

# THE ALBERTA WILDLIFER

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 2

MAY 1, 2013

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Highlights from the ACTWS & CSTWS Annual Meeting
- Award winners

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## ACTWS President's Report

Dee Patriquin

Spring, for me, usually begins with the March Chapter conference. Often the days have begun to warm and snowmelt has started to fill wetlands and reveal a greening landscape, making it hard to be indoors. This year's conference, a joint meeting with the Canadian Section of the TWS, brought together wildlife professionals and students from across Canada in a dynamic and full weekend. It was also an opportunity to hear from Chapter members, which helped set the agenda for my new role as Chapter President.

I did escape outside for a few short breaks – including the Student Conclave sponsored by the University of Alberta Student Chapter. This was my first experience with a Student Conclave and I was impressed by enthusiastic participation of students from across Canada to the sessions - events ranging from a tour of the wildlife crossing structures in Banff National Park, a demonstration on use of

wildlife cameras, a nature walk with John Acorn and a winter tracking session. The willingness of session leaders to volunteer their time, some traveling to Canmore just for the event, and the engaged response of students was a strong reminder to me of an important benefit of the TWS and the Alberta Chapter in particular. The open and generous spirit of Chapter members has created a supportive community offering mentorship, encouragement and friendship through our student and professional careers.

The role of a professional organization in our current cultural and social context was a repeated theme during the conference. The plenary session generated lively discussion regarding the benefits and challenges of including citizen scientists in our work and more broadly, the role of the professional biologist, relative to the amateur. The address from Wini Kessler, our current TWS President, at the Saturday banquet reported on recognition within TWS of the need for or-

ganizational renewal and the changes they have adopted to remain relevant to members. Perhaps this was foreshadowing, as this theme was repeated at the Sunday AGM. The need for a review of the objectives and services offered by the Chapter came up several times during the meeting. The changing regulatory context has heightened the need



for conservation advocacy and raised the question of best means to represent and involve members in conservation issues. Increasing interest in professional development sessions offered by the Chapter suggest a new service we could provide to members. Slow investment growth due to global financial change challenges the feasibility of achieving a self-sustaining scholarship

*Continued on page 6...*

# ACTWS & CSTWS Conference

The joint CSTWS and ACTWS conference was held March 8—10 in Canmore, with 170 participants. The Student Conclave and Quiz Bowl were well attended on Friday. The theme of this year's conference was Citizen Science. Saturday began with the plenary session which included presentations on different applications of

citizen science from monitoring different wildlife populations using volunteers to how it can fulfill several different Parks Canada mandates. Other sessions on Saturday included Biodiversity, Carnivores, Methods & Techniques and Birds & Bats. Attendees of the Sunday sessions had to choose between Ungulates and Citizen Science

& New Insights. The poster session was on Saturday as was the Banquet where TWS president Wini Kessler spoke on the subject of Canadians in The Wildlife Society. CSTWS and the ACTWS annual meetings were held respectively before and after the Sunday presentations.

*The joint ACTWS and CSTWS conference was a huge success!*

*Congratulations to all of the award winners.*

## ACTWS & CSTWS Awards

### ACTWS & CSTWS Awards

ACTWS William Rowan Distinguished Service Award: **Evelyn Merrill**

ACTWS Dedicated Service Award: **Bill Samuel**

ACTWS Special Recognition Award: **Blair Rippen**

ACTWS Publication Award – Popular: **Glynnis Hood** for her book *The Beaver Manifesto*

ACTWS Publication Award –Technical: **Mike Proctor et. al.** for their monograph entitled *Population Fragmentation and Inter-Ecosystem Movements of Grizzly Bears in Western Canada and the Northern United States.*

TWS Distinguished Service Award: **Bill Samuel**

### Scholarships

Robert (Bob) K. Goddard Memorial Scholarship: **Erin Low**

Ian Ross Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship: **Angela Rideout**

William Wishart Post-Graduate Award: **Andrea Morehouse**

Photos: Shevenell Webb presents awards to:

Top-Blair Rippen; Bottom -Evelyn Merrill



# ACTWS & CSTWS Awards Continued...



Ken Crutchfield presents award to Jared Merkle

## Student Presentation Awards

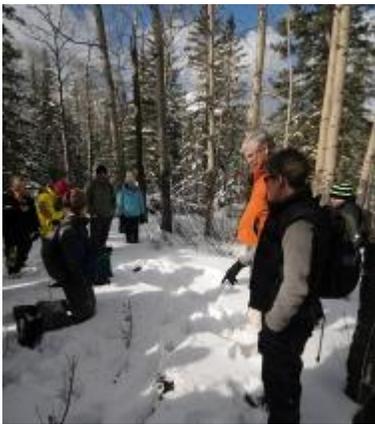
Graduate 1: **Jared Merkle** - *Past experience influences patch selection in free-ranging bison.*

Graduate 2: **Luis Cruz-Martinez** - *Nestling tree swallows exposed to oil sands-related emissions in AB: Assessment of biological effects.*

## Student Poster Awards

Undergraduate: **Stephen Holly** – *A summary of wildlife crossing structure use in the Bow Valley near Canmore, AB 2008 and 2012.*

Graduate: **Elizabeth Beck** – *Toxicological effects of tailings pond water on waterfowl using captive mallards as an experimental model.*



## **Student Conclave**

A great day in the mountains followed by the Quiz Bowl

*Special thanks to Chris Olson for providing photos from the conference.*



## CSTWS Annual Meeting—2015

There was a presentation at the CSTWS annual meeting from the organizing committee of **TWS 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference which will be held in** Winnipeg from October 17-21, 2015. Sounds like things are well on their way. Mark your calendars now!

Art Rodgers, TWS Canadian Section Representative, who gave a brief presentation at the start of the plenary session, stressed the need for canadian representation on TWS committees and working groups. If you are interesting in pursuing this see TWS website for more information or contact Art directly.

<http://joomla.wildlife.org/documents/2012.committees.pdf>

<http://wildlife.org/subunits/working-groups>

”...the road down  
our profession  
may have to  
consider in  
building citizen  
science  
programs.”

# Citizen Science

Evie Merrell

This year's **PLENARY SESSION** focused on *Citizen Science: Can it lead to more with less in today's economy?* Speakers' perspectives ranged from those of practicing biologists to students. We heard from biologists who were just starting up citizen science programs like Jesse Whittington and colleagues' pika monitoring program in Banff National Park to those having worked with citizen science program over the long-term, like Bill Hunt, Resource Conservation Manager from Banff National Parks and Jane Wiedenhoft Program Manager with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, who now manages their citizen-based program for monitoring wolves. We also heard from biologists like Tracy Lee, Miistakis Institute,

Mark Boyce, University of Alberta, and Greg Breed, Harvard University on examples of how to work with citizens as examples of what has worked and not worked well. Glynnis Hood and students Morgyn Ramsay and Nick Yarmey gave inspired comments on what motivated them to promote citizen science efforts. The speaker comments set the stage for a excellent audience-panel dialogue that emphasized how you will

manage volunteers from a logistics standpoint and how to adequately train volunteers for the work that they will be doing to provide reliable data and help with volunteer retention. But in the end, the discussion begged the questions ...if we let citizens do this work, does say that trained biologists are easily replaceable? What message do we give if we endorse this? These questions left us with some additional complexities that the road down our profession may have to consider in building citizen science programs. For those members wanting more details on the plenary session, we are working on posting videos of the speaker and panel discussion on the web site by the end of the



## Bits and Bites

TWS Captive Cervid Breeding Fact Sheet:

<http://wildlife.org/documents/policy/fact-sheets/captive-cervid-breeding.pdf>.

Did you know that CWD (Chronic Wasting Disease) was found in an Alberta Moose? For more information on the most recent CWD updates see:

<http://srd.alberta.ca/fishwildlife/WildlifeDiseases/ChronicWastingDisease/CWDUpdates/Default.aspx>

Updated range maps for Woodland Caribou in Alberta are now in effect:

<http://srd.alberta.ca/MapsPhotosPublications/Maps/WildlifeSensitivityMaps/Default.aspx>

# ACTWS Executive 2013-2014

- President: Dee Patriquin
- President-Elect: Kashif Sheikh
- Past-President: Dave Hobson
- Secretary-Treasurer: Curtis Stambaugh
- Director (until 2015): Larry Roy
- Director (until 2015): Tyler Muhly
- Director (until 2014): Jason Fisher
- Director (until 2014): Melissa Beck
- Student Reps: Katrina Jansen & Angela Rideout
- Awards Chair: Shevenell Webb
- Conservation Committee Chair: Ken Crutchfield
- Membership: Robin Gutsell
- Scholarships: Tammy MacMillan
- Information & Education: Lisa Wilkinson
- Website Chair: Layla Neufeld
- Newsletter: Lisa Wilkinson & Kristina Norstrom



Award winner Bill Samuel with Shevenell Webb and Margo Pybus

# CSTWS Officers and Board Members 2013-2014

- Canadian Section Rep: Art Rodgers
- President: Evelyn Merrill
- President-Elect: Darren Sleep
- Vice-President: Karla Gwyn
- Past-President: Kathreen Ruckstuhl
- Secretary-Treasurer: Jenn Sheppard
- Alberta Chapter: Dee Patriquin
- British Columbia Chapter: Michel Lavallee
- Manitoba Chapter: Rob Officer
- Ontario Chapter: Neil Dawson
- Saskatchewan Chapter: Gillian Treen
- Student Chapter Representative: Timothy Sobey
- Newsletter Editor: Kathreen Ruckstuhl
- Website Administrators: Matt Dyson & Kathreen Ruckstuhl



Canmore, Student Conclave March 8/13

# Student Chapter Presidents 2013-2014

- University of Alberta: Katrina Jansen & Angela Rideout
- Lakehead University: Tim Sobey
- Trent University: Courtney Mondoux
- Université Laval: Orphé Bichet
- University of Northern BC: Matt Dyson
- Lethbridge Community College: TBA

**Students**—check out the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists (ASPB) for opportunities and information.

## President's Message continued....

trust fund through our current approach. Lastly, changing demographics of our profession suggest new approaches may be required to recruit and retain members.

The returning executive members, with our new directors Larry Roy and Tyler Muhly and president elect Kashif Sheikh, will be

tackling these questions in a strategic review of our Chapter's objectives and programs over this next year. By next year's AGM, we aim to have a draft strategic plan outlining updated goals and services that will ensure that we remain relevant to our members and responsive to changes affecting our profession. We don't plan to

do this alone - watch for updates and requests for your thoughts on future directions and benefits you would like to see offered by the Chapter. Or contact us through the soon to be updated Chapter website and member registration system - innovations to be unveiled later this spring (once it arrives!).

*"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."*

## Student Conclave Evie Merrell

Particularly exciting at the AGM this year was to see the high number of students attending (over 70 students) and participating in both in the Second Annual Canadian Conclave and Open Papers section of the meeting. Friday evening several student teams came all the way from British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and different parts of Alberta to compete in the

Wildlife Quiz Bowl. As moderator, Art Rodgers, Canadian Section Representative to Council, guided the group through the event with the support of Jenn Sheppard, Garth Mowat, Kathreen Ruckstuhl and John Krebs, who keep the show running, and the astute Judges Margo Pybus, Rick Baydack and Dave Hobson, who kept us on track. There were tight matches, astounding questions, and some interesting non-North American skins and furs to identify. Prevailing in the end was the Student "Green Team" from Lakeland College consisting of members Tiffany Kjartanson, Conrad Taylor, Clayton Lamb (UBC Guest player), and Spencer

Thome. Congrats!! As winners they were pitted in fun against a team of Professionals including James Allen, Michael Gillingham Evelyn Merrill and Nathan Webb, who barely could hold their own against this sharp group of young biologists. Congratulates to the winners and we'll see you again next year for that rematch!!



Art Rodgers



The Green Team

# 10th Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference

Submitted by Francois Blouin

As part of the Alberta 2011-2015 Prairie Conservation Action Plan, the Prairie Conservation Forum committed to host the 2013 Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference (PCESC). The conference has been held every three years since 1986 and alternates between the three Prairie Provinces. The conference was held in Red Deer at the Sheraton Hotel on February 19-22, 2013 and was organized jointly with the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists. The theme of the conference was "Engaging People in Conservation".

The conference began informally on the Tuesday night but was officially opened in the morning of February 20th. A social evening with the musicians of the *Estelle Smooth Jazz Quartet* on Tuesday created an enjoyable atmosphere for old friends and colleagues to reunite and new ones to form. On Wednesday morning, the co-chairs of the 2013 PCESC steering committee, along with the chair of the ASPB, the past chair of the PCF and four dignitaries provided the opening remarks to officially kick off the conference. The four dignitaries included Jim Wood- Mayor Red Deer County, Morris Flewwelling- Red Deer Mayor, Earl Dreeschen- MP for Red Deer and Bridget Pastoor -MLA Lethbridge-East on behalf of Diana McQueen- Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development.

The two and half days that followed were filled with plenary and concurrent sessions as well as poster presentations. Three plenary sessions made up of seven presentations were held at the beginning of each day and at the end of the conference. Another evening plenary with guest speaker Chris Fisher was also held on Wednesday. Twenty-five concurrent sessions of four presentations each for a total of 100 live presentations along with 44 poster presentations and seven special 3D Grassland Vegetation Inventory presentations were given during the conference. The program included a broad range of topics such as socio-economics of conservation, nature deficit disorder, prairie and species at risk conservation, prairie restoration, fisheries management, ecological goods and services, transboundary research and conservation initiatives, engaging ranchers and other groups in conservation, just to name a few.

The Thursday night banquet allowed for conference participants to enjoy a gourmet meal, socialize and hear about the three Prairie Conservation Award recipients. The Prairie Conservation Awards are granted to a deserv-

ing recipient from each of the three Prairie Provinces once every three years in recognition of significant long-term contributions to native habitat or species at risk conservation. The Award recipients were introduced by their nominator(s) and presented with a picture of a prairie species at risk by Gord Court during the conference banquet. They were John Morgan (MB), Gary Seib (SK), and Ken and Nora Balog (AB).

To mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the theme of the conference, a new grant was created. The *Young Professional Stewardship Grant* was intended at innovative projects by individuals age 18-30 that advance the engagement of people in conservation in Grassland and Parkland Natural Regions of the Prairie Provinces. A silent auction was held during the banquet to raise money for this grant. Grants were awarded to three people to receive a total of \$2500 each. These were Kaytlyn Burrows, Courtney Hughes, and Jonathan Kornelsen.

The 2013 Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference was another great success. Its 382 participants went home with a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities that are facing the prairie ecosystem and its inhabitants in 2013 and a renewed desire to make a difference. The Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan also announced that the next PCESC would be held in Saskatoon in 2016. Thank you to all the volunteers, organizers and sponsors who contributed to the success of this conference and thank you to all who participated.

## Mystery Photo

Name this Prairie butterfly. Answer on last page.



Photo: Norbert Kondla

# Eating Tomorrow



By Lorne Fitch

**“We make  
the  
common  
rare; the  
rare  
endangered;  
and, the  
endangered  
gone”**

It was a sight to behold and one greater to comprehend the eating of, that chocolate cream pie. We had whipped it together from graham cracker crumbs and chocolate pudding, shaken and then chilled in a snow bank on a backpacking trip. The anticipation of eating it brought me to the level of a child, thinking only of immediate gratification. My two companions showed considerably more restraint, electing to divide each of their respective thirds in half, to have a piece at breakfast the next morning. I ate my third immediately. The saved piece of pie was enclosed in a rock cairn to protect it from marauders. I was teased unmercifully about how good the remainder would taste in the morning, had I saved some of my pie.

The early glow of morning light revealed the cairn had been transformed into a scatter of rocks. No pie remains were left and the aluminum pie plate retained gouges on its surface. A mule deer doe was beating a hasty retreat from the scene saving me from instant suspicion. But, a closer inspection of the crime scene with all the intensity of a CSI unit showed a porcupine was the culprit. Somewhere in the headwaters of the Castle River there may well be a line of porcupines still hardwired to remember a meal of non-wood, chocolate ambrosia tinged with a slight metallic aftertaste.

It was my turn to laugh, since I had lost nothing in this porcupine perpetrated crime. The moral of the story, I pontificated, was that “gluttony is its own reward”. Saving a piece of the pie was foolish, because how could we predict the events of the future, and indeed the tragic loss of the saved pie? Eating it all, now, was the smart thing to do. It was

only later, upon reflection that I realized how much the incident revealed of human nature and our province, if not the world. There is a similar orthodoxy, verging on a religion, over economic development in Alberta. The mantra goes something like “we can do everything, everywhere, anytime, all the time, at the same time, on the same place”. And it goes on and on in spite of the persistent signs of stress, of landscapes unraveling and of species driven to the category of “imperiled”, or worse, “gone”.

The alternative to admitting the pace is too extreme and we’ve exceeded thresholds is to continue to tinker, fiddle, adjust, redial, patch over, prevaricate, deny and generally ignore the signs. Keeping the engines of industry revved up, red lined and economic activity growing is the prime directive.



Sadly, that describes Alberta and what the province does. Tar sands developments spreading at an exponential rate on top of caribou habitat. Timber harvest, an al-

most frantic pursuit of the last merchantable tree, in watersheds with bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout and grizzlies as well as the water supplies for downstream communities. Gas wells, pipelines and roads tracking native prairie where sage grouse hang on by a feather. Aren’t we remarkable? We make the common rare; the rare endangered; and, the endangered gone. It would be more remarkable, maybe in the category of miraculous, to reverse that process.

It is frustrating to sit on species recovery plans and note the intransigence, even belligerence of industry and the timidity of government over protection and restoration of species at risk and their critical habitats. Equally unsettling is there appears to be little energy and few resources left to keep other species, like antelope as an example, from joining the list of the damned.

## Continued.....

We need the equivalent of a Schindler's list for critters that may be on the brink of a downwards spiral and an accompanying hero to rescue them.

In Alberta, when the canary dies we think we can simply buy another. We don't grasp, metaphorically, what the canary represents. It is an opportunity to use a sensitive or indicator species as a distant early warning system to alert us, to signal problems we, as humans, will encounter. If the canary, metaphorical or otherwise, dies it's too late. We've missed, ignored or overridden the signal at that point.

The problem is, many of us aren't clear on where you go to buy more actual Alberta canaries like caribou, grizzlies, sage grouse, cutthroat trout and the numerous, non-charismatic, micro fauna and flora on the growing list of species at risk. There's no address for the endangered species store and even if there were such a mythical place, I'll bet they don't take credit cards. At least, I'll bet, they won't take a credit card from the province of Alberta. We're already overdrawn at the biodiversity bank account.

Once they're gone, it's too late to dial back, ease the throttle of progress back a hair from redline, point fingers or wring our collective hands and promise it will never happen again. As Aldo Leopold correctly observed, "A little repentance just before a species goes over the brink is enough to make us feel virtuous. When the species is gone we have a good cry and repeat the performance."

So why, one might ask, is the performance repeated? Species missing in action is a consequence of turning their essential habitats into battle zones of industrial, agricultural and residential activity. At a frantic pace of development, both spatially and temporally, many native species lose out in the race. It isn't a race they have run before. It isn't a race they can run. The focus on purely economic outputs divides and transforms habitats into smaller and smaller units, fragmenting them, severing connections, reducing quality until those habitats no longer meet the needs of native plants, animals and fish.

Economists use a term "discounting the future" to describe the phenomena where rewards in the present, the now, are valued more highly than rewards in the distant future. I suppose that as individuals and also as society we find it difficult to delay gratification. We think it imperative to clutch and grab as much as we can now. To eat the chocolate cream pie now is better than the prospect of having a piece in the future, or so goes the thought process. It continues on to a barrel of oil, a bushel of canola or a truckload of dimensional lumber provides more security now than the future prospect of these commodities plus fresh, abundant water supplies, healthy landscapes, the full expression of biodiversity and the delivery of ecosystem services.

Wade Davis, an Explorer-In-Residence of the National Geographic Society points out that "The cost of destroying a natural asset or its inherent worth if left intact has no metric in the economic calculations that support the industrialization of the wild. As long as there is the promise of revenue flows and employment, it merely requires permission to proceed. We take this as a given for it is the foundation of our system, the way commerce extracts value and profit in a resource driven economy."

The cost of exercising all our options now is lost or missed opportunities and options for the future. Many natural assets can slip through the cracks because of a failure to value them appropriately. We "eat our future" as Australian biologist Tim Flannery observes. What develops is a syndrome of fire sale clearances on certain resources, at a reduced value, with little insight into how use could be sustainable with the maintenance of other resource values. In the race to grab it all now there are losers. The discount produces a dichotomy between those whose goal is short term reward and those with a longer view and concern about future conditions. It is also a mockery of our rhetoric about conservation and stewardship.

Aldo Leopold summed it up with, "We of the minority see a law of diminishing returns in progress; our opponents do not."

# Conservation Committee Update



By  
Ken Crutchfield

*“...the issue does  
raise questions on  
the role that  
ACTWS should  
take in terms of  
advocacy”.*

## Bill 202 -Public Lands (Grasslands Preservation) Amendment Act, 2012

April 8, 2013, the Private Member’s Bill put before the Alberta legislature by Dr. Neil Brown (PC MLA, Calgary MacKay, Nosehill, was defeated this date on second reading by a vote of 41 to 6. Dr. Brown was the only PC member to support the bill. ACTWS wrote the Premier in support of the Bill and subsequently sent an email to Dr. Brown acknowledging his effort to safeguard southern Alberta grasslands. It appears initial wording in the Bill was misinterpreted by a variety of political and community interests which could not be resolved despite amendments. Discussions of the Bill revealed the lack of transparency in the sale of public lands which would have required any sale of public land in southern Alberta to be subject to a wildlife assessment and a sixty day period of public comment.

## Stakeholder Engagement - National Code for the Introduction and Transfer of Aquatic Organisms – excerpt of May 1 email received from Jim Wagner – Provincial Fish Culture Specialist ([Jim.Wagner@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Jim.Wagner@gov.ab.ca))

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans will be in Alberta sometime during the week of May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013 to conduct stakeholder engagement on the renewal of the “National Code for the Introduction and Transfer of Aquatic Organisms”. The National Code on Introductions and Transfers of Aquatic Organisms was developed in 2003 to set in place a mechanism (Introductions and Transfers Committees) for assessing proposals to move aquatic organisms from one water body to another. It was also to provide all jurisdictions with a consistent process (the Risk Assessment procedure) for assessing the potential impacts of intentional introductions and transfers of aquatic organisms. The Code applies to the intentional introductions and transfers of live fish, aquatic plants into Canada, between provinces and territories, or within provinces and territories to fish habitat and fish-rearing facilities. The Code excludes deliberate movements of organisms specifically for the aquarium and water garden trade, live fish for the food trade, and bait; and the unintentional movements such as those associated with the transportation and shipping industry; recreational and commercial boating; and, canal and water diversions. Code renewal was required to account for the phasing in of the CFIA’s new lead federal disease management role under the National Aquatic Animal Health Program; to avoid recognized overlap in mandates accorded under the Fishery Act and the Health of Animal Act as it relates to movement of fish; and, to refine and modernise certain elements of the Code. The Renewal Task Group has completed a 3rd draft of the 2013 Code that lays out the renewal way forward that is ready to be shared with key stakeholders for review and comment. A copy of the 2003 code that is being revised - [NATIONAL CODE ON INTRODUCTIONS AND TRANSFERS OF AQUATIC ORGANISMS](#)



## Government of Canada – devolution of PFRA pasture lands to provinces

On-going dialogue – Jim Allen as Canadian Section has been approached to develop feedback for Canada. However the issue does raise questions on the role that ACTWS should take in terms of advocacy.

## Continued.....

### Muzzling scientists

Number of instances in recent memory wherein scientists were purposefully directed on what and how to share scientific knowledge. Recently the federal privacy commissioner has signaled her intent to review the Government of Canada practices as it pertains to the freedom of scientists to share findings and engage in peer review of their work by outside interests. ACTWS is in discussions over sending a letter of support to the federal commissioner. Following link to the University of Victoria letter to commissioner calling for the investigation - [http://www.elc.uvic.ca/press/documents/2012-03-04-Democracy-Watch\\_OIPLtr\\_Feb20.13-with-attachment.pdf](http://www.elc.uvic.ca/press/documents/2012-03-04-Democracy-Watch_OIPLtr_Feb20.13-with-attachment.pdf)

### Report of Member Representing ACTWS on Alberta Endangered Species Conservation Committee

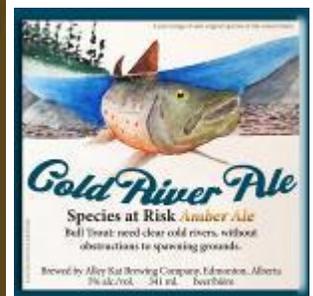
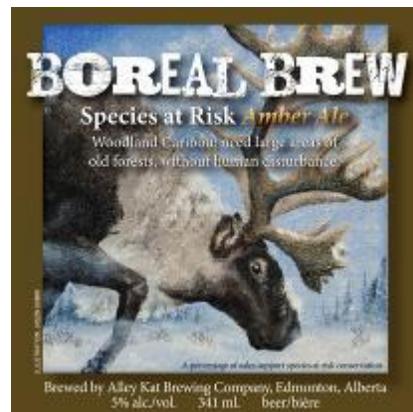
The ACTWS is represented on the Alberta Endangered Species Conservation Committee (ESCC) by Doug Collister ([collistr@gmail.com](mailto:collistr@gmail.com) 403-540-4573) with Kirby Smith acting as alternate representative. The ESCC meets 1-3 times a year to review status recommendations, recovery strategies, conservation action statements etc and to make appropriate recommendations to the Minister of the Environment. The committee comprises a diverse group representing the conservation community, industry and government. The most recent meeting occurred on 7 February 2013 in Calgary. Agenda items included Greater Sage-grouse recovery plan, Status of the Prairie Rattlesnake, Conservation Action Statement for Prairie Rattlesnake and Ord's Kangaroo Rat recovery plan. In addition the committee was provided with an update on the status report review process, reviewed the ESCC membership process, was provided with a review of the Federal Habitat Stewardship Program and received a

## Beer Buzz - Species at Risk Amber Ale

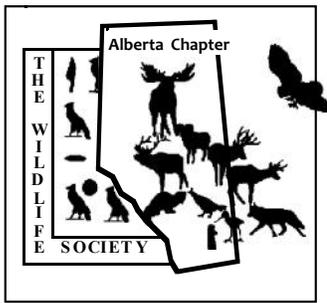
The Species at Risk Amber Ale hit the stores at the beginning of March; it is available at Sherbrooke Liquor Store in Edmonton, and Kensington Wine Market in Calgary. We hope to expand to other cities in the future. The stores are donating a percentage of sales to our new Species at Risk Conservation Fund.

At the conference we sold long-sleeved t-shirts with the beer label on the back (and a small ACTWS logo on the front). The artwork, which was featured in the last newsletter, is fabulous. Shirts are still available and all profits go to the conservation fund.

If you would like to support this new conservation initiative, buy some beer or a shirt! We hope that this initiative will raise awareness about Alberta's species at risk, so wearing shirts and telling friends about the beer will certainly help.



Inquiries about shirts: [Lisa.wilkinson@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Lisa.wilkinson@gov.ab.ca)



## Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society

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Dee

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Don't forget we are also  
on Facebook

## Upcoming Events

Western State & Provinces Deer & Elk Workshop  
Missoula, MT – May 6-9, 2013

<http://fwp.mt.gov/events/2013DeerAndElkWorkshop/agenda.html>

Second Annual ASPB Wetlands Workshop  
Cochrane, AB - May 9, 2012

[https://store.aspb.ab.ca/registrants/new?event\\_id=40](https://store.aspb.ab.ca/registrants/new?event_id=40)

26th International Congress for Conservation Biology  
(ICCB) Baltimore, MD USA - July 21-25, 2013

<http://www.conbio.org/mini-sites/iccb-2013>

The Wildlife Society, 20th Annual Conference  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin, October 5-9, 2013

<http://wildlifesociety.org/>

16th International Boreal Forest Research Association  
(IBFRA) Conference

Edmonton, AB - October 7 -10, 2013

<https://events.gobigevent.com/events-web-public/event/start/171.jsessionid=QdcN-D6T2c2H3lIVbezpABtg?0>

## Footnotes from the Editor



As Newsletter Editor and Outreach Director, I like to use the newsletter as a way to promote outreach initiatives, such as the Species at Risk beer.

I also like to remind members that we, as biologists, have an important role to play in spreading the message about the importance of Alberta's wildlife and

habitats. Please consider giving talks and reaching out to students and the public.

We have knowledge and enthusiasm—the necessary combination to ignite the passion in others about our wildlife.

*Lisa Wilkinson*

### Mystery photo:

Weidemyer's Admiral  
Species of Special Concern