

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"

September 2009

Vol. 2, No. 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Merlin Shoemith
Winnipeg, Manitoba*

During this year as President, I intend to limit the usual general news and "join the Section ra-ra" membership stuff. My intent is to provide some thought-stimulating, editorial comment on things happening (or not) in our Section and TWS.

Under our present by-laws, why do we need a Vice-President (VP)? We seem to have created an Executive position that has few duties other than to fill in for the President as needed and that is usually not that frequent. This is not criticism that our past or present VPs did nothing. Our past VP, Martyn Obbard, and our present VP, Kathreen Ruckstuhl, agreed to be our newsletter editor and also Kathreen as our webmaster. But none of this is in the job description and they took on this responsibility as an add-on because they were interested in applying their talents and helping out. For this, we are fortunate and grateful.

In my view the Vice President should be in line to become President in two years. The VP position should be for "training" to become President by getting familiar with the details of committees and the work of the Executive Board. However, we seem to have set up an executive board position that has little responsibility in function and on paper. The parent society's bylaws and many others have the Vice-President position in the succession line to become President in two years. I suggest that we amend our bylaws and place the Vice President position in its proper and very important place to prepare the incumbent for becoming our leader. I invite your email comments and thoughts to see if the membership agrees and that we should make such a change in the bylaws.

Merlin Shoemith, President

Next Newsletter: Student Chapters and their Role in the Section



CANADIAN SECTION REP'S REPORT

*Rick Baydack
Winnipeg, Manitoba
(baydack@cc.umanitoba.ca)*

'Baydack's Banter'

September 2009

It's that time of year again, when the thoughts of many wildlifers turn to making arrangements for attending the Annual Conference. Monterey, California is this year's venue, and it promises to once again be 'the best ever!' So hopefully you have made your hotel reservations (Note that our room block has already been filled at one of the hotels!), checked out the airline seat sales, and looked into the wide range of Conference extracurricular activities that have been organized. My feeling is that the TWS Annual Conference is a must for all wildlife professionals. Hopefully we will see you there, and if you do make it, be sure to attend the 'Canadian Members and Friends Reception,' being held from 630-830 pm on Tuesday September 22 at the Portola Hotel. And you might also want to join us at the Members Forum at the Council meeting on Tuesday morning, September 22 – always a great opportunity to bring



forward new ideas for TWS consideration.

As part of ongoing efforts to enhance TWS management and administration, all members of Council and senior staff took part in a Retreat this past July at the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation in Illinois. This 3-day event was designed for participants to provide input on priorities for the next 5 years in the TWS Strategic Plan (available online at

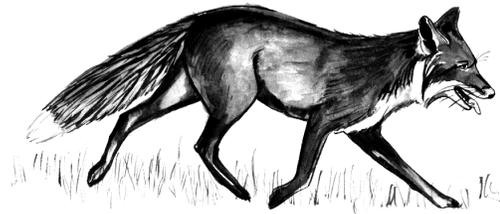
http://joomla.wildlife.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=267&Itemid=273). Staff indicated that 77% of the Strategic Plan had already been addressed to some extent. The Retreat allowed Council to consider all 9 of the Plan's goals and its 31 objectives in a facilitated fashion. Objectives were then prioritized so that a clearer understanding of the direction that Council felt that staff should direct their time and effort toward was achieved. From this information, senior staff will review the specific strategies that were established to meet the Strategic Plan goals and objectives, and reallocate staff and budget resources as necessary. All in all, the Retreat was a very useful and fulfilling exercise, and one that should pave the way for significant TWS advancements into the future. If you have not yet studied the Strategic Plan, I encourage you to do so, and you might want to focus on your main interests from the following list of 9 goals that relate to TWS program areas:

- Wildlife management and conservation
- Government affairs and partnerships
- Publishing and information resources
- Meetings and conferences
- Membership recruitment and retention
- Professional development, certification, and ethics
- Public affairs and education
- Marketing and development
- Administration and finance

Any views that you may have on any of these areas, especially as related to Canadian interests, should be forwarded to me (baydack@cc.umanitoba.ca) at any time, and I will be sure to bring them forward to Council. This is your chance to make a difference – so take advantage of it!

In closing, I would like to once again acknowledge that I remain very grateful to continue to have the opportunity to represent you as Canadian Section Representative. This duty has been the highlight of my wildlife career, and I look forward to bringing your ideas and those of all Canadian wildlifers to the Council table. This next Council meeting is especially important in that regard

because your Section Executive has developed a detailed commentary on Canadian Perspectives relating to the TWS Strategic Plan. This item will be on the Council agenda in Monterey, and is sure to generate lively discussion. If you are interested in being a part of the deliberations, please let me know, and I will advise as to the specific agenda details.



SECTION NEWS

The second annual general meeting of the Section was held at the University of Manitoba's Delta Marsh field station, 19-21 June 2009. About 30 people attended it, which included a day of research talks by a number of researchers and agencies.

A new student chapter at Université Laval was approved effective March 10, 2009. The new executive is Nicolas Courbin (Pres.), Joelle Taillon (Pres. Elect), Julie Lambert (Chapter Rep.), Karine Pigeon (Sec.), and Guillaume Bastille-Rousseau (Treas.). Faculty advisors are: Daniel Fortin and Steeve Côté

The Section recently approved an application from an organising group to form an Ontario Chapter. The organising group includes Owen Steele, Derek Morningstar, Art Rodgers, Scott Gooch, Brian McLaren, and Martyn Obbard. Elections for the first executive of the new Chapter are expected this fall.





SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT

*Erin McCance
University of Manitoba*

Over the last few months I have been getting settled into my new role as secretary/treasurer. Currently the section sits with a healthy balance in the bank account, especially for an organization only in its third year of operation. We have recently opened a new account at the Royal Bank, which will allow us the ability to transfer our banking needs to a new Royal Bank location across Canada with each new appointment of the secretary/treasurer position in the future.

Our current membership sits at just under 175 members.

We have loads of opportunity to build this membership as we move forward. There are a number of last year's members that have not yet renewed their membership. Please contact me anytime at emccance@shaw.ca to renew or become a first time member.

I am excited about the next two years and the opportunities that lie ahead! Take care, Erin McCance



MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

Establishing TWS Membership in Northern Manitoba
Christopher Smith, CWB

Wildlife Biologists and other resource professionals who work in remote locations of Canada can find it challenging to interact and become active within the larger world of resource management. In many cases ongoing interaction is with colleagues working on local or regional issues. Although interesting and challenging work, exposure to resource management issues and activities beyond the local or regional is generally limited.

Although the Wildlife Society provides an excellent

gateway to the larger world, parent chapters are typically located in populated centers in the south making regular interaction with members and involvement with Chapter activities difficult or not possible at all. As a result many resource issues discussed at the Chapter level often do not reflect the more remote regions. As a result most resource professionals located in remote locations do not get involved with the Wildlife Society. This is an unfortunate reality.

In northern Manitoba, resource professionals are scattered across the boreal working on various inventory projects, research initiatives, management activities and monitoring programs. Like most northern settings there is limited opportunity to share information about this work that often crosses multiple disciplines and business sectors. In 2008 a small group of wildlife biologists worked to establish a northern membership to the Manitoba Chapter as a mechanism and forum for resource management professionals to share information with their peers on various issues, activities and programs related to managing natural resources in the north.

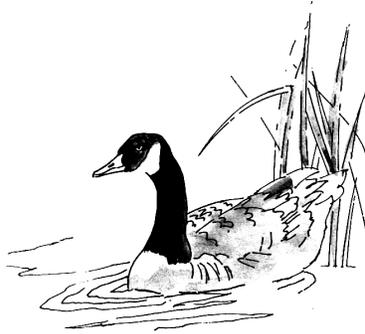
The approach taken included identifying and establishing a five "regional advocates" from government and non-government agencies located across Northern Manitoba interested in establishing a northern affiliation. These advocates generated an initial list of potential members and functioned as the regional go-to people. Given the scope of resource management activities across the north a deliberate effort was made to generate interest from broader resource disciplines including fisheries, forestry, natural resource officers and parks.

The membership drive was done via e-mail with a concise explanation as to the reasons and benefits of forming the northern group associated with TWS. The Manitoba Chapter agreed to function as the "banker" for all membership dues with the intent of retaining financial resources for use by the northern group to attend future meetings or for seed money to hold a future northern symposium or general meeting. This northern membership drive resulted in 21 northern members to the Manitoba Chapter with almost all being new members to The Wildlife Society.

To date the mechanism for communication and interacting with the northern membership has been through quarterly newsletters that focus on a variety of northern activities. Work on holding a northern meeting



or symposium has not yet taken place but is viewed as being important but a more challenging endeavor. The longevity of the northern membership is unknown but will undoubtedly be a function of the dedication and innovation of the current and future organizers. The key is to ensure northern resource managers are provided a suitable forum and information that satisfies their interests and needs.



JOBS IN WILDLIFE AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

I am planning on advertising wildlife biology positions on our Canadian section website and the newsletter. If anyone has an add they'd like to put up please contact me via 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



Biology and Conservation of **MARTENS, SABLES, AND FISHERS:** A NEW SYNTHESIS

The 5th International *Martes* Symposium will be held at the University of Washington in Seattle during the week of September 8-12, 2009.

For all information regarding the symposium, including on-line registration forms, please visit:
<http://uwacadweb.uwyo.edu/buskirk/martes5/>





EXISTING CANADIAN CHAPTERS

Alberta Chapter



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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: Amy Darling (Pres.)
E-mail: amy.darling@gmail.com

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



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY'S 16TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE



We're going to make a big splash in Monterey.

Come be a part of the excitement!

September 20-24, 2009

- ☆ Attend dozens of technical sessions.
- ☆ Choose from a full day of workshops.
- ☆ Enjoy many networking opportunities.
- ☆ Keep up to date with current technology at the Trade Show.
- ☆ Tour local attractions. Welcome Reception at Monterey Bay Aquarium.
- ☆ New! Career Fair - Students and professionals, meet potential employers.



www.wildlife.org/conference



WHO'S WHO IN THE SECTION

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University of Calgary





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>

