

President's Message

This is the year to think back on all that the Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society has accomplished but only as we move forward. This year we are celebrating our 20th anniversary by putting in each of this year's newsletters a few reflections on what has transpired over the years. Thanks to Margo Pybus and other long-standing members for these efforts. I also want to thank Brad Taylor, past president, for ushering us through last year, and a very successful March Annual General Meeting in Edmonton. There were 163 registrants, 5 plenary speakers, 53 oral and poster presentations (25 which were from students), \$4100 was raised at the auction, we gave awards to outstanding members, and we danced late into the night to our favourite tunes by Kirby Smith once again. Please note that abstracts for the Annual Conference are now posted on the web. Judging by the feedback, the Plenary Session on the Land Use Framework was greeted with enthusiasm, which hopefully we can continue throughout the year.

In that spirit, the Executive Board is moving forward on the challenges presented to them at the Annual Business Meeting. After brainstorming within the Executive Board, we have struck an ad hoc committee to address the feasibility of hiring an Executive Director at some level. Having talked to members of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society (including Chapters within California, Nevada and Hawaii) who were able to support an Executive Administrator for a number of years, it is clear there are challenges to this undertaking and that moving forward wisely is our best course of action. We have initiated discussions with other groups who have Executive Directors as well to learn from their experiences. But we have a way to go. We hope to present ideas to the membership in the fall as charged. The conservation committee, Chaired by Blair Rippin, has been active in moving forward comments to Ted Morton on the Grizzly Bears. We recently got invited to become a formal member of the newly established Alberta Game

Management Advisory Group and have attended our first meeting. The Executive Board is discussing establishing a new Chapter Award for the Best Alberta Publication but under what categories is still under discussion. Exploring locations and the possibilities for our next annual and whether we might enjoy joint meetings with another professional group is under discussion.

A couple of update on other fronts: The Canadian Section's meeting is being held in the beautiful Delta Marsh field station in Manitoba this year from 19-21 June and details are given later in the newsletter. The Canadian Section did not get the bid for the Wildlife Society Annual Meeting in 2012, with the decision swayed in large part in Portland, OR because exceptional facilities were provided for free. The Canadian section is being encouraged to bid again for 2013. In the last year there has been a TWS Chapter established in Ontario as well as two new student chapters – one at the University of Northern British Columbia and other Universite of Laval. We would also like to congratulate the Student Chapters in Alberta who participated for the first time in the Midwest Conclave, a 3-day event that includes a several seminar, talks and a fun quiz bowl event for students to wow each other with their knowledge. This year the team consisted of members from the University of Alberta and Lakeland College and they took third place in the infamous Conclave Quiz Bowl - great job folks!

Finally, a last pitch. TWS is now producing a magazine called the *Wildlife Professional*. I invite all of you to visit the Parent Society web. I have to say I really am impressed with the quality of the magazine. It covers a gamut of topics that range from interest stories to view points to reviewed articles. It is extremely readable and even eye catching...take a look! But we as Canadians also want have our influence on addressing Canadian issues within the Society. I need input on Canadian issues to forward to the Editorial Board, who are very open to North American perspective, as you will witness in the magazine. If you have some

burning Canadian issues you want them to address, please let me know and suggest an author and I will take our charge forward this year.

I hope you have a productive summer and don't forget to smell the toads, or is it flowers... that we are working to conserve.

Best to you all,

Evie

President

Alberta Chapter The Wildlife Society

2009 CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The 2009 Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society's Conference was a success. With 161 registrants, it started with an engaging plenary session on the emerging land-use framework on Friday, which educated and allowed room for attendants to ask questions. That night the University of Alberta put on a quiz night (won by the team of Shevenell Webb and Katie Pagnucco) and showing of "On Being Caribou".

The following morning the conference started off bright and early with the business meeting where Dr. Evelyn Merrill was introduced as the new President, and the new executive (see list at bottom of newsletter) was introduced. Concurrent sessions of presentations and a session put on by Parks Canada followed in the day. Saturday night's banquet went over great with Dr. Ed Bangs from U.S. Fish and Wildlife discussing the future of wolf management in North America and the following awards were presented:

Dedicated Service: Anne Hubbs

William Rowan: Steve Brechtel and Bob Hudson

Student Awards:

Post-Graduate Award: Bogdan Cristescu

Editors Note

Welcome to the summer edition of The Wildlifer. There are some exciting articles featured, including a summary of the conference, Lorne Fitch's submission on being a biologist for the 21st Century, Baydack's Banter, an update from the University Chapter on the student conclave, an update from the Conservation Committee, and a very interesting look back into our history from Margo Pybus. I am experimenting with different layouts/fonts and colours so I hope everyone enjoys it and please as always, forward me anything (pictures, articles) you would like to see submitted, as well as any requests for the next newsletter. Happy field season!

Kristie Derkson

kjderkson@gmail.com

Ian Ross Memorial (Undergraduate): Randi Newton

Robert Goddard Memorial: Adam Moltzhan

Best poster: Bogdan Cristescu (Influence of landscape characteristics on seasonal movements of female grizzly bears)

Best presentation: Sarah Lord (Patterns of mercury accumulation in Common Loons in western Alberta)

Photo Contest:

Best Overall: Andrew Forrest

Best landscape: Andrew Forrest

Best wildlife: Corey Scobie

The judges for the photo contest were Dr. Gordon Court (Provincial Wildlife Status Biologist with Alberta Fish and Wildlife) and Dr. Lu Carbyn (retired Canadian Wildlife Service Biologist and Adjunct Professor, Ren Res, U of A).

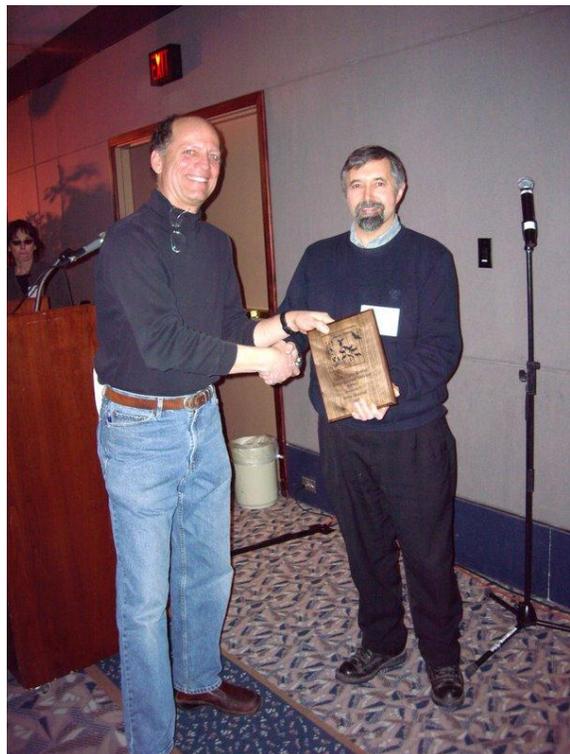
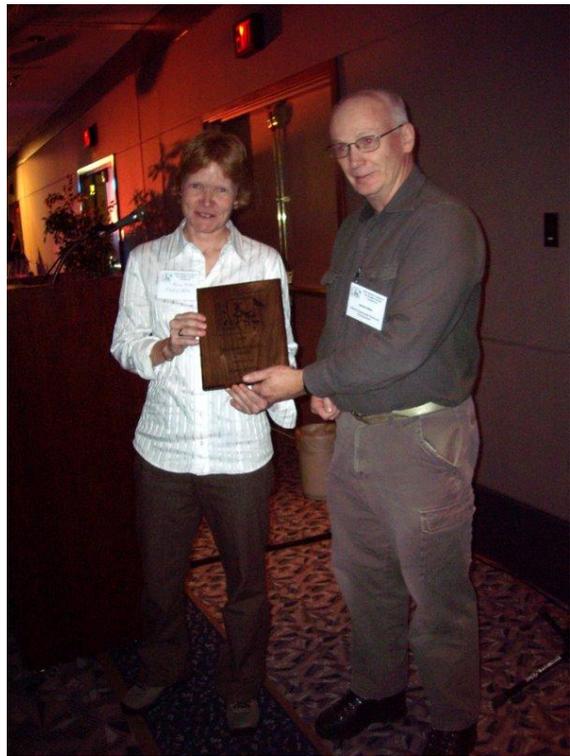
The Saturday night auction was a hit with \$1599 raised during the silent auction and another \$2685 raised with the live auction with Hugh Wollis as the auctioneer and Kirby Smith's band took us well into the night with a little rock and roll!

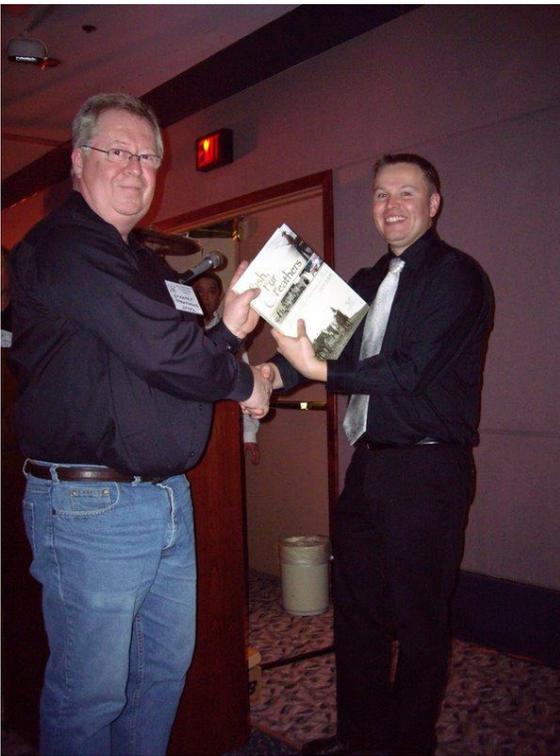
Sunday wrapped everything up and everyone went home with a refreshing, educating, and exciting look at wildlife in Alberta!

A big thank you to all the volunteers and people who worked so hard to bring the conference together, a special mention to the judges for their dedication and thoughtful consideration of the submission!

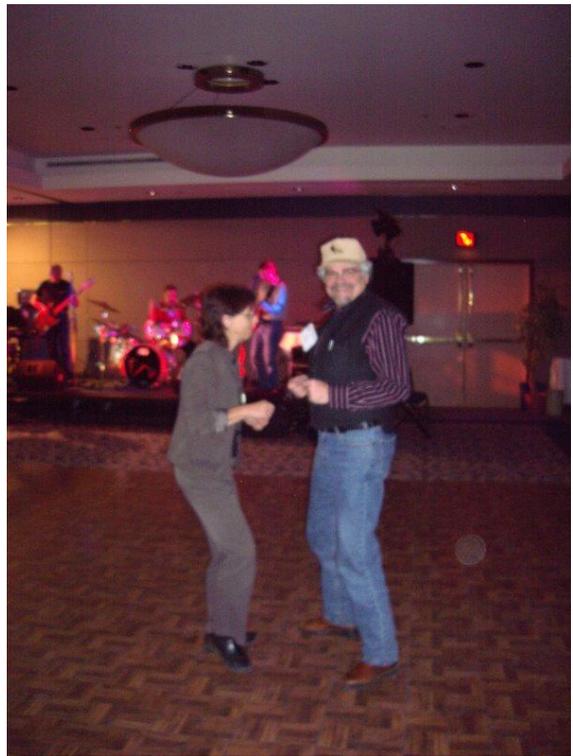
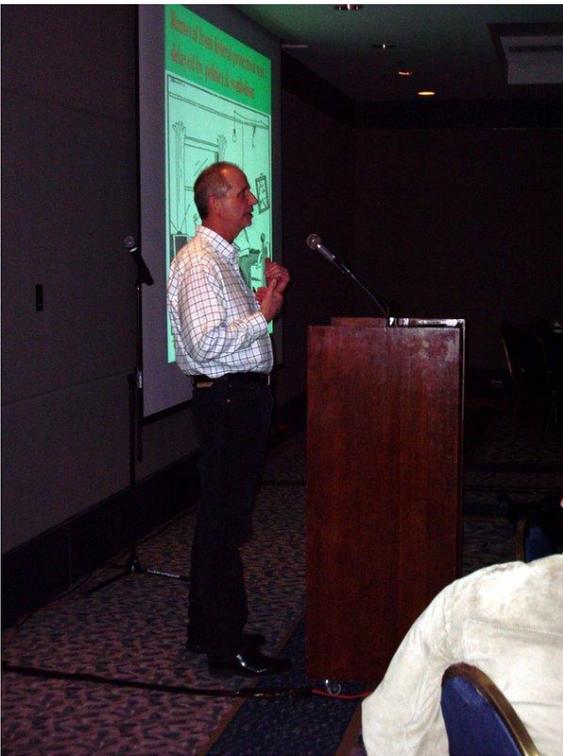
Chiara Feder, AB Fish & Wildlife
Shevenell Webb, ACA
Darcy Shyry, Lakeland College
Christine Found, AB Fish & Wildlife
Robert Anderson, ACA
Glynnis Hood, Augustana

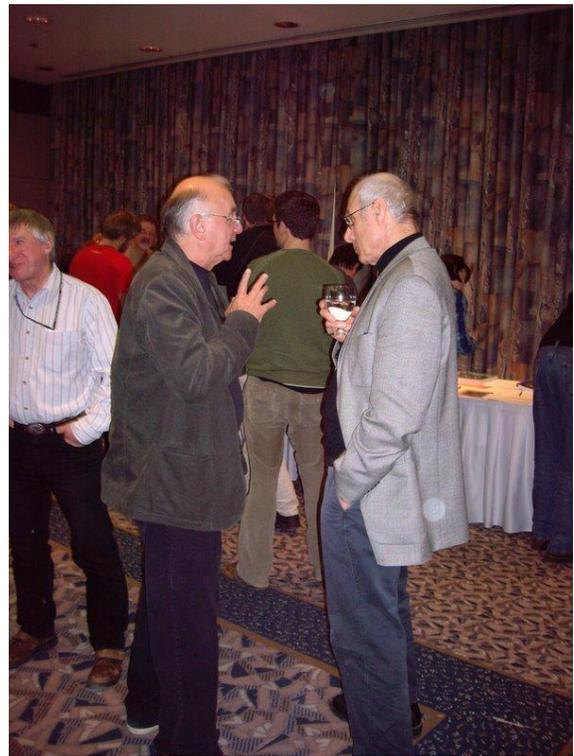
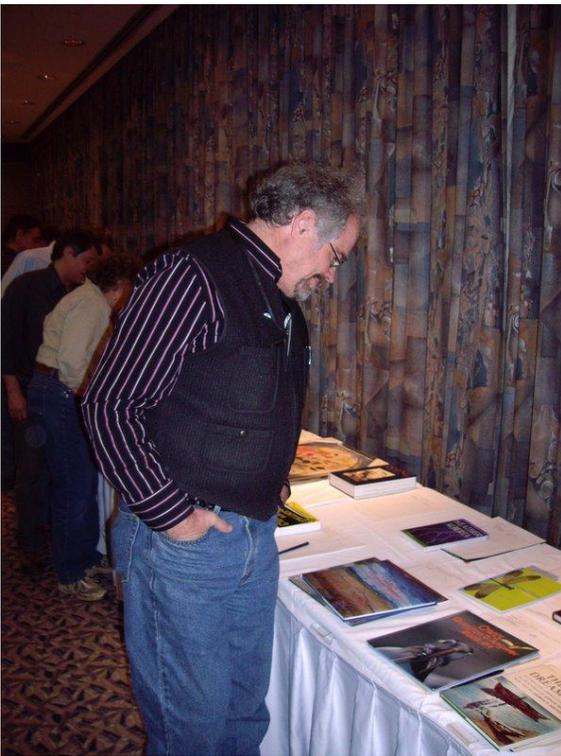
Conference Photos





**On behalf of Bob Hudson





Robert Hudson was in Africa during the Annual general meeting where it was announced he was one of the two 2009 recipients of the Alberta Chapter's Distinguished William Rowan Award this year. Shortly after the meeting in April, a small number of Alberta Chapter members gathered at a dinner hosted by Lee Foote and Naomi Krogeman to present Bob with the award and to speak to his many accomplishments over his career. The award was presented to Bob by Bill Samuel, Brad Stelfox and Evie Merrill.

FEATURES

Building the Biologist for the 21st Century

Lorne Fitch, P. Biol.

This year, 2009, is the 150th anniversary of Charles Darwin's transformational work on evolution.

Though still argued about in certain quarters, his theory has stood the test of time and in most cases has been vindicated by the better tools of subsequent investigators. His epiphany launched, arguably, the task of biologists today- understanding and protecting the wealth of biodiversity that is the result of long tests in the crucible of the environment. The irony is that we, the biologists, may not have done well in the environment of our choice either in terms of our own survival or of our effectiveness. Many of us think of Darwin's magnum opus as simply "The Origin of Species". We should consider the whole title to see the relevance to ourselves. Its full title is, "On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or The Preservation of Favored Races in the Struggle for Life". Will biologists be a "favored race" in the struggle for life in new land use plans, including the Land Use Framework, and, will we be successful?

What can we learn from Darwin? He mused about how species originated and how they morphed into their present form. We need to muse, at this pivotal juncture in Alberta, not so much about our origins, but about our evolution to meet changing times. As we have learned from the compelling studies of the Galapagos finches natural selection can cause evolutionary change in "real time", not over millennia. What faces us as biologists is the possibility for rapid, tectonic plate shifts in land and water planning in Alberta. At a provincial scale these may be as transformational as Darwin's work; certainly, if given a voice, that's what Alberta's wildlife might argue. These shifts are and will be played out on stages where most participants are worried about getting their share and only a few are thinking about how they can do their part in the broader context of stewardship. Planning in Alberta has a history of being this clash of ideologies; what we are embarking on may be little different.

Can biologists help guide some visionary planning with a different trajectory and endpoint to previous

examples? Probably, if we heed Darwin who taught us a changing environment coupled with competition can forge a new species. In the parlance of evolution what traits will tomorrow's biologist need to express?

If the concept of building the biologist of tomorrow seems mechanistic, theoretical or heretical consider that the American military is planning to build robot soldiers that would not be able to commit war crimes. By next year the military will have spent \$4.0 billion on research into "autonomous systems"- that's army talk for robots- on the basis they would not succumb to fear or the desire for vengeance that affects front line soldiers. I admit, the initiative seems unfathomable to me but, if the American military is building the concept of morality into a killing machine, the time must also be ripe for ecological thinking in landuse planning. We could accomplish it for less than \$4.0 billion but still need to consider an investment in the competencies of future biologists. To allay your fears I'm not suggesting biologists as robots but rather the organic evolution, in a Darwinian sense, of the profession to better face the challenges before us. Maybe we're already on that path in some respects, maybe we're lagging behind; let's see.

I'd like to briefly explore four areas to engage you in thought about our challenge:

What is our profile as biologists and how are we perceived?

Is our constituency ecologically literate?

What competencies do biologists require for effectiveness?

What role do biologists have in advocacy?

Profile/Perception

I'll use three examples to paint a picture of how our profession is perceived.

My father, a farmer, showed some interest in my early career development until one day I described

to him some work I was doing on the competitive overlap between cattle and wild ungulates in the forest reserve. With the fervor of youth I waxed on about belt transects, browse surveys and pellet group counts. In the midst of my description Dad stopped me and asked, "What is a pellet group count?" After I explained, my father, who had a remarkable gift for synthesis, summed it up by saying, "You count shit for a living." He rarely asked a question after that, having come to a conclusion about the task of biologists. If I had it to do over again I would address the subject of why it was important to see if cattle and elk were competing for food and not the minutiae of how one undertakes the task.

Several times I guided anglers who had successfully bid on a fundraiser for Trout Unlimited, offered by the Fish and Wildlife Division. The auction item was billed as a guided fishing trip with a fisheries biologist. I always assumed the lure for potential bidders was the prospect of fishing those hidden spots only we biologists know about. In at least one case the fishing was a secondary driver. One person, a professional in his own right, said he was intrigued with the possibility of meeting and talking with a biologist, something he'd never done before. His perception of a biologist, up to that point, might have similar to that of a Sasquatch, the Loch Ness monster or a Liberal government in Alberta, possible but with no concrete evidence of their existence.

Lastly, I recently participated in an ERCB hearing to determine the fate of an unroaded, unfragmented piece of the foothills that is core grizzly habitat, a refuge for the now threatened westslope cutthroat trout and a key watershed for ranchers and other downstream water drinkers. I provided my perspective on the importance of the area and on the inability to successfully mitigate the effects of a pipeline constructed through the middle of it. Under cross examination by the panel, the chair, referring to my curriculum vitae, asked me, "How do you get a job like this?" I suppose I could have told him his first mistake was to become an engineer. However, I sensed he wasn't looking for a career change but rather his comment was an observation that biologists have a fun job, but not a serious one.

So, based on those examples, a profile of our

profession would suggest biologists are a rarity and undertake silly, sometimes frivolous work. I will agree biologists are a rare species among professionals; that won't change. Contrast the 1200 or so practicing biologists in Alberta with greater than 50,000 engineers, 10,000 lawyers and 10,000 accountants. I tried to find out how many plumbers there are in Alberta, as a comparison. Apparently this is a closely guarded secret by Alberta Advanced Education and Technology. I then compared numbers of plumbing contractors with environmental consulting firms. Plumbers outnumber us at least 20:1; however, just try and find one. My father would have concluded plumbers deal with crap, biologists merely count it.

Constituency

Repetitive surveys demonstrate that people who are informed and educated about aspects of their environment provide greater support for programs and undertake actions to improve environmental quality. Unfortunately, support is difficult to tap, because the public's ecological knowledge still appears to be too low to achieve a positive outcome. Two recent surveys provide evidence of this low knowledge level.

In 2003 Wildlife Habitat Canada surveyed 1647 rural Canadian landowners:

- 89% said they understood that wildlife presence is an indicator of the health of their land;

- 65% thought they were doing a good job of protecting wildlife; however,

- 7 out of 10 couldn't suggest a management change that would benefit fish or wildlife;

- Less than half could name a single endangered species in their area; and,

- Greater than 75% couldn't name a single management shift that would benefit their downstream neighbours.

Cows and Fish surveyed 230 Albertans between 2007 and 2008 to gain an understanding of knowledge levels on fish and fish habitat:

Half of the respondents were anglers (they had fished in Alberta within the last 10 years);

77% said they were “a little” to “very” familiar with fish species, including knowing the difference between native and non-native species; however,

Only 41% could identify the native and non-native species among six examples provided;

44% answered the natural history questions incorrectly, or did not know the answer (60% either thought sediment was good for fish, or did not know);

Most felt urban and rural land use choices negatively affected fish; but,

Virtually no one felt they personally have an impact on fish or fish habitat.

It would seem the basic factual knowledge required to make an informed choice (or even to recognize there are choices to be made) and an ecologically sound decision are lacking, at national and provincial levels.

We have, at our fingertips, the most interesting, appealing, fascinating and intriguing subjects. Yet, we do an arguably pathetic job at conveying this information to a public that could be our biggest booster and supporter. Perhaps what has been done comes across as an emphasis on entertainment and not enough on connections, indicators and barometers. We have lost much precious time and many windows of opportunity through a lack of coordination, failing investment and desultory commitment. Education is the first and most vital step leading to conservation action and the development of an informed constituency that offers political support.

Over 70 years ago Aldo Leopold wrote “The real substance of conservation lies not in the physical projects of government, but in the mental processes of citizens. All the acts of government, in short, are of slight importance to conservation except as they affect the acts and thoughts of citizens.” The years have not diminished that message and the clear advice within it that our

work involves attitudinal change.

Competencies

When I reflect on my career as a combat biologist and what skills and competencies would have been helpful, I wonder if I should have traded my degree in biology for one in psychology, to understand people better. A few years in used car sales and some rudimentary training in stand up comedy wouldn't have hurt either. On the other hand, I have five fingers.

A skeptical government, industry and public demand good science even though it seems they rarely understand or accept it. In point of fact science- the acquisition of more data- may often be used as a delaying tactic or as displacement behavior to avoid making the hard choices. In the movie “A Few Good Men” Jack Nicholson's character emphatically stated in answer to the demand for truth, “You can't handle the truth”. Maybe we can't handle the truth or the science either.

Good science is necessary but may not suffice when decision makers and the greater constituency have a low level of ecological knowledge. It may be that the path to higher knowledge levels begins by instilling curiosity, interest and respect for the natural world. Those qualities have always been important and perhaps now are more crucial than ever to create a solid footing upon which science can find some traction. Without some traction in the minds of the skeptics and non-believers we will remain trapped in a spiral of research, devising better and better ways to measure fewer and fewer creatures and perhaps monitoring their last gasps on earth. Knowledge isn't achieved until it is shared. Knowledge isn't effective until it is understood.

As Yogi Berra said, “You can observe a lot, just by watching”. I've listened to a lot of biologists. I've reflected on what I've said and how I said it. I've also had the opportunity to listen to a lot of people who have listened to biologists speak. The comments are rarely complimentary. I can't say as a group biologists are any worse in communication skills than other professions; it's just that everyone is universally bad. We routinely deliver unpopular messages to usually unappreciative audiences.

That's a consequence, I believe, of poor constituency building and low ecological literacy. It's an art form, as Mark Twain alluded, to "tell a man to go to hell and have him look forward to the voyage".

Whether its diplomacy or communication, those are the skill levels required. Yet, these skills are rarely taught to biologists. What's worse is it is rarely acknowledged that communication skills are a fundamentally important element in training and competence. It's difficult to find examples at the academic or institutional level where these skills are routinely taught and where young biologists are imbued with the idea they are expected to communicate. In one of the workshops I teach on communication, this one on engaging rural landowners, a young biologist seemed perplexed by all the advice and asked "why don't we just text message them?"

So, it shouldn't come as a shock that as a group biologists are uncomfortable speaking, are reticent to speak (although sometimes so due to fear of retribution) and don't take the opportunity to speak when it's offered. When we do speak it's often badly, without clarity and we fail to convey information in ways that can be easily absorbed. The way we talk is often stripped of passion and enthusiasm, so it's no surprise that we don't engage audiences and transfer some of those qualities. And, most egregiously, we don't practice enough of a habit of speaking to build and maintain competence. Yet, the ability to speak well, to convey information, positions and consequences is the foundation of strong negotiating skills, a fundamental requirement for biologists engaged in discussions and forums around land use.

These are not insurmountable problems; these don't require the invention of any new technology; they require very little financial investment; but, to solve the most fundamental issue facing the profession of biology, that of communication, requires will. It's said that "once you get past the gag reflex, a whole new world of food possibilities opens up"; it's the same with communication skills.

How people respond to information and the implications to them depends largely on three things; the messenger, the message and the

message source.

Institutionally we need to do at least two things to help messengers:

Provide the tools, training, opportunities and incentives to allow biologists to develop good communication skills and allow them to use those skills in public forums; and,

Recognize that resource management is a "people" issue. Build the opportunities for relationships to be forged with resource users and stakeholders; this takes time, aptitude and staff continuity.

Personally we need to commit to become better messengers:

Build and enhance communication skills with courses, workshops and practice, especially presentations. It wouldn't hurt to also work on writing and listening proficiency, both of which are crucial for communication.

Messages (and how they are delivered) should pare away at the complexity, present risk and uncertainty clearly, deal with anger through reason and allow the development of a thinking pathway that shows clear consequences (both positive and negative) of choices and actions. A case for the message needs to be built by returning people to the basics, to ecological principles and processes. The terms have to be meaningful to people and show what is in the realm of the possible for them. Often overlooked, but intuitively clear, the message has to be based on an understanding of the audience, their knowledge level and how they might react.

The point about understanding the audience needs more discussion. It speaks to how we prepare biologists for their craft. I have no quarrel with dissecting cats to appreciate anatomy. Knowing ATP is the molecular unit of energy currency is crucial to understand the mystery that is life. Recognizing we share much of the same genetic material with other living creatures can be an important antecedent to protecting wildlife and their habitats. But, are we preparing biologists for the "so

what” questions? There are fewer grizzlies in Alberta than biologists. So what! There are far fewer fish in our waterbodies than the slippery hordes encountered 50-100 years ago. So what? How does one recognize and react to institutional skepticism and prepare a defense against the ways used to discredit the science? It seems to me that this would be a mentoring opportunity for the older, battle scarred members of the ACTWS to share some scar tissue and aid some successional planning.

The creation of a literate constituency of people that understand, interact and support the goals of resource stewardship may have a strong linkage to biologists with a more liberal education. Without the benefit of such education biologists run the risk of developing the same tunnel vision often seen in other professions. If biologists evolve to only perceive the world through mathematical models, within a range of confidence limits we will have entered a technocrat’s tunnel of no return. A broader base of education provides perspective and a wider scope to explore solutions to the challenges of wildlife conservation. Consider, as an example, a greater engagement with the arts, music and literature to convey conservation messages with greater resonance and impact.

The issues facing us will not be cured by science, the marketplace, plans nor regulations alone. To accomplish that will require the creation of greater ecological literacy in a constituency that understands, cares and makes more enlightened decisions. The goal will only be reached with consistent, rigorous and prolonged delivery of messages by biologists with good communication skills that create a foundation of literacy and build on it.

Advocacy

Many read the Bible; I read Aldo Leopold. I find truth, inspiration and timelessness in his words. In 1946 he wrote, “The biotic clock may continue ticking if we:

- Cease throwing away its parts;
- Handle it gently;

- Recognize that its importance transcends economics; and,

- Don’t let too many people tinker with it”.

Those are probably excellent sentiments with which to begin a planning process like the Land Use Framework. The problem is fewer people have read Leopold than have read the Bible, although Leopold may come out ahead in terms of clarity and simple elegance of language and concepts. On a positive note bird identification guides out sell Bibles and wildlife shows maintain their popularity and have consistent increases in viewers. Does this indicate we’re becoming less spiritual, but more ecologically attuned?

Yes and no. The links between wildlife and personal choices to maintain wildlife have still not occurred in a major way. I would remind you of the recent Cows and Fish survey that found almost no respondents felt they had any impact on fish and fish habitat. So, no one who flushes a toilet, flips on a light switch or lives in a home made of wood has any impact on fish. How do you spell “disassociative”?

There are still beliefs, perceptions and disconnections that run counter to hope for the future of wildlife. Revolutions in thought turn out to be struggles over ideology rather than reasoned scientific debate. At one time you could be persecuted for advancing the idea the earth rotates around the sun. Perhaps some of you have been censured for suggesting Alberta doesn’t revolve around oil and gas. Most people are driven by a combination of beliefs that are largely ill formed, lack crucial information and are rational to them only because of other circumstances. It may be true humans still rely on Stone Age brains in this era bristling with information that can inform rational assessment. These people are your neighbors, your friends; they exist at all levels and are the decision makers.

Most of us walk unseeing through this world, unaware alike of its beauties, its wonders, its linkages and the essential connections to us. That suggests we have much work to do, part of which is in the Land Use Framework.

The perspective that Alberta is in the black economically is touted, but the reality is we are awash in red ink, ecologically. The challenge to us, in the field of biology, is to chart the ecological costs of doing business and to help people understand the currently understated value of Alberta's landscapes. Steward Udall, a past Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior captured it best; "Over the long haul of life on this planet, it is the ecologists and not the bookkeepers of business, who are the ultimate accountants".

Consider, metaphorically, that we're in an old silent movie. The planning train is roaring toward us, the villains are twirling their mustaches and we're complaining that we've been tied to the track with the wrong kind of rope. Maybe those bonds securing us to the track are not those of some villain, but of our own construction. I wonder if that inertia is of our own design. If you're waiting for an invitation to act, for fairness and equity in the planning efforts unfolding now, settle in for a long nap. If you're waiting for the perfect answer, paralysis will set in. We might take note of what John Kenneth Galbraith said of his profession, "Economists don't predict the future because they know; they predict because they're asked." When economists come down to earth they will realize the importance lies not in the person who gives the answer, it relates to the person who asks the right question. That's our role, asking the right questions in the Land Use Framework.

The Alberta Society of Professional Biologists, representing perhaps half of the biologists in Alberta, concerns itself with the practice of biology-ensuring that codes of practice and ethical standards are adhered to in the practice of biology. What we lack in Alberta is a professional organization advocating that biology is practiced-lobbying to ensure that plans, initiatives, policies and legislation engender some level of ecological thinking and elements. That to me could be the role the ACTWS takes on in a much more focused way. It will not be accomplished however with the present volunteer aspect of our organization. It is extremely difficult to do an adequate job of advocacy with only the support of volunteers. This, to me, is the threshold the ACTWS stands before. The choices are: to maintain the status quo of the

organization and wish for better things in an ecologically literate world; or, make it so with the step to a truly professional organization with paid staff who take on the heavy lifting.

Emerson wrote "This time, like all times, is a very good one, if we but know what to do with it". In the short term, as the Land Use Framework unfolds, we need to be advocates and brokers of ecological information. The challenge of ecological literacy and our own competency levels will certainly take a bit longer to solve but should demand our attention. Our difficulties of the moment must be dealt with somehow and the larger challenges represent difficulties of every moment. Choices exist, sometimes with a limited shelf life. If we don't take advantage of opportunity or make some opportunity another iconoclast will lecture and hector you yet again at one of these gatherings- if there are any of you left. Charles Darwin probably wouldn't be surprised the theory of evolution has had a 150 year struggle to gain acceptance; yet here we are celebrating its survival. If Darwin was pondering biologists as a species today, how would he size up the traits we have and our ability to survive and thrive?

Update on the Progress of the ACTWS Conservation Committee

Blair Rippin - current
chair ACTWS
Conservation
Committee

In a weird way, the current popular controversy involving theories of *creationism* versus *evolution* has parallels with our ACTWS Conservation

Committee. Firstly, in the mid 1990s the Committee was *created* by the membership to address the stated need for a wildlife advocacy role. It began with one person who was shouldered with the responsibility of generating possible advocacy issues and then initiating action(s) to address the issue(s). Although the one-person "Committee" had the opportunity to draw on expertise from the general membership, time constraints of regular jobs, etc. often made the task onerous. However, during the first few year of

operation the Conservation Committee initiated action on several issues felt to require our advocacy input. Those issues and actions are outlined in previous newsletters available on the website.

Secondly, *evolution* entered into the picture at our AGM in 2006 when it was decided that a multi-person Committee would be more effective in our role as wildlife advocates. Consequently a six-member committee was established, headed by a retired person (currently Blair Rippin) who would be able to dedicate more time to the task. That Conservation Committee format worked reasonably well and generated an increased number of actions such as:

- Sept. 2006 - Letter to the SRD Minister urging him to fill the vacant Director of Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Division with a trained wildlife biologist.

- Oct. 2006 - Letter to Oilsands Consultations in support of the Pembina Institute's position to encourage a rethinking of the intensity of Insitu extraction operations.

- Feb. 2007 - Letter to the SRD Minister to encourage the approval of the long-dormant grizzly bear recovery plan.

- Dec. 2007 - Letter to the SRD and Energy Ministers encouraging adoption of the Crownland Conservation Tax outlined in the 2007 Oil Royalty Report.

- May 2009 - Encouraged greater public understanding of sound wildlife management techniques through preparation and publication of articles in *Outdoorsman Magazine*. To date, Dr. Mark Boyce and colleagues have published articles on the caribou/wolf management of the Little Smoky herd and the grizzly bear census method using DNA analyses.

- June 2009 - Letter to the SRD Minister supporting the implementation of the grizzly bear recovery plan recommendations.

- As well, consideration and investigation of a number of additional possible advocacy issues was

undertaken.

The next significant *evolutionary* step (initiated at our 2009 AGM) was to enhance the effectiveness of the Committee by increasing the involvement of the general membership. This can hopefully be accomplished through the use of our newly constructed website. The plan is to develop a forum that can poll membership on various possible advocacy issues. The mechanism to receive feed-back will be in operation this summer. We anticipate that this will result in greater effectiveness in our advocacy role.

Canadian Section Representative's Report

'Baydack's Banter'

**Rick Baydack, University of
Manitoba
(baydack@cc.umanitoba.ca)**

Springtime in Manitoba is a favorite time of year for me as it signals the 'start' of so many things – general 'rebirth' of biological organisms in our cold

climate, the spring wild turkey hunting season, grouse drumming and dancing, and thousands of migratory birds flying overhead. Every year at this time I am thankful that my career is in the area of wildlife biology, and linked closely to our professional organization, The Wildlife Society.

Since my last communication with you, The Wildlife Society continues to evolve so that Canadian interests are more fully engrained into the organizational structure. Hopefully you have observed some of these have begun to affect you in a positive way. A few highlights follow...

Do you realize that Canada now has provincial chapters in Manitoba and Alberta. As well, Ontario is about to receive approval, and interest is growing in BC. Hopefully we can follow suit in Saskatchewan, Quebec, the Maritimes, and our northern Territories. Who is willing to step forward???

We also have student chapters at the University of Alberta, Lakehead University, University of Northern BC, Laval University, and Lethbridge Community College. Do we have any other University/College interest???

The Wildlife Society election is fast approaching, and I trust that you have reviewed the profiles of the candidates on The Wildlife Society website, and also in this Newsletter???. Note that various Canadians from across our country are on the ballot, and please remember to vote in whichever way you wish.

I hope you can attend the Canadian Section 2009 General Meeting at Delta Marsh from June 19-21. Details are available on the Section website (www.wildlife.org/)

TWS Council met at the 73rd North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Arlington, Virginia in March 2009. Some key discussion points included....

The economic situation and its impact on nongovernment organizations and fundraising – TWS appears to be holding its own.

A review of recommendations from the TWS Ethics Committee. Details to be provided to members in a Bylaws revision vote.

A report from the TWS Science and Policy Ad Hoc Committee indicated that Canadian examples of how science does/does not contribute to wildlife policy needs to be provided. Does anyone have any such examples?

Bylaws Committee report offered several possible revisions to TWS Bylaws. Details to be provided to members in a Bylaws revision vote.

The Conserving Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage (COWCH) Program is being reinvigorated. If you are not aware of this program and how it relates to you, PLEASE ASK!

TWS has joined the Wildlife Management Institute's Hunting Heritage Coalition.

Canadian content is being requested for *The Wildlife Professional*. If you have any ideas for articles or materials, please advise me of Philippa Benson (philippa@wildlife.org).

Council accepted revisions to 21 TWS Position Statements, with many of the changes related to 'Canadianization.' If you see the need for other modifications, please let me know.

Council decided to accept the bid to host the 2012 TWS Annual Conference from Portland, Oregon. A bid from Winnipeg, Manitoba was also considered, but Portland's bid included no cost to use their Civic Convention Centre, resulting in a saving of over \$100,000. Winnipeg was encouraged to prepare a bid for 2013.

Canadian nominees for TWS Fellows are being encouraged, as no nominees were received this year. Up to 2 nominees per Section are anticipated each year. If you have any thoughts on this important recognition, please let me know.

The TWS budget was approved and even in these uncertain economic times, TWS appears to be 'in the black.'

TWS Council will be holding a Retreat in July at the Max McGraw Foundation facility just outside of Chicago, Illinois. If you have any ideas that you would like me to bring forward, please let me know.

In closing, I would like to say that it continues to be an honour, perhaps the highlight of my career, to represent Canadian interests on The Wildlife Society Council. I continue to look for your feedback on any issue that you feel is important. Remember that Membership in our organization brings with it the implied responsibility to recommend change when you feel it is needed. So do not hesitate to contact me (baydack@cc.umanitoba.ca) to express your views. I look forward to your feedback, and continuing support.

**2009 North-Central
Section of The Wildlife
Society Student
Conclave**

Michael Lavallee

On the weekend of April 3-5, 2009 five student members of ACTWS travelled to Clark Lake, Michigan to participate in the North-Central Section Student

Conclave. Carmen von Conrad, Michel Lavallee, Kyle Knysh, and Jenna Donald represented the University of Alberta. Kayla Balderson represented Lakeland College.

The North-Central conclave is a student organized conference directed towards future wildlife professionals. The conclave is an annual event and member universities are invited to participate. We were interested in participating in a conclave and the organizers invited us to attend after we expressed an interest in attending.

The conclave started with a mixer Friday night. Saturday morning had small mammal trapping, bird banding, radio telemetry, and fish diet analysis workshops. The workshops were conducted by professors from Michigan State University. A series of presentations from graduate students and professors followed the technical sessions. The Quiz Bowl competition was held Saturday evening. Six universities entered the competition and the University of Alberta-Lakeland College team placed third overall. We were unable to participate in the Sunday morning events since we needed to drive back to Ontario and catch our returning flight.

We had a wonderful time and realized that the student conclave is a great opportunity for post-secondary students to be introduced to the field in a less formal environment than the annual chapter or section conference. We are interested in applying what we learned in Michigan to start a Canadian Section quiz bowl. Many of the North-Central universities that we met this year have expressed an interest in traveling to Canada and participating in our quiz bowl.

Universities participating in 2009 conclave: Michigan State University, Michigan Tech, Central Michigan University, Purdue University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and University of Alberta.

HISTORY

**Alberta Chapter of the
Wildlife Society**

**Twenty Years and
Going Strong**

Margo Pybus

ACTWS received its charter in April 1989. That makes 2009 our 20th year of providing a home base for wildlife professionals from a wide range of disciplines and

from all corners of the province. In the intervening years we have done well:

we delivered 19 **annual meetings** and an ongoing **newsletter** as the primary platform where our members share the wealth of their knowledge and experience;

in 1991 we established our premier recognition award, the **William Rowan Distinguished Service Award**, and the list of award recipients is an amazing slate of wildlife mentors who exemplify the high standards of effort and dedication that abounds in our profession;

in 1994 we recognized individual effort in dedication to the chapter, the **ACTWS Dedicated Service Award**. And again the list of recipients shows the real success of the chapter;

annual auctions held since 1993 are the primary source of funds to maintain our student scholarship program. The first ACTWS Student Scholarship was awarded in 1995. Our scholarships evolved to the ACTWS University Scholarship and the **Bob Goddard Memorial Scholarship** in 1996, and the ACTWS Undergrad Student Scholarship, **ACTWS Post-graduate Scholarship** and Goddard Memorial Scholarship in 2001. In 2004 the ACTWS Undergrad Student Scholarship was renamed the **Ian Ross Memorial Scholarship**;

we drafted **discussion papers**, produced **position papers**, and **reviewed proposed strategies and policies** on timely issues of direct concern to wildlife managers and practitioners. Our members represented ACTWS on various **working committees** and **advisory groups** in conjunction with

government and industry. We often write **letters** to appropriate recipients to explain or expound on the scientific merit or concern regarding particular issues.

In a nutshell, we kept in touch, we learned from one another, and we shared our knowledge with others. We pooled our resources, offered words of wisdom, and gave a helping hand to the next generations of wildlife professionals. ACTWS remains the home base, the hub, the primary integrating server of trusted information for an extended network of members and non-members who seek knowledge, perspective, and grounding in a shifting landscape of wildlife concerns.

The chapter continues to recognize its history. In the newsletters produced in 2009/2010, we will review 'from whence we came'. The current issue contains the original founding petition to TWS, the written record of the first 10 years of the chapter, a few personal thoughts, observations, and memories of former ACTWS presidents, ... and a list of opportunities for you add your mark to our history.

You too can add to the memories.

If you have **any photos taken at any ACTWS annual meetings**, particularly the early meetings (for example: currently we have NO pictures that record ACTWS receiving its charter in Banff in 1989), we would appreciate receiving copies for our archives.

If you have **short stories, funny anecdotes, personal observations, or witty insightful comments** to help breathe new life and spice into our archives, please send them along. Who knows, they may show up in future newsletters. Material could be funny, thoughtful, entertaining, caustic (mildly), or any other approach you feel like. We'll take anything so if you can manage a few bulleted nuggets, ideas, or random thoughts, we can make them into flowing words of wisdom so don't get hung up on format or precision.

Here are some examples:

"I don't think I can provide any profound

statements about our history. However, the event that I saw as somewhat comical was our first lottery for my carved wiggon. We felt the draw should be "in camera" with just the executive present. I think I remember that we went somewhere private only to draw out Bill Samuel's (ACTWS President!) name. After great angst we decided to let it ride. It didn't seem to have caused any undue attention among the membership despite our concerns.

Our support for students, both through the scholarships and financial enticements for conference attendance deserves mention. In addition, the whole atmosphere we created to allow the delivery of preliminary results and "unpolished" papers I feel is somewhat unique and has paid off in the generally high quality of papers by students today." **Blair Rippin**

"I Remember. I was on the organizing committee for the chapter, along with Bill Samuel, Larry Roy and Morley Barrett, but the real driving force behind the chapter was Bill Glasgow. Bill Glasgow, the first president, was the person who made it happen.

We had our first meeting in the Banff Springs Hotel, in conjunction with the Northwest section of The Wildlife Society. We had a really fine banquet with a prime rib dinner, but what I remember most was the party afterwards. John Nagy had been working in British Columbia (on bears, I think) and I don't think he made it to Banff in time for the banquet. But when he did arrive he brought a whole mess of fresh seafood (shrimp, oysters, crab, etc.). He took the seafood to the chefs of the hotel and asked them to prepare it. It covered a round tray about one meter in diameter. So after the banquet about 10 or 12 of us gathered in John's hotel room for a feeding frenzy on fresh seafood, washed down with beer. We were on our way toward developing a great organization.

We made a decision in the very beginning to encourage as much participation from students as possible including recognition of student papers and scholarships. It was a move that surely paid off.

I think that the first scholarship was \$500 for an undergraduate. Our first attempt at fund raising was to raffle a duck decoy, carved by Blair Rippin. Bill Samuel had the winning ticket. In our second year we started the live and silent auctions. Over the years our members have been particularly generous. I remember Blair Rippin's carved decoys, Elston Dzus' hand-made knives, Kirby Smith's B & B and trail rides, books from Lu Carbyn, and many other contributions that made the auction a success."

Whether you have been in ACTWS for 20 years or 20 days, you are already part of our history. The Chapter thrives on our communications with one another through our annual meeting, our newsletters, and our web pages. We can add 'our archives' to that list of communication vehicles. Please consider sending something in. It will be a direct contribution to the ACTWS records and will be a glimpse into the past, shared with the present, and recorded for those who follow.

Send any photos, notes, or comments of an ACTWS historical nature to Margo Pybus margo.pybus@gov.ab.ca

A History of the Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society The first 10 years

1988-1989

Founding Committee:

Morley Barrett, Mike Dorrance, Bill Glasgow, Bill Samuel

1989

The charter was proclaimed in April 1989 at the Northwest Section TWS meeting in Banff, Alberta.

The Founding Committee conducted the business of the Chapter through 1989, established Bylaws for the Chapter, provided a slate of nominees for the 1990 Executive, arranged for the development of our logo, and organized the first Annual Meeting of ACTWS.

Nominees for the Executive:

President: Bill Glasgow, Arlen Todd

President-Elect: Bill Hall, Bill Samuel

Secretary-Treasurer: Rick Bonar, Jon Jorgenson, Michael Raine, Kevin Wingert

Director: Michael Dorrance, Rick Kunelius, Luigi Morgantini, Don Thomas, Paul Woodard

November 1989: the first issue of the Alberta Wildlifer was published (M.J. Pybus, Editor). There were 61 registered members.

1990

First Annual Meeting ACTWS: January 19 & 20, Black Knight Inn, Red Deer

*First Elected Executive: Pres. **Bill Glasgow**, Pres.-Elect **Bill Samuel**, Sec-Treas. **Jon Jorgenson**, Directors: **Mike Dorrance, Rick Kunelius, Don Thomas***

Committees:

Nominating & Elections - Mike Dorrance

Membership - Don Pattie

Program - Bill Samuel

Conservation Review - Kirby Smith

Education and Information - Margo Pybus

Newsletter - Margo Pybus

Resolutions & Public Statements - Blair Rippin

Awards - Don Thomas

Setting Chapter Goals - Arlen Todd

Professionalism - Gilbert Proulx

1991

Second Annual Meeting ACTWS, March 23 & 24, Convention Centre, Edmonton. Held in conjunction with the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference.

Establishment of the William Rowan Award for Distinguished Service

First Recipient: William Fuller, University of Alberta (retired), Edmonton.

Nominees for the Executive: (elected)

President: Bill Samuel

*President-Elect: Rick Bonar, Gilbert Proulx, **Blair Rippin***

*Secretary-Treasurer: **Jon Jorgenson**, Michael Raine*

*Director: Bill Hall, Martin Jalkotzy, **Luigi Morgantini, Gerald McKeating, Tony Nette***

Newsletter Editor: Margo Pybus

Draft Discussion Papers regarding Bison Management and Game Farming were presented at the Business Meeting. The Executive was directed to refine the papers and provide for full membership in the New Year.

1992

Third Annual Meeting ACTWS, March 20 & 21, Glenmore Inn, Calgary.

Establishment of the ACTWS Student Scholarship Fund. Initially, this was to be a Northwest Section project. However, the Section withdrew and the Chapter carried on. The first fund raiser was a raffle for a male Widgeon carved by Blair Rippin. Slightly less than 1800 of 2000 tickets were sold, generating \$1785 for the fund.

Nominees for the Executive: (elected)

President: Blair Rippin

*President-Elect: **Ken Crutchfield**, Gilbert Proulx*

*Secretary-Treasurer: Bob Acorn, **Bob McFetridge***

*Director: **Ron Bjorge**, Roger Creasey, **Lorne Fitch**, Martin Jalkotzy, **Jack Nolan***

Newsletter Editor: Margo Pybus

William Rowan Distinguished Service Award presented to John Stelfox, Canadian Wildlife Service (retired), Vernon.

Game Farm Position Paper circulated to and ratified by membership.

Bison Management Position Paper proved contentious and there was no consensus among members. Membership voted to drop this issue.

1993

Fourth Annual Meeting ACTWS, March 19 & 20, Nisku Inn, Edmonton.

William Rowan Distinguished Service Award presented to Bill Wishart, Alberta Fish and Wildlife (retired), Edmonton.

Establishment of Student Presentation Award (\$100) to recognize the best student presentation at the ACTWS Annual Meeting. Recipient: Doug Collister, U. of Calgary.

First ACTWS Auction. Proceeds (\$1024.75) deposited in Student Scholarship Fund.

Nominees for the Executive: **(elected)**

President: Ken Crutchfield

President-Elect: Ron Bjorge, **Brad Stelfox**

Sec-Treas.: **Mike Dorrance** (acclamation)

Director: **Lorne Fitch, Beth MacCallum, Dave Poll**

Newsletter Editor: Margo Pybus

As of June 1993, there were 93 regular members in good standing and 17 student members.

ACTWS was represented by Blair Rippin on a Citizen=s Advisory Committee dealing with the issue of feral horses at Canadian Forces Base Suffield.

ACTWS sent congratulations to Ernie Kuyt for his appointment to the Order of Canada, recognizing his many years of dedication to conservation and management of Whooping Cranes.

ACTWS membership reported to be 121 members.

1994

Fifth Annual Meeting ACTWS, March 25 & 26, U. of C., Calgary. Co-sponsored by the Department of Environmental Design, U. of C.

Second Annual ACTWS Auction generated \$1079 for the Student Scholarship Fund.

Student Presentation Award (\$100) to recognize the best student presentation at the Annual Meeting. Recipient: Lisa Crampton, U. of Calgary.

William Rowan Distinguished Service Award presented to Ed Telfer, Canadian Wildlife Service (retired), Edmonton.

First ACTWS Dedicated Service Award presented to Margo Pybus, Alberta Fish and Wildlife, Edmonton.

First ACTWS Student Scholarship (\$500) was offered to students entering 4th year of a university program in the fields of Environmental Design, Biological Sciences, Forest Sciences, Animal Sciences, Zoology, or a related field.

Nominees for the Executive: (elected)

President: Brad Stelfox

*President-Elect: Beth MacCallum, **Margo Pybus***

*Sec.-Treas.: **Mike Dorrance** (acclamation)*

*Director: Bob Acorn, **Ken Crutchfield, Janet Edmonds, Dave Poll**, Arlen Todd*

Newsletter Editor: Jan Edmonds & Dave Hobson

As of September 1994, there were 158 registered members of ACTWS.

1995

Sixth Annual Meeting, ACTWS, March 24 & 25, Environmental Training Centre, Hinton. Pre-conference field trips were offered.

Annual ACTWS Auction netted \$1893 for the Student Scholarship Fund. First ACTWS Student Scholarship (\$500) was awarded to Phil McLoughlin, 3rd Yr, Honours Zoology, U. of A.

William Rowan Award for Distinguished Service presented to Morley Barrett, Alberta Fish and Wildlife, Edmonton.

ACTWS Dedicated Service Award presented to Mike Dorrance, Alberta Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development, Edmonton.

Student Presentation Awards (\$200 each) to recognize the best student oral and poster presentations at the Annual Meeting. Recipients: Ainsley Sykes (oral), Ken Kranrod (poster).

A committee was established to develop protocols for a scholarship for students enrolled in a technical field of the profession.

A promotional brochure was developed for ACTWS and the Chapter display was upgraded.

Committee guidelines and protocols were developed.

Nominees for the Executive: (elected)

President: Margo Pybus

*President-Elect: **Ron Bjorge** (acclamation)*

*Sec.-Treas.: **Jack Nolan** (acclamation)*

*Director: **Ernie Ewaschuk**, Michael Raine, John Kansas, **Kirby Smith, Richard Quinlan***

Newsletter Editor: Jan Edmonds & Dave Hobson

1996

ACTWS hosted the Northwest Section TWS Conference, in conjunction with the Seventh Annual Meeting, ACTWS, March 29-31, Banff Park Lodge, Banff. Co-hosted by Alberta Natural Resources Service (Fish and Wildlife). A Student/Mentor program was incorporated into the conference.

First offering of a scholarship for students in a wildlife technical program, The Bob Goddard Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Melissa Richholt, currently enrolled in Biological Sciences Technology, Red Deer College. Note: tribute to Bob Goddard contained in AW 7(2) 1996

The ACTWS University Student Scholarship was awarded to Ben Olsen, University of Alberta.

The William Rowan Award for Distinguished Service was awarded to David Boag, University of Alberta (retired), Edmonton.

ACTWS Dedicated Service Award was presented to Bill Glasgow, Alberta Fish and Wildlife, Calgary.

Extended membership drive within a wide range of organizations/industries/ businesses throughout Alberta, B.C., Yukon, and Northwest Territories. As of November 6, 1996, ACTWS current membership is 240, including 79 students. Approximately 70% of the members are male and 33% list government as their primary affiliation. University, college, and consultants were listed in similar proportions (.10-15%).

ACTWS Executive:

*President: **Ron Bjorge***

*President-Elect: **Ian Ross***

*Sec.-Treas.: **Jack Nolan***

*Director: **Ernie Ewaschuk, Larry Roy.***

*2nd term: **Richard Quinlan, Kirby Smith,***

Newsletter Editor: Dee Ryerson

1997

Eighth Annual Meeting, ACTWS, March 21 & 22, Nisku, Alberta.

The Bob Goddard Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Susan Skinner, Lethbridge Community College.

The ACTWS University Student Scholarship was awarded to Andy Bezener, University of Alberta.

The William Rowan Award for Distinguished Service was awarded to Ernie Kuyt, Canadian Wildlife Service (retired), Edmonton.

ACTWS Dedicated Service Award was presented to Brad Stelfox, Alberta Environmental Centre, Vegreville.

*Nominees for the Executive: **(elected)***

President: Ian Ross

*President-Elect: **Beth MacCallum**, Robert McFetridge*

*Sec.-Treas.: **Jon Jorgenson** (acclamation)*

*Director: **Dave Hobson**, Gord Stenhouse, **Arlen Todd***

*2nd term: **Ernie Ewaschuk, Larry Roy***

Newsletter Editor: Laurie Hunt & Dan Farr

1998

Ninth Annual Meeting, ACTWS, March 13 & 14, Best Western Inn, Calgary.

Best Student Oral Presentation winner was Rebecca Titler, University of Alberta.

Best Student Poster Presentation was awarded to Huey Chong and Karla Magnusson, both from the University of Alberta.

The Bob Goddard Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Julia Landry, Lethbridge Community College.

The ACTWS University Student Scholarship was awarded to Lindsay Tomy, University of Alberta.

The William Rowan Award for Distinguished Service was awarded to Bill Samuel, University of Alberta, Edmonton.

ACTWS Dedicated Service Award was presented to Blair Rippin, Alberta Fish and Wildlife, St. Paul.

ACTWS was involved in establishing a working committee on Endangered Species in Alberta, review of a development strategy for the Bow Valley, review of proposed federal endangered species legislation and proposed provincial policy towards public lands .

Nominees for the Executive: (elected)

President: Beth MacCallum

*President-Elect: **Mike Dorrance**, Kirby Smith*

*Sec.-Treas.: **Jon Jorgenson** (acclamation)*

*Director: **Steve Brechtel, Doug Collister**, Lorne Fitch, Ed Telfer.*

*2nd term: **Dave Hobson, Arlen Todd***

1999

Tenth Annual Meeting, ACTWS, March 12 & 13, Nisku Inn, Nisku.

The meeting was a resounding success, as were all previous meetings. Fundraising for student scholarships continued and the annual auction netted \$4066! Attendance was in the range of 250 people, including many students from universities and colleges across the province. There is continued strong representation from government, industry, consulting, and academic realms of the profession. Nine of the ten previous presidents were in attendance. A history of the first ten years of ACTWS was prepared. There is obvious growth and continued energy in the Chapter and the outlook is good for the next ten years.

Best Student Oral Presentation was awarded to Simon Dyer and Jeff Hoyt, both from the University of Alberta.

Best Student Poster Presentation was awarded to S. Kurulok, University of Alberta.

The Bob Goddard Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Angela Scheiderman, NAIT.

The ACTWS University Student Scholarship was awarded to Amy Leach, University of Alberta.

The William Rowan Award for Distinguished Service was awarded to Ian Stirling, Canadian Wildlife Service.

ACTWS Dedicated Service Award was presented to Jon Jorgenson, Alberta Fish and Wildlife, Canmore.

Nominees for the Executive: (elected)

President: Mike Dorrance

*President-Elect: **Elston Dzus**, Gordon Stenhouse*

*Sec.-Treas.: Garry Hornbeck, **Chris Shank***

Director: **Cormack Gates, George Hamilton, Dave McKinnon,**
2nd term: **Steve Brechtel, Doug Collis**

Dates of Interest

Canadian Chapter of the Wildlife Society

University of Manitoba -Delta Marsh

June 19-21

Alberta Trappers Association 2009 Annual Convention

Sundre, Alberta

July 2-4

<http://www.albertatrappers.com/information/informationConvention.html>

23rd Annual Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology- International Congress for Conservation Biology

Beijing, China

July 11-16, 2009

<http://scb2009.ioz.ac.cn/index.asp?CFID=8721365&CFTOKEN=28140692>

Society of Canadian Ornithologists 2009 Conference

Edmonton Alberta

August 20 to 23

<http://www.sco-soc.ca/>

Strengthening Stewardship – Investing at Every Step

4th National Stewardship & Conservation Conference

July 8-11

Strengthening Stewardship–Investing at Every Step, the 4th National Stewardship and Conservation Conference will be held at the MacEwan Conference & Event Centre at the University of Calgary.

The 2009 International Academic and Community Conference on Animals and Society Minding Animals

Newcastle, Australia

July 13-18, 2009

http://www.mindinganimals.com//index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27&Itemid=44

Wildlife Disease Association Annual Conference

Semiahmoo Resort and Spa -sea-side resort, located about half way between Seattle, Washington and Vancouver, British Columbia.

August 2-6, 2009

139th Meeting of the American Fisheries Society (AFS): “Diversity, the Foundation of Fisheries and of AFS; are we gaining ground?”

Nashville, Tennessee, USA

August 30-September 3, 2009

The Wildlife Society 16th Annual Conference

Monterey, California

September 20-24, 2009

<http://joomla.wildlife.org/monterey09/>

Carnivore Conference 2009

Denver, CO

Join researchers, educators, wildlife managers and activists for Defenders’ seventh Carnivore Conference, “**Carnivore Conservation in a Changing World**”, as we discuss the latest developments in the science and conservation of wolves, bears, marine mammals and other carnivores. **Questions?** Contact Kati Dancy at kati.dancy@defenders.org.

November 14-19, 2009

http://www.defenders.org/programs_and_policy/wildlife_conservation/imperiled_species/wolves/conferences_and_seminars/index.php

Please see <http://www.srd.gov.ab.ca/library/conferencelist.aspx> for more conferences and continuous updates.

Website Update

Please refer to the Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society’s website for further information on the chapter and the previous conference, as well as membership information and upcoming events. Layla Neufeld has been working hard on the website and we look forward to an upcoming member’s forum, conference abstracts and further historical information with Margo Pybus

ACTWS Executive Contact List for 2009/10

Title	Name	Work Phone	Email
President	Evelyn Merrill	780.492.2842	emerrill@ualberta.
President-Elect	Dave Scobie	403.793.8500	dscobie@avocet.
Past-President	Brad Taylor	403.562.3288	brad.taylor@ab-conservation.com
Secretary-Treasurer	Karl Zimmer	403.701.3186	kzimm14@yahoo.com
Director	Robin Gutsell	780.644.1154	robin.gutsell@gov.ab.
Director	Tammy MacMillan	403.265.2885	tmacmillan@teraenv.com
Director	Joe Litke	780.466.6554	jlitke@fieraconsulting.com
Awards Chair	Shevenell Webb	780.410.1999	shevenell.webb@ab-conservation.com
Student Director (UofA)	Corey Scobie	780.492.6873	cscobie@ualberta.
Student Director (LCC)	Vincent Herron		vincent.herron@lethbridgecollege.ab.
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