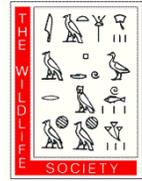


Donald H. Rusch Memorial Game Bird Research Scholarship **Announcement**



The Wildlife Society is requesting applications for the Donald H. Rusch Memorial Game Bird Research Scholarship. This is an annual scholarship of \$2,000 that is presented to a graduate student studying any aspect of upland game bird or waterfowl biology and management.

In 2016, applicants must be registered in a master's degree program in wildlife biology, zoology, ecology or a related discipline at a university in North America. Applicants are expected to be supportive of hunting.

A special TWS committee will select the recipient, and reserves the right to forego an award selection if no suitable candidates apply.

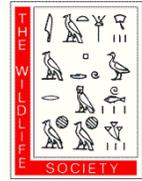
Application instructions are available on The Wildlife Society website at:
<http://wildlife.org/engage/awards/donald-h-rusch-memorial-game-bird-research-scholarship-nomination/>

Applications are to be Emailed to awards@wildlife.org by May 1, 2016.

For background and history of this esteemed scholarship, please visit:
<http://wildlife.org/rusch-memorial-game-bird-research-scholarship/>

Donald H. Rusch Memorial Game Bird Research Scholarship

2016 Request for Applications



Introduction

This is a request for applications for the Donald H. Rusch Memorial Game Bird Research Scholarship. This is an annual scholarship of \$2000 given to the candidate with the best overall credentials and characteristics based on the criteria that follow. Applications are due by May 1, 2016 according to the following instructions.

About Don

The wildlife profession lost a great friend and advocate on September 12, 1999, when Dr. Donald H. Rusch died unexpectedly. Don was an avid hunter and angler, with a keen interest in all aspects of game bird biology and conservation. His career in the wildlife profession included research on game birds in Canada, the United States, and South America, and contributed greatly to our understanding of Ruffed Grouse and Canada Goose population ecology in particular.

As a teacher, Don imparted great enthusiasm to his students and colleagues, encouraged them to think critically, and always maintained an open mind toward new ideas.

As a scientist, Don believed in the value of long-term research over the entire geographic range of a species to provide comprehensive understanding of population ecology.

As a manager, he advocated the wise use of our wildlife resources, and emphasized the importance of scientific research to improve our understanding of wildlife populations and their conservation.

About the Award

The Donald H. Rusch Memorial Game Bird Scholarship was established to honor the memory of Don Rusch and to continue his legacy by contributing to studies of game bird biology. The award is to be presented annually to a graduate student studying any aspect of upland game bird or waterfowl biology and management. Studies of species not presently hunted because of conservation concerns are also eligible for consideration.

The first scholarship of \$2,000 was announced during the 7th Annual Wildlife Society Conference held in Nashville, Tennessee, on September 13, 2000.

Award Criteria

Applicants must be registered in a master's degree program (in even numbered years) or doctoral degree program (in odd numbered years) in wildlife biology, zoology, ecology or a related discipline at a university in North America, must support hunting, and must be a member of The Wildlife Society.

Awards are based on the applicant's academic achievements; field experience; involvement in national and local TWS chapters; leadership in education, research and wildlife management; and career interests. Project merit also will be considered and will be weighted to reflect the involvement of the candidate in development and design.

Research projects must be endorsed by the applicant's academic supervisor. The award is intended to benefit students who show promise as wildlife educators, researchers, and managers. A special TWS committee will select the recipient, and reserves the right to forego an award selection if no suitable candidates apply.

Application Instructions

2016 applicants must be enrolled in a master's degree program (see criteria, above).

Applications must include:

- A cover letter describing what influenced the applicant's entry into the wildlife field, leadership experience in education and research, participation in The Wildlife Society, and future career goals.
- A brief project description addressing the rationale for the study, the involvement of the candidate in selecting and designing the study, the experimental methods, and the potential management implications of the research. Please list collaborators, other supporting individuals, and estimated term of study (maximum three pages double-spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins);
- A resume (maximum two pages), including a description of research and field work experience, list of presentations and publications, academic awards and scholarships, and grade-point averages (overall undergraduate GPA and for each year of graduate school); and
- A letter of support from the student's academic advisor. The letter should address the need for and the significance of the research, as well as provide a candid appraisal of the student.

Email all materials as a **single PDF file** to awards@wildlife.org by May 1, 2016.

For more information about this esteemed award, please visit: <http://wildlife.org/rusch-memorial-game-bird-research-scholarship/>

Award Recipients

2015	John P. Severson	2007	David A. Miller
2014	Katrina Alger	2006	Dominic Bachman
2013	Aaron Robinson	2005	Kevin E. Doherty
2012	Stephanie Graham	2004	Jed Meunier
2011	Erik Blomberg	2003	Guthrie S. Zimmerman
2010	Meadow J. Kouffeld	2002	Patrick Devers
2009	Lance McNew	2001	Michael A. Gregg
2008	Brian Hess	2000	Ben C. West