

Jan. 30, 2016

## First waterfowl-wetlands conservation chair named at UW-Stevens Point

A waterfowl expert who is also an alumnus of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point will be the first to hold the Kennedy-Grohne Endowed Chair in Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation, a new faculty position in the College of Natural Resources.

Jacob Straub, an assistant professor at the State University of New York-Plattsburgh's Center for Earth and Environmental Science, will join UW-Stevens Point in August 2016. He has taught avian ecology and conservation and forest ecology, among other courses at SUNY since 2013. Straub is already an active and respected participant in waterfowl and wetlands research and issues at the national level.

The endowed chair was created with gifts totaling \$2 million to UWSP Foundation from James C. Kennedy of Atlanta, Ga., and David F. Grohne of Wilmington, Ill.

The position will significantly enhance opportunities in waterfowl and wetlands research, outreach and education, according to Christine Thomas, dean of the College of Natural Resources at UW-Stevens Point. It will help secure the future of healthy waterfowl populations, especially along the northern section of the Mississippi Flyway. Thomas announced the hire today (Jan. 30) following a national search.

Straub, originally from Appleton, completed his bachelor's degree in natural resources management at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 2004. His master's in wildlife science is from the Ohio State University. He completed his Ph.D. in forest resources from Mississippi State University in 2012.

"We are immensely grateful for this wonderful gift and very proud to have this rising star join our nationally recognized wildlife program. Students, faculty, citizens and wildlife will benefit for decades to come," Thomas said.

Earnings generated from the endowment will support collaborative research, outreach and related student-faculty activities of the chair. The university will provide the base salary and fringe benefits for the position.

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