

Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society

Newsletter

"The mission of the Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society is to foster excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education among wildlife professionals in Canada"

November 2009

Vol. 2, No. 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

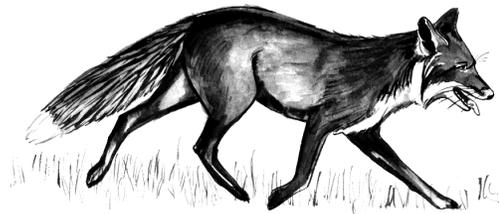
*Merlin Shoemith
Winnipeg, Manitoba*

The Role of Student Chapters in the Canadian Section

I am hesitant to provide my views on the role of student chapters in the Canadian Section since this topic was discussed during the last annual Section meeting at Delta, Manitoba ---although I was not present. At that meeting it was decided not to include a representative of each student chapter on the Executive Committee even in light of there being five student chapters (at that time) and only two working level chapters (Alberta and Manitoba). The decision was made to have a student representative on behalf of all of the student chapters. The current Executive was expected to develop a plan in conjunction with the existing student chapters whereby this could be done. That process is well underway with the help of Robin Steenweg, student chapter president for the University of Northern British Columbia.

My understanding is that the underlying view that won the day on this issue at the annual Section meeting is that working level chapters need to lead the Section and we cannot be overwhelmed by too many student chapters that could gain control of the voting and possibly lead us in 'different' directions. I find this counterproductive to the development of a new Section such as ours. We are discouraging our youth from taking ownership of the Section program and activities in treating them as second-class wildlife professionals. After all, they were elected to an Executive Council by their peers. I have been retired for nearly 10 years, wondering why I was talked into running for President at my age but decided that I still had some energy left to help see this Section succeed. I nor my generation of wildlifers represent the future of this Section. It is expected that many "graduates" from executives of student chapters will go on to help lead the Section in its growth and development of TWS chapters throughout Canada including remote regions. So then why do we discourage student chapters from actively participating on the Executive throughout the year by having only one representative for all of them?

I think this issue requires second thought and further discussion. Student chapters deserve to have representation at the Executive table in the best interests of the Section itself. I would appreciate your views on this matter and recommend that it needs to be placed on the Section agenda further discussion and a possible by-law change.



SECTION NEWS

*Shannon Pederson, TWS Subunit & Certification
Coordinator*

This year's Canadian Section mixer at TWS' Annual Conference in Monterey, California was a huge success and had grown at least three fold since its first mixer. I remember the first mixer was populated with TWS members who worked to start TWS' newest section. We went around the room introducing ourselves and our affiliation to the section. (My personal connection was helping to launch the section and their first set of elections). This year's mixer was such a popular event that we limited the oration to Evie Merrell, Rick Baydack, and Ron Labisky (this year's Aldo Leopold award).

Evie did a wonderful job at the conference delivering the mixer's welcome address, the Canadian Section's critique of TWS' Strategic Plan, and the important job of securing a sponsor (Lotek) for the mixer. Three cheers for Evie (and Lotek)!

I am pleased to announce that the Canadian Section is now up to five student chapters and three chapters within its section boundaries. I have five other universities in the works and



look forward to working with more. If you know anyone who wants to create a new student chapter at their university or chapter in their province or territory, please send them my way (Shannon@wildlife.org). And remember that each chapter (and now a student representative) has a seat on the section's executive committee. What a great way to make your perspective heard!

This section has come a long way since being approved on 3 May 2007. Let's keep this positive momentum going!

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

Robin Steenweg
President, UNBC Student Chapter

Momentum: an important property of our Student Chapter

While at the Monterey Conference, I was asked by many members of student chapters for tips on having an active chapter. Here at UNBC, we are enjoying our second year as a TWS Student Chapter with 65+ members. Our successful transition from a University Club to a Student Chapter owes a lot to the enthusiasm of our faculty advisor, Dr Mike Gillingham, and the hard work and dedication of our large executive (8 members strong this year!). But I think the main ingredient to our success so far, is *momentum*.

The source of this energy can be attributed to the those who make up a Student Chapter: undergrads, graduate students, and faculty, who are all very busy and yet find the time to contribute. As with most organizations, it tends to be the busiest people that are the most active. However, the biggest problem with maintaining this energy level, is that student members are around and interested for maybe 2-3 years and the Student Chapter experiences serious droughts of activity during each summer. It is up to *momentum* to transfer the energy from one year to the next.

This physical property requires not only motion, but also some mass behind the movement. For us, what carries the most weight, are our annual events. We now have a number of activities, trips and workshops that students start asking about in September, way before any semester- or annual-itinerary has been created. For example, this year we have had another great photo-contest fund-raiser (65 photo submissions!) and our caribou-viewing trip and firearms/hunting certification course also seem destined for success once again. These juggernaut events also help promote smaller events like our brown-bag lunch presentation series and trips to a wildlife rehabilitations center, bird banding station, and an amphibian walk.



Shannon Pederson mentioning the newest university interested in starting a student chapter (U of Alberta – Augustana Campus)



Rick Baydack speaking about the Canadian section at the Monterey meeting

Photo credits: Robert Carey





Finally, future sources of momentum come from new recruits. So in order to encourage the larger bodies of TWS, we have continued to offer an incentive to join as full members of TWS by reimbursing the cost of joining the Canadian Section when they join TWS. As a consequence, almost 20% of our members are members of the Canadian Section, and we are eager to see the Section grow, just as we have!



JOBS IN WILDLIFE AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

We are advertising wildlife biology positions on our Canadian section website and the newsletter. If anyone has an add they'd like to put up please send it to me kruckstu@ucalgary.ca

Please do also send me other contributions such as conference announcements, your thoughts on a particular topic that could be relevant to the society, your drawings or any pictures you'd like to see included in the newsletter

Kathreen Ruckstuhl
Newsletter editor, webmaster and Vice-president



CONFERENCE NEWS

45th North American Moose Conference and Workshop

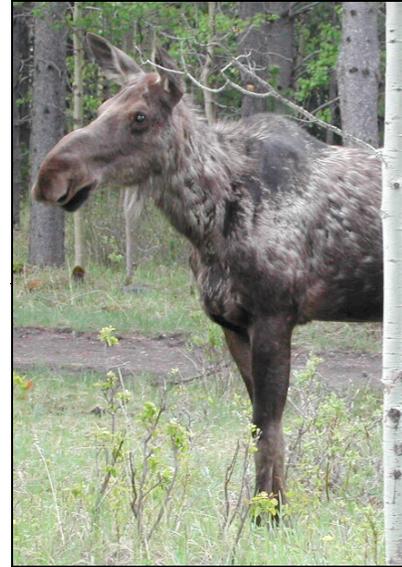


Photo credit: Kathreen Ruckstuhl

Conference Theme: Moose in a Warming World
Dates: June 23-26, 2010
Host: Voyageurs National Park, International Falls, MN
Contact: Steve Windels, Conference Co-Chair, 218-283-6692, steve_windels@nps.gov
Conference Website: www.nrri.umn.edu/Moose2010



**21st ACTWS Annual Conference
March 11-14, 2010
Red Deer Lodge
4311 – 49th Avenue Red Deer, Alberta
T4N 5Y7**

Visit www.reddeerlodge.ca for a virtual tour of rooms and Conference facilities
Call for Papers, Conference Theme and more details to follow.



EXISTING CANADIAN CHAPTERS

Alberta Chapter



President: Evelyn Merrill
E-mail: emerrill@ualberta.ca

Manitoba Chapter



President: David Walker
E-mail: djwalker@cc.umanitoba.ca

STUDENT CHAPTERS

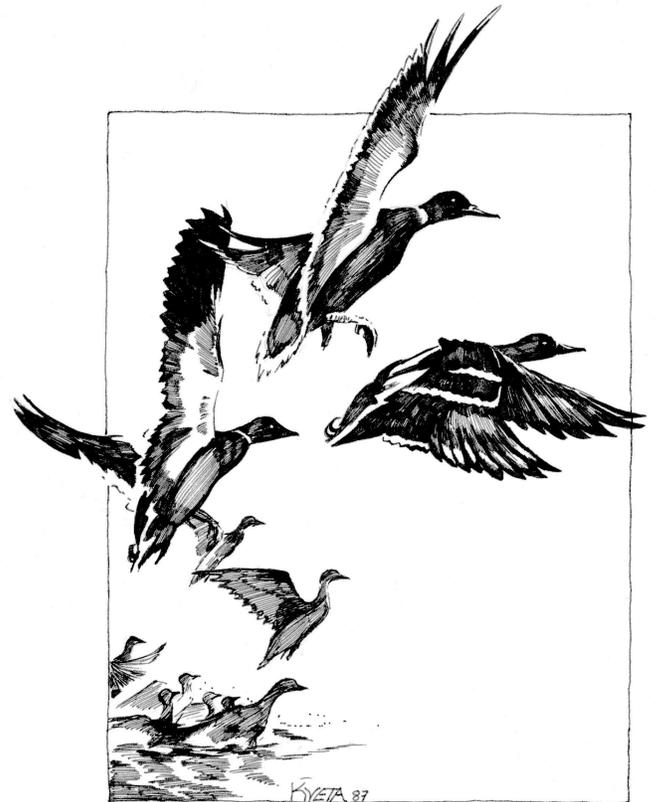
University of Alberta
Contact: Corey Scobie
E-mail: cscobie@ualberta.ca

Lethbridge Community College
Contact: Kalista Pruden (Pres.)
E-mail: kalista.pruden@lethbridgecollege.ab.ca

Lakehead University
Contact: Douglas Vincent (Pres.)
E-mail: dvincent@lakeheadu.ca

University of Northern British Columbia
Contact: Robin Steenweg (Pres.)
E-mail: robinsteenweg@hotmail.com

Université Laval
Contact: Nicolas Courbin (Pres.)
E-mail: nicolas.courbin.1@ulaval.ca





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Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society

2009 Membership Renewal/Application

The Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society invites you to renew your membership for the new year. We would also like to encourage wildlife professionals and students alike who are not current members to join now. To join or remain a member for 2009, please fill out this application form and mail along with your dues to the address below. You also have the option to join the Canadian Section when you renew your membership through the Parent Society.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

Affiliation: _____

Annual Membership Dues: **\$10.00 (Cdn/US)**

Please make payment out to: Canadian Section of TWS

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Executive Board or involved in one of our upcoming Committees please indicate:

Executive Board
Conservation Affairs Committee
Membership Committee

Please mail membership form and dues to:

Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society
C/o Erin McCance
104 Cloverwood Road
Winnipeg, MB
R3Y 1R6

Alternatively, to renew or join online visit TWS's secure website at: <http://store.wildlife.org/scriptcontent/index.cfm>

