



**Midwest Bat Working Group**  
**15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**  
Meeting Notes (Marne Titchenell, Secretary)  
Virtual using Gather.town and In-Person at Champaign, IL

27-28 March 2023

## Welcome and Introduction

Jocelyn Karsk and Brittany Rogness opened the meeting at 1:00 CST.

### Opening Comments:

- Welcome!
- Judges remember to submit forms online.
- There is a bat ID booth in back of room to test your ID skills – bat posters free to take
- Submit questions for plenary speakers for tomorrow.
- Joe Kath welcomed everyone and thanked the annual meeting planning committee as well as the meeting hosts.

## Meeting Summary

The Meeting this year was hosted by Illinois Natural History Survey. Meeting hosts were Jocelyn Karsk and Brittany Rogness. The meeting was hybrid and available to virtual attendees (Gather.town) and in-person attendees and held at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center.

The meeting opened on the afternoon of March 27<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm CTS. Day 1 consisted of Lunch with a Bat Biologist, a Wildlife Acoustics Lunch and Learn, State Updates, and two presentation sessions. The poster session was in the evening, and pdfs of the posters were posted in Gather.town for the virtual attendees.

Day 2 consisted of two sessions of oral presentations and concluded with a plenary session from USFWS and the MWBWG Business Meeting. The meeting concluded March 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:15 pm CTS.

The meeting program and schedule of presentations can be found at [mwbwg.org](http://mwbwg.org).



## **Awards and Announcements**

### **MWBWG Student Awards**

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

**Best Student Poster:** Aleana Savage, Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, University of Missouri-Columbia - ESTABLISHING VIRAL DIVERSITY AND DENSITY WITHIN MISSOURI MICROBATS (CHIROPTERA: VESPERTILLIONIDAE)

**Best Student Presentation:** Kathryn McGowan, Dept of Biology Ball State University - DIFFERENT AS DAY AND NIGHT: WILD BATS MODIFY ECHOLCATION IN COMPLEX ENVIRONMENTS WHEN VISUAL CUES ARE PRESENT

**John O. Whitaker, Jr, Student Travel Award:** Mattea Lewis

**Dave Redell Lifetime Achievement Award:** Lori and Scott Pruitt

**Sodalis Exemplary Service Award:** Brianne Walters



## **Midwest Bat Working Group**

### **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting Minutes**

Recorded by Marne Titchenell, Secretary)

Virtual and In-Person at Virtual using Gather.town and In-Person at Champaign, IL  
27-28 March 2023

#### **Called to order at 3:41 PM CST by Joe Kath, President**

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

At this year's meeting we had 167 registered attendees - 117 in person (98 professionals and 20 were students).

We would love to have more students so please help us spread the word.

50 people attended virtually. Having the virtual component has been very popular – the Gather.Town platform has been great.

We had Sponsors: Gold = 4, Silver = 6, Bronze = 4, Virtual = 4

The meeting hosts worked very hard this well to get sponsorship. We've never had this level of sponsorships at our meetings. That money goes into our account to support this and future meetings.

#### Elections update:

In 2023, 6 board member positions were up for election, including the officer positions of President and Treasurer and 4 Board Member at Large positions held by Dr. Tim Carter, Jocelyn Karsk, Jeremy Sheets, and Sarah Stankavich.

- Joe Kath is staying on as president.
- Brianne Walters is stepping down as Treasurer. Joe Johnson, a current board member, was appointed by the board as treasurer.
- 3 board members were reelected - Tim Carter, Jocelyn Karsk, and Jeremy Sheets.
- 2 new board members were elected - Julia Wilson and Tara Hohoff – welcome!

We need to increase membership voting efforts. In 2023 we only had 29 members vote, 2021 – 46, 2022 – 37. The board is here to represent all of our members and fulfill your requests, but we need your participation and help. You will hear more from us on this so please watch for that and think about participating in the future.

The BOD met this morning from 7 – 9 am CST. The meeting notes will be posted to our website.

#### Treasurer Report:

- The current PNC balance in our account (as of 3/23/2023) is: \$43,675.93
- NOTE: All expenses for the 2023 Meeting have not yet been deducted.

#### Website update/ Update on other Expenses:



Brian Heeringa is our webmaster with the help of Jeremy Sheets. Our website has been revamped in the past few years - please check it out if you haven't. We are going to be bumping up our number of contacts from 250 (\$648/year) to 500 (\$1188/year). The fee to maintain our domain is also up for renewal for \$17.99/year. Finally, the annual subscription to Wild Apricot will increase to \$810/year.

#### Membership update:

As of 3/22/23, we have 108 members that have paid dues. This number has gone down over the years (and this is happening with other organizations, too), but what else can we do to keep members and attract new members? The board will be meeting to discuss this issue further in a month or two. If you have suggestions, feel free to reach out to any member of the board or use the website to reach out to us.

#### MWBWG Committees:

We have 6 official committees, *and anyone can participate on a committee.*

- Membership
- History/Bylaws
- Website
- Awards
- Annual Meeting
- Nominations/Elections

The board may be restructuring some of the committees to address some of the issues previously discussed (membership retention and recruiting). Please let us know if you would like to participate.

#### Award presentation:

*See above in Meeting Notes*

#### 2024 MWBWG Annual Meeting Update:

Location is Cincinnati, Ohio on April 2-4, 2024. Sarah Stankavich and Joe Johnson are the meeting hosts. Hoping to have an afternoon ID workshop and a social on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. More details coming soon.

A few folks have expressed interest in hosting 2025. The NEBWG and SBDN have expressed interest in a joint meeting. The history of past joint meetings is 2018 in Roanoke, VA, 2015 in St. Louis, MO, and 2011 in Louisville, KY. It's in the planning phases and we aren't sure where yet, but the idea is for it to happen in 2026 and 2027.

Thanks to everyone for attending both in-person and virtually - please fill out the meeting evaluation, which will be sent electronically to you after the meeting.

**Meeting concluded @ 4:15 pm CST by Joe Kath, President**