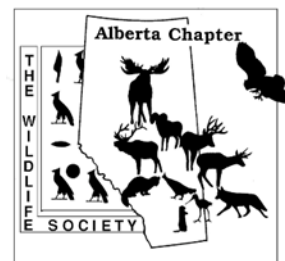


The Alberta Chapter TWS has a long and strong history of recognizing exemplary careers in our chosen profession as well as nurturing and encouraging students as they step onto the path that leads to such careers. We also have a tradition of naming our student scholarships in honour of esteemed members who have passed away. In Bill Wishart's case, we actually named one for a member who was still able to appreciate the respect that this honour bestows.



Wishart the Wise

Bill Wishart is a founding father of wildlife management in Alberta. He is a native-born Albertan with the wisdom and wit of a country up-bringing expanded tremendously by many many years in public service dedicated to the conservation and management of wildlife in this province. As a result Bill has a wealth of knowledge about a wide range of wildlife species and enough opinions to make it seem like he has been around for a hundred years. His career spans generations of wildlife and wildlife managers in Alberta. He was instrumental in nearly every aspect of the profession as it is practiced in the province, particularly in the formative years that followed Leopold and the subsequent emergence of wildlife science. Although “retired” since 1987, Bill shares his wisdom with all who listen, particularly folks younger than he and those who will never have an opportunity to see what Bill has seen. His strength, as he sees it, is a willingness to provide ‘intellectual voluntarism’. Generally this translates into mentoring (and heckling) students, current employees of various wildlife agencies, and former colleagues. His favourite topics are white-tailed deer and bighorn sheep, though he readily discusses geese or ducks or any wildlife topic.

Bill is or has been an Adjunct (= unpaid) Professor with the Biological Sciences Department at the University of Alberta, a member of Alberta’s Endangered Species Scientific Subcommittee, as well as reviewer and advisor to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Foundation for North America Wild Sheep and Goats. Unofficially, he is an Emeritus Wildlife Biologist with Alberta Fish and Wildlife, the grandfather of wildlife management in the province, and an Ambassador for all things wild that live in Alberta. He maintains goose nesting baskets at Hasting Lake (an annual interest that started somewhere round about the middle of the last century), gives public presentations on various wildlife topics, and joins in each year for the annual population counts of sharp-tailed grouse on dancing grounds in Camp Wainwright. Bill loves to hunt and, along with his trusty Brittany spaniels, helps to keep the numbers of ring-necked pheasants (a non-native species in Alberta) under control. He also is available at any time to help reduce an abundance of donuts or sweets wherever they may occur.

With regards to ACTWS Bill was a founding member who helped established the chapter. He was there from day one and continues to attend our annual conference, and provide wisdom and guidance to promote our success. Bill’s strength is teaching others both by example and by experience. He is of course a Rowan Award recipient – in fact as an undergrad he was taught by William Rowan. I doubt there has been any chapter executive that did not contain at least a few members who were mentored at some stage of their career by Bill Wishart.

On April 3, 2012 Bill was 80 years young. The Alberta Chapter TWS provided a very special birthday present and renamed the ACTWS Post-Graduate Scholarship¹ as the William (Bill) Wishart Post-Graduate Scholarship.

M.J. Pybus, ACTWS member, March 27, 2012

¹ Established by ACTWS in 2000. Renamed in 2012.