

American Wildlife Conservation Foundation

Annual report for 2021

Presidents Report: Brian Dam

My initial year as president was covid cursed but financially positive. As listed below in other reports we received donations from five individuals helping add to the grants funding but our portfolio manager had a stellar year adding a very substantial 13% to the total we hold that funds the grants.

Meeting were held via Zoom due to covid and may continue till the virus contagion effect is reduced to safer levels. On a sad note the Foundation lost long time member Bill Gordon.

The Grants committee completed another round of grants, the results are listed below in the following reports.

My thanks to all the members who have worked unselfishly on behalf of the Foundation.

Vice President's Report: William Schwerd

The role of the Vice President is usually two-fold, to serve in the absence of the President and to coordinate programs. Covid has changed meetings from being in person to remote gatherings. It has been difficult to deliver high level educational programs not being able to meet in person or scheduling events only to find that Covid has taken another turn and in-person meetings are off.

2021 was such a year, your VP stumbled and fell along the way, as we enter 2022 there is a need to select and deliver ZOOM programs what will be of interest to some members and non-members. I am more concerned with topics relevant to today and others that reflect our outstanding historical past. Those who came before us included remarkable leaders in the conservation movement. Some today will be remembered that way in the future.

We waited and hoped, that is not how the AWCF was founded or operated for most of our over 110 years. We may stumble in 2022 but we will not fail the intent of the organization.

While, like many I can't wait to gather, enjoy the camaraderie, good food and presentations striking programs, ones that will be remembered need to go on the calendar will be offered.

Secretary Report: Paul Curtis

A membership renewal request and application form were sent to all unpaid AWCF members in February 2021. The mailing address for renewals was listed as Treasurer Daniel Wentworth's home in Union Springs, so that he can handle membership checks directly. As of 31 December 2021, my roster indicated that 21 members were paid for 2021 out of 82 current and past members (1 gratis membership for Bryan Green, Auditor). This was lower than in previous years, and a membership renewal message will be sent out in January 2022. Thank-you letters were sent to all AWCF members who made large donations (\$100 or greater) to AWCF. We have received a few donations including \$500 from Deborah Dorsey, a \$500 donation from David Willcox, plus a \$100 gift from Jonathan Schwartz. Burt Marshall also made a \$175 donation, and Gary Will provided a \$50 Memorial Gift to AWCF on behalf of Bill Gordon.

I assisted President Brian Dam with organizing AWCF Board Meetings via Zoom because of the continued Covid-19 pandemic. AWCF Board Meetings were held on 7 April and 21 October. Each committee and officer provided reports. On 2 April, Dan Wentworth, our Treasurer, reported the checkbook balance for AWCF was \$2570.41, and the total values of the portfolio was \$319,199.77. The Grants Committee received 17 grant applications by 1 February 2021 and chose two to receive funding. Of the 17 applications reviewed 9 were received from colleges or universities, and 8 were from other institutions or organizations. The proposals selected were:

Ms. Sarah E. Hirsch, Manager of Research and Data/Master's Student (Florida Atlantic Univ.), Loggerhead Marine life Center, 14200 US Highway One, Juno Beach, FL 33408, no phone number provided. Project Title: *"Establishing baseline demographics for a globally important loggerhead rookery"*. Request: \$3,000.

Ms. Eileen Wyza, Doctoral Candidate, 104 Life Sciences Building, Ohio University, Athens, OH 45701, no phone number provided. Project Title: *"Genetic introgression of wolf and dog DNA in Ohio's coyotes: exploring the effects and implications for human-wildlife conflict, conservation and management"*. Request \$3,000.

I assisted former Vice President Gary Goff with developing our public education events. There were no in-person educational events in 2021 because of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. A webinar was held on 17 March (noon and 7 pm) in collaboration with Dr. Peter Smallidge's Forest Connect webinar series hosted by Cornell University. This presentation focused on NYSDEC's American marten research in the Adirondacks that was partially supported with AWCF research funding. Dr. Paul Jensen discussed marten movements and habitat use in the Adirondacks. The recording can be found at the Forest Connect web site: <https://blogs.cornell.edu/ccforestconnect/forestconnect-webinars/>

At the 21 October AWCF Board Meeting, the Treasurer reported that the current checkbook balance was \$4172.03, and as of 20 October 2021, and the portfolio balance was \$338,314.82.

The Grants Committee received 5 grant applications by 1 August 2021. They chose one proposal to receive funding that was unanimously selected by the entire committee.

Lauren D. Pharr, PhD Student and Graduate Research Assistant, North Carolina State University, College of Natural Resources, 2800 Faucette Drive, Box 8008, Raleigh, NC 27695, lpharr@ncsu.edu. Project Title: ***"Potential Interactions between Climate Change and Density- Dependent Factors Driving Population Dynamics of the Federally Endangered Red-Cockaded Woodpecker."*** Request: \$3,000.

Several administrative duties were completed throughout 2021. Gary Will reported that the President has not appointed him to the AWCF Nominating Committee. There isn't a need to make this appointment until spring 2022 for elections later next year. The AWCF Board discussed changing the grant proposal cycle from two to one per year and awarding larger grant amounts. It was decided to make this change in 2022 and update the AWCF web site accordingly. Dan Wentworth took over responsibility for routinely updating the AWCF web site. Vice President Bill Schwerd will meet with Gary Goff to determine if it makes sense to plan for an AWCF-sponsored drone conference in 2022.

Treasurer and Finance Committee Report: Dan Wentworth

Portfolio:

The AWCF Portfolio is with Stifel Investment Banking Company. Two different funds are managed for AWCF by Stifel to maximize a diverse portfolio, which this year performed quite favorably, with nearly a \$50,000 in gain.

Year End 2020 Balance: \$295,868

First Quarter 2021: \$315,388

Second Quarter 2021: \$328,802

Third Quarter 2021: \$325,598

Year End 2021: \$328,601*

**\$15,000 was withdrawn from the portfolio at the end of October, thus making the total value increase of \$47,734 for the year. But even with this withdrawal to checking for 2022 grants and expenses, we gained in the portfolio: \$32,733.97. Compare this with 2020, where we only had a gain of \$16,000.*

Checking Account:

The year-end balance in the AWCF Checking Account with M&T Bank was: \$19,396.57, with no outstanding checks.

There were twenty paying members, who paid dues between the standard \$50, up to \$200, earning AWCF \$1700.

There were five donations, including two memorial gifts earning \$845.

Total Income, excluding funds deposited from the AWCF Portfolio was \$2,545. This is \$1082 below what was taken in, in 2020.

Expenses (taxes, fees, services, etc.): \$2,878.20*

** As with other years AWCF had to use funds from the portfolio to offset the extra expenses, not covered by yearly dues and donations.*

Grants paid out: Only three grants were awarded in 2021, 2 in February, and one in September. The amount paid out was: \$9,000. Next year AWCF will have to pay out more to stay within the required 5 percent rule, stating five percent of AWCF's earnings must be paid out each year, however, can be spread over a couple of years. In 2022, AWCF is moving to only one grant cycle, to allow giving awards over the typical two to three thousand that have been given in the past.

AWCF conducted a yearly audit of its finances for fiscal year 2020, and this was conducted by Bryan Green and completed with determination that the financial records are complete and well organized, and the treasury reporting process is well designed and properly executed. Dated April 2, 2021. Audit report is attached.

AUDIT REPORT FROM: BRYAN GREEN

APRIL 2, 2021

PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 31 2020

ITEMS: PAYMENTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

RECEIPT OF DONATIONS AND DUES

REVIEW OF FOUNDATION INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS AT STEIFEL NICOLAUS

RECONCILIATION OF BANK STATEMENTS AND CHECK REGISTER

TREASURY REPORTING PROCESS

“ Based on my review, I have determined that the financial are complete and well organized, and the treasury reporting process is well designed and properly executed.”

Signed:

Bryan Green

Grant's Committee Report for 2021

The current Grants Committee consists of 4 members. Together we evaluated 22 grant applications during 2021 in two grant cycles: Seventeen in the Spring Cycle and 5 in the Fall cycle. Twelve applications came from colleges or universities and 10 came from other institutions or organizations. All proposals were well written, but not all met our whole mission and focus, which is wildlife research, wildlife conservation, habitat conservation and management, human-wildlife interaction and public education. It is those proposals that meet all or most of AWCF's mission and focus, at least by our committee's selection protocol, that will receive funds from the foundation.

Selecting a grant recipient today involves a two-step process. Each member of the committee individually evaluates the merits of each proposal through a point system developed over the last six grant cycles. **(Illustration #1)** Although the first step is imperfect, it does allow for greater objectivity when reviewing each grant application. The second stage employs the "Cavanaugh Protocol", where we rank each proposal across the breath of the committee's collective review on the merits for funding a proposal. **(Illustration #2)** Selection then becomes a matter of those proposals where three or more members judge a proposal worthy of funding. Failing a 3/4ths majority for worth funding, we select proposals with a combination score of worth or maybe worth funding equaling at least three-member votes. Our collective review found only one proposal in the Fall cycle unanimously selected as worthy of funding. Likewise, in the Fall we unanimously rejected only one proposal. In the Spring cycle we did not unanimously reject nor select any of the 17 proposals. Our two successful applicants in the Spring cycle were chosen using the worth/maybe protocol.

Applicants who pay particular attention to our mission and focus their objectives on the following areas: Species Conservation, Human-Wildlife Interaction, Habitat Conservation and Public Outreach, will have a better chance of receiving a grant. These are the areas we look hard at when reviewing a grant application. Beginning in 2022 we will be offering only a single grant cycle in February. The deadline for the next grant cycle will be February 1, 2022. In addition, we increased the maximum dollar amount of our grants to \$6,000.00

We selected a total of 3 grant proposals to receive funding in 2021 for a total of \$9,000.00. Below is a brief description of the proposals granted AWCF funds.

Applications Selected for an AWCF Grant

Ms. Sarah E. Hirsch, Manager of Research and Data/Master's Student (Florida Atlantic Univ.), Loggerhead Marinelife Center, 14200 US Highway One, Juno Beach, FL 33408, no phone number provided.

Project Title: ***“Establishing baseline demographics for a globally important loggerhead rookery”***.

Request: \$3,000.00

Ms. Hirsch's objectives for this study are to obtain clutch frequency and nest site fidelity estimates for loggerhead sea turtles nesting on Juno Beach Florida. This beach is a globally important rookery located on the east coast of Florida. Furthermore, the project will seek out the first loggerheads to show up on the beaches and attach a satellite transmitter on their first nesting event of the season. Tracking data will be monitored to determine when these females may return to nest and lay their next clutch of eggs. The satellite tag's haul out feature will be used to identify when nesting events occur, so clutch frequency estimates can be determined, as well as the mean straight-line distance between identified nesting events. Density estimates will be made to identify high-use areas of both the foraging grounds and inter-nesting habitats. Satellite data will also be used to create interactive maps for public display and STEAM curricula for K-12 classroom teachers. Turtle tracking pages on the Loggerhead Marine Life Center's website will engage a global virtual audience that will allow those interested to follow a turtle's journey in real-time. It is anticipated that a variety of publications will be forthcoming on the results of this research and it will also serve as the basis of a Master's degree thesis.

Ms. Eileen Wyza, Doctoral Candidate, 104 Life Sciences Building, Ohio University, Athens, OH 45701, no phone number provided.

Project Title: **“Genetic introgression of wolf and dog DNA in Ohio's coyotes: exploring the effects and implications for human-wildlife conflict, conservation and management”**.

Request \$3,000.00

Ms. Wyza proposes to examine the introgression of dog and wolf DNA in Ohio's coyotes by examining coyote scats already collected and coyote tissue samples provided by the Ohio DOT, the US Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Service, and from volunteer hunters. The proposal's objectives will identify the degree of admixture of wolf and dog DNA in the coyote populations in the urban-rural gradient in Ohio and then compare the hybrid status of coyotes involved in human-wildlife conflicts in this area. Ms. Wyza will compare genetic profiles to determine whether coyotes engaged in conflict behaviors and subsequently collected for DNA examination exhibit a larger proportion of wolf or dog DNA than coyotes collected in areas where no human-wildlife interaction has been reported. If coyotes engaged in Human-wildlife conflict have higher amounts of dog DNA in areas where feral dogs are free roaming, this research could play a significant role in future regulations to control coyote and free ranging feral dogs in Ohio. Likewise, this study may shape our understanding of the wider scope of hybridization between wolves and coyotes, as well as the effect wolf DNA influences coyote populations. These findings will be shared with various Natural Resource Agencies throughout Ohio who are directly involved with the conservation and management of coyote populations and free roaming dogs in Ohio. Further, these data will be shared with the public through public workshops, peer reviewed journal articles and Natural Resource Conferences. This study will also fulfill Ms. Wyza's Doctoral dissertation requirement.

Ms. Lauren D. Pharr, PhD Student and Graduate Research Assistant, North Carolina State University, College of Natural Resources, 2800 Faucette Drive, Box 8008, Raleigh, NC 27695, lpharr@ncsu.edu

Project Title: ***“Potential Interactions between Climate Change and Density-Dependent Factors Driving Population Dynamics of the Federally Endangered Red-Cockaded Woodpecker”***.

Request: \$3,000.00

Ms. Pharr's objective for this study is to use a long-term data set (40 years of continuous data and 3-4 years of contemporary data collection) to investigate how climate change and density-dependent effects interact to influence reproductive success of the Red-cockaded woodpecker. The hypothesis to be examined: is brood loss primarily driven by density-dependent factors such as disease and competition for food, which result from territory density approaching carrying capacity? Are there phenological mismatches between nesting and food availability and/or direct heat stress due to climate change? Lastly are their interactions among density-dependence and climate change factors? This study of long-term weather changes and population dynamics will attempt to reveal how both density-dependent factors and climate change impact brood loss and provide implications for current and future population dynamics of this species. The applicant will partner with multiple government agencies and private conservation groups to help promote and inform efforts for conserving longleaf pine ecosystems in the region.

Respectfully Submitted,

AWCF Grants Committee

Mark Brown

Mike Cavanaugh

Dan Wentworth

Bob Gotie, Chair

January 5, 2022

AWCF Grants Committee Duties and Responsibilities

This synopsis was developed in the Spring of 2019 to guide the current and future AWCF Grants Committee

The AWCF Grants Committee is charged with selecting grant recipients from applications submitted in each grant cycle (semi-annually or annually). The maximum amount of money available from the endowment account will be established by the full board each year according to projections of income and the IRS spend down requirements. One application cycle with a deadline date of February 1st will be the norm. A second cycle later in the year (August 1st) maybe held based on the quality and number of applications received in the February 1st cycle. The Grants Committee has the power and authority to fund less than or more than the annual allocation based on the quality of applications meeting the mission and focus of the AWCF. The Committee is further empowered to award as many or as few grants it deems worthy each year while not exceeding the annual funding allocation established by the AWCF Board. Applications must be received electronically by 12:00 pm on the deadline date to be considered. The Committee's review and final selection will be as close as possible to 3-4 weeks from the deadline.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Chair Person

The Chair of the Grants Committee is responsible for the overall administration of the AWCF Grant's Program. This will include, but not be limited to the following:

1. Be the point person for receiving correspondence, phone calls, emails and grant applications, as well as keeping in touch with the President.
2. Forwarding grant applications to each committee member for their review.

3. Preparing and sending application evaluation and summary forms to each member.
4. Preparing the final selection form from the committee's choices and determining with the members what applications are worthy to fund.
5. Calling for a meeting date, if necessary, to iron out disagreements.
6. Notifying by email both successful and unsuccessful applicants.
7. Informing the AWCF Treasurer of pertinent information for payment.
8. Preparing a brief description of the proposals accepted for AWCF funding and submitting same to the AWCF Newsletter Editor for inclusion in the AWCF Website.
9. Briefing the full board at the next Board meeting of the results of the Grant's Selection Process.
10. Reviewing each grant application as a member of the Committee.
11. Submitting to the AWCF Secretary electronic copies of each application received, correspondence, review results and award letters for the AWCF archives.

Committee Members

Grants Committee Members are responsible for the following:

1. Thoroughly review each application received with the AWCF mission and focus in mind.
2. Evaluate each application using the Evaluation Sheets and provide a numeric summation for use with the evaluation summary form.
3. Complete the evaluation summary for each proposal, determine the worthiness of each proposal and email this form to the Chair.
4. Assist the Chair in the final selection of worthy proposals when the number found deserving of a grant exceeds the annual allocation of AWCF funds.
5. Stay in close contact with the Chair on issues of the AWCF Grant's Program.

AWCF Grant Applications – Rating Form for Final Selection Spring & Fall 2021

NOTE: Project names have been shortened for clarity – refer to the application for full information. Use the Cavanaugh Protocol:

Worth funding = 3 members or more judging a proposal worth funding.

Maybe Worth Funding = Combinations of Worth/Maybe adding to 3 members or more.

Not Worth Funding = Combinations of Worth/Maybe adding to only 2 members or less.

Name	Dan	Mike	Mark	Bob	Funding	\$ Requested
Puma Study Bay Area, CA	Worth	Maybe	No	Maybe	Maybe	\$2,000.00
Twin Harbors Wildlife Center	Maybe	No	No	No	No	\$2,000.00
Loggerhead Turtle Rookery	Maybe	Worth	Worth	Worth	YES	\$3,000.00
Citizen Science Survey, marten, fisher, habitat	Worth	Worth	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe	\$2,500.00
Habitat Evaluation Mexican Pronghorn	Maybe	No	No	Worth	No	\$7,381.77USD
Plastics in passerine birds	Maybe	No	No	No	No	\$2,000.00
Rehabilitated box turtles	Maybe	Worth	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe	\$2,850.00
GPS Trackers for Raptors	Worth	No	No	Maybe	No	\$2,400.00
Wood frog larvae	Worth	Worth	No	Maybe	Maybe	\$3,013.00
Red-cockaded woodpecker	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe	No	Maybe	\$3,000.00
Mountain Plover brood habitat	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe	No	Maybe	\$2,000.00
Urban Wildlife Habitats	Worth	No	No	Worth	No	\$2,464.00
Wolves and Dogs in Ohio's Coyotes	Worth	Worth	No	Worth	YES	\$3,000.00
Habitat Indicator Species	Maybe	No	No	Maybe	No	\$2,273.60
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe	No	Maybe	\$2,700.00
Ecotoxicology turtle and zebra mussels	Maybe	Worth	No	No	No	\$3,774.00
Wildlife Adirondack Inventory	Worth	Worth	No	Maybe	Maybe	\$2,500.00
Bat Houses	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe	\$1,971.75
Wild Happiness	No	No	No	No	No	\$3,000.00
Climate Change Biotic Interactions	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Maybe	\$2,000.00
Gopher Tortoises	Maybe	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Maybe	\$3,250.00
Red-Cockaded Woodpecker	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$3,000.00

Total Funding: \$9,000.00

Evaluation Sheet for AWCF Grant Proposals

Title of proposal:	
Name of applying entity:	
Location of study	

1. Are the objective(s):

0 to 2 pts. for each question

	Points
Clear and specific?	
Obtainable?	

2. Is it likely that the proposed work will make a positive contribution towards direct application in one/more of the three areas identified in the mission of the AWCF?

AWCF Mission:

0 to 3 pts. for each question

	Points
Conservation?	
Research?	
Education?	

3. Is it likely the proposed work covers one or more of the AWCF focus areas? [species conservation](#),

[human - wildlife interaction](#), [habitat conservation](#), [public outreach](#)

1 pt. for each focus area

Points

4. Funding will be spent on (check) that apply:

Salaries ___ Equipment ___ Travel ___ Supplies ___ Production/Printing ___ Other (specify): _____

Amount Requested: _____

5. Is this a reasonable use of the AWCF's resources?

0 to 2 pts.

Points

6. List three bullet points on the merits of this proposal: **One pt. for each bullet pt.**

7. Total Score:

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Note: a perfect score = 22