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Editor:
Kristie Derkson

The Alberta Wildlifer Official Newsletter of The Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society

The President's Message

Greetings to you all. I hope your fall has gone well and your freezer is good and full! Good news from across Canada – there is a new Ontario Chapter of TWS and new student chapters have popped up in British Columbia and Quebec. The Parent Society also got an earful this September about how closer ties with Canada can make us THE Wildlife Society in North America and benefit the wildlife across both the countries. The Canadian Section of TWS is having their summer meeting in Edmonton on 4 July 2010 so stay tuned. The UA student at Chapter is helping us go digital – putting records on our new web site but where they can be protected. We are urging them to go run for Chapter of the Year—they deserve it! Also, TWS gives out a number of awards each year and I know we have deserving members and groups in Alberta that we would put forth! Contact me and I can help provide you more information.

The Executive Board has been

working away this fall. Shortly you will receive an email requesting that you fill in a survey regarding your sentiments surrounding issues related to the potential hiring of an Executive Director position for the Chapter. If you recall we were given a task at the last AGM to look into the feasibility. There is some key feedback we need from you before moving any further, please so take the 5 minute it will take to fill it out. At the end of the survey there also are some general questions about how to improve the Chapter workings. This is our trial run for a new way of communicating better with the membership on important matters. Thanks to Blair Rippin and group for spearheading this and Layla for making it work!

Also, thanks to the efforts of Shevenell Webb we now have a stash of wonderful, new membership brochures- colorful and catchy. As of December we are having a Competitive Membership Drive with the person

recruiting the most members by our AGM recognized with a photography mystery prize and a free banquet ticket at the AGM this year. If you want some brochures to pass around at work, or to a local group, please let us know so can help you spread the word! Or go to the web site for the PDF.

Planning is underway for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Red Deer in March- our ACTWS 20th Annual Meeting. Dave

Scobie and crew are pulling together an excellent program – see highlights herein. This will be the first year we are trying to have an associated workshop on communication to follow up on Lorne Fitch's pleas. It will also be a time to celebrate a bit more of the history of the Chapter over the last 20 years. At this year's AGM, I also will be asking you to sign up as part of our evolving network for school talks- give back to your community by being invited to talk about wildlife or another of your passions – get ready to sign-up.

So I wish you all a happy holiday and see you in the New Year!!

Evie Merrill

ACTWS President



Message from the Editor

Happy Holidays to everyone! Hopefully the cold weather has allowed everyone to have a good winter thus far! Please look for the most recent information on our upcoming conference in March in this newsletter as well as our featured history section and Baydack's Banter for the Canadian perspective. I hope you enjoy the new format, and as always please email me with any suggestions, comments or concerns!

Kristie Derkson

Canadian Section Representative's Report

Baydack's Banter

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



The year is about to end, and each of us is no doubt winding things down for the holidays, and thinking ahead to our futures. The Wildlife Society is no different, with lots of bits and pieces being put into their places, and final details being added to another outstanding year. And the Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society also continues to move its agenda forward, with exciting and innovative ideas being advanced so that the Canadian voice is increasingly heard and recognized in 'representing and serving the professional community of scientists, managers, educators, technicians, planners, and others who work actively to study, manage, and conserve wildlife and its habitats worldwide.'

The Canadian Section has had another successful year, thanks largely to the dedicated efforts of an untiring Executive and many Committee Members. The Section is active on many fronts, and recently made a very positive and directed submission to TWS Council at the recent TWS Annual Conference in Monterey, California that focused on the Strategic Plan and its relationship to the Canadian wildlifer. As we all know, management of wildlife in Canada and the US is somewhat different, especially due to the larger human population base that supports more

extensive environmental programming south of the border. Not only are Canadian views being sought on a regular basis at the TWS Council table, but in *The Wildlife Professional*, a conscious effort is being made by new Managing Editor Lisa Moore (a Canadian by birth!) to ensure that the (often different) Canadian situation is accurately described.

Our Canadian Conservation Affairs Committee is liaising with TWS HQ staff, and particularly Policy Director Laura Bies, to find ways to better influence wildlife policy in Canada generally and across our provinces and territories. Our Membership Committee and Executive of the Canadian Section continue to find new wildlife professionals to serve TWS not only in the new Canadian Section but also in new Chapters and Student Chapters. As many of you know my view that the Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society is the crowning glory for our profession every year, I was delighted to bring forward and have accepted a recommendation that the venue for the Conference should be located in Canada at least once every 10 years as representative of the approximate percentage membership of Canadians in TWS. Council also agreed to change the rotation of the Annual Conference into a East-Central-West division, with the Canadian Section and Chapters having the option of submitting a bid to host in any of our country's geographical areas. But TWS and Canada have had a long association, and efforts to further cement the dialogue among those of us working in this field have been very positive indeed. Some interesting events took place in Monterey that add credence to the perspective that Canada is a necessary and important component of the TWS hierarchy.

So my assessment is that Canada does

matter to TWS. Connected to this feeling, however, is that we in Canada who believe in The Wildlife Society must also redouble our efforts to put forward Canadian perspectives for all of TWS members to hear. I believe that the more commentary, viewpoints, criticism, and suggestions that are generated by Canadian members about the relevance of/to The Wildlife Society/Canada, the more collaborative and functional our relationship will become. Please do not hesitate to express your views – whether in a Letter to the Editor of *The Wildlife Professional*, a posting on The Wildlife Society Blog, communications through the TWS Facebook, Twitter, or LinkedIn sites, or for those like me not necessarily keeping up with the new electronic approaches, a simple phone call or email to Michael Hutchins (Michael@wildlife.org) or myself (Baydack@cc.umanitoba.ca). We need your input, and with that input, we WILL achieve a stronger and more relevant Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society that will do even a better job

'to foster excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education among wildlife professionals in Canada'

Red Deer Lodge,
Red Deer Alberta
March 12-14, 2010

Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society Conference 2010

The Red Deer Lodge has a block of rooms reserved for the Conference that will be held until February 9, 2010 at the following rates (taxes not included),

Poolside Non Smoking 2 Queen	129.00
Courtyard Non Smoking 2 Queen	119.00
Tower Non Smoking King	119.00
Tower Smoking King	139.00
Executive Suite Living room (Jr. Suite)	139.00
Tower Smoking 2 Queen	109.00
Tower Non Smoking 2 Queen	109.00
Courtyard Non Smoking Queen and Sofa Bed	129.00

When making reservations you must mention that you are with Wildlife Society – Alberta Chapter for these special Conference rates.

By Phone: The Red Deer Lodge can be called directly at 403-346-8841 or 800-661-1657. A reservation agent will assist with making the reservation.

Internet: Reservations can be made online at www.reddeerlodge.ca. The name of the conference must be specified in order to receive the extended group rates.

Registration Fees check the website for details <http://joomla.wildlife.org/Alberta>

Membership Dues (current membership required to attend conference):

Regular Membership - \$20.00
Student Membership - \$5.00

Regular Members: Early Registration (before January 31, 2010) = \$130.00
Late Registration (on-site) = \$150.00

Student Members: Early Registration (before January 31, 2010) = \$40.00
Late Registration (on-site) = \$55.00

Additional Evening Banquet & Entertainment Tickets (March 13, 2010) = \$50.00/ticket

Evening banquet tickets include dinner, guest speaker, silent auction, and after dinner entertainment.

Cancellation Policy:

Registration fees (minus a \$25 administration fee) will be refunded if written cancellation is received prior to January 18, 2010.

Student Travel Allowances

are available for those travelling in groups – contact Karl Zimmer for details
(kzimm14@yahoo.com)

Plenary Session –
“Disease Agents Threatening Alberta Wildlife and Their Habitats”.

The session with focus on Chronic Wasting Disease research and other vectors, stay tuned for details on speakers and topics

Red Deer Lodge,
Red Deer Alberta
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Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society Conference 2010

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM

Type of presentation: Paper _____ Poster _____

Equipment required: Slide projector _____ Overhead projector _____

PowerPoint Projector _____ Other (specify) _____

Title of abstract submitted:

Name of person submitting _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ PC/Zip _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____

Name of presenter (if different from submitter) _____

Is the presenter a student? (Yes/No) _____

Send original abstract (**preferably by e-mail**) and biosketch of **presenter** with this form -**OR** – Send original abstract (disk), hard copy and biosketch with this form to:

Christine Found, Fish & Wildlife, ASRD
#111, 4999-98 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T6B 2X3
Email: christine.found@gov.ab.ca

- DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ABSTRACTS IS **FEB. 12, 2010**

Call for Papers and Posters:

You are invited to submit titles and abstracts for presentations at the Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society Conference. Presentation on wildlife management, research, monitoring, species biology, and new techniques are all welcome. Presentations will be 20 minutes in length, including introduction of the presenter and time for questions. You are also invited to submit abstracts for poster presentations. All abstracts will be printed in the program booklet. A \$100 prize is awarded to the best student paper and best student poster. Please submit the Abstract Submission Form with each abstract, and include the following information:

1. Lead author name, affiliation, mailing address, phone number(s), and e-mail address
2. Names and affiliations of additional authors
3. Title of abstract
4. ABSTRACT (You must use the following guidelines and example; please note that the abstract you will submit will be the final that is printed in the program booklet).
5. Biosketch

Abstract Format Guidelines:

- Use Microsoft Word
- Hard copies of abstracts must be typed single-spaced within a 10 X 16 cm space. Use a one-line spaced between the title and the text block.
- Font size should be 10 point, Arial Font preferred.
- No hard copy returns within a paragraph.
- Abstract should be a distillation of the purpose, methods, results and conclusions, and should not exceed 250 words.
- Geographic location of the work should appear in the abstract or title.
- Format Example (measures 10 X 16 cm)

Foruew, E.Z. and U.R. Krasey. A NEW WAY TO CONDUCT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT IN THE BOREAL FORESTS OF ALBERTA. Wildlife Science Group, Alberta Natural Resources Service, #625 Ivory Towers, Edmonton, AB T6J 1E9 and Department of Regional Perspectives, Athabasca University, Athabasca, AB T4T 7K3.

Biosketch Guidelines:

- Follow first four bullets of abstract format guidelines
- Include pertinent background information on presenter
- Limit to three sentences

Abstract Submission Guidelines:

- The abstract submission form is included on the following page and also can be found at the Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society Website: <http://joomla.wildlife.org/alberta>
- E-mail (preferred): Submit the abstract, other required information and the abstract by email.
- No e-mail: Submit a disk with the required information, a hard copy and the abstract submission form.
- Clearly label all submitted information with the pertinent information (i.e. name of lead author, abstract title, and lead author contact phone number and email address).
- **Send abstract submission form by Feb. 12, 2010 to:**
Christine Found
Fish & Wildlife, ASRD
#111, 4999-98 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T6B 2X3
Email: christine.found@gov.ab.ca
Phone: 780-415-1328; Fax: 780-422-0528

Abstracts will be acknowledged within three days (unless received during the Christmas break, in which case receipt will be acknowledged by Jan 5, 2010), and authors will be advised of the final decision on their abstract (and the session in which it will be given) by February 20, 2010.

Guidelines for Poster Presentations:

Posters must be designed to fit a 4-ft. high x 7-ft, 9 inch wide free-standing, cloth-covered poster board. This board will be the only supporting device available. Business cards or small leaflet literature for distribution may be inserted in an envelope and affixed to the board. Posters may be attached to the boards by push pins or velcro. Tape is not allowed. Please bring your own mounting supplies. Posters may be prepared as a single poster or as several smaller sections mounted together.

Please go to the website for Advice on Production of Posters



Red Deer Lodge,
Red Deer Alberta
March 12-14, 2010

Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society Conference 2010

Best Student Presentation and Poster Awards

Awards will be presented for the Best Student Presentation and Best Student Poster at the Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society's Annual Conference in Red Deer, Alberta, March 12-14, 2010. A \$100 prize is awarded to the best student paper and \$100 prize is awarded to the best student poster. Award recipients are recognized at the conference banquet on March 13th. Recipients will also have their picture appear in the Alberta Chapter newsletter.

Eligibility

An individual is eligible if he/she is:

- 1) A member of The Wildlife Society,
- 2) A current student or a recent graduate (degree received during 2008), and
- 3) Senior author and presenter of the accepted paper or poster.

Questions may be directed to:

Jim Schieck

Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute
Alberta Research Council
Bag 4000
Vegreville AB
T9C 1T4



Membership Drive and Contest

Attention all members: in an effort to increase membership and draw in folks from new parts of the profession, the Executive is staging an ACTWS membership drive. We are hoping that everyone can get involved, so to encourage that, we are holding a Membership Drive Contest. The member who can bring in the most new members will win a prize. The winner can choose either a photograph of their choice by well-known photographer and biologist Gordon Court OR the chance to spend time with the man himself in the field where he will give you pointers on how to take your own awesome photographs! If you get someone new to sign up, please ask them to let us know who brought them in. We'll have more information in the next newsletter.



The Alberta Chapter annually presents academic student awards to promote interest and reward excellence in the field of wildlife conservation. Applicants must have a demonstrated interest in wildlife management. Student submissions for each award category are reviewed by ACTWS member committees. Successful candidates will be notified at the conference in March 2010.

Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society Post-Graduate Award

Amount- \$1,500

Eligibility: This award is open to students planning a career in wildlife management and accepted into a full-time post-graduate degree program at an Alberta university in Biological Sciences, Forest Science, Animal Sciences, Zoology, or related field of study (must be enrolled full time in September 2010).

Submission Requirements

- Transcript of marks for undergraduate and graduate courses.
- Outline of proposed thesis work.
- Summary of involvement with the Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society.
- Summary of volunteer or work experience in the wildlife field.
- Letter of reference from a faculty member or other professional biologist.
- Typed essay (300 words or fewer) outlining career goals and relevance to this award.

Robert (Bob) K. Goddard Memorial Scholarship

Amount- \$1,500

Eligibility: This award is open to students that are presently enrolled in a technical program in the Province of Alberta, focusing on wildlife biology or management, and will be enrolled fulltime in September 2010 (participating on a co-op work term is also eligible). Program examples include, but are not limited to: Renewable Resource Option (NAIT), Fish and Wildlife Major (Lakeland), Renewable Resource Management Diploma or Fish and Wildlife Technology Certificate (LCC). Please note that programs in conservation enforcement are not eligible for this award.

Submission Requirements

- Transcript of marks for courses taken and a list of courses planned for remainder of program, if any.
- Summary of involvement with the Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society.
- Summary of volunteer or work experience in the wildlife field.
- Letter of reference from a faculty member or other professional biologist.
- Typed essay (300 words or fewer) outlining career goals and relevance to this award.

Ian Ross Memorial Scholarship

Amount- \$1,500

Eligibility: This award is open to students planning a career in wildlife management and preparing to enter the final year of a 4-year Alberta University program in Biological Sciences, Forest Sciences, Animal Sciences, Zoology, or related field of study, in September 2010. The award funds will be disbursed upon confirmation of registration for the next year of full-time enrollment.

Submission Requirements

- Transcript of marks for courses taken and a list of courses planned for their final year.
- Summary of involvement or experience with the Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society.
- Summary of volunteer or work experience in the wildlife field.
- Letter of reference from a faculty member or other professional biologist.
- Typed essay (300 words or fewer) outlining career goals and relevance to this award

Send applications electronically to Tammy MacMillan at:

tmacmillan@teraenv.com

Transcripts can be mailed to:

PO Box 636

Hanna, Alberta

TOJ 1P0

Attn: Scholarship Committee

Applications must be received by March 1, 2010.

For further information, contact Tammy MacMillan, Awards Committee Chair at tmacmillan@teraenv.com or visit the Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society Website at <http://www.albertadirectory.net/actws>.



by Blair Rippin



ACTWS membership on the Alberta Pacific Forest Industry Inc's (Alpac)

Forest Landscape Advisory Group (LAG)

In 1992 Alpac established a public advisory group designed to provide the company with input from a wide range of stakeholders relative to their proposed forestry operation and pulp mill. The group included members from forestry quota holders operating within Alpac's Forest Management Area (FMA), government regulators (including Forestry, Fish and Wildlife, and Environment), first nations people living within or near the FMA, and a number of NGOs, many of which represented groups with environmental concerns. Also present were a number of researchers (largely from universities) with concerns about the potential effect on the boreal ecosystem.

The original group went through considerable evolutionary changes in membership during the time the mill was being built and became operational as well as during the planning and initiation of forest cutting phases. Alpac was very open to concerns and suggestion from the group and incorporated as much as possible in their cutting plans and plant operation. Once Alpac became fully operational the advisory group's function changed. The group became somewhat smaller and the focus became more of an information exchange focus for Alpac where any operational changes were discussed, research results were presented, and future plans could be scrutinized. At present the group is called the "Alpac Forest Landscape Advisory Group" or LAG. Alberta Chapter of TWS became a member in the early 2000's but many of the members still represent many of the original stakeholders.

Development of the Alpac overall forest management plan and their annual operating plans have taken considerable time and effort but close collaboration with Alberta Forest Service has resulted in plans that are readily endorsed by both the company and government regulators as well as the members of LAG.

Alpac's basic premise in fiber harvest is to emulate as closely as possible the natural forest disturbance regime and operate within the natural range of variability, proceeding on a sustainable basis. To show they are serious about that premise, in 2007 Alpac became certified under FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) which is an international organization that sets out rigid criteria indicating the products produced by a company are the results of a sustainable and environmentally sound operation. The certification is valid only for 5 years at a time, after which the company must show they continue to apply the necessary criteria for continued certification. Alpac is presently undergoing the recertification process.

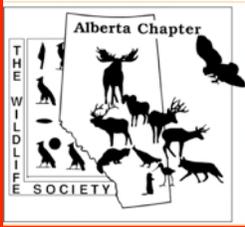
Throughout its tenure, Alpac has encouraged and funded considerable environmental research projects relevant to their effect on various aspects of the boreal ecosystem. As well they maintained several researchers on staff. Some of these studies include: effects on various wildlife species of different forest cutting pattern designs; major participation in woodland caribou research program; participation in the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Program; collaboration with Duck Unlimited regarding boreal wetlands investigations; and numerous studies into forest fire effects on boreal systems. Their findings have greatly assisted in the design of cutting patterns, log hauling, and roading design to minimize their environmental footprint.

Alpac has been very open to public scrutiny of all their operational processes and has been willing to develop operational changes when research results warranted. The Alpac pulping process uses water from the nearby Athabasca River, much of which (90 % of the intake) flows through a very elaborate and effective filtration, aeration, and contaminant removal system on its way back to the river.

Other attributes worthy of mention include their development of a satisfactory working relationship with the various saw mill companies (quota holders) that operate within Alpac's large FMA. Their dealings with local aboriginal communities within the FMA has resulted in satisfactory and cooperative approaches to their concerns. At present Alpac is working closely with numerous petroleum companies that cut more timber on the FMA than does Alpac. Timber salvage and roading are of prime concern.

A recent major decline in world pulp prices has also resulted in some changes to Alpac's operation including an increase in electricity generation through bark-burning steam generators, allowing them to contribute significantly to the Alberta power grid.

Working as the ACTWS representative on the Alpac LAG has been interesting, educational, and encouraging in that the company has shown a true willingness to perform its operations in an environmentally responsible manner. I feel ACTWS can be assured that Alpac has done many of "the right things" and is a good example of proper land stewardship.



Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society History Highlights

This column will offer some of the highlights from past activities of the Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society. It's a retrospective view of our first 20 years showing themes and patterns in wildlife management and conservation, as reflected through our Chapter activities since 1989. A more complete history is provided online at the ACWTS web site, as are all of the previous ACTWS newsletters. Anyone can provide input – just send your suggestions to Margo Pybus!

The Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society dawned clear and bright with an eye to the future. Professional wildlife practitioners looked forward to building an organization that would serve the needs of its members, to the benefit of wild species and spaces. A solid foundation came from the guidelines of The Wildlife Society (TWS), an organization well established throughout the U.S. and with a long history of providing profile, continuity, and information to the wide range of activities and professions engaged in working with wildlife.

Chapter founders Morley Barrett, Mike Dorrance, Bill Glasgow, and Bill Samuel were cognizant of gleaning a broad range of members, reflecting the Alberta milieu of wildlife professionals. The first election slate for the ACTWS Executive included nominees from industry, corporate NGOs, national parks, universities, and provincial and federal wildlife departments. Communication among wildlifers was identified early as a gaping hole that needed to be filled. The Chapter responded with the first ACTWS Annual Meeting, held in January 1990. Sessions included presentations on humane trapping, wildlife diseases, bison management, endangered species, international waterfowl management, and a new strategic plan for Alberta. A wide-ranging discussion at the business meeting set the stage and the direction of the fledgling chapter. Committees were set up to guide the ongoing administrative needs and ACTWS activities. A newsletter was established as the glue to hold it all together and keep members in touch throughout the year.

As evidence that the ACTWS Founding Fathers {{why are there never any Founding Mothers??}} were on the right track: 20 years later the Chapter maintains the diverse makeup of member professions, many of the topics highlighted at the meeting in 1990 were persistent issues to this day, and the Chapter framework has served members well and informed old and new generations of wildlifers.

