

News Release

U of M Crookston Natural Resources Professor Dan Svedarsky New President of The Wildlife Society

By Dan Svedarsky, Elizabeth Tollefson on Thursday, October 4, 2007

CROOKSTON, Minn. (October 4, 2007) – University of Minnesota, Crookston Professor



Svedarsky accepting the presidential gavel in Tucson, Ariz., from out-going Wildlife Society President, John Organ of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service based in Massachusetts.

Dan Svedarsky was installed recently as president of The Wildlife Society (TWS) at the annual meeting held in Tucson, Ariz. Svedarsky served one year as vice president, one year as president-elect and will now serve a year as president followed by a year as past president. Svedarsky is head of the Natural Resources Department at the University of Minnesota, Crookston and a research biologist at the Northwest Research and Outreach Center (NWROC).

Founded in 1937, TWS is an international non-profit scientific and educational association dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. The membership is comprised of over 7,500 wildlife professionals and students from more than 60 countries. Members are engaged in wildlife conservation and management as wildlife biologists, habitat managers, research scientists, field technicians, educators and agency administrators.

"It is an incredible honor and responsibility to play a lead role in my professional organization," notes Svedarsky. "The challenges faced in all resource management fields will be immense in the coming years and all will be integrally connected to energy. In many respects, wildlife populations serve as a barometer to gauge the ways in which we humans are interacting with our environment."

As part of his presidential duties, Svedarsky is organizing the plenary or general session for the next annual meeting in Miami, Florida, where the theme will be, "Thriving within limits."

"We are becoming increasingly aware that we live in a world of limited resources of space, water, minerals, timber, soil and wildlife so we need to embrace that reality and adjust our consumption and land use planning considerations to take that into account. But at the same time, we should approach the future with an optimistic attitude and seek creative ways in which our societies can thrive," continues Svedarsky.

Svedarsky has been a member of The Wildlife Society since 1967, served a 3-year term as the North Central Section Representative of the Society, chaired the program committee for the 2002 national meeting in Bismarck, North Dakota, and is a Certified Wildlife Biologist. In 1999, Svedarsky received The Minnesota Award from the Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society in recognition of contributions to wildlife conservation in Minnesota.

Svedarsky, who splits his time between the NWROC and the U of M, Crookston, has been at the Crookston campus since 1969, when he was the first faculty member hired in natural resources. After completing 2 degrees at the University of Missouri, Columbia, he studied the nesting and brood-rearing ecology of greater prairie chickens in Minnesota while completing a Ph.D. in wildlife biology at the University of North Dakota.

Svedarsky's research has focused on tallgrass prairie restoration and management using fire, prairie bird management and wildlife values of wild rice paddies and gravel pits. Svedarsky also has an appointment with the graduate school at the University of North Dakota and recently co-advised graduate students studying the colonization of restored wetlands by vegetation and amphibians at the Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge.

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