



Midwest Bat Working Group

13th Annual Meeting

Meeting Notes (Marne Titchenell, Secretary)
Virtual using GatherTown app

8 April 2021

CONGRATULATIONS to the MWBWG student award winners!! They received \$150 each:

- **Best Undergraduate Poster: DEANNE JENSEN (PURDUE UNIVERSITY)**
- **Best Graduate Poster: MACY KAILING (VIRGINIA TECH)**

Joe Kath, President – Welcome and Introduction

Joe Kath opened the meeting at 1:00 EST

Opening Comments:

- We have 116 registered participants for this meeting, comprised of 95 professionals and 21 students. There are 27 poster presentations.
- Special thanks to the planning committee for their tremendous efforts in organizing this meeting – Molly Simonis, Jocelyn Karsk, Sarah Stankavich, Bree McMurray, Lisa Powers, and Joe Johnson. Thanks also to Brian Heeringa, Brianne Walters, and Al Kurta for help and guidance in planning. Special thanks to Scott Bergeson and SBDN for their initial help with establishing a virtual meeting platform and setting an example for us to make this meeting our own.
- We will not be awarding the John Whitaker travel award, or the Dave Redell Lifetime Achievement award this year. We honorees to be recognized in person in front of their peers and colleagues, so we decided to postpone the awards.
- There will be two awards for poster presentations: one undergrad and one graduate best poster awards. Each award is \$150.

Meeting Summary

The Meeting this year was held on the Gather Town platform. Joe Kath opened the meeting with a welcome and overview of the afternoon. The meeting was comprised of two poster sessions, each 45-minutes. Attendees were free to move about the virtual room, visit and view posters, and converse with other attendees at the same poster. At the conclusion of the second poster session, the Midwest Bat Working Group Annual Business meeting was conducted. See notes below.



Awards and Announcements

MWBWG Student Awards

Each student winner is presented a certificate and a \$150 award.

Best Undergraduate Poster: DEANNE JENSEN (PURDUE UNIVERSITY)

"POTENTIAL FOR NEONICOTINOID INSECTICIDE EXPOSURE IN BATS OF THE CORN BELT"

Best Graduate Poster: MACY KAILING (VIRGINIA TECH)

"SEX-BIASED INFECTIONS AND MORTALITY IN A MULTI-HOST FUNGAL PATHOGEN OF BATS"



Midwest Bat Working Group
13th Annual Business Meeting Minutes
Virtual
8 April 2021

Called to order at (3:45 PM) EST by Joe Kath, President

Special thanks to the organizing committee for putting on a great meeting!

Election Results:

As a reminder, The MWBWG Board is comprised of 12 members: 4 officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary) as well as 8 members at large, one of which is a student representative.

We had 46 members vote in this year's election.

The following were elected to a full 2-year term and will be eligible for reelection in 2023:

- President – Joe Kath
- Treasurer - Brianne Walters
- Board Members: Tim Carter, Jocelyn Karsk, Jeremy Sheets, Sarah Stankavich

Each year, the MWBWG Board will have 6 vacant positions. In 2022, the vice-president (currently Al Kurta) and Secretary (currently Marne Titchenell) will be up for election, in addition to 4 board members at large one of which is the student rep.

The election results will be posted on the website - thanks to all who voted!

Board of directors meeting:

We did not have on this year during the meeting due to time constraints, so we will be scheduling one soon via virtual platform. The meeting minutes will be posted on our website.

MWBWG Committees:

We have 6 official committees, and we need volunteers. You do not have to be a board member to join a committee. The annual committees are listed below:

- **Annual Meeting Committee:** to assist annual host with organizing, creating a program, and schedule presentations.



- **Nomination and Election Committee:** to announce, collect, and organize nominations and run elections for Board of Directors.
- **Awards Committee:** to announce awards, accept nominations and organize judges.
- **Bylaw / History Committee:** to provide an annual report about the bylaws and keep an accurate history of the working group.
- **Website Committee:** to maintain and improve the website - requires a quarterly report on the state of the website including progress and plans.
- **Membership Committee:** to keep an accurate member list and promote to new membership.

Financial report:

The current PNC balance in our account (as of 4/7/21) is \$19,797.10.
The Gather.town virtual conference fee for today's meeting was \$1152.00.

Reminder to pay membership dues as they go towards meeting planning. Dues can be paid directly on-line via the MWBWG website.

Membership:

We have a new website with many new features (see below). With our new website, we can look at participation in the organization in two ways, paid memberships and contacts. Members are contacts, but contacts don't have to be members. For example, anyone that registered for the meeting, but is not a full dues-paying member is considered a "contact" by the website. The total number of contacts helps determine our websites annual fee.

Currently we have 180 contacts and 166 members (141 professionals, 25 students). On Jan. 7th we had 114 members and by April, we saw a 43% increase! We have kept our membership numbers stable and have increased our membership, despite not having a meeting this year.

But there are quite a few that have yet to pay their 2021 dues. We still have 59 members who have not paid their 2021 dues and soon after the meeting is over, a "renewal" reminder to these individuals.

New website:

The former website was hosted at BlueHost and was comprised of the primary website built on an out-dated version of Drupal and the web store was created using WordPress with a shopping cart extension to handle payments through the Payeezy Payment Gateway. The current website host at Wild Apricot includes everything in one location along with substantial upgrades in terms of membership management, event planning, and connecting to membership.



- New website includes features such as:
 - Online store & direct donations
 - Allows for automatic & recurring payments
 - Affordable credit card readers & mobile payments
 - Android & iPhone apps
 - Integrated payment gateway
 - Membership management database and email blasts
 - Individual member profiles with logins
 - Ability to have member only content
 - Event management database and email blasts
 - Online, anonymous polls
 - Ability to have multiple administrators and custom groups with different permission levels and roles

The annual expense for our new website platform is \$556.00, the annual expense for our old website platform was \$567. So we are actually saving \$11.00 and getting many features we have never had in the past.

If you have trouble with the website or have questions regarding user profiles, payments, etc. just click on the Contact heading at the top of our webpage and a drop down menu will appear: For example - General Questions, Membership Information, Website Issues, etc. Simply click on a menu item and your message will be delivered to the appropriate Board or Committee member.

Special thanks to Brian Heeringa for all the time he spent building this website.

The Facebook page is up to nearly 1,800 followers. A reminder to everyone to please share our Facebook page with anyone interested in bat conservation and encourage them to Like and Follow the Midwest Bat Working Group.

- Next task will be to create a Facebook post submission “button” or page on the website to allow individuals wanting to post something to obtain approval before posting.

Bylaws:

We would like to develop an official Code of Conduct for Meeting and Activities of the MWBWG. We feel that it is time. We will be looking at NASBAR’s code of conduct and plan to it to guide the creation of ours.

It is the policy of the MWBWG that all participants in MWBWG activities will enjoy an environment free from all forms of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. As a professional society, MWBWG is committed to providing an atmosphere that encourages the free expression and exchange of scientific ideas. In pursuit of that ideal, MWBWG is dedicated to equality of opportunity and treatment for all members, regardless of gender, gender identity or expression,



race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion or religious belief, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disabilities, veteran status, or any other reason not related to scientific merit. Harassment, sexual or otherwise, undermines the integrity of NASBR meetings and activities.

- We will provide a firm definition of sexual harassment.
- We will provide a firm definition of other forms of harassment.
- The Scope of Code of the Code of Conduct Policy will apply to all attendees at MWBWG activities, including scientists, students, guests, and exhibitors, participating in the scientific and educational sessions, tours, and social events of any MWBWG meeting or activity.
- An official incident reporting procedure will be outlined to properly handle reported violations of the MWBWG Code of Conduct
- In conjunction, official procedures for individuals wishing to make a formal complaint will be established.
- Please stay tuned as MWBWG Officers work on these materials and then share with all members via the MWBWG website.

Mentor meet-ups:

All students and mentors are paired up. We have 7 students that are meeting with 10-14 mentors. This will be done soon after the meeting, if it hasn't happened already. We will continue this into the future (we have done it in person in the past), as we feel it is very valuable.

Next year's meeting:

Missouri offered to host in 2022

Future hosts – Michigan, Ohio, Indiana – expressed interest at 2019 meeting

- We all recognize that things have changed dramatically with COVID and these states may no longer be able to host a future MWBWG meeting. please expect an email to be sent to all MWBWG members soliciting host states for 2023 and beyond. Thank you all for your consideration and remember we are here to help.

Meeting concluded @ 4:24 pm EST by Joe Kath, President