

President's Message

Hello Everyone!

Hope you had a great summer and are on to musing about the terrific fall outdoor opportunities that await you!

Here is an update on a few things that the Chapter has been up to. We attended the second annual meeting of the Canadian Section of the Wildlife Society that was held in June at the beautiful Delta Marsh in Manitoba. The Canadian Section continues to be very active under the leadership of Merlin Shoesmith this year. At the meeting there were some excellent talks, discussions on TWS from a Canadian perspective, congratulations to Ontario Chapter of TWS for its establishment and to Rick Baydack who was re-elected as Canada's representative to Council for a second term (and is doing a fantastic job!). The Canadian Section Annual Meeting next year will be in early July in Edmonton- will keep you posted. Also, for those of you going to TWS Annual Meeting in Monterey CA in September, there will be a Canadian Members and Friends Reception Tuesday from 6:30-8:30pm in De Anza II (at Portola Hotel) sponsored by our Canadian friend LOTEK. Please join us!

On the home front, remember this is our 20th year anniversary. Last newsletter we published information on our history of active members. We have more historical tidbits in this edition. Over the summer Blair Rippin and his committee of Bill Samuel, Margo Pybus and Mathew Pyper have been researching aspects of the establishing ACTWS Executive Director. If you recall this was a major charge given to the Executive Board at the AGM last March. Blair has provided a write-up on progress and issues in this newsletter. After refining the ideas further, this fall we plan to ask you to provide feedback on a number of aspects of the proposal via web-site based survey-- thanks to the efforts of Layla Neufield, webmaster. This will be our first trial run of getting direct feed back and we are anxious to see how it all works. The goal of the web survey is to bring forward both specific proposals and Chapter sentiments to the next AGM on the charge given us. The Executive approved a new award: *Alberta Wildlife Publication Award*. Guidelines and criteria have been developed and will be posted on the website in the immediate future. It is not too early to start thinking about nominations for both this new publication award and our William Rowan Distinguished Service and Chapter

Dedicated Service Awards- recognition for service is one of our important functions. Shevenell Webb has been busy this summer helping us get our membership brochure updated. We will send you a digital copy this fall and hope each of you will pass it on to at least one if not more of your colleagues.

Thanks to efforts by Dave Scobie, the place and dates of the 2010 Annual Conference of ACTWS have been set for March 11-14 at the Red Deer Lodge – get it on your calendar!

Have a great fall!

Cheers,

Evie Merrill

President

Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Editors Note

Welcome to the fall edition of The Wildlifer. There is a memorial for the recent sad passing of Bill Fuller, as well as articles featured, including some interesting work on cougars, Baydack's Banter, our new pamphlet, an update from the Conservation Committee, watch for a new publication award and a very interesting look back into our history from Margo Pybus. Please as always, forward me anything (pictures, articles) you would like to see submitted, as well as any requests for the next newsletter. Happy fall!

Kristie Derkson

kjderkson@gmail.com

21st ACTWS Annual Conference

March 11-14, 2010

Red Deer Lodge

**4311 – 49th Avenue Red Deer, Alberta
T4N 5Y7**

Visit www.reddeerlodge.ca for a
virtual tour of rooms and
Conference facilities

**Call for Papers, Conference Theme
and more details to follow.**

The Central East Slopes Cougar Study: Examining the Ecology and Socio-Political Status of Cougars in West-Central Alberta

Kyle Knopff and Aliah Adams Knopff

**Department of Biological Sciences,
University of Alberta
knknopff@ualberta.ca,
aknopff@ualberta.ca**

Large carnivores such as cougars (*Puma concolor*) play a variety of important ecological and socio-political roles in Alberta. Cougars are frequently valued as iconic symbols of wilderness and indicators of ecosystem health, but on the other hand, they are capable of ecological harm, occasionally depleting small populations of alternate prey, sometimes to the point of local extirpation. They also occasionally are a source of fear over human safety, and that of their livestock and pets. These diverse and often conflicting roles generate significant challenges to effective conservation and management.

For the past five years, we have been studying cougars in the Clearwater County of west-central Alberta to answer several questions that might help improve management and conservation prospects for both cougars and their prey. Specifically, our objectives were to 1) estimate cougar density in west-central Alberta and test the hypothesis that cougar populations have increased and expanded their range north of the Bow River, 2) evaluate the influence of season, cougar demography, prey vulnerability, and prey density on kill rate and prey selection, 3) investigate cougar survival and cause-specific mortality, 4) evaluate cougar habitat selection and predation with respect to industrial development and human features (e.g., homes, roads, and clearcuts), and 5) assess human attitudes toward cougars in west-central Alberta. In order to obtain the information needed to address these objectives, we collared and monitored 44 different cougars between December 2005 and August 2008. Most of these animals were outfitted with Global Positioning System (GPS) collars that obtained a precise spatial location every 3 hours. We are analyzing our results and we provide more detail in a couple key areas below.

One central component of our study was to better understand the interactions between cougars and their prey in multi-prey systems. Our Clearwater County study area provided plenty of opportunity in this regard, as cougars were potentially exposed to 7 types of wild ungulate prey (white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, moose, feral horses, mountain goats, and bighorn sheep) and a plethora of small to mid-sized mammals and birds. We have refined and advanced GPS telemetry techniques for locating cougar killed prey and our methods have produced nearly complete predation histories for each GPS collared cougar for as long as the collar remained active. In total we located 1,372 predation events and 83 incidents of cougar scavenging. As a whole, the cougar population in west-central Alberta subsisted on ungulates (>96% of prey biomass) of which deer, and especially white-tailed deer, were most important. However, we also found that cougar diets contained a diversity of other prey. Besides ungulates, cougars incorporated most available species into their diets, including other carnivores (cougars, wolves, coyotes, red foxes, lynx, black bears, and marten), small mammals (beavers, porcupines, snowshoe hares, red squirrels, and hoary marmots), and birds (grouse, ducks, Canada geese, and ravens).

Of special interest, we noted a strong distinction between the predatory behavior of males and females, in that males tended to kill far more large prey (elk, moose, and feral horses) than did females. Within this general sex-based distinction, moreover, we found that individual cougars preferred specific types of prey. Many individuals killed primarily deer, but others focused on moose, bighorn sheep, elk, or feral horses (which are abundant in west-central Alberta). We even monitored one cougar that specialized in killing porcupines, consuming 29 of the spiny rodents over an 8 month period. From an applied perspective, identifying this type of specialist behavior might have important application for conserving cougars and their prey. If, for instance, the negative impacts of cougar predation on a small population of ungulate prey are driven by the specialized behavior of a few individuals, general population reduction of cougars will be ineffective if the specialist is missed. Identification and targeted removal of the specialist(s) may be the best management option in such cases because it can preserve the integrity of the population of secondary prey without compromising the cougar population.

A second fundamental aspect of our research was to study human-cougar interactions and the attitudes of the people who coexist with cougars on a daily basis. Ultimately, the conservation outlook for

cougars in west-central Alberta will depend on the willingness of a growing rural and exurban human population to tolerate these top predators. Consequently, we conducted a survey of Clearwater County residents in an attempt to quantify risk perception, tolerance, and management preferences. Thirteen of our GPS collared cougars had home ranges which overlapped substantially with agricultural and high-density rural-residential areas near the towns of Rocky Mountain House and Caroline, allowing us to directly assess human-cougar conflict. Although ranching and hobby farms are common within the study area, we recorded very few instances of cougar predation on domestic livestock or pets (< 1% of all kills located). When depredation did occur, llamas and domestic dogs were the most frequent targets. Cougar sightings and cougar predation on wild ungulates (e.g. elk and deer) near residences also are often considered conflict situations, however, and were not uncommon during our study. Indeed, to assuage public response to these types of conflict situations, recent legal changes in Alberta permit the killing of cougar on-sight provided the animal is on your private property. Combining the results of our survey with cougar GPS-location and predation data will allow us to compare public perception with biological reality and better identify possible avenues for future cougar-human coexistence.

For more information on the objectives, current progress, or final published results of this study please contact us at kknopff@ualberta.ca (Kyle) or aknopff@ualberta.ca (Aliah).



**Update on the Progress
of the ACTWS
Conservation
Committee**

**Blair Rippin - current
chair ACTWS
Conservation
Committee**

**A paid Executive
Director for ACTWS-
----or not. A prelude
to our first
membership on-line
poll coming in early
winter.**



This is our twentieth year of existence as a separate chapter of The Wildlife Society. In that relatively short time we have developed a very effective forum for the exchange of high quality biological, ecological, and wildlife management information among wildlife professionals. We are particularly proud of the participation of a large student component. We have challenged our government and others on several decisions that we deemed detrimental to our wildlife resources through advocacy efforts. We recognize the exceptionally valuable contributions made by our peers through awards and scholarships. These are all very commendable accomplishments, however, our growth seems to have reached a plateau of late. This may not be a bad thing. We likely can continue as such well into the future. However, our world is very dynamic and those that adapt to changing conditions realize greater

success over time (Darwinism??). The Alberta Chapter's March 2009 conference panel discussion on the new Alberta **Land-Use Framework (LUF)** planning initiative prompted subsequent discussion at our annual general meeting (AGM) relative to past efforts at advocacy. It was suggested that the LUF offered an unique opportunity for ACTWS to provide science-based biological input for planning future provincial land management. This led to idea that we perhaps should rethink our role in the area of advocacy and consider the needs of land use planning in the context of LUF. It was further suggested that such a renewed effort would likely require greater effort than we could presently provide via volunteers and that we should consider adding a paid position (tentatively termed "Executive Director" (ED)) to handle that task and perhaps aid in other areas of our organization.

Subsequently, a number of inquiries and discussions explored the ED idea. Specifically, contacts were made with a few other NGOs that employed paid positions to assist in their operations. At least one of these found that mode of operation to be a boon to their organization, while others reported less than desirable results. There were three main issues/questions that arose from those probes, which are as follows.

1) What specifically is desired or can be gained from the acquisition of an Executive Director?

Recent discussion among those directed to develop a position on an ED has reviewed our past advocacy approach. Although we have taken action on a number of issues, our effectiveness appears to be missing the mark in many cases. However, we seemed to be most effective when we developed a position paper (e.g. our position paper on game farming and the potential to spread serious diseases in wildlife) or membership on a panel requiring our direct input on a specific issues (e.g. horse grazing on DND Suffield and crown-land bison grazing).

On the other hand, our usual ploy of letter writing has resulted in few replies and uncertainty regarding effectiveness.

Our group (and some other members at the last AGM) felt it was time to reconsider whether we should take an advocacy approach at all. However, all felt that we, as a group, have within our membership a considerable base of valuable biological/ecological/management knowledge that should be made available in decisions that affect wildlife and habitat.

How to get this out is the question. The LUF perhaps offers an opportunity to put this type of information to good use. As you may be aware, LUF is at a stage where deadlines for input via direct membership on specific committees has passed. However, there is some opportunity for input via specific

sitting members.

If LUF indeed results in land use planning the way it is touted, we could miss a great opportunity. The right person hired to accomplish at least some of the above would be a definite advantage in that we contribute meaningful information in a way that is useful to those defining future land use in the province. This is more than we are doing now or what would likely be done in the future with our present methods based on volunteer input.

In addition to the above, a hired person could also assist in coordinating our various committees as well as coordinating the effort required to put on our annual conference. This would ease the burden on the president elect and perhaps result in more candidates for the position.

2) What type of person (personality, qualifications, etc) would best fit the objectives set out in 1) above?

The terms of reference generated from answering # 1) above would largely dictate the qualifications needed. In general, we require a person with the same feel for wildlife conservation that our organization has developed as well as the organizational skills needed to gather and coordinate input from various sources and put it in a form useful for the purpose intended.

In addition to the above, it would be necessary to specifically outline the relationship a ED would have with the various persons holding office in ACTWS.

3) How could the position be funded?

NGOs using paid assistants have funded those position by various methods. Some have used membership fees, some have augmented membership fees with other funding sources. Others have paid for the position from specially solicited funding. More information on this topic will be obtained in the near future.

The above information will prepare you for a request for your input via an online membership poll in early winter. You will be asked for your opinion on a few stated options and also for any information you may be aware of that would influence a final decision on this matter. Notwithstanding the stated time line, relevant information on this issue would be appreciated at any time by contacting Blair Rippin, chair, ATCWS Conservation Committee, at rippin@shaw.ca.

'Baydack's Banter'

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

- Meetings and conferences
- Membership recruitment and retention
- Professional development, certification, and ethics
- Public affairs and education
- Marketing and development
- Administration and finance

It's that time of year again, when the thoughts of many wildlifers turn to making arrangements for attending the Annual Conference. Monterey, California is this year's venue, and it promises to once again be 'the best ever!' So hopefully you have made your hotel reservations (Note that our room block has already been filled at one of the hotels!), checked out the airline seat sales, and looked into the wide range of Conference extracurricular activities that have been organized. My feeling is that the TWS Annual Conference is a must for all wildlife professionals. Hopefully we will see you there, and if you do make it, be sure to attend the 'Canadian Members and Friends Reception,' being held from 630-830 pm on Tuesday September 22 at the Portola Hotel. And you might also want to join us at the Members Forum at the Council meeting on Tuesday morning, September 22 – always a great opportunity to bring forward new ideas for TWS consideration.

As part of ongoing efforts to enhance TWS management and administration, all members of Council and senior staff took part in a Retreat from July 20-22 at the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation in Illinois. This 3-day event was designed for participants to provide input on priorities for the next 5 years in the TWS Strategic Plan (available online at http://joomla.wildlife.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=267&Itemid=273). Staff indicated that 77% of the Strategic Plan had already been addressed to some extent. The Retreat allowed Council to consider all 9 of the Plan's goals and its 31 objectives in a facilitated fashion. Objectives were then prioritized so that a clearer understanding of the direction that Council felt that staff should direct their time and effort toward was achieved. From this information, senior staff will review the specific strategies that were established to meet the Strategic Plan goals and objectives, and reallocate staff and budget resources as necessary. All in all, the Retreat was a very useful and fulfilling exercise, and one that should pave the way for significant TWS advancements into the future. If you have not yet studied the Strategic Plan, I encourage you to do so, and you might want to focus on your main interests from the following list of 9 goals that relate to TWS program areas:

- Wildlife management and conservation
- Government affairs and partnerships
- Publishing and information resources

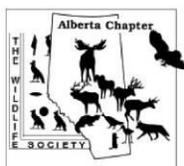
Any views that you may have on any of these areas, especially as related to Canadian interests, should be forwarded to me (baydack@cc.umanitoba.ca) at any time, and I will be sure to bring them forward to Council. This is your chance to make a difference – so take advantage of it!

In closing, I would like to once again acknowledge that I remain very grateful to continue to have the opportunity to represent you as Canadian Section Representative. This duty has been the highlight of my wildlife career, and I look forward to bringing your ideas and those of all Canadian wildlifers to the Council table. This next Council meeting is especially important in that regard because your Section Executive has developed a detailed commentary on Canadian Perspectives relating to the TWS Strategic Plan. This item will be on the Council agenda in Monterey, and is sure to generate lively discussion. If you are interested in being a part of the deliberations, please let me know, and I will advise as to the specific agenda details.

Kristie Derkson 2009

Alberta Wildlife Publication Award

Have you read a really good paper lately by someone you know? The Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society is pleased to announce the new *Alberta Wildlife Publication Award*. This award will recognize wildlife professionals for outstanding written contributions in the publication categories of *technical* and *popular*. Publications can be a *book*, *article*, or *monograph* but must be relevant to wildlife management and conservation. The review committee will assess publications based on originality, impact on management and conservation science, and overall presentation. Awards will be announced at the annual conference. Publication guidelines will be available on the ACTWS website; application deadline is January 2010. Start thinking about nominating a colleague and publication for this award.



Alberta Chapter
of
The Wildlife Society

Alberta Wildlife Publication Award

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The Alberta Chapter will announce the winning publications at the annual conference. The award will include a plaque presented to the authors at the ACTWS conference and the winning publication(s) will be recognized in the newsletter.

Award Criteria:

- Nomination for an award must be made by an Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society member; however, nominated authors do not have to be ACTWS members.
- Only publications issued within the last 3 years are eligible for consideration.
- 1 award will be presented for popular and 1 award will be presented for technical categories. Awards will be granted only when an outstanding publication is selected and not just the best available to be reviewed each year.
- All nominations must be published in a format that makes them permanently available to the scientific community and general public.
- We use similar guidelines as The Wildlife Society Publication Award to discern publication types:

Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society

1. Article - a discrete part of a more inclusive publication, such as a professional journal.
2. Monograph - a publication by a professional organization or agency, printed as a distinct entity.
3. Book - a single or multiple-authored work issued by a publishing company.

- Single papers are eligible; a series of papers are not acceptable.
- Multiple-authored publications are eligible.

Submission:

- Cover letter must include-
 - Nomination category (technical or popular)
 - Author(s), publication title and year published
 - Reasons why the publication deserves recognition
- Submissions also must include a copy of the paper or monograph; for a book, a copy of the book can be loaned or excerpts must be submitted. Digital pdfs of publications are preferred.
- Submission of application (e-mail or mail) must be received by January 15th of each year to the award coordinator.

Award Coordinator

Shevenell Webb
101-9 Chippewa Rd, Sherwood Park, AB, T8A 6J7
780.410.1999; Shevenell.Webb@ab-conservation.com

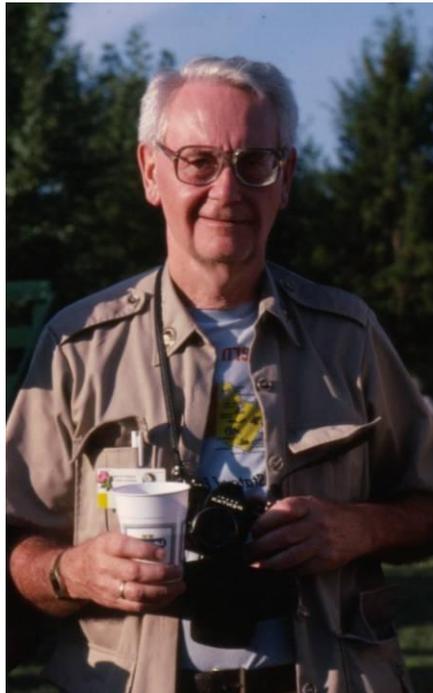
Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society

William A. (Bill) Fuller, May 10, 1924-June 13, 2009 Memorial

The Heart Lake Biological Station of the University of Alberta was established in the taiga near Great Slave Lake. It was part of Bill Fuller's northern world and he built the station as a place for studying what taiga mammals do in winter. Initially much of the effort at Heart Lake went into studying the life cycle of the red-backed vole, but over time many other projects were added to the program. At a recent memorial service for Fuller, we heard many heartfelt comments and stories of Bill's beloved Heart Lake Station. Here, lives were changed, careers begun, and respect for land and animals etched into the lives of all who walked that land. To know Heart Lake was to know Bill Fuller.

Bill Fuller was born and raised in Saskatchewan (Moosomin and Regina, respectively) and, in 1946 and 1947, completed his B.A. and M.A. degrees at the University of Saskatchewan.....and married his love, Marie. He then became one of the first biologists hired by the Canadian Wildlife Service. Fuller was stationed in Ft. Smith, NWT, but "traveled extensively throughout the Mackenzie District by air, canoe, dog team and on foot." During this time he completed field research on bison in Wood Buffalo National Park for his PhD in Zoology-Wildlife, University of Wisconsin, 1957. While in Wisconsin—Fuller arrived at the University in 1950—he shared his experiences with two other Canadian biologists, Lloyd Keith and Doug Pimlott, who, like Fuller, went on to have successful careers. Aldo Leopold had taught at the University of Wisconsin and although Fuller never met him—Leopold died in 1948—he often talked about the Leopold spirit still present there. As Bill stated in an interview years later "The place was still embedded with the philosophy of Leopold". That spirit lived with Fuller throughout his career.

Upon returning to Canada, Fuller became the first CWS biologist stationed in the Yukon. In 1959,



Fuller, along with parasitologist John Holmes, was recruited to the Department of Zoology by long time friend Ralph Nursall. Together they carried on the academic traditions built by former chairman William Rowan. Fuller chaired the department from 1969 to 1974.

Bill did much to connect the University of Alberta with the North. Many students studied at the Heart Lake Station established in the Northwest

Territories, west of Hay River. Fuller was one of the founders of the Boreal Institute for Northern Studies. Quoting current University President and Vice-Chancellor Indra Samarasekera, "When it (now the Canadian Circumpolar Institute) was established as the Boreal Institute for Northern Studies in 1960, it was impossible to predict just how vital the centre would become." Bill Fuller knew.

Fuller had a distinguished career of teaching, research, mentorship and advocacy. He was involved in numerous initiatives including testifying at hearings involving the Bighorn Dam controversy, setting up the IBP Natural Areas program in Alberta, serving as the Science Advisor to the N.W.T. Science Council and member of the Slave River Advisory Panel. He tenaciously opposed a variety of initiatives including: plans to hold the Winter Olympics in Banff National Park in 1972, building dams on the Aiushihik

River in the Yukon and on the Slave River, and building a pulp mill on the Athabasca River.

Leopold's spirit truly lived with Bill Fuller. Bill was a great example of the power of the individual.

In 1985 Fuller organized the 4th International Theriological Congress. He was also a member of the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Panel that in 1990 recommended depopulation of bison in Wood Buffalo National Park and reintroduction of disease-free bison.

In 1984, Fuller retired near the town of Athabasca where he built a beautiful log home. He remained active academically and was appointed Adjunct Professor at Athabasca University.

Following Fuller's death on 13 June, 2009, Ed Stuzik wrote of Bill's life in the July 5, 2009 issue of the Edmonton Journal. A great read! Ed details Bill's role in discovering where the dwindling population of whooping cranes—21 birds to be exact—were nesting back in 1956. This important discovery is but a small chapter in the life of this amazing Alberta wildlife biologist who, fittingly, was our Chapter's first recipient of the William Rowan Distinguished Service Award (1991). Many other awards came his way and he deserved them. Yet as an individual he was never one to seek fame or recognition. He was simply a man that had the courage to do what was right, when it needed doing, so to leave the world a better place. In his private life he was a friend to many, dedicated husband, father (four children), and grandfather (seven grandchildren). We have lost a great biologist in Bill Fuller, but he was influential in many lasting ways and that legacy will live for many years.

Bill Samuel and Lu Carbyn

Bill Glasgow submitted a story about Bill Fuller:

I have many fond memories of Bill Fuller - here's one:

Bill Fuller was one of the first professors I spoke to before going into Zoology from high school and he was one of my mentors in university. In June 1971 myself, Ernie Ewaschuk and Grant Gunderson spent 3 days looking at sections of the Athabasca, Peace, and Wabasca rivers and the Peace Athabasca delta looking Canada goose pairs with broods. One of our stopovers was in Fort Chipewyan and who should walk into the restaurant but Bill Fuller. Fuller had students doing research projects on muskrats and probably other critters in the Peace-Athabasca Delta as part of the overall study of the impact on the delta of the dam(s) on the Peace River. We were exchanging information on what each of us was doing there. When we explained our quest for Canada geese pairs with broods, Fuller gave us such a look and said something along the lines of, "I don't know why anybody would want to study those feathered reptiles when there are mammals to work on." We finished supper and went our separate ways.

HISTORY

Further to the theme of recognizing 20 years of

**Alberta Chapter of the
Wildlife Society**

**Twenty Years and
Going Strong**

Margo Pybus

ACTWS and of sharing past memories of ACTWS members, here is one slice of history from Ron Bjorge's perspective! Ron was the President of

ACTWS for 1996/97.

One of the roles of the incoming President-Elect of the Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society is organization of the annual meeting.

Accordingly it was my role to lead the planning and preparation for the spring 1996 annual meeting which we decided to hold in Banff, Alberta. In looking back, this was an outstanding experience in my 20 years of membership in the Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Since that meeting, I have never taken a conference, working session, or meeting of any kind for granted!



We had just started planning for the annual meeting when we were approached by the Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society to consider hosting their meeting in conjunction with ours. Our keen executive deliberated and decided to take them up on the offer. The meeting just got a whole lot bigger! We established a cracker-jack organizing team to cover off things like publicity, funding, logistics, program, awards, entertainment, communications, and even mentorship and training sessions. We targeted for 250 people [but almost 350 registered in the end]. We first planned for 30 presentations but this grew to 45 and we moved to three concurrent sessions. Soon after we published the program, the Montana and Idaho wolf biologists came out of the field and said they wanted to come to the conference and give an update. We were happy to accommodate them (since we wanted to hear how our Alberta wolves were doing!) and so we re-published the program. And as always

seems to happen, we were juggling banquet tickets right up to the last minute.

The dynamics were very exciting, but even more impressive, was the way our committee continually adjusted to meet the challenges. For me, it was an opportunity for personal growth, new learning, new friends, new experiences, and a great memory. The moral of the story - do not be afraid to get involved as active participation and leadership has many many rewards. I look forward to the next 20 years!

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

The Second 10 Years

2000

Eleventh Annual Meeting, ACTWS, March 9-11, Lethbridge Lodge, Lethbridge

Due to past successes, increased participation and interest, and by demand the Annual Meeting was extended to two full days. This meeting was coordinated with the Lethbridge Community College Student Chapter of TWS. Establishment of a student chapter TWS at the University of Alberta also was recognized. Fundraising for student scholarships broke new ground by including a fun casino in conjunction with the traditional auction. Auction proceeds were \$4107. The first-ever photo contest was added to the fun. Registered attendance was 201, including 68 students.

Best Student Oral Presentation was awarded to Stephanie Kurulok and Erin MacFarlane, both from the University of Alberta.

Best Student Poster Presentation was awarded to Jon Hornung, University of Alberta(?).

The Bob Goddard Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Chris Garrett, LCC.

The 1999 ACTWS Undergrad Student Scholarship was awarded to Stephanie Kurulok, University of Alberta.

The 2000 ACTWS Undergrad Student Scholarship was awarded to Nadine Reynolds, University of Calgary.

[note: two scholarships were given within this calendar year. One scholarship will now be given in September of each year]

The William Rowan Award for Distinguished Service was awarded to Valerius Geist, U. of Calgary (retired).

ACTWS Dedicated Service Award was presented to Ron Bjorge, Alberta NRS - Fish and Wildlife, Red Deer.

ACTWS Charter Member Bill Wishart was recognized for receiving the Provincial Bighorn Award.

The ACTWS website was upgraded and contains all ACTWS newsletters, ACTWS brochure, A History of ACTWS (the first ten years), job notices, links to a wide range of wildlife-related sites including TWS, and ACTWS membership application.

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

President: Elston Dzus

President-Elect: **Arlen Todd**, Dee Ryerson

Sec.-Treas.: Dave McKinnon

Director: **Evelyn Merrill, Dave Prescott**,

2nd term: **Cormack Gates, George Hamilton**

2001

Twelfth Annual Meeting, ACTWS was held in conjunction with the Northwest Section Meeting, March 2-4, Banff Park Lodge, Banff. The conference was co-hosted by Alberta Environment, Natural Resources Service. Over 300 registered participants, many of whom were students from Alberta and Montana, took part in the two and a half day event. Activities kicked off with a pre-conference tour of the Bow Valley that set the stage for the wide range of plenary and contributed papers across the gamut of wildlife research and applied management programs.

Best Student Oral Presentations were awarded to Kari Stuart-Smith, Oregon State University (1st) and L.M. Ciarniello, University of Alberta (2nd).

Best Student Poster Presentations were awarded to Gerry Kuzyk (1st) and Cheryl Chetkiewicz and Christine Rice (each 2nd), all from the University of Alberta.

The Bob Goddard Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Brad Taylor, LCC. (\$1000)

The 2001 ACTWS Undergrad Student Scholarship was awarded to Kathy St. Laurent, University of Alberta. (\$1000)

The first ACTWS Post-graduate Scholarship was awarded to Curtis Stambaugh, University of Alberta. (\$1000)

The William Rowan Award for Distinguished Service was awarded to Don Thomas, Canadian Wildlife Service (retired).

ACTWS Dedicated Service Award was presented to Kirby Smith, Alberta NRS - Fish and Wildlife, Edson.

The ACTWS Executive Guide was completed. The document provides an overview of the structure and function of ACTWS, summary of previous Executive decisions, current ACTWS bylaws, and documented history of the chapter. Copies were made available to incoming Executive members as well as to general members (on request). It is intended that the document be updated each year. The current version is posted on the ACTWS website.

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

President: Arlen Todd

President-Elect: **Jack Nolan**, Dee Ryerson
 Sec.-Treas.: **DaveMcKinnon**, Michael Raine
 Director: Don Albright, Christine

Found, **Anne Hubbs, Blair Rippin**,
 2nd term: Evelyn Merrill, Dave Prescott

2002

Thirteenth Annual Meeting, ACTWS was held March 7-9, in downtown Edmonton. The meeting included approximately 190 registered participants, 30+ presentations, and 15 posters covering a wide range of backgrounds and topics. The meeting kicked off with a "Wildlife Improv Evening" hosted by the U of A Student Chapter, which generated considerable fun for all and funds for the student chapter. The auction generated \$3623 for student scholarships.

ACTWS received notification that the Chapter bid to host the 2004 TWS meeting was accepted. The meeting will be held September 18-22, 2004 in Calgary. ACTWS is responsible for finding a site acceptable to TWS and looking after the myriad of local arrangements for this large international meeting that provides a showcase for the pinnacle of the wildlife professions.

Best Student Oral Presentations were awarded to Christine Rice, UofA (1st) and Nicola Koper, University of Alberta (2nd).

Best Student Poster Presentations were awarded to E. Klopper (1st) and Judy Muir (2nd), each from the University of Alberta.

The Bob Goddard Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Jacqueline Kostal, Lakeland College. (\$1000)

The 2001 ACTWS Undergrad Student Scholarship was awarded to Stephen Taerum, University of Alberta. (\$1000)

The ACTWS Post-graduate Scholarship was awarded to Paul Frame, University of Alberta. (\$1000)

The William Rowan Award for Distinguished Service was awarded to Ludwig Carbyn, Canadian Wildlife Service (retired).

ACTWS Dedicated Service Award was presented to Jack Nolan, Alberta Research Council, Vegreville.

Nominees for the Executive: (elected)

President: Jack Nolan
 President-Elect: **Mark Boyce** (acclamation)
 Sec.-Treas.: **Chris Shank** (acclamation)
 Director: **Ron Bennett**, Cal Clark, Paul Jones, **Mike Norton**
 2nd term: Anne Hubbs, Blair Rippin,

2003

Fourteenth Annual Meeting, ACTWS was held February 27 to March 1 in Red Deer, location of the first ACTWS meeting so long ago. There were approximately 190 registered participants, 32 presentations (including 4 keynote addresses), and 18 posters covering a wide range of backgrounds and topics. The meeting kicked off the ever-popular evening mixer on Thursday Feb 27. The Friday evening auction was accented with the tunes of the Magnificent Boreal Sting Band, which no doubt helped rouse folks into a bidding frenzy to generate over \$5800 for student scholarships.

The Chapter conducted yet another successful year of business and moves forward with anticipation of hosting the international TWS meeting September 18-24, 2004. Preparations are well underway, although it will be necessary to get down to brass tacks and specific

details during the coming spring and summer. Noteworthy business this past year included recognition of two ACTWS members who received Northwest Section Awards for 2003: Lorne Fitch (Fish and Wildlife Division, Lethbridge) received the Einarson Award for Wildlife Administrator for his tireless efforts in teaching us all how to be better stewards of aquatic habitats; and Dr Morley Barrett (currently Ducks Unlimited Canada) received the Einarson Award for the cumulative wisdom shared and contributions made during his illustrious career.

Best Student Oral Presentations: Jackie Frair, UofA (1st) and Jes Dunford, UofA (2nd).

Best Student Poster Presentations: Mark Hebblewhite (1st) and Cathy Shier (2nd), each from UofA.

Bob Goddard Memorial Scholarship: Robert Wesley, Lethbridge Community College. (\$1000)

ACTWS Undergrad Student Scholarship: Corey Scobie, University of Alberta. (\$1000)

ACTWS Post-graduate Scholarship: Kimberly Pearson, University of Lethbridge. (\$1000)

William Rowan Award for Distinguished Service: Gordon Kerr, Canadian Wildlife Service (retired).

ACTWS Dedicated Service Award: Arlen Todd, Alberta Fish and Wildlife, Calgary.

Nominees for the Executive: (elected)

President: Mark Boyce
 President-Elect: **Kirby Smith** (acclamation)
 Sec.-Treas.: **Chris Shank** (acclamation)
 Director: **Dale Eslinger, Christine Found**, Karen Stroebel, Jonathon Thompson
 2nd term: Ron Bennett, Mike Norton

2004

For the first time since its inception, the Alberta Chapter did not hold an annual chapter meeting. However, there was good reason for this: from September 18-22, the Chapter hosted the 11th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society in Calgary – the first time this meeting has ever been held outside of the USA. This massive undertaking, headed up by TWS staff and Local Co-Chairs Terry Kowalchuk and Arlen Todd, required years of planning and concerted effort by many volunteers. Staff from TWS looked after many of the conference details, but the Chapter was responsible for local arrangements, field trips, audiovisual arrangements, media relations, local information, meals, entertainment, photo contest, and supplemental staff for a long list of duties. One and all concerned did a masterful job and deserve resounding accolades for their efforts.

The conference attracted some 1300+ delegates to downtown Calgary and provided a somewhat bewildering array of 49 sessions of Symposia (invited speakers) or Contributed Papers, in addition to three separate poster sessions of 60 at a time. There was information here for anyone with an interest or stake in the full range of wildlife topics

and issues. Various ancillary meetings and events were held, but one of the most popular was an inaugural performance by the ACTWS Basement Boogie Band consisting of Kirby Smith, Ken Ambrock, Al Boechler, Kim Lisgo, Shawn Leroux, Scott Harrison, Lee Foote, and Dave Snow. They had the place rockin' and the dance floor full.

The Chapter held its annual business meeting on September 21. Despite the heavy commitments to the TWS conference, a busy slate of business was conducted through the year. The Conservation Committee was active with issues associated with public access management and a questionable land deal made by the provincial government [spudgate]. In recognition of his significant contributions to the Chapter, the Scholarship Committee awarded the first Ian Ross Memorial Scholarship (formerly the ACTWS Undergraduate Scholarship). Members of Ian's family watched as the first recipient accepted her reward. The Executive also accepted a recommendation from the scholarship committee that each of the three scholarships be raised from \$1000 to \$1500.

In deference to the larger student competition, the ACTWS Best Student Oral and Best Student Poster Presentations were not awarded in 2004.

Bob Goddard Memorial Scholarship: Myra Chubak, Lakeland College (\$1500)

The first Ian Ross Memorial Scholarship: Erin Cameron, University of Alberta (\$1500)

ACTWS Post-graduate Scholarship: Lalenia Neufeld, University of Alberta. (\$1500)

William Rowan Award for Distinguished Service: Detlef Onderka, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (retired).

ACTWS Dedicated Service Award: Ian Ross (posthumous). Accepted by Andrew Ross, Ian's brother, on behalf of the Ross family.

Executive:

President: Kirby Smith

President-Elect: **Ernie Ewaschuk** (acclamation)

Sec.-Treas.: **Jan Ficht** (acclamation)

Director: **Brett Calverley, Lisa Wilkinson**

2nd term: Dale Eslinger, Christine Found,

2005

Sixteenth Annual Meeting, ACTWS was held March 10-12 in Nisku.

Best Student Oral Presentations: L. Shepard (1st) and M. Didowsky (2nd).

Best Student Poster Presentations: Cathy Shier, University of Alberta (1st), and S. Mullen (2nd)

Bob Goddard Memorial Scholarship: Ian Gazely. (\$1500)

Ian Ross Memorial Scholarship: Sarah Trefry (\$1500)

ACTWS Post-graduate Scholarship: Jackie Frair, University of Alberta. (\$1500)

William Rowan Award for Distinguished Service: Steven Herrero, University of Calgary (retired)

ACTWS Dedicated Service Award: Beth MacCallum, Bighorn Environmental

Executive:

President: Ernie Ewaschuk

President-Elect: **Terry Kowlachuk**

Sec.-Treas.: **Jan Ficht**

Director: **Jim Allen, Dave Scobie**

2nd term: Brett Calverley, Lisa Wilkinson

2006

Seventeenth Annual Meeting, ACTWS was held March 9-11 in Lethbridge.

Best Student Oral Presentations: (1st) and (2nd). [[if anyone can fill in the recipients, please send email to ACTWS webmaster]]

Best Student Poster Presentations: (1st) and (2nd) [[if anyone can fill in the recipients, please send email to ACTWS webmaster]]

Bob Goddard Memorial Scholarship: S. Morrison. (\$1500)

Ian Ross Memorial Scholarship: J. Arsenau (\$1500)

ACTWS Post-graduate Scholarship: Nate Webb, University of Alberta. (\$1500)

William Rowan Distinguished Service Award: Eldon Bruns, Alberta Fish and Wildlife, Rocky Mtn House.

ACTWS Dedicated Service Award: Ken Crutchfield, Alberta Fish and Wildlife, Edmonton.

Executive:

President: Terry Kowalchuk

President-Elect: **Anne Hubbs**

Sec.-Treas.: Shane Roersma

Director: **Simon Dyer, Robin Gutsell**

2nd term: Jim Allen, Dave Scobie

2007

Eighteenth Annual Meeting, ACTWS was held March 18-21 in Canmore.

Best Student Oral Presentations: Matthew Pyper, University of Alberta.

Best Student Poster Presentations: Nate Webb, University of Alberta..

Bob Goddard Memorial Scholarship: Jason Calvert, Lakeland College. (\$1500)

Ian Ross Memorial Scholarship: not awarded

ACTWS Post-graduate Scholarship: Justin Pitt, University of Alberta. (\$1500)

William Rowan Award for Distinguished Service: Margo Pybus, Alberta Fish and Wildlife, Edmonton.

ACTWS Dedicated Service Award: Dave Hobson, Alberta Fish and Wildlife, Edson.

Executive:

President: Anne Hubbs

President-Elect: Brad Taylor

Sec.-Treas.: Shane Roersma

Director: Tammy McMillan, Dave Scobie (3rd term)

2nd term: Simon Dyer, Robin Gutsell

2008

Nineteenth Annual Meeting, ACTWS was held February 28 – March 2 in Red Deer. The conference theme was "Hunting" Archaic or Conservation Necessity?" The ACTWS website took on a brand new look and was incorporated into the parent TWS template.

Best Student Oral Presentations: Matthew Pyper, UofA.

Best Student Poster Presentations: Matthew Pyper, UofA.
 Bob Goddard Memorial Scholarship: Vince Herron. (\$1500)
 Ian Ross Memorial Scholarship: Amy Wilker (\$1500)
 ACTWS Post-graduate Scholarship: Kyle Knoff (\$1500)
 William Rowan Award for Distinguished Service: Mark Boyce,
 University of Alberta.
 ACTWS Dedicated Service Award: Jan Ficht, Alberta Fish and Wildlife,
 Edson
 Executive:
 President: Brad Taylor
 President-Elect: Evie Merrill
 Sec.-Treas.: Karl Zimmer
 Director: Joe Litke, Jason Young (left for BC) Robin Gutsell
 (re-elected)
 2nd term: Tammy McMillan,

2009

The twentieth Annual Meeting, ACTWS was held March 6-8, 2009 in downtown Edmonton at the Delta Edmonton Centre Suite Hotel - the first chapter meeting to take place within a shopping mall (Edmonton Centre)! However, the interesting and well-balanced program easily kept the audience engaged and the mall was not a distraction.

The Chapter was thoroughly energized and participants were offered a full slate of papers and posters. One of the highlights was the panel discussion exploring the Land Use Framework and the changing roles of fisheries and wildlife professionals. The panel members were well prepared, spoke eloquently about the topic, and fielded questions well. It was one of the best panel discussions we have ever had. Dr Ed Bangs, US Fish and Wildlife Service, gave an interesting and entertaining update on the ongoing efforts to re-establish wolves in the Yellowstone region. Indeed, the day before the presentation, the US government downlisted the status of gray wolf and is evidence of the success of the original transfer (which included wolves from Alberta). The banquet evening was topped off with lively music from The Old Hippies and a successful auction. The UofA Student Chapter also was fully engaged in the meeting, including a mentor session (complete with a wildlife quiz) and movie screening. Activities were rounded out with a photo contest. All this in addition to a wide range of excellent presentations.

Best Student Oral Presentation: Sarah Lord, University of Alberta.
 Best Student Poster Presentation: Bogdan Cristescu, University of Alberta
 Bob Goddard Memorial Scholarship: Adam Moltzahn, Lethbridge Community College (\$1500)
 Ian Ross Memorial Scholarship: Randi Newton, University of Alberta (\$1500)
 ACTWS Post-graduate Scholarship: Bogdan Cristescu, U ofA (\$1500)
 William Rowan Award for Distinguished Service:

For the first time in Chapter history, the Awards committee saw fit to bestow two Rowan Awards in 2008:

Steven (Steve) Brechtel, Alberta Fish and Wildlife, Edmonton

AND Robert (Bob) Hudson, University of Alberta.

ACTWS Dedicated Service Award: Anne Hubbs, Alberta Fish and Wildlife, Rocky Mountain House.

Executive:
 President: Evie Merrill
 President-Elect: Dave Scobie
 Sec.-Treas.: Karl Zimmer
 Director: Scott Neilsen, Tammy McMillan (re-elected)
 2nd term: Joe Litke, Robin Gutsell
 Student Director: Corey Scobie

SPECIAL NOTE

Operation Migration is celebrating the 10,000th mile flown leading endangered Whooping cranes on their first migration

On this fall's journey south, (somewhere over Illinois) they will mark the 10,000th mile Operation Migration has flown – that's the equivalent of flying almost halfway around the world! To commemorate this monumental milestone they are promoting a "Give a WHOOP!" donation program. Your tax-deductible \$10 contribution will get you their newsletter and other benefits. Visit the [Give a WHOOP! website](http://www.operationmigration.org/GAWIandingpage.html) for all the details.

<http://www.operationmigration.org/GAWIandingpage.html>

ACTWS Annual Meeting

Annual meetings are a cherished event for our chapter. Scheduled in the spring, this gathering offers members an opportunity to interact with colleagues, exchange information in oral presentations, posters and workshops; to discuss some of the wildlife management issues that confront Alberta.

These meetings offer students a great opportunity to meet prospective employers and to learn of research opportunities.

Activities that are scheduled for our annual meeting include:

- An array of invited and presented research papers on wildlife and habitat themes
- Awards for best oral and poster presentation by a student
- Presentation of the William Rowan Distinguished Service Award and the ACTWS Dedicated Service Award
- Technical workshops
- Auction to benefit the Student Scholarship Fund
- Annual business meeting
- Chapter financial statement
- Presentation of graduate, undergraduate and technical scholarships



Why should you join?

- Learn new wildlife management techniques and skills
- Help influence wildlife management and policy
- Remain current about wildlife management trends and issues in Alberta
- Network with colleagues
- Learn of employment and research opportunities
- Share your research findings with peers
- Learn of student scholarship opportunities

Find out what's going on and who's doing what with Wildlife in Alberta!

For more information please contact:
**Alberta Chapter of
 The WILDLIFE Society**

Box 4990
 Edmonton, Alberta
 Canada, T6E 5G8
 Or ACTWS Home Page
<http://joomla.wildlife.org/Alberta/>

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D. Hobson, L. Engley, R. Stayne, S. Webb, C. Rasmussen, K. Kendell, M. Didkowsky, and A. Knopff



Brochure designed by Laurrie Starnie

You are invited to join...

**Alberta Chapter of
 The WILDLIFE Society**

What is the ACTWS?

Founded in 1988, the Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society (ACTWS) is a non-profit organization comprised of professionals and students in the field of wildlife biology and management. ACTWS is dedicated to wise stewardship of natural resources and to sound management practices of wildlife populations and habitat. Where possible, the Chapter will advise Albertans, the government, and industry about the value of wildlife and ecosystems and the various land use practices that affect our natural heritage.

Some of the wildlife issues in Alberta that ACTWS has become involved with include: the Suffield Reserve wild horses, commercialization of wildlife, sustainable agriculture, Loggerhead Shrike habitat retention, game farming and disease, bison grazing on crown land and Bow Valley management plans. The Alberta Chapter belongs to the parent organization The Wildlife Society.



ACTWS Members

Our members represent a broad cross-section of professionals (research scientists, biologists, technicians, managers, policy makers) and students. Members are associated with universities, government agencies, consultants, various non profit and private organizations, as well as industry. Professionals dealing with both terrestrial and aquatic systems are represented.



ACTWS Newsletters

As a chapter member, you will receive a quarterly newsletter (Alberta Wildlifer) that:

- discusses topical issues in wildlife management
- describes activities of major research projects, resource management agencies, and industry in Alberta
- provides an editorial by the President and an update of Chapter activities
- announces upcoming events, including conferences and symposia in Alberta and North America, dealing with wildlife research and management
- reviews books and publications
- includes a listing of current chapter members and their professional address & phone numbers (provided once/year)
- offers each chapter member a forum for you to express your own views and to bring to light issues that you feel affect natural resource management in Alberta



Rationale for ACTWS

Alberta's growing human population and increased level of resource use and extraction point to an urgent need to understand the effects these activities have on wildlife, habitat, and ecosystem integrity. It is essential that wildlife professionals exchange and communicate their thoughts to each other as well as to the public, government, and industry.

*"The challenge to us is to chart the ecological costs of doing business and to help people understand the currently understated value of Alberta's landscapes."
 - Lorne Fitch*

48th Annual Meeting of the Society of Environmental Biologists

Edmonton, AB

October 15-17, 2009

<http://www.cseb-scbe.org/page39/page39.html>

11th International Symposium on Environmental Issues and Waste Management in Energy and Mineral Production (SWEMP) 2009

Banff, Alberta

November 16-19, 2009

<http://www.mpes-cami-swemp.com/swemp2009.pdf>

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

21st ACTWS Annual Conference

March 11-14, 2010

Red Deer Lodge

4311 – 49th Avenue Red Deer, Alberta T4N 5Y7

Visit www.reddeerlodge.ca for a virtual tour of rooms and Conference facilities

Call for Papers, Conference Theme and more details to follow.

ACTWS Executive Contact List for 2009/10

Title	Name	Work Phone	Email
President	Evelyn Merrill		emerrill@ualberta.ca
President-Elect	Dave Scobie		
Past-President	Brad Taylor	403.562.3288	Brad.taylor@ab-conservation.com
Secretary-Treasurer	Karl Zimmer		Kzimm14@yahoo.com
Director	Robin Gutsell	780.644.1154	robin.gutsell@gov.ab.ca
Director	Tammy MacMillan	403.265.2885	tmacmillan@teraenv.com
Director	Joe Litke		jlitke@fieraconsulting.com
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