

THE ALBERTA WILDLIFER

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 3

AUGUST 1, 2013

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **ACTWS says good bye to Kristina Norstrom**
- **Golden plover discovery**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Remembering Kristina Norstrom	2
Membership portal news	3
The future wildlife professional	4
Golden plovers	6
Angler's help fish post-flood	8
ACTWS committee news	9
Tribute to Chuck Lacy	10
Conservation committee report	12
Upcoming events	15

ACTWS President's Report

Dee Patriquin

So much for the lazy days of summer! Strategic planning, conference planning and committee activities have kept the executive hopping over the past few months, as you'll see in this newsletter. This summer dramatically illustrated the significant challenges we face as environmental professionals, and the need to adapt our organization to support and inform policy makers and the public. Strategic planning has taken on new meaning in this context. The response to the floods in Southern Alberta also demonstrated the generosity in our communities, something our Chapter also experienced this spring. As many of you know, a tragic helicopter accident affected two members of our community this spring. Support for Simon and Kristina's family was overwhelming and speaks to the close community of wildlife professionals here, and across the Canadian Section and TWS. Our planning aims, above all, to sustain a strong and resilient

community. You'll see some changes in the newsletter that reflect efforts to improve our communication about Chapter activities and provide opportunities to participate in them. Some highlights of those activities follow below.

Strategic Planning: The strategic plan will outline key Chapter activities for the next five years and envision what the Chapter can provide to members, given current resources, professional context and member interests. After our first planning meeting in June, we identified priority service areas based on internal review of capacity, and in August we'll be sending out a questionnaire to see what services you would like the Chapter to provide to members. We've identified what we do well and where we could improve – you'll see some changes in Chapter operations this year based on that discussion, including a new members' database for managing your own membership. Our committees are doing some great work in conservation aware-

ness and policy development that we realized wasn't being relayed back to members consistently – regular newsletter reports will keep people informed of conservation issues and efforts. Next steps – analysis of the questionnaire this fall, and completion of a draft plan for member review prior to our next AGM in March 2014. Watch for the questionnaire notice in August and a draft plan prior to the conference in March!

2014 Conference: Kashif and his team have been busy securing a venue in Jasper for March 7-9th, 2014, and a plenary topics should soon be announced. Kashif has pulled together some great ideas for workshop options, student involvement and the plenary – we're looking forward to an interesting and fun program! Watch for email notices on the plenary topic and registration details.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!



Remembering Kristina Norstrom

By

Barb Maile

This article was originally written for the TWS.

Kristina Norstrom was killed in a helicopter crash on May 29. Simon Slater, another Fish and Wildlife biologist, was injured, and the pilot was killed.

Illustration
by Kristina



Kristina started working with Fish and Wildlife as an Area Biologist in March 2008. She was a consummate biologist and boundless advocate for wildlife, mentally and physically a hard worker, was the first to volunteer for new projects and assist colleagues in her Area and across the province.

Kristina had a thirst for knowledge combined with an astounding ability to retain everything. She was a wealth of information on a wide range of topics - if she didn't know a particular answer, she would find the answer before she completed a meeting or conversation – indispensable to our wildlife group! She loved field work and spent many hours conducting wildlife surveys (ungulate surveys, caribou monitoring, amphibians, colonial waterbirds, snowshoe hare transects, sharp-tailed grouse, barred owl) or volunteering with Fisheries colleagues on their sturgeon program and index netting. Provincially, Kristina provided insight and leadership through multiple task groups aimed at developing or improving upon sensitive species guidelines, riparian best management practices, and Forestry ground rules – ensuring that Alberta wildlife had a strong voice in the boreal systems she worked in.

September 11, 1973—May 29, 2013



Kristina had just returned from the Western States & Provinces Deer & Elk Workshop in Montana with a few colleagues and was looking forward to being on several provincial game management teams.

She took on anything and enjoyed every aspect of her work and life. Much of her personal time was spent enjoying the outdoors - camping, canoeing, hiking, exploring – or working on her acreage. The rest of the time she was reading, constantly learning!

Kristina was a quiet individual but after a few minutes, you easily recognized her abundant qualities and knowledge. She was a gentle and caring person and that combined with her wit and generosity will be greatly missed by her many friends and colleagues.

The ACTWS Pays Tribute to Kristina

By Lisa Wilkinson

Owing to Kristina’s quiet and unassuming nature, many people may have been unaware of the many contributions she made to the ACTWS. Most recently, she was the co-editor of the newsletter; a position that had been difficult to fill but one she accepted with enthusiasm. I greatly miss working with Kristina and will remember her dedication, resourcefulness, reliability, and camaraderie.

In recognition of Kristina’s many years of volunteering for the ACTWS, the executive has decided to name the Dedicated Service Award after Kristina.

In addition, the executive is developing plans for an annual event to celebrate wildlife, and show why wildlife professionals are willing to take risks to protect wild species and their habitats. The event will be named in honour of Kristina

and Simon Slater. We are in the early stages of planning, and are considering holding a bioblitz style event in conjunction with the Beaver Hills Initiative, to be held in the winter.

Stay tuned for details, and anyone interested in helping with the event can contact me.



Photos from Kristina’s time with Ducks Unlimited

ACTWS Membership Portal soon to be launched!

The membership portal is an online member database designed to ensure up-to-date communication between the chapter and its members. The membership portal will be linked to the existing website and will soon be your one-stop-shop for membership renewals, conference and other event registrations. Key functions include 24/7 secured access to allow individuals to browse and update their membership profile with ACTWS. This includes checking their membership status and renewal date but also quick and easy updates to change their contact information (i.e., email address). Members will also soon receive automated email reminders when their membership dues are about to expire.

The membership portal will also allow the chapter to more effectively reach out to its members through quicker access to current email distribution lists and provide a more timely response to the membership on timely issues.

Be sure to look for the official launch coming soon!

By
Shevenell
Webb

The Future Wildlife Professional

Thirty years ago, the majority of wildlife professionals grew up hunting, fishing and trapping, likely doing these activities without much thought on their way to/from school. Many folks were able to park their snowmobile outside and even store their gun in their locker until the end of the day. Today, metal detectors, cameras, guards and drug-sniffing dogs are more common sights at schools and we are battling the nature-deficit disorder in an ever-increasing urban society. In the past, wildlife professionals gained many of the skills they needed from living a country life, but today, curriculums and life style trends are

different. How will these changes impact the wildlife profession?

The Wildlife Society (TWS) recognized the need to evaluate the future of the wildlife profession, especially given the massive baby boomer retirements expected to come in the near future. A 2004 survey of state fish and wildlife agencies in the United States found that 50% of employees, most of which held leadership positions, were expected to retire by 2015. These statistics have helped spur research and planning discussions, such as **The Wildlife Society Blue Ribbon Panel Report on The Future of the Wildlife Profession: implications for training the next generation of wildlife professionals**. Select members from the wildlife profession were invited to attend this two-day workshop to discuss the demographic changes in society and the profession, as well as the education curriculum, in order to create recommendations that would maintain the future of the wildlife profession. The detailed report identified many challenges and interesting findings useful for helping create better interdisciplinary curriculums moving forward. It doesn't worry me that more of our recruits come from urban backgrounds and don't hunt or fish; many of these young people are eager for knowledge and the romantic 'biologist catching wolves' and 'getting back to nature' lifestyle is certainly a selling point for many. Many students are surprisingly open-minded when presented with a fresh viewpoint and hands on application. Perhaps this is not unique to our profession, but one of the biggest challenges is the growing list of skills necessary to become a good wildlife professional - employers want to recruit students who do GIS, are excellent at communicating across a

The Wildlife Society Blue Ribbon Panel

FINAL REPORT

The Future of the Wildlife Profession



AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR TRAINING THE
NEXT GENERATION OF WILDLIFE PROFESSIONALS



The Future Wildlife Professional

continued...

broad suite of stakeholders, are team players, need to be able to change a tire or catch a bear but also be able to analyze data and write a good report, and have the basic foundation of ecology and theory. Oh and I forgot, the field is very competitive and the pay is dismal compared to other professions with similar years of education. I'll never forget an important conversation I had with a mentor who discouraged me initially from the wildlife profession, being brutally honest about the requirements and returns. His advice was bang on, but I'm glad I persevered.

We focus so much on the challenges that perhaps it's easy to forget about the rewards and successes in the wildlife profession. I was really happy that the TWS Blue Panel Report highlighted the importance of mentoring, which played a critical role in sparking my interest and enthusiasm in wildlife ecology. The Wildlife Society, including student chapters, has provided me with various forms of mentorship or networking opportunities through the years, especially

important to hook me early in my career. But even today, I highly value my membership and interaction with the Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society. We're very lucky to have many retired members still active in the ACTWS; I always look forward to seeing them at the annual meetings and hearing their jokes and stories. I think even as we age in our careers, we always have something to give and receive in terms of mentorship. Some of my best experiences have been outside of a classroom or office and I encourage others to seek opportunities for continued learning in their careers. Not only will this have a lasting effect on other individuals, but it can really make our profession stronger.

The TWS Blue Ribbon Report can be found at: <http://joomla.wildlife.org/documents/blue.ribbon.panel.final.report.pdf>

2014 ACTWS Annual Meeting

- March 7-9, 2014
- Sawridge Inn, Jasper

Mark your calendars!

Mystery Photo



Can you identify this bird?

Answer on last page

By
**Sandi
 Robertson**

American Golden Plover Discovery!

There's a new breeding bird in Alberta! The American-Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) was discovered on Caw Ridge, near Grande Cache. Caw Ridge is known for having one of the largest herds of mountain goats in Alberta and while assisting goat researchers in 2009, a Fish & Wildlife Biologist from Grande Prairie observed American-Golden Plovers on the ridge. He mentioned the sighting to the goat researchers whose response was that they see the plovers every season and assumed they were passing through on migration. But this sighting was long after migration should have been over. The sighting prompted the biologist to further investigate the presence of American-Golden Plover on

Caw Ridge in Alberta. Albeit a small population, nevertheless very exciting! Crews returned in July to try to locate chicks and determine hatching success, as well as examine nest contents and conduct micro-habitat analysis.

Now that breeding was confirmed, collecting more information about this population was warranted. Biologists were interested to know where these birds spend the winter and if they were breeding on nearby ridges. In an attempt to find some answers, biologists returned to Caw in 2012. Fewer birds were observed than the previous year, but biologists managed to capture 3 adult males and attach geolocators (a small de-

"Now that breeding was confirmed, collecting more information about this population was warranted."

Caw Ridge.

The following summer (2010), biologists from the Grande Prairie Fish & Wildlife office went to Caw Ridge to search for American-Golden Plovers. They found 3 pairs of plovers acting unmistakably territorial; although they did not find nests or young. Despite not finding direct evidence of breeding they felt confident the birds were breeding on the ridge because of their behaviour and the timing. But more evidence was necessary. In June 2011, a large crew was assembled to conduct an intensive survey of Caw. The entire ridge was surveyed for plovers and signs of breeding (i.e. nests and chicks). The crew found 9 individuals and 5 territories with nests containing eggs! This confirmed that American-Golden Plovers are breeding and nesting on

vice that measures and stores light level data which is used to calculate latitude and longitude) to determine their migratory patterns. The crew was lucky enough to find one returning plover with a geocator and capture him the following summer (June 2013). The device has been sent for analysis and biologists are eagerly awaiting the results.

Sulphur Ridge, 20 km north of Caw Ridge, was thought to be suitable for plovers because of its similarities to Caw, was also surveyed in 2012. Breeding pairs of American-Golden Plovers were discovered on Sulphur too! In 2013, biologists returned to Sulphur to attempt to capture plovers and attach geolocators. They failed in their attempts to capture, but 9 adult plovers, 1 nest with 4 eggs, and 1 chick were found.

American Golden Plover Discovery! continued

Discovering American-Golden Plovers adds to the list of rare, irreplaceable, and magnificent species, such as woodland caribou, grizzly bear and mountain goat, on Caw Ridge. Sadly, Caw Ridge is under increasing pressure from humans. Caw Ridge contains significant coal deposits which are coveted by coal companies and the impact from unrestricted off-highway vehicle recreation is also a concern. Caw and Sulphur Ridges are unique in that they become snow-free much sooner than adjacent ridges and

mountain complexes in the area making them important habitats to the plants and wildlife they support. Currently Fish & Wildlife is considering how to status the American-Golden Plover, conducting further study of the population, and working to conserve its habitat.



ESRD notice
July 10, 2013

Alberta's Anglers Asked to Assist with Post-Flood

Recovery of Fish Populations

The recent flooding in southern Alberta likely has detrimental consequences for fish populations in flowing waters. In addition, the in-water works being undertaken to restore infrastructure and ensure public safety will place further stress on fish. While it is too soon to measure effects on fish populations, mortality of juvenile and adult fish, including loss of fry produced by spawning this spring is expected. All fish species are likely affected to some degree. Of

tinue to have an important role in conserving our fish. In order to facilitate the rapid recovery of fish populations affected by the flooding, reducing further mortality of fish is very important. Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development is asking anglers to assist with the recovery of fish populations by voluntarily releasing all fish caught from specified flowing waters for the remainder of the 2013/14 fishing season, so they can survive to spawn again. Further, to minimize

"Of particular concern are the effects on native fish species already at risk, such as westslope cutthroat trout...."

particular concern are the effects on native fish species already at risk, such as westslope cutthroat trout, bull trout and lake sturgeon. On a positive note, however, periodic floods help rejuvenate and maintain productive fish habitat in streams, resulting in longer-term benefits. It is common for fish populations to recover and even increase in the years following a flood. Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development will be conducting surveys of fish populations in waters affected by the flood in order to assess the situation. This information will be key in making sound decisions about how best to manage these fisheries in the future.

In the meantime, and especially following such an event, Alberta's anglers con-

tinue to have an important role in conserving our fish. In order to facilitate the rapid recovery of fish populations affected by the flooding, reducing further mortality of fish is very important. Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development is asking anglers to assist with the recovery of fish populations by voluntarily releasing all fish caught from specified flowing waters for the remainder of the 2013/14 fishing season, so they can survive to spawn again. Further, to minimize

the unintentional mortality of hooked fish, anglers are also asked to avoid the use of all bait (including maggots) in those same waters. This request applies to the following waters (please refer to the *2013 Alberta Guide to Sportfishing Regulations* for maps of the management areas):

- All flowing waters in Management Area ES1
- All flowing waters in Management Area ES2 upstream of the Forestry Trunk Road
- In Management Area PP1:
 - o Bow River from Highway 24 downstream to Highway 36
 - o Oldman River from Secondary Rd. 509 downstream to Highway 36

Anglers Asked to Assist with Fish Recovery *continued...*

- In Management Area PP2, the Red Deer River from Dickson Dam downstream to Highway 27

Another concern arising from the flooding is the opportunity it creates for movement of unwanted non-native, invasive fish species (e.g. goldfish and carp) into new habitats. In order to assist in determining the extent to which unwanted species may have relocated, anglers are requested to report observations or captures of non-native, invasive fish species by phoning the Environment Hotline (1-800-222-6514).

The support of anglers in this challenging time will help ensure Alberta's fisheries are sustained and thrive into the future.



ACTWS Committee Reports

In addition to the Conservation Committee Report, future issues of the newsletter will feature reports from other committees to keep you up to date on your chapter's activities. Below is the first installment from the Awards Committee Chair. In the meantime, here is a list of committees and the people who lead them. Please contact them if you have questions or would like to be involved.

• Student Reps	Katrina Jansen & Angela Rideout	amrideou@ualberta.ca
• Awards	Shevenell Webb	shevenellm@yahoo.com
• Conservation	Ken Crutchfield	kvcrutch@telus.net
• Membership	Robin Gutsell	Robin.gutsell@gov.ab.ca
• Scholarships	Tammy MacMillan	tmacmillan@teraenv.com
• Information & Education	Lisa Wilkinson	Lisa.wilkinson@gov.ab.ca
• Website	Layla Neufeld	lneufeld@gmail.com
• Newsletter	Lisa Wilkinson	Lisa.wilkinson@gov.ab.ca

Awards Committee *by Shevenell Webb, Chair*

The roles of the Awards Committee include the following:

- recognize outstanding contributions to the research, management, or conservation of wildlife and their habitats
- initiate and solicit nominations of ACTWS members for Chapter awards, including the ACTWS Dedicated Service, William Rowan Distinguished Service and Best Wildlife Publication (popular and technical) Awards.

Please contact Shevenell at shevenellm@yahoo.com if interested in joining the committee or submitting ideas

Tribute to Chuck Lacy

By
Kirby
Smith

**Charles H.
Lacy
1933-2013**

On Saturday, June 22, Charles Lacy died of a sudden heart attack at home with his wife at his side.

Born in 1933, the son of Harper Lacy and Myrtle Norling Lacy, Charles spent his boyhood on the prairies of South Dakota, hunting and sketching the great flights of ducks and geese on their annual migrations. His intense fascination with wild birds and mammals led naturally to two university degrees specializing in biology (Iowa State). Later after completing military service, he traveled over much of western Canada, the U.S and Alaska, studying and observing wildlife.

He was hired as Provincial Biologist for Ducks Unlimited in Manitoba in 1960. He and Marjorie met in Winnipeg and were married in 1964. In



1966 he transferred to Edmonton where he became Alberta's first D.U biologist. It was in Edmonton that he became a naturalized Canadian citizen. Through all these years he continued drawing and painting until, after eleven years with D.U., he left to commence a new career in art.

They moved first to Hinton, Alberta, and then in 1975 purchased land in the foothills west of Edson where he built a log home and established his art studio. This became his base of operations for

countless trips into the Willmore Wilderness Area and Jasper National Park where he photographed and sketched big game animals in their natural landscapes. Marjorie raised Tennessee Walking horses and the two of them would often make the two day ride to Glacier Pass in Willmore Wilderness where Chuck took several good bighorn rams and mountain caribou. He studied with the noted artists Robert Lougheed and Clarence Tilenius, and continued to read and study independently, developing an impressive library on painting, art and artists.

His work was exhibited in prestigious shows and competitions in Canada and the United States during the heyday of wildlife art during the seventies, eighties and early nineties. His paintings

now grace homes and offices throughout Canada and the United States, many owned by naturalists, hunters and wildlife professionals who know intimately the subjects he portrays.

He said, "It is becoming increasingly difficult to experience the

beauty, peace and solitude that only wild lands can provide. Many will never have that opportunity. I hope that my art can preserve for others those things that have given me so much pleasure and also help save them from further depletion."

For a period of time he fed white-tailed deer in his corral and from his camper-blind, sketched the facial and tail hair patterns which allowed him to identify each individual. He kept records of which fawns belonged to which does, who survived and who died from year to year and

Tribute to Chuck Lacy *Continued....*

this provided the only available population demographics of white-tails in west-central Alberta based on a sketched-recapture database. In addition, bucks would often drop their antlers en route to the corral feed station and Chuck had several collections from the same animals showing antler development from yearling to 7 or 8 years old.

Chuck remained interested in wildlife management and would ask about conferences and research. I once took advantage of this interest when Alberta hosted the Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council meetings in Banff in 1988. It had become a tradition at this conference to make a presentation for the best student paper. Chuck had been preparing a series of limited edition pencil sketches of the big game animals of Alberta and I thought it would be great to present a framed copy of his bighorn ram. However, as a testament to the quality of his work, the entire set of 500 bighorn prints was sold out. When I realized this, I approached Chuck about preparing a mountain goat. Chuck was dismayed to find out the conference was only a month away; however he completed the sketch and prepared the 500 mountain goat prints in time for the conference, in my opinion one of his best since he was required to capture the texture

of the white hair by virtue of the shadows. A picture of Chuck presenting the print to the student winner can be found in the 1988 proceedings. Chucks' pencil sketches have often been auctioned off at the annual ACTWS scholarship fundraiser.

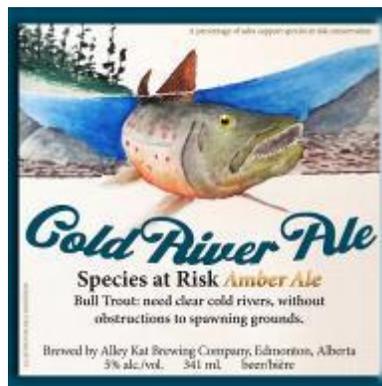
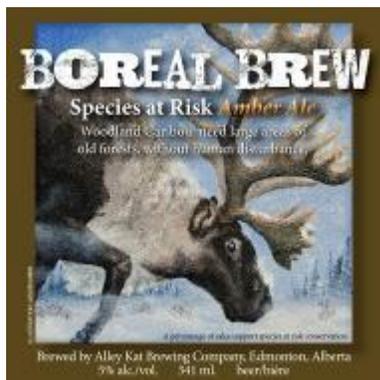
He was never a gregarious or social person, but he loved deeply and cared passionately for the natural world. Chuck's interest in wildlife and wilderness conservation remained to his last days and the province has lost one of its great wildlife artists. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie Lacy, and Sister Bernie Beasley and family in Texas. Cremation has taken place. At his request there will be no formal service. If friends desire, memorial donations may be made to the Alberta Wilderness Association, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, or a conservation organization of your choice. If you would like to pass on your condolences to his wife Marjorie, she can be reached at:

Marjorie Lacy
 Box 7326
 Edson, Alberta
 T7E 1V5

Species at Risk beer still available at:

Sherbrooke Liquor Store, Edmonton

Kensington Wine Market, Calgary



Long-sleeved shirts still available, contact:

Lisa.wilkinson@gov.ab.ca

Help raise awareness about species at risk and support conservation



By
Ken Crutchfield

*“...Alberta’s
population is
increasing and
populations of
game are
increasing.”*

Conservation Committee Update

August and the days grow longer as do the demands for wildlife conservation! Members of the Conservation Committee include: Mark Boyce, Larry Roy, Matthew Pyper, Lorne Fitch, Blair Rippin and Tammy McMillan. **Additional members are welcome!**

In addition to addressing compelling wildlife conservation issues, ACTWS has representation on 5 external committees: **Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division Regulation Change Advisory Group** – Evelyn Merrill, Larry Roy; **Alberta Committee on Species-At-Risk** – Doug Collister, Kirby Smith; **Alberta Fisheries Management Round Table** – Ken Crutchfield, **Alberta Pacific Forest Industry (Alpac) Landscape Advisory Group (LAG)**- Kristie Derksen, **North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance** – Ken Crutchfield. An update on activities follows:

1. Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division Regulation Change Advisory Group – Committee met May 29th - *key items arising from meeting:*

- Sandhill Crane hunting season not a go for this year. Decision made at MLA level. If you wish to weigh in on this issue, please provide emails to your MLAs to either support or refute a hunting season for this species.
- No bison season due to high calf mortality from harsh winter
- Increased WMUs on draw for antlered mule deer archery and rifle combined
- New elk season in parklands
- Two areas closed for goat
- Coyote season on public land now open from fall start of big game season to end of spring bear season
- Other minor changes
- Discussed updating Mule Deer Management Plan
 - Overall goal which blend of conservation, recreation and aboriginal use?
 - Which compromise between hunting opportunities and agricultural damage?
 - Population goals by ecosystem, region, or WMU level?
 - Maximum sustained yield or Quality Deer Management?
 - Which compromise between user groups (bow, rifle, residence, non-resident, outfitters, and disease management)?
 - Obtaining accurate population estimates was identified as a significant problem.
 - Further consultation meetings to occur with all parties participating.
- Discussed special licence draw system
 - Opportunities are decreasing as Alberta population is increasing and populations of game are decreasing.
 - Many draws such as trophy antelope and some Bighorn sheep would require over 100 years to be drawn if one applied today.
 - Should we change the draw system for hard to get tags from priority to random, once in a lifetime, or increasing odds system.
- Upcoming federal regulation changes.
 - Moving to using Lincoln Index to estimate goose populations. Goose populations continue to grow therefore both a spring and fall hunting season and white goose limit to

Conservation Committee continued.....

50 per day. No Ross or Lesser Snow goose restrictions. White Front goose limit up to 5 per day. New white paper confirmed that possession limits do not influence harvest therefore no possession limits on waterfowl in the future.

- Minor discussions on proposals for this fall's meetings
 - Mandatory hunter harvest questionnaire
 - Eligibility for Resident hunter status
 - Separate archery draw for antlered mule deer
 - Legal weapon definition
 - Group youth licenses
 - Mourning dove season

2. Alberta Committee on Species-At-Risk – planned June 25th was cancelled. Next meeting likely in October. Items likely presented for discussion include:

- Membership and procedures of the Scientific Subcommittee
- Status Evaluation for Hare-footed Locoweed
- Status Evaluation for western Grebe
- Draft Conservation Action Statement for Hare-footed Locoweed
- Draft Conservation Action Statement for Western Grebe
- Stonecat Recovery Plan
- Whitebark Pine Recovery Plan
- Shortjaw Cisco Recovery Plan
- Status Report Priorities and Review Process

3. Alberta Fisheries Management Round Table – April 13th meeting. Key items:

- Memorandum of Agreement between Alberta Conservation Association and Environment Sustainable Resource Development
- Alberta Fisheries Management Policy – to be reviewed over next two years
- 3rd party review of the science used in the management of commercial fisheries – Colby Report (now available on website)
- Barbless hook regulation no longer in effect
- Fish Suitability Index developed that will be the basis of evaluating fish status across the province that gives insight into productive capacity, habitat threats etc. It will be the basis of fisheries management planning across the province.
- 2014 Sport Fishing Regulations
- Changes to Fisheries Act – Canada
- Recommended changes to provincial licensing that will include licensing of seniors (over 65 years, currently no license is required)
- committee meeting notes and materials are publicly available at: <http://srd.alberta.ca/FishWildlife/FisheriesManagement/AlbertaFisheriesManagementRoundtable.aspx>

4. Alberta Pacific Forest Industry (Alpac) Landscape Advisory Group (LAG)-(<http://alpac.ca/corporate-responsibility>) Expectations of the LAG as outlined by Alberta Pacific –

- *“ Alberta-Pacific organizes a Forest Landscape Advisory Group, which includes representatives from Aboriginal communities, municipalities, government agencies, as well as hunting, trapping, forest industry and conservation groups from within and around the Al-Pac FMA area. Members of the group have taken in field-tours of harvest and silviculture areas, forest industry mill sites, energy sector infrastructure sites, research program plots on the FMA area and selected ecologically significant areas. The group also gets timely briefings from key team members about initiatives and updates about the direction our company is going. Keeping an open dialogue is not only necessary to meet regulatory and environmental guidelines but it is also key to being a good neighbour to the communities and people close to our operations.”*



By
Ken Crutchfield

“...it would be
beneficial to the
member as well as
the Chapter to
raise the public
profile of
ACTWS...”

Conservation Committee *continued...*

- Meeting held March 14. June 27th cancelled due to high water. Next meeting is September 6th. Kristie Derksen took over
- ACTWS representation from Blair Rippin. Only notes from the March meeting are available. Key items addressed:
 - Forest Management Plan 2015 – Values Assessment
 - Community Stewardship Report
 - Al-Pac’s Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Update
 - Knowledge menu presentation - Natural Disturbance in the Boreal Forest

5. North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance – (<http://www.nswa.ab.ca/>) Annual General Meeting July 17th. ACTWS rep was elected as Vice Chair (2 yrs) Key items:

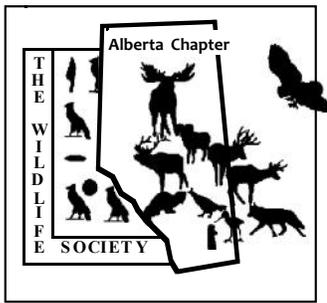
- North Saskatchewan River Water Mgmt Plan (available on website-)
- Vermillion River Water Mgmt Plan (available on website)

6. Stakeholder Engagement - National Code for the Introduction and Transfer of Aquatic Organisms – Alberta meeting occurred May 16th. Outcome of consultations remains unknown. Wildlife professionals should be aware of this code. *“The Code applies to the intentional introductions and transfers of live fish, aquatic plants into Canada, between provinces and territories, or within provinces and territories to fish habitat and fish-rearing facilities. The Code excludes deliberate movements of organisms specifically for the aquarium and water garden trade, live fish for the food trade, and bait; and the unintentional movements such as those associated with the transportation and shipping industry; recreational and commercial boating; and, canal and water diversions. Code renewal was required to account for the phasing in of the CFIA’s new lead federal disease management role under the National Aquatic Animal Health Program; to avoid recognized overlap in mandates accorded under the Fishery Act and the Health of Animal Act as it relates to movement of fish; and, to refine and modernise certain elements of the Code. The Renewal Task Group has completed a 3rd draft of the 2013 Code that lays out the renewal way forward that is ready to be shared with key stakeholders for review and comment.”* <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/enviro/ais-eae/code-eng.html>

7. Government of Canada – devolution of PFRA pasture lands to provinces – on-going dialogue – significant discussion and consultation continues to take place in Saskatchewan. ACTWS continues to support the Canadian Section TWS on this matter while encouraging interested ACTWS members to pursue on an individual basis.

8. Muzzling scientists – ACTWS has received no response to letter sent to federal privacy commissioner. Following link to the University of Victoria letter to commissioner calling for the investigation - http://www.elc.uvic.ca/press/documents/2012-03-04-Democracy-Watch_OIPLtr_Feb20.13-with-attachment.pdf

To ACTWS MEMBERS.....likely there are a variety of other groups where it would be beneficial to the member as well as the Chapter to raise the public profile of ACTWS as a professional yet objective voice for competent fish and wildlife management. If you are aware of any instances which might benefit from ACTWS representation and you want to be that person!..... contact me. It is intended that subsequent newsletters will have an update on committee work as events dictate.



Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society

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Dee Patriquin—donelda2@xplornet.com

Newsletter Editor

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Don't forget we are also
on Facebook

Upcoming Events

International Symposium on Badger Biology and Conservation

Edmonton, AB— October 1-3, 2013

<http://www.alphawildlife.ca/2013badgersymposium/?page=main>

The Wildlife Society, 20th Annual Conference

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, October 5-9, 2013

<http://wildlifesociety.org/>

16th International Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA) Conference

Edmonton, AB - October 7 -10, 2013

<https://events.gobigevent.com/events-web-public/event/start/171;jsessionid=QdcN-D6T2c2H3IIvbezpABtg?0>

SNVB Joint Annual Meeting

The Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology, The Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society, the Fourth International Burrowing Owl Conference, Researchers Implementing Conservation Action, and Northwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

Pasco, Washington, Feb 3-7, 2014

<http://www.thesnvb.org/annualmeeting.html>

ACTWS Annual Meeting

Jasper, AB—March 7-9, 2014

Footnotes from the Editor



This was a difficult issue to create— it was the first one I have done without Kristina. Naturally, Kristina was at the forefront of my mind as I worked on this issue. Even if you didn't know Kristina, once you read about what she was like you quickly realize that we have lost a dedicated biologist and wonderful person.

Biologists take risks because they are passionate about wildlife. Let's keep safety in mind as we work even harder to conserve our wildlife species and habitats. Perhaps the best tribute to Kristina is to celebrate wildlife and share this passion with others.

Mystery photo:

Cape May warbler

A Species of Special Concern, this neotropical migrant breeds in the boreal forest in old coniferous stands.