



JANUARY 1996, Vol. 7, No. 1

Editors: Jan Edmonds, Dave Hobson

President's Message

Margo Pybus

Once again the Chapter has been busy since the last newsletter. By now you should all have received an information package regarding the meeting in Banff. Hopefully, a good many of you will attend the meeting and take the opportunity to renew friendships, learn new things, and meet new folks. We have laid out the welcome mat for our colleagues throughout the Northwest Section and look forward to a good turnout at the meeting. Ron Bjorge and Tricia MacLaren have been hard at work putting the program together and they can certainly be proud of the results. Look for the draft program that accompanies this newsletter.

The Chapter also has undertaken its first-ever concerted membership drive. Brad Stelfox got all charged up (with a new son in the house, Brad wasn't getting much sleep anyway!), and he and I contacted colleagues from Yellowknife and Whitehorse to Medicine Hat and Lethbridge, and all parts in between. We found folks who agreed to distribute ACTWS membership applications and brochures to other wildlife professionals and to praise the benefits of membership in ACTWS. It will be interesting to see what the response will be. Similarly, we ask all members to spread the word about the benefits of being in the Chapter and encourage your non-member colleagues to give it serious thought.

We are also pleased to announce that the Chapter is able to offer its first scholarship for students in a wildlife technical program.

We have chosen to name the award in memory of Bob Goddard, a man who brought much honour and respectability to his profession as a wildlife technician (along with a whole lot of humour). Bob was killed in a vehicle collision recently and will be sadly missed by all those who knew him.

You will also find attached to this newsletter, a series of proposed changes to the ACTWS bylaws. Please pay close attention

to the proposed changes and be prepared to vote on them at the annual Business Meeting in Banff. Hopefully, the proposals are self-explanatory; however, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or ask any of the Executive for more information.

So here I sit, staring into this lighted box. I've been here since 8:15 this morning and its now 22:30. But it was a good day. I made great headway on a report that I want to get finished. And I conducted some Chapter business. It seems biologists these days spend more and more time 'behind the desk', or on the phone, or staring into a computer, or listening to our message machines. The question that comes to mind is whether we can do good science and good wildlife management from these vantage points? Can we learn more by listening to others than by searching for our own answers?

Can we have a greater effect by orchestrating what others are doing, by trying to make sense of the data, and by finding the patterns on a broader rather than a finer scale? Perhaps this is the major distinction between a strictly academic approach versus an integrated applied approach? Perhaps no one way is better than the other - just different? Perhaps members of ACTWS are better off for the integration of all such fields of professional wildlife endeavour under the one banner of the Chapter. ... Perhaps I have simply spent too much time today in front of this infernal box???????

M E M B E R S H I P D U E S

Membership dues for 1996 are due in January, i.e. NOW!! Beat the rush and sign up early. Please renew now so that we can remain solvent and continue to provide you with a vital link with fellow wildlifers.

(renewal form enclosed)

Current fees are: \$10.00 regular, \$5.00 student*

* must be accompanied by verification of student status

[Check the membership code in top right corner of your mailing label to see if you are paid up. It should read 1/97 if you have renewed for the coming year.]

UPCOMING EVENTS

Access Management: Understanding the Issues. A discussion and debate of the legal, socio-economic and ecological ramifications of access management on public lands in western Canada. April 10 and 11, 1996. Westin Hotel, Calgary, Alberta. Contact: Bonnie Holtby, Alberta Society of Professional Biologists. Tel: (403)434-5765, 1-800-711-5765 (Alberta); Fax: (403)435-7503; E-Mail: aspb@ccinet.ab.ca

32nd North American Moose Conference and Workshop, Banff, Alberta. April 20-24, 1996. Contact: Vicki Perkins, Conference Co-ordinator, Box 900, Banff, Alberta. T0L 0C0. Tel: (403)760-1371, Fax: (403)762-3240.

The Wildlife Society Third Annual Conference and Trade Show. October 1-6, 1996. Cincinnati, Ohio. Tel. (301) 897-9770; Fax (301)530-2471.

University of Alberta, Faculty of Extension, Environmental Courses.
Mapping Environmental Values: Managing Conflict (8056), February 24, 9:00 - 4:30, \$175/\$195 after Feb.10.
Population Viability Analysis: Concepts and Utilization (8062), February 23, 9:00 - 4:30, \$185/\$225 after Feb.10
 For more information call Sheila Greenberg@(403)492-3029

7th North American Caribou Conference, Thunder Bay, Ontario, August 19-21, 1996. The theme is "Putting Caribou Knowledge into an Ecosystem Context." For more information contact: Gerald Racey (RACEYGE)@EPO.GOV.ON.CA.), Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, RR#1, 25th Sideroad, Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7C 4T9. Tel. (807)939-3102; Fax (807)939-1841.

ALBERTA CHAPTER TWS EXECUTIVE PHONE NUMBERS

Jack Nolan	632-8347	Margo Pybus	427-3462
Kirby Smith	723-8244	Ernie Ewaschuk	422-1040
Ron Bjorge	340-5142	Richard Quinlan	625-3301

Mailing Address: Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society
 Box 4990, Edmonton, Alberta. T6E 5G8

THE WILLIAM ROWAN DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The William Rowan Distinguished Service Award is presented to an Alberta wildlife biologist who has made outstanding contributions to the management and conservation of wildlife and their habitats.

These contributions might involve excellence in research, teaching, public allocation (hunting, nonconsumptive use), habitat protection and development, land use planning, impact assessment, endangered species management, work in professional associations or any other area of the wildlife management profession.

The Awards Committee would like to see more nominations from the membership for the sixth award. A nomination involves a letter of support from a Chapter member (or several members if desired) along with the candidate's Curriculum Vitae/Resume. The letter should explain the value of the nominee's contributions in one or more of the areas outlined above. Please submit your nominations to:

Eldon Bruns
Fish & Wildlife Services
4919 - 51 St., Prov. Bldg.
Rocky Mountain House, AB. T0M 1T0
Calgary, Alberta T2H 0G3

Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society Student Award

Announcing the Third Annual Award of \$500 to a student entering a 4th year university program in the Province of Alberta for students planning a career in wildlife management. Students should be enrolled in Environmental Design, Biological Sciences, Forest Sciences, Animal Sciences, Zoology, or a related field of study.

The objectives are to award excellence in the emerging generation of wildlifers and to increase student participation and awareness of the Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Applicants must have a demonstrated interest in the profession of wildlife management. Applicants should provide a list of 4th year courses, a transcript of 3rd year marks, an outline of relevant volunteer and work experience, and a letter of reference from a faculty member or other professional biologist in Alberta. Applicants should also submit a typed essay of 300 words or less indicating their career plans and relevance to this award.

Submit applications by July 31 to the Alberta Chapter:
Box 4990, Edmonton, Alberta. T6E 5G8
attn: Scholarship Committee

TECHNICAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP!

The Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society is offering a \$600 annual scholarship beginning in 1996. The scholarship is directed to technical students in the wildlife field in Alberta.

Name of Scholarship:

"THE ROBERT (BOB) K. GODDARD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP"

Eligibility:

Candidates will be students entering their last year (may be 2nd or 3rd) of study in a technical program focusing on wildlife. 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).

Candidates should demonstrate an interest in wildlife management.

Requirements:

- * Transcript of first year (if a 2 year program) or second year (if a 3 year program) marks
- * List of courses planned for last year of program
- * Outline of volunteer or work experience in the wildlife field
- * Letter of reference from a faculty member
- * Typed essay (300 words or less) outlining career goals and plans for achieving those goals

Closing Date for Applications:

Applications will be accepted postmarked before 12 midnight of February 22, 1996. Applications should be addressed to:

**The Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society
Box 4990, Edmonton, AB.
T6E 5G8**

The successful candidate will be notified by the end of March 1996 and will receive the award upon confirmation of registration at their educational institution in the fall of 1996. For more information contact Ernie Ewaschuck: (403)422-1040

!!! IT'S AN AUCTION !!!

Saturday, March 30, 1996, 18:00-22:30 h
Banff Park Lodge, Banquet Room

The Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society will hold a silent/verbal Auction to raise funds for our student scholarship. Members attending the Annual Meeting are asked to bring along a "Wildlife-Related" item that we can put up for auction. Items for auction should be turned in at the Registration desk upon arrival.
For more information contact Margo Pybus (403)427-3462.

There are numerous students who would benefit from the scholarship fund. We gave out the first student scholarship in 1994 and we need more funds in order to make it self-sustaining. Let's help out future wildlife professionals and have some fun doing it. Your assistance with providing and purchasing auction items is greatly appreciated.

Bring your wallet and take home something of value !

Payment may be made by cash or cheque to the Chapter Treasurer.

***** Alberta Environmental Centre News *****

The fisher study, led by Larry Roy, is progressing despite the cold weather which impeded trapping success. To date, six fisher have been captured in the Lac La Biche study area and two females have been collared. The remainder of the winter work will focus on habitat use analysis.

The Wildlife and Timber Harvest Residuals Project led by Phil Lee ended its first year with a flurry of fall and winter fieldwork. The crew is happy to report that all of the study stands have been selected and sites are in place for sampling, to begin in May. This project will compare the effects of fire and timber harvest on the soils and biodiversity in the aspen/mixedwood forest.

Jack Nolan has been selected to lead the Cypress Hills Project. To our knowledge this is the first time project leadership has been given to a member of the technical team. The project is in its infancy and further details are eagerly anticipated.

NOMINEES FOR THE 1996 EXECUTIVE OF THE ALBERTA CHAPTER TWS

Candidate Biographies

IAN ROSS - PRESIDENT-ELECT

Ian is Senior Wildlife Biologist with Arc Wildlife Services Ltd. He was raised in southern Ontario, and Moved to Alberta immediately after receiving a degree in Wildlife Biology from the University of Guelph in 1982. Since then he has been actively involved in wildlife research and management in Alberta, NWT, and Botswana. His particular interests are predator ecology, conservation and prey relationships, and wildlife immobilization. He has been a member of The Wildlife Society since 1985, and the Alberta Chapter since its inception. He lives with his wife and dog in Calgary, and enjoys photography, hunting, hiking, and wilderness canoe trips. He offers the perspective of the growing role of consulting in the wildlife profession.

JACK NOLAN - SECRETARY-TREASURER (2ND TERM)

Jack is Project Coordinator and Senior Technician for the Wildlife Ecology Branch at the Environmental Centre in Vegreville. Since 1980 he has been involved in a variety of research projects including: aspen biodiversity research in the boreal forest, humane trapping research and wildlife aerial capture services for large mammal studies. Jack grew up in rural Alberta in the Tofield area. He attended Renewable Resources Technology in Saskatoon and graduated in 1968. His first job was with Alberta Fish and Wildlife working on the Canada Land Inventory Program. From 1971-80, Jack was employed with the Canadian Wildlife Service and participated in several major research programs including: the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Study and grizzly bear research in Swan Hills and Jasper National Park. Jack enjoys outdoor and nature photography, hunting and shooting.

DAVE PRESCOTT - SECRETARY-TREASURER

Dave spent most of his youth in the wilderness of northwestern Quebec. He attended college in Montreal, and then moved to the University of Guelph to complete an Honours Degree in Wildlife Biology (1983), and a Masters Degree in Avian Ecology (1986). In 1988, he moved to Alberta to begin a Ph.D at the University of Calgary, with an emphasis on the behavioural ecology of bird

migration. Upon completion, Dave spent two years as a consultant specializing in ornithological research and statistical analyses of ecological data. In 1993, he joined the Alberta NAWMP Centre as a landscape ecologist. His current interests include the conservation and management of biodiversity, and the quantitative assessment of the impacts of waterfowl management practices on vertebrate communities. Dave lives outside Stony Plain with his wife Leslie and newborn son Ian, and enjoys photography, woodworking and playing hockey. A member of The Wildlife Society for 3 years, he sees the Alberta Chapter as important common ground between wildlife professionals from industry, academia, government, and the private sector.

ERNIE EWASCHUCK, M.SC. - DIRECTOR (2ND TERM)

Ernie is a native Albertan who received his B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Zoology at the University of Alberta. He was employed with Ducks Unlimited Canada as Provincial Biologist from 1971-1977. After a break of 8 years to farm and consult he joined Alberta Fish and Wildlife to design and implement the Landowner Habitat Program in the Northeast Region. In 1989 he moved to Edmonton to be Senior Project Biologist for the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Presently he is Assistant Director of the Centre. Ernie is married with 3 grown daughters. With his wife Ferna he enjoys bird watching and is involved in several of the North American volunteer song bird census projects.

KARL W. LARSON - DIRECTOR

Karl hails from Revelstoke, B.C., which he left in 1978 to begin his post-secondary education at the University of Victoria. He obtained a B.Sc. double major in biology and resource management, and remained at UVic to continue on with graduate studies. For his M.Sc. he studied the population and reproductive ecology of garter snakes in Wood Buffalo National Park, near the Alberta/NWT border. Following this he moved to Edmonton where he completed a Ph.D. in 1993 on the reproductive success of red squirrels, at Fort Assiniboine, Alberta. Since then he has taught at various institutions, including the University of Alberta, Concordia College, N.A.I.T., and Arctic College (NWT). He currently works as a wildlife ecologist with Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries, where he also holds an Industrial Research Fellowship through the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada. He would like to see ACTWS continue to gain prominence and exposure in the province, and in particular he would like to see undergraduate and graduate students become much more involved and aware of the Society and its annual meeting.

GEORGE HAMILTON - DIRECTOR

George has B.Sc. (Biology) from Lakehead University and University of Guelph, and M.Sc. (Biology) from Lakehead University. The subject of his thesis was native use of country resources (especially moose and woodland caribou) in a remote portion of northwestern Ontario. He worked for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources during the 1970s, conducting inventories of moose, caribou, bald eagles, ospreys, etc. and carrying out research into moose utilization of cutovers. He joined Alberta Fish and Wildlife in 1981 as head of the Regional Habitat Section quickly becoming immersed in tasks as diverse as Fisheries Act enforcement, land use planning, land acquisition, habitat enhancement and mitigation of industrial impacts. Currently with the Wildlife Management Division, his professional interests focus on forest management, landscape analysis, and the application of G.I.S. technology to wildlife issues. George is a Certified Wildlife Biologist, serves as a referee for the Canadian Journal of Zoology, and has served as a member of a graduate student supervisory committee (Univ. of Manitoba). He has four children and lives in St. Paul. As Director, George would like to assist ACTWS in promoting high professional standards, and ensuring a continuing active voice in current conservation issues.

STEVE BRECHTEL - DIRECTOR

Steve was born in Denver, Colorado and raised in Calgary. He obtained his B.Sc. in Environmental Biology from the University of Calgary in 1974. He worked for Alberta Fish and Wildlife in habitat management from 1975-1979. Steve returned to the University of Alberta, obtaining a M.Sc. in Zoology in 1981. Since that time he has been employed by Alberta Fish and Wildlife in a variety of habitat management capacities including wildlife input to grazing reserves and a landowner habitat retention program. Steve has been in his current position as Senior Non-game Biologist since 1988. He has been a member of the Alberta Chapter since 1991 and presently lives with his family in Edmonton.

CATHERINE HARPER - DIRECTOR

Cat grew up in Alberta's chinook country. She has completed the Watershed Management Diploma, followed by a Fish and Wildlife Technical Certificate at the Lethbridge Community College. In the

summers she has worked in Edson for the municipal parks, and near Peace River at Queen Elizabeth Provincial Park. She has worked on several projects for the college including fish population estimates and habitat assessments for Banff National Park, a great horned owl census along the Oldman River, and an aerial survey of ungulates for a large ranch in the south. Her personal interests include botany, birds, and snowshoeing. She would like to represent the people that help to keep the wheels of research going.

LARRY ROY - DIRECTOR

Larry was born and raised in northern Ontario where he completed his undergraduate degree in Zoology at Laurentian University in 1971. He then worked for a few years at Laurentian University as a research assistant looking at population dynamics of meadow voles and then as a technician with the Ontario Department of Natural Resources conducting ungulate and fish surveys. Attracted by the diversity of landscapes and thus wildlife species present in Alberta, he loaded up his worldly belongings in his Volkswagen Beetle and headed west in the spring of 1975. He began his Alberta career in problem wildlife management research with Alberta Agriculture. He worked on black bear damage to beeyards (that was a stinging experience) and coyote/sheep interactions. He was transferred to the Alberta Environmental Centre in 1979 and shortly thereafter completed his M.Sc. in wildlife resources at the University of Idaho. He worked as a wildlife biologist on problem wildlife damage to agriculture crops and reforestation efforts. He was recently involved as research scientist in a study examining the effects of stand age on species composition and relative abundance of mammal communities in aspen/mixedwood stands in northeast Alberta. He is presently involved in research exploring the effects of logging on wildlife and is leading projects on fisher ecology and humane trapping research.