

THE ALBERTA WILDLIFER

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NOVEMBER, 2017

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ACTWS President's Report

Robin Gutsell

Something that I love about the wildlife biologists that I know (and it is not limited to ACTWS members) is that we are not afraid to ask tough, awkward or weird questions! After all, asking questions is the very essence of science, is it not? But here is a question about questions: are some questions better than others? Science encourages questions that cause us to reach for knowledge or to correct previously incorrect thinking – what we know is constantly evolving as a result of the questions we ask. Ok; but does the intent of the question matter? What if the person asking questions doesn't want to increase knowledge, but in fact wants to suppress knowledge? Let's be honest, this does happen. Look at media conversations about things like climate change, for example. People with agendas do question science and not because they want to learn more about the topic... So what is a scientist to do if they hear questions that seem to fly in the face of current paradigms? Ones that appear to challenge science in order to support an "agenda"? If questions that stimulate lively discussion and learning are good, but questions that seem to have an anti-science agenda are bad, how are we to know the difference? I don't have quick and dirty answers to these questions, although, like most of us, I have some ideas..... Asking questions and discussing answers is one of the reasons why science thrives when scientists get together and ask, discuss and sometimes even answer questions.

Speaking of getting together, it is that time, when I hope members are thinking seriously about the 2018 ACTWS conference. Everett Hanna and his conference organizing committee have been working hard on pulling it all together and this year's conference in Lethbridge (March 9-11, 2018) is shaping up to be a great meeting of minds. There will be questions asked! Discussion will ensue! The conference theme of *A Future with Renewable Energy: Implications for Wildlife Conservation* is both timely and very appropriate for the location in Alberta's Windy City. Larry Roy is lining up a great slate of speakers for the plenary on the theme topic. Meanwhile, Joanna Burgar is putting together a lineup of presentations for the symposium on *Globalization and Invasive Species: Implications for Species at Risk and Other Wildlife*, and we have some good leads for a keynote speaker to address and stimulate conversation on this topic. We are hoping that both of these sessions will stimulate a lot of questions and discussion. And, of course, we will have plenty of presentations on other topics, so please give some thought to presenting a talk or a poster on your work. The official Call for Papers is included in this newsletter and there will be more information online.

Can't wait to see you all in Lethbridge!



Art Rodgers

Canadian Section Representative's Report

Art Rodgers, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (art.rodgers@ontario.ca)

After attending the Annual Conference in Albuquerque, I am surprised to say that it really hasn't been much colder here than it was in New Mexico, and I am surely glad we missed the tornado that moved through the outskirts of Albuquerque on the Saturday after we left!! Something is messed up but I'm certain winter will get here soon enough.

The Annual Conference was attended by more than 1,850 registrants taking advantage of the more than 900 educational opportunities and numerous networking events, including the Canadian Section Reception that was attended by more than 150 (I lost count!) guests. Thanks to our Travel Award recipients, Camille Warbington, Kirstie Lawson and Justin Shave, for manning the registration desk and organizing the musical reception game. Thanks too, to Erin McCance, Evie Merrill, Dee Patriquin and Rick Baydack for organizing the great food and hospitality. Last, but by no means least, many thanks to Lotek Wireless Inc. for their continued sponsorship and support of our reception at the Annual Conference – thank you!

A huge CONGRATULATIONS to Wini Kessler, this year's recipient of the Aldo Leopold Memorial Award, which is The Wildlife Society's highest honour and Wini is only the second female recipient since 1950! Wini's contributions to wildlife conservation throughout her distinguished career are too numerous to document here but needless to say have been exemplary and something most of us can only hope to aspire to. Perhaps one of her greatest achievements has been her leadership as she blazed a trail for women and minorities in the field of wildlife conservation – she continues to be a pioneer and a role model for both women and minorities in wildlife biology. Her service to TWS and numerous other conservation groups has been tireless and has not slowed down during her retirement. Thank you Wini for your lifetime contributions to the wildlife profession and TWS.

I'm not certain but I think we had a record number of Canadians honoured with TWS Awards at this year's Annual Conference. Congratulations to Robert Bateman, recipient of the Jay N. "Ding" Darling Award for Wildlife Stewardship through Art, Robert E. Jones, recipient of the Canadian Section Distinguished Service Award, and our newest TWS Fellows, Shane Mahoney and Kathy Parker. This year's recipients of the Wildlife Publication Award in the Article category were Robert Serrouya, Meike Wittmann, Bruce McLellan, Heiko Wittmer, and Stan Boutin – congratulations to all of you. As I have said in the past, all of you have done so much to make all of us so proud to be Canadian members of TWS!

As described over the last year or so, TWS Council remains supportive of the Canadian Initiative to expand TWS in Canada. To that end, Council approved \$12K in contingency funding for the Canadian Section to hire an Executive Coordinator. The role of the Coordinator will be to tie together a number of concurrent efforts, advance wildlife educational and training opportunities, and identify critical Federal and Provincial funding and buy-in, to promote TWS in Canada. I'm sure you will be hearing a lot more about this from Section President Erin McCance.

In addition to funding support, Council has also directed the Certification Liaison Ad Hoc Com-

mittee to consider a permanent Canadian Section member on the TWS Certification Review Board. This could greatly assist efforts undertaken by the Canadian Section to examine the existing requirements and standards of the CWB designation and recommend modifications to TWS that would make the designation more achievable for Canadian wildlife professionals educated in Canadian university programs. Regardless of the outcome, and in accordance with the rotation schedule, the Canadian Section must provide a representative to the Certification Review Board next October for a 3-year term. The representative must be formally nominated by the Section Representative and voted upon by Council at the March Council meeting. If you are interested, please contact Section President Erin McCance.

Here are a few more highlights of the Fall Council meeting;

TWS membership has increased to about 10,000, the highest in this decade

all TWS journals have experienced increases in impact factors

TWS' net assets benefitted from robust stock market performance, increasing by 20%

TWS is doing very well with a social media audience of about 110,000

the Policy Library is up and running and TWS policy briefs and fact sheets are all updated and online.

Much more was discussed and you should expect to see more changes and member benefits over the coming months as TWS staff at headquarters and the various Council subcommittees pursue their charges from President John McDonald.

For now, get outside if you can to enjoy the fall weather before the snow comes....if it hasn't already where you live!

UN World Wildlife Day 2018

On 20 December 2013, at its 68th session, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed 3 March - the day of signature of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) - as UN World Wildlife Day. This day was proclaimed to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild animals and plants. The theme for World Wildlife Day 2018 is 'Big Cats'. Using the expanded definition of big cats, the Day will raise awareness on the conservation of the lion, tiger, leopard and jaguar, as well as the cheetah, snow leopard, puma, clouded leopard and related species.

date: 3 March 2018 location: worldwide : <http://www.wildlifeday.org/>



Photo by Dave Hobson

Conservation Affairs Committee

The ACTWS Conservation Committee recently acted on the woodland caribou file. The Committee, on behalf of the ACTWS Executive, submitted a letter to the provincial Minister of Environment and Parks in response to the consultation period for the Federal Action Plan for Boreal Caribou. On October 24, 2017 we received a positive response from Minister Phillips which emphasized the importance of range planning efforts in the province. The Ministers response letter can be viewed on the ACTWS website [here](#).

Since that time, it has been announced that all provinces in Canada failed to meet the October 5th, 2017 deadline for providing range plans to the Federal government. This missed deadline has been sharply criticized by members of the scientific community. For example, we encourage all members to review the recent article contributed to the journal *Science* by Mark Hebblewhite and Daniel Fortin <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/358/6364/730.1>. The ACTWS Conservation Committee will continue to monitor this file and act as appropriate.

We are also continuing to push forward efforts to collate ACTWS member perspectives on the utility of ecosystem-based practices to forest management for balancing a range of ecosystem values, including wildlife. We plan to submit a position statement on behalf of the ACTWS by the end of 2017 on this topic. Our committee members have also been active on a range of sub-committees, including the Alberta Game Policy Advisory Council. Specifically, our members have been compiling feedback on new potential changes to the Big Game Hunting Policy in Alberta and will be submitting these to the government on behalf of the ACTWS.

If you have any questions or priorities for the committee to consider, please reach out to our Chair: Matthew Pyper (matthew@fuseconsulting.ca).

Committee Members

Matthew Pyper
(Chair)

Mark Boyce
Kristie Derkson
Lorne Fitch
Ken Crutchfield
Larry Roy
Kirby Smith
Delinda Ryerson



Ferruginous Hawk by Drajs Vujnovic

Read the Most Talked About Papers From JWM and WSB

By Nancy Sasavage

TWS Director of Publications and Communications

Are you taking advantage of your free access to TWS journals?

As a member of The Wildlife Society, you can now easily read the full text of every paper — including the most talked about papers — from the *Journal of Wildlife Management* and the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*. This new benefit has been extremely popular since it was launched in January 2017. And it's leading to increased visibility for papers published in TWS Journals.

The list of papers below includes those with the highest Altmetric scores, which translates to how much attention the paper is getting. The scores are composed of metrics and qualitative data that are complementary to traditional, citation-based metrics. They can include — but are not limited to — mainstream media coverage, discussions on research blogs and mentions on social networks such as Twitter. Many journals today use the Altmetric scoring system because it indicates the amount of attention a paper has received. Authors also find the scores useful to follow engagement in their publications.

To read TWS journals, you must first [log into the TWS member portal](#). Choose the “Publications” tab at the top of the page to go to the Wiley Online Library where the journals are archived.

The Most Talked About Papers From JWM and WSB*

Altmetric score 436	Polar bear attacks on humans: implications of a changing climate
Altmetric score 134	The true cost of partial fencing: evaluating strategies to reduce reptile road mortality
Altmetric score 117	How publishing in open-access journals threatens science and what we can do about it
Altmetric score 89	Investigating impacts of oil and gas development on greater sage-grouse
Altmetric score 88	Free-roaming cat interactions with wildlife admitted to a wildlife hospital
Altmetric score 87	Demography of an increasing caribou herd with restricted wolf control
Altmetric score 78	Evaluating population expansion of black bears using spatial capture-recapture
Altmetric score 73	Online hunting forums identify achievement as prominent among multiple satisfactions
Altmetric score 68	Population-level effects of lead fishing tackle on common loons
Altmetric score 68	Persistence of great sage-grouse in agricultural landscapes

*Altmetric scores based on current standings on Nov. 9, 2017

Did you know?

[The Wildlife Society](#) endorses professional development and career advancement at various stages through its professional certification programs. The Certified Wildlife Biologist® and Associate Wildlife Biologist® designations validate a professional's completion of rigorous academic standards, educational background and demonstrated expertise in the art and science of applying the principles of ecology to the conservation and management of wildlife. Learn more about The Wildlife Society's professional certification programs at wildlife.org/certification-programs.



#ACTWS18 - CONFERENCE AND AGM

The Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society

When: March 9-11, 2018

Where: Lethbridge Alberta, Canada

Venue: Lethbridge Lodge and Lethbridge College

#ACTWS18 THEME

--A Future with Renewable Energy: Implications for Wildlife Conservation--

What is the current situation in the province and beyond?

What are the positive and negative implications for wildlife?

How are industry and regulators working together to conserve wildlife?

Will increasing demand for renewable energy change the current situation?

SPECIAL SYMPOSIUM

--Globalization and Invasive Species--

How has globalization affected the spread of invasive species?

Are alien species all bad: positive and negative implications for wildlife conservation?

How can invasions affect species at risk?

How has habitat quality/quantity been affected by invasive species?

What other frontiers exist in the discipline of invasive species biology?

Early registration deadline: 14 January 2018

---DRAFT MEETING SCHEDULE---

Friday, March 9, 2018	Saturday, March 10, 2018	Sunday, March 11, 2018
<u>0830 - 2100 hr</u>	<u>0830 - 2400 hr</u>	<u>0830 - 1630 hr</u>
Local Field Trips & Workshops	Opening Remarks	Invasive Species Symposium
Annual General Meeting	Plenary Session	Poster Session
Student Conclave	Concurrent Sessions	Concurrent Sessions
Open Mixer	Banquet & Dance	Closing Remarks
	Awards & Auction	

FIRST Call for Papers and Posters at #ACTWS18**Deadline: Friday, 5 January 2018**

You are invited to submit titles and abstracts for oral and poster presentations at #ACTWS18. Presentations focusing on all aspects of wildlife biology are welcome; from plants to animals and ecosystems, including management, research, monitoring, general ecology, and novel techniques.

Presentations will be **12 minutes in length** (plus three minutes for questions). Guidelines for oral and poster presentations will be posted on the website (www.actws.ca).

ATTENTION STUDENTS: ACTWS awards > \$10,000 each year in scholarships, travel grants, and presentation awards. BE SURE TO submit your travel grant application with your abstract! (Details will be posted at www.actws.ca/conference).

Abstracts must be submitted online at: www.actws.ca/conference/conference-presentations. The following information should be provided with your submission:

Lead author name, affiliation, mailing address, phone number(s), and e-mail.

Names and affiliations of additional authors.

Title of abstract.

ABSTRACT: Distillation of the purpose, methods, results and conclusions, 250 words max. (Please note that all abstracts are printed in the program booklet. Thus, the abstract you submit online will be the final version that is printed in the conference program.)

Please Note: An automated email should be received upon submission of your abstract. If you do not receive a confirmation email, or have other questions, please email abstracts@actws.ca or contact Delinda (Dee) Ryerson at execdirector@actws.ca.

Notification: Authors will be advised if their abstract has been accepted by **19 January 2018**.

Call for 2018 ACTWS Award Nominations

**Recognize someone for their special contribution.
Consider nominating a colleague today.**

Nominations can be made by any ACTWS member.

Nominees are normally residents of Alberta or have made a significant contribution in Alberta.

Awards will be presented at the 2018 ACTWS conference.

Nominations are valid for up to 3 years.

Outreach Award

This award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to Alberta's fish and wildlife through effective and excellent communication to the public.

Publication Award

These awards recognize wildlife professionals for outstanding written contributions in **technical** or **popular** publications.

Kristina Norstrom Dedicated Service Award

Presented to an Alberta Chapter member who actively and unselfishly contributes their time and resources to further the aims and objectives of the Chapter. This award acknowledges members whose contributions far exceed the expectations of being a member and capture the spirit and essence of dedication to the Chapter.

William Rowan Distinguished Service Award

This most prestigious chapter award is presented to an Alberta wildlife biologist who has made outstanding cumulative contributions to the management and conservation of wildlife and their habitats.

Please submit an award nomination letter via email including:

Nomination Award category (e.g. Outreach or Rowan)

Candidates name and title

Justification for the award

C.V. /resume of the nominee

Submit nominations to Glynnis Hood - ghood@ualberta.ca

The Photo Page: for the photographers in our midst.



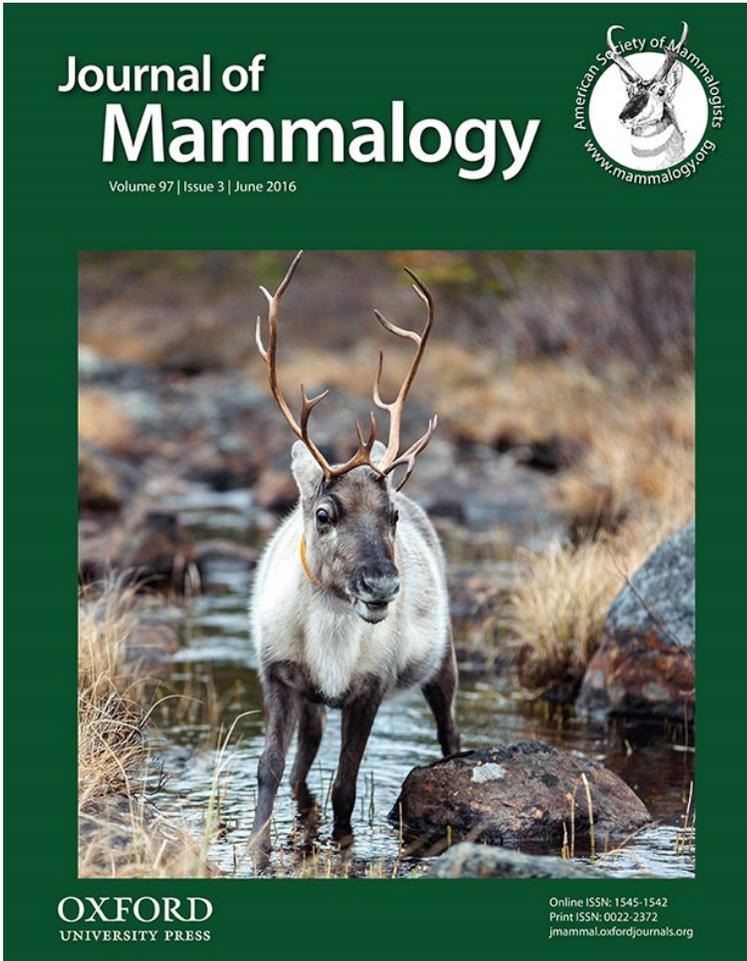
Photographs by Drajs Vujnovic

The Pertinence of your Graduate Work and How It Relates to Finding a Job

When I decided I was going to join Robert Weladji's lab at Concordia University and perform the first mammalian large scale experiment on operational sex ratio (OSR: ratio of reproductively active males to fertilizable females) with reindeer, I thought I was bulletproof. My project was novel and again to emphasize the world's first, what could possibly be the problem? Wasn't reindeer herding as a new acquired skill going to land me my dream job? And that is where I learned a little too late into my degree what I should have and should not have looked forward to during my M.Sc. The importance of your graduate work aside from helping you meet academic requirements is more importantly how it will help you land a great job. All graduate degrees in Biology will have you learn effective proposal writing, scientific communication to a variety of audiences, grant proposal submission, study design implementation, methods for collecting data, dissertation preparation, and the list goes on [...] If all students acquire those same named skills, then what makes you more desirable than another?

This is where one must start thinking about not only agreeing to do graduate work because the proposed project sounds "cool" but because it will help you down the line achieve your goals of conservation biologist or say habitat specialist, etc.

Study a species that interests you or that is part of a larger taxon of interest. Transferable skills and knowledge is key here. Ask a professor whose lab you are interested in joining what professional skills they think you'll acquire over the course of your degree. Better yet ask some of their current students who will be very happy to help. Reindeer herding may not as of yet become a skill that I could highlight during a job interview but radio telemetry sure was. Avoid very specific niche skills that may be altogether useless in the job market unless you are working on species 'a' under condition 'b', 'c', and 'd'. To be clear, I am not stating that you should avoid gathering niche specific skills, simply to look at the bigger picture first. Employers nowadays are very demanding of future employees due to high levels of degree acquisitions. Look into the type of job you want ahead of time then choose your graduate work to compliment that position and help you acquire those skills at no cost to you, and gaining valuable experience. If you want to be an avian biologist work in a bird lab and make sure you learn mist netting, avian point count surveys, and habituating your ear to the sounds of local birds as well as differentiating between different species. You want your skills to be relevant to the desired position and not have to struggle to acquire them post-degree when you're itching to pay off student loans and start a life for yourself. The best strategy towards success is preparation. Again just to reiterate that I am simply suggesting you actually look into how you as a person will change over time upon acquiring your graduate degree. One of my secret weapons as I start my career as a wildlife biologist is how adept I am of a photographer. I have been practicing photography for just about ten years and it is a skill that is incredibly handy to document different phases of fieldwork or public outreach. Shameless promotion to prove my point, I have had an image of a female reindeer I took on the cover of *Journal of Mammalogy*; quite the prestige. A persons' skill set is always growing and developing, just make sure that skill set will compliment your desirable career options and you are off to a great start. Good luck in your job hunts!



Joanna Burgar,
Erin Tattersall
and Cole Burton

Monitoring boreal mammal use of restored seismic lines with camera traps

Anthropogenic land use is changing the face of Alberta's boreal forests, creating novel landscapes without historical precedent. As development continues, it becomes increasingly critical to understand its impacts on wildlife: how do species respond to industrial disturbances? How does this affect community dynamics? Can disturbed habitats be restored? The answer to these questions is important not only to the conservation of threatened species, like woodland caribou, but also to management of the broader boreal community and ecosystem. To pursue these questions, we are monitoring mid- and large-sized mammals on restored seismic lines in northeastern Alberta's oil sands. We are using 60 camera traps in a standardized survey design to address two objectives: 1) to what extent do restoration treatments reduce the use of seismic lines by caribou predators, such as wolves and black bears; and 2) do restoration treatments result in similar mammal community composition as compared to undisturbed or naturally disturbed areas? Our study area is the Algar Caribou Habitat Restoration Program, a COSIA project led by Nexen Energy ULC and other companies, and located along the Athabasca River ~70 km south-west of Fort McMurray. This portion of the Athabasca Oil Sands Region can be considered as having a moderate amount of anthropogenic disturbance, with an average seismic line density of 2.0 km/km² and 1.3 well sites per 10 km² for steam assisted gravity drainage (SAGD) operations. One tool that is being increasingly used and promoted to mitigate against negative effects of anthropogenic disturbance, particularly for caribou, is the active restoration of seismic lines. The Algar Caribou Habitat Restoration Program considered 387 km of line for restoration treatments, actively restoring 148 km of seismic lines between 2012 and 2015 through techniques such as site preparation and winter tree planting. Other lines were deemed to be on adequate recovery trajectories and designated as "natural regeneration protection", while some were left available for human use (e.g. trappers) and a small portion were left untreated as non-regenerating control lines for our monitoring.

Our team of researchers from the University of British Columbia and Innotech Alberta (with support from COSIA and the AUPRF) deployed the first pilot set of cameras in November 2015 on a sample of restored and "control" (unrestored) seismic lines. One year later, we deployed more cameras to include naturally regenerating and human use seismic lines in our study. As of April 2017, these cameras have collected almost 9,000 animal images from ~1,500 independent detections of wildlife on seismic lines in the study area. We captured fourteen mammal species on camera, in addition to humans and several bird species (particularly sandhill cranes). To date the most commonly detected species have been white-tailed deer, wolf, black bear and coyote. Moose, caribou and lynx were among species detected with intermediate frequency while rare species included red fox, marten, fisher, cougar and wolverine. Our preliminary analyses highlight the fact that wildlife use of seismic lines is variable across both space and time; emerging signals suggest that detection rates differ across restoration strata and that these patterns vary by species. An initial precision analysis using simulated detection data indi-

cated that the monitoring program should have the statistical power to accurately and precisely estimate short-term treatment effects with the current study design. We will be retrieving the next set of camera images in November 2017 and continuing our analyses to elucidate the effects of restoration treatments on our focal species. Stay tuned for the next round of results...and cool camera trap shots.

Wildlife caught on camera, in order of decreasing number of detections: white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), sandhill crane (*Antigone canadensis*), grey wolf (*Canis lupus*), black bear (*Ursus americanus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*) woodland caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*), and moose (*Alces alces*).



Continued on page 14....





Joseph Litke

Inspiration: Dr. Sheri Clare

The Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society is blessed with an impressive membership composed of students and technicians, and professionals all focused on wildlife' be it in the areas of academic science, land management, habitat conservation, or species at risk. There are many examples of our membership who have carved out successful wildlife related careers and are actively making a difference for wildlife and wild spaces in Alberta, and who are inspiring others to do the same. I feel incredibly fortunate to be associated with such an assortment of people so inspiring in both their achievements and in their gracious sharing of knowledge.

At a recent meeting of the Executive, it was suggested that we devote some energy to highlighting some of these successful and inspiring individuals, to give them recognition, but more so, to hold them up as inspiring figures for students and others early on in their careers, who may need inspiration. I instantly imagined some silver-bearded biology guru, long retired, taking a young apprentice under his wing, leading them down the path to becoming a successful wildlife professional. Isn't that what a mentor in wildlife should look like? But no such figure existed for me. The person who came to mind was instead, my partner in business, and in life, Dr. Shari Clare.

Truthfully, I thought that writing this would be easier than it has been. Although Shari has certainly been an inspiration and mentor to me for the past 15 years, and has been an inspiration and mentor for scores of employees and students that have crossed her path over that period, everything I wrote sounded like promotional material for our consulting firm, and that's not at all what I wanted to do. The problem is, so many of Shari's achievements are tied closely to my own, and that of our company, it's hard to write about them and be objective. So, I'm just going to strip this down to the basics and tell you what it is in essence that has made Shari an inspiration, a mentor to me, and unquestionably, a successful wildlife professional.

Shari is courageous. She started out as a business owner and consultant at the age of 26. True, she had some world experience at that time; a Bachelor's degree in Zoology (1998), a summer in Belize, a year in Japan, three field summers, and a couple of winters. Shortly after taking the consulting plunge, she was called in to a meeting at an engineering firm in Edmonton. It was a cold winter day, and Shari turned up to the glass and chrome boardroom in her down parka and a pair of Sorels™, to explain the Water Act and the Fisheries Act to eight engineers and a wealthy land developer, all men, all in business suits, and all over 40. Honestly, 15 years later, I'd rather face a grizzly bear or a minus 50 wind-chill than put myself in that position. But she won their respect during that meeting, and the engineering firm turned into a key client for the next several years. I, and others who have worked with Shari, have learned to be more courageous as biologists, to be true to who we are and what we believe regardless of who might be smirking or scoffing across the boardroom table at us.

Shari is engaged. She's not just engaged in nature and wildlife, but in people, policy and politics, social issues, and economics as well. As a result she has an incredibly complete and well-rounded perspective on environmental issues. I am frequently amazed at how much she knows about Canadian politics, from the names of ministers of environment and other key politicians from each province, to the names and political leanings of CEOs from major North American corporations. She is switched on. She has shown me that environmental policy is the greatest threat to conservation, as well as its most likely saviour. I've grown from thinking that being a successful biologist was about being able to walk in the woods and be able to see and identify more species than anyone else, to understanding that as a biologist, we have a responsibility to be engaged in the constructed environment, as well as the natural one, in politics, society, economics, and in people.

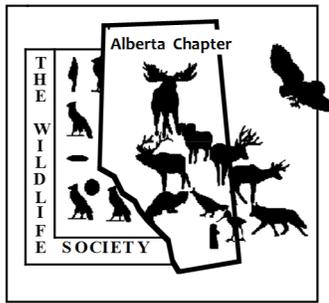
Shari is a good listener. She wants to know what others think, and what their views are, but she is not afraid to challenge those views, no matter who's they are. And, she's nimble and objective enough in her own views to be swayed by sound logic, and solid ethical ground. As a biologist hoping to invoke change, I've learned from Shari just how important it is to listen to people, to understand where they are coming from and why they think the way they do. And then form my own opinion. I don't always get the result that I want, but I learn from hearing contrary opinions, and in so doing, I earn the opportunity to be listened to when I express my own.

Shari walks the walk. She believes in moving environmental responsibility, policy, guidelines, standards, practices, and expectations forward, and she sees every consulting project, every recommendation to a proponent, every meeting with a regulator, and every conversation over beers, as an opportunity to do so. She leads by example, through the choices she makes in her personal life, to the stands she takes in her professional life. She has helped me to understand that my role as a conservationist does not begin and end as a practicing wildlife professional, but in fact, conservation, environment, and social justice, must weigh into decisions we make throughout our personal and professional lives.

Shari is good at her job. Consulting is a hard job to do well, and not everyone is cut out for it. It takes a strong leader, with an immense personality, an unfaltering moral compass, and clarity of vision to thrive in the consulting world, reputation intact; in my opinion Shari exemplifies these traits. Early on in Shari's career as a consultant, she called a provincial wildlife biologist to discuss a pair of trumpeter swans that she had observed on a wetland near the proposed development of one of her clients. The government biologist told her that as the consultant on the project Shari had more influence over the outcome for those swans than anyone else. That message rang true to Shari, and has stuck with her throughout her career. She sees consulting as an opportunity to influence, to guide change, and to lead by example, and she is remarkably skilled at convincing proponents, and regulators that they should do the same. For more than fifteen years I have been fortunate to work closely with Dr. Shari Clare, inspired by her conviction, and I am proud to call her my mentor. She has made me a better wildlife professional.

If there is a wildlife professional in your life who has been a mentor to you, or has inspired you to be a better biologist, we would love to hear about it. Send your article to lisa.wilkinson@gov.ab.ca.





Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society

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Don't forget we are also
on Facebook



Footnotes from the Editor

Always looking for articles, stories, announcements, photos and anything else you would like to see in the newsletter. I know there's lots of wildlife work going on in Alberta so, please, let us hear about it.

Upcoming Events

20th International Conference on Wildlife Management

London, England. 15-16 March 2018.

<https://www.waset.org/conference/2018/03/london/ICWM/home>

82nd North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference

Norfolk, Virginia. 26-30 March 2018.

<https://wildlifemanagement.institute/conference>

World Symposium on Climate Change and Biodiversity.

Manchester, England. 3-5 April 2018.

<https://www.haw-hamburg.de/en/ftz-nk/events/biodiversity.html>

North American Congress for Conservation Biology.

Toronto, Ontario. 21-26 July 2018.

<http://scbnorthamerica.org/index.php/naccb2018/>

67th Wildlife Disease Association Annual International Conference

St. Augustine, Florida. 5-10 August 2018.

<http://www.wildlifedisease.org/wda/CONFERENCES/UpcomingInternationalConference.aspx>

25th The Wildlife Society Annual Conference

Cleveland, Ohio. 7-11 October 2018.

<http://wildlife.org/2018-conference/>

2nd Arctic Biodiversity Congress.

Rovaniemi, Lapland, Finland. 9-11 October 2018.

<https://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/our-work2/8-news-and-events/453-abc2-01>