildlife management.
  - **Goals (3-year)**
    1. Provide public outreach, extension, and engagement in wildlife (environmental literacy)
    2. Network and engage in the natural resources community (universities, agencies, nongovernmental organizations)
    3. Provide professional development opportunities (leadership, management, and outdoor skills)
    4. Manage wildlife habitats in Wisconsin (woodland, wetland, agricultural land, urban, periurban)
    5. Resolve human-wildlife conflicts (damage, health, safety, coexistence)

- Wisconsin Center for Wildlife - website and social media, public presentations, audio-visual productions, and mass media events for the WCW.
• CNR Student Workshop Series – facilitate student workshops on Leadership, Conflict Resolution, and Teamwork.
• CNR Student Conservation Corps - develop leadership, management, and outdoor skills in UWSP students through field experience in managing wildlife habitats. Submitted a proposal to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for $102,200 to implement DMAP. Also engaging DU management projects, and USFWS private lands management.
• Human-Wildlife Conflicts Workshop Series – develop hands-on educational experiences on resolving human-wildlife conflicts with a focus on Canada geese, white-tailed deer, predators, and chemical immobilization.
• Student-Professional Workshop Series – develop hands-on educational experiences on leadership, management, outdoor skills, genetics, data management, and structured decision-making.
• Host the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society.
• Expand the National Wildlife Control Training Program online programming.
• Redesign and construct the 4th edition of the Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management.
Financial Report

Douglas R. Stephens Endowed Chair in Wildlife
UWSP Foundation Account 8138/9138
December 31, 2013 – July 9, 2015

Background:
This endowment fund was initiated in December 2013 as the result of a $1,999,915 gift from Gerald and Helen Stephens to launch the Douglas R. Stephens Endowed Chair in Wildlife in their son’s memory. After a nationwide search, Dr. Scott Hygnstrom was hired as the inaugural Chair in September 2014. The earnings from this UWSP Foundation endowment fund will support wildlife research, outreach and related activities of the Chair in the College of Natural Resources at UW-Stevens Point. Examples of this may include direct support for research, related professional travel, graduate students and faculty-mentored projects encouraging and promoting partnership with other members of the Wildlife faculty at UWSP.

Endowment Corpus (Acc’t 8138)
Gifts/Transfers to/from endowment principle:
- 12/31/2013 – Stephens cash gift ...................................................................... $402,945.50
- 12/31/2013 – Stephens stock gift .................................................................. $1,596,969.00
- 2/10/2015 – Transfer to spendable account ......................................................... ($552.82)
- 4/2/2015 – Transfer to spendable account ........................................................... ($533.97)

Earnings Distributions to Principle .......................................................................................... $0
Historic value (includes all gifts, transfers, and interest earnings to principle)........ $1,998,827.71

Market Adjustment (based on investment returns through June 30, 2014*)
Growth in endowment market value due to market performance (annual net)
- 2014 .................................................................................................................... $65,066.03
Operations fees
- 2014 .................................................................................................................. ($25,036.77)
Net market adjustment............................................................................................. $40,029.26

Endowment Market Value (historic value + net market adjustment)................ $2,038,856.97

Spendable Account (Acc’t 9138)
Earnings Distributions to Spendable:
- 2014 (9/30/14) .................................................................................................... $40,058.84
Transfers:
  - 2/10/2015 – Transfer from endowment account............................................... $552.82
  - 4/2/2015 – Transfer from endowment account.................................................... $533.97
Expenses:
  - Miscellaneous travel and supplies .................................................................. ($4,477.62)
Current spendable balance as of July 9, 2015 ......................................................... 36,668.01

*UWSP Foundation investment portfolio is currently managed by UW Foundation in Madison, whose investment performance reports are typically 6 months behind the current date.
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