



SEPTEMBER 25-28, 2023
ROUGH RIDERS HOTEL | MEDORA, ND

2023 Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group



MIDWEST WORKSHOP DEER & TURKEY

NORTH Dakota | Game and Fish
Be Legendary.



2023 Proceedings
47th Annual Meeting
Midwest Deer & Wild Turkey Study Group

Rough Riders Hotel
Medora, North Dakota
September 25-28, 2023

Compiled by Rodney Gross and William Jensen

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Background

The Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group (MDWTSG) meeting is an annual gathering of wildlife managers sanctioned by and affiliated with the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Primary objectives of the meeting include dissemination of deer and wild turkey management strategies, discussion of emerging or existing issues associated with deer and wild turkey management, and coordination of regional deer and wild turkey management or research efforts. The meeting location rotates among the Midwestern states that are active within the group. Forums such as the MDWTSG meeting provide valuable opportunities for state deer and turkey biologists to become acquainted with emerging issues and exchange information and ideas related to deer and turkey research and management. The need for state fish and wildlife agencies to establish and maintain deer and turkey biologist positions and support travel of these biologists to the annual MDWTSG meeting is imperative for exchanging information to promote quality wildlife management and research in each state. It is more important than ever that state agencies are at the forefront of issues related to deer and turkey management to protect the heritage and recreational opportunities of hunting for future sportsmen and sportswomen.

Meeting Time and Place

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGF) hosted the 2023 MDWTSG meeting at the Rough Riders Hotel in Medora, North Dakota on September 25-28. The MDWTSG appreciates the financial support provided by the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) and the National Deer Association (NDA) and logistical and editorial support provided by Charlie Bahnson, Kristi Fast, Alegra Powers, and Dale Repnow, Mason Ryckman and Stephanie Tucker (NDGF). Registration and financial management of funds was provided by Hannah Edens and Alex Rischette (North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society).

Executive Summary

The theme of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) directors meeting in Green Bay this summer was “Collaboration Between Agencies”. Tiering off of the collaboration theme, the opening talks on Tuesday morning session focused on how working groups within MAFWA could collaborate more on joint projects. Representative from the Wildlife Health Committee, Private Lands Program, Upland Game Bird Groups, and interstate collaboration on management of chronic wasting disease outlined several potential opportunities for future collaborative projects. During later sessions the deer and turkey representatives met separately to discuss current research efforts and other topics such as methodology for capture and monitoring of turkey, and the use of Infrared technology to survey big game. State reports were given to the respective groups in the afternoon, followed by general discussions. On Wednesday, NWTF and NDA updates were given by Clayton Lenk and Matt Ross, respectively. In the deer group presentations were given evaluating telemetry equipment, surveying archery hunting pressure, and deer-vehicle collisions. The turkey biologists held an open forum discussion on future research topics. During the afternoon a joint field trip toured Theodore National Park and the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame.

Welcome to North Dakota- On Tuesday morning Maureen McGee-Ballinger (TRNP) welcomed the group to Medora and provided a brief history of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Following this introduction, Casey Anderson, Wildlife Division Chief (NDGF) welcomed the group to North Dakota. Casey acknowledged the shared challenges all state agencies share and urged the groups to

work together to seek solutions. On Wednesday morning Joe Weigand, a premiere Theodore Roosevelt interpreter and historian, entertained the group with the conservation role TR played in each state. We hope all attendees enjoyed their stay in North Dakota.

Medora North Dakota - Medora is a small western North Dakota town with a year-round resident population of approximately 120 people. Medora serves as the gateway to the south unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP). TRNP encompasses more than 70,000 acres of rugged badlands and home to bison, deer, prairie dogs, and more than 185 species of birds. During the summer Medora hosts a musical, 18-hole golf course and numerous tourist attractions. In 2026 The Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library will open in Medora. Come visit!

Business Meeting

Meeting Funds

- Funds held by NWTF

State Reports

- Reminder to send in state reports to Rodney Gross and Bill Jensen (NDGF)

Meeting Report

- Will be summarized and finalized by Rodney Gross and Bill Jensen (NDGF)

Storage of reports and documents

- Documents will be stored by University of Wisconsin

2023 Meeting Host

- Michigan will host meeting in 2024

Director Action Items

There are no director action items.

Director Information Items

Periodic joint meetings between adjoining regional deer and wild turkey working groups will further information sharing and coordination efforts of all participating states.

Time and Place of Next Meeting

The 2024 MDWTSG annual meeting will be hosted by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Appendix 1:

Meeting Agenda 2023

Meeting of the Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group Agenda

September 25-28, 2023

Monday, September 25

Dinner on Your Own

5:00-9:00 Arrival and Check-in Rough Riders Hotel Lobby
Light Evening Social Courtesy of National Deer Association

Tuesday, September 26

7:00-8:30 Catered Breakfast Buffet Conference Room

8:30-9:00 Welcome, Introductions, Announcements

Welcome to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Maureen McGee-Ballinger, TRNP.

Welcome to North Dakota. Casey Anderson, Wildlife Division Chief, NDGF.

Joint Meeting: Collaboration Between Working Groups

9:00-9:20 Collaboration between Wildlife Health Committee and Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group. Charlie Bahnson, NDGF Wildlife Health Lab.

9:20-9:40 Collaboration between Private Lands Programs and Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group. Kevin Kading, NDGF Private Lands Initiative.

9:40-10:00 Collaboration between Upland Game Bird Groups and Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group. Kent Fricke, Kansas.

10:00-10:15 Break

10:15-10:40 Interstate Collaboration to Improve Management of CWD. Dan Storm, Wisconsin DNR, and Jason Isabelle, Missouri Dept of Conservation.

10:40-11:00 Genetic Testing of WTD on the Northern Great Plains. Sarah Daman,

Ethan Baker, and Brian Darby, University of North Dakota.

- 11:00-11:20 Use of Infrared Surveys for Big Game. Jason Smith, NDGF.
- 11:20-11:40 Methodology for Monitory Translocated Wild Turkey in North Dakota. Cailey Isaacson and Susan Felege, University of North Dakota.
- 11:40-12:00 Turkey Trapping Demo. RJ Gross, NDGF.
- 12:00-1:30 Catered Lunch / Business Meeting
- 1:30-1:45 Break
- 1:45-4:30 Breakout Meetings

White-tailed Deer (State Reports)

Wild Turkey (State Reports)

- 6:00-9:00 Catered Dinner and Social

Wednesday, September 27

- 7:00-8:30 Catered Breakfast Buffet Conference Room
- 8:30-9:00 Guest Speaker, Joe Weigand (AKA Theodore Roosevelt).
- 9:00-12:00 Breakout Meetings

White-tailed Deer

9:00-9:20 NDA Update. Matt Ross, Director of Conservation.

9:20-9:40 Evaluation of Telemetry Equipment for Deer. Dan Storm,
Wisconsin DNR.

9:40-10:00 Survey on Archery Hunter Pressure. Chad Parent, NDGF.

10:00-10:20 Break

10:20-10:40 Deer-Vehicle Collison Hot Spots. Amalie Jorgensen, and
Susan Felege, University of North Dakota.

10:40-11:40 Future Research Needs and Round Table Discussion.

11:20-11:30 Wrapping up loose ends.

Wild Turkeys

9:00-9:20 NWTF Update. Clayton Lenk, District Biologist.

9:20-10:00 Current ongoing research updates.

10:00-10:20 Break

10:20-11:20 Fall season discussion

11:20-11:30 Wrapping up loose ends.

11:30-12:00 **Sack Lunch**

12:00-5:00 Load into Vans for Tour of Theodore Roosevelt National Park &
ND Cowboy Hall of Fame.

6:00-9:00 Catered Dinner and Social

Thursday, September 28

7:00-8:30 Catered Breakfast Buffet Conference Room

8:30-9:00 Departure

Theodore Roosevelt Interpreter - Joe Wiegand

Joe Wiegand is a premiere Theodore Roosevelt interpreter, and as an actor and historian, his portrayals of Theodore Roosevelt have been enjoyed by audiences in all fifty states and internationally. Joe has performed at the White House, TR's New York City birthplace, and all fifty states. Joe has been featured as President Roosevelt in "The Men Who Built America" on the History Channel, served as the model for the newest TR sculpture at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, and has a feature role in "National Parks Adventure" an IMAX film about our national parks. The Wiegand family now live in Medora, North Dakota, where Joe works for the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation.

Appendix 2:

Attendance List

Name	Agency / Affiliation	Email Address
Annie Farrell	National Wild Turkey Foundation	afarrell@nwtf.net
Melissa Schmitt	University of North Dakota	melissa.schmitt.1@und.edu
Keenan Stears	University of North Dakota	keenan.stears@und.edu
Tim Lyons	Minnesota DNR	timothy.lyons@state.mn.us
Bill Haase	North Dakota Game & Fish Dept.	bhaase@nd.gov
Nate Huck	Minnesota DNR	annie.dufresne@state.mn.us
Clint McCoy	Ohio DNR	Clint.McCoy@dnr.ohio.gov
Michael J. Tonkovich	Ohio DNR	mike.tonkovich@dnr.ohio.gov
Barb Keller	Minnesota DNR	annie.dufresne@state.mn.us
Paul Burr	Minnesota DNR	paul.burr@state.mn.us
Chad Stewart	Michigan DNR	stewartc6@michigan.gov
Joe McDermott	Kentucky Dept. Fish & Wildlife Res.	joe.mcdermott@ky.gov
Tommy Apostolopoulos	Kentucky Dept. Fish & Wildlife Res.	tommy.apostolopoulos@ky.gov
Jeff Pritzl	Wisconsin DNR	jeffrey.pritzl@wisconsin.gov
Dan Storm	Wisconsin DNR	danielj.storm@wisconsin.gov
Dan Skinner	Illinois DNR	Daniel.j.skinner@illinois.gov
Luke Garver	Illinois DNR	luke.garver@illinois.gov
Kevin Kading	North Dakota Game & Fish Dept.	kkading@nd.gov
Chad Parent	North Dakota Game & Fish Dept.	cparent@nd.gov
Brian Darby	University of North Dakota	brian.darby@und.edu
Sarah Daman	University of North Dakota	sarah.daman@und.edu
Ethan Baker	University of North Dakota	brian.darby@und.edu
Chris Pollentier	Wisconsin DNR	christopher.pollentier@wisconsin.gov
Jace Elliott	Iowa DNR	jace.elliott@dnr.iowa.gov
Dan Kaminski	Iowa DNR	dan.kaminski@dnr.iowa.gov
Jim Coffey	Iowa DNR	james.coffey@dnr.iowa.gov
Taylor Finger	Wisconsin DNR	taylor.finger@wisconsin.gov
Levi Jaster	Kansas Dept. of Wildlife & Parks	levi.jaster@ks.gov
Mark Wiley	Ohio DNR	mark.wiley@dnr.ohio.gov
Kent Fricke	Kansas Dept. of Wildlife & Parks	Kent.Fricke@KS.gov
Mason Ryckman	North Dakota Game & Fish Dept.	mryckman@nd.gov
Zackary Delisle	Indiana DNR	zdelisle@dnr.in.gov
Joe Caudell	Indiana DNR	jcaudell@dnr.in.gov
Charlie Bahnson	North Dakota Game & Fish Dept.	cbahnson@nd.gov
Stephanie Tucker	North Dakota Game & Fish Dept.	satucker@nd.gov
Amalie Victoria Joergensen	University of North Dakota	amalie.jorgensen@und.edu
Cailey Isaacson	University of North Dakota	cailey.isaacson@und.edu
Kevyn Wiskirchen	Missouri Dept. of Conservation	kevyn.wiskirchen@mdc.mo.gov
Jesse Kolar	North Dakota Game & Fish Dept.	jdkolar@nd.gov
Jason Smith	North Dakota Game & Fish Dept.	jrsmith@nd.gov
Clayton Lenk	National Wild Turkey Foundation	clenk@nwtf.net
Ryan Boyer	National Wild Turkey Foundation	rboyer@nwtf.net
Nick Oakley	Missouri Dept. of Conservation	nicholas.oakley@mdc.mo.gov
Jason Isabelle	Missouri Dept. of Conservation	Jason.Isabelle@mdc.mo.gov
Rodney (RJ) Gross	North Dakota Game & Fish Dept.	ragross@nd.gov
William (Bill) Jensen	North Dakota Game & Fish Dept.	Bjensen@nd.gov

Appendix 3:

Meeting Dates and Location History

Year	State	Location	Date
1977	Missouri	Fountain Grove Wildlife Area	January 17-19
1978	Wisconsin	Wyalusing State Park	January 16-17
1979	Iowa	Rathburn Fish Hatchery	January 15-18
1980	Minnesota	Whitewater State Park	January 21-24
1981	Indiana	Harrison-Crawford State Park	January 19-22
1982	Ohio	Lake Hope State Park	January 18-21
1983	Nebraska	Louisville 4-H Camp	January 17-21
1984	Kansas	Camp Aldrich	January 16-19
1985	South Dakota	Black Hills	May 7-10
1986	North Dakota	Camp-of-the-Cross	January 20-23
1987	Michigan	Kellogg Biological Station	January 27-29
1988	Illinois	Touch of Nature	February 1-4
1989	Missouri	YMCA Camp of the Ozarks	January 23-26
1990	Wisconsin	Bethel Horizons Prairie Center	January 15-18
1991	Iowa	Conservation Education Center	January 14-17
1992	Minnesota	Whitewater State Park	January 13-16
1993	Indiana	Harrison-Crawford State Park	January 11-14
1994	Ohio	Canter's Cave 4-H Park	January 30-February 2
1995	Nebraska	Mahoney State Park	January 15-18
1996	Kansas	Camp Pecusa	January 14-16
1997	South Dakota	Camp NeSoDak	August 24-27
1998	North Dakota	Camp Grafton	August 9-12
1999	Ontario	Blue Springs Scout Reserve	August 15-18
2000	Michigan	Thunder Bay Resort	August 20-23
2001	Illinois	Dixon Springs Ag. Station	August 19-22
2002	Missouri	Conception Abbey	August 18-21
2003	Wisconsin	Bethel Horizons Prairie Center	August 24-27
2004	Iowa	Conservation Education Center	August 22-25

2005	Minnesota	Eagle Bluff Envir. Learning Center	August 21-24
2006	Indiana	Camp Ransburg, BSA	August 20-23
2007	Ohio	Canter's Cave 4-H Park	August 19-22
2008	Nebraska	Fort Robinson State Park	September 14-17
2009	Kansas	Rock Springs 4-H Camp	September 14-17
2010	North Dakota	Camp Grafton	August 22-25
2011	Michigan	Ralph A. MacMullen Center	September 25-28
2012	South Dakota	Custer State Park	October 16-19
2013	Illinois	Allerton Park	August 18-21
2014	Missouri	YMCA Camp of the Ozarks	September 15-18
2015	Wisconsin	Perlstein Conference Center	September 8-11
2016	Kentucky	General Butler State Resort Park	August 22-25
2017	Iowa	Honey Creek State Park Resort	August 28-31
2018	Minnesota	Camp Ripley	August 27-30
2019	Indiana	Brown County State Park	August 12-14
2020	Ohio	Virtual	August 18
2021	Nebraska	Virtual	August 18
2022	Kansas	Rock Springs 4-H Camp	August 15-18
2023	North Dakota	Rough Riders Hotel, Medora	September 25-28

