



## 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"*

Winter 2007/08

Vol. 1, No. 1

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Arlen Todd*

Good day, my friends (*Bonjour, mes amis*). It is both an honour and a pleasure for me to provide these remarks in the inaugural issue of the newsletter for the Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society (TWS). Many of the most fulfilling things that I have done in a lengthy and varied career have involved TWS, and I am truly pleased to be serving as the first President of the recently formed Canadian Section.

The Executive Board of the section has come together very well; it includes the elected officers (President, President-elect, Vice-president, and Past president), the appointed Secretary-Treasurer, and Chapter Presidents from the Alberta and Manitoba Chapters. We are also working closely with the elected representative to TWS Council for the Section (Rick Baydack, University of Manitoba). We have held conference calls monthly, beginning in September 2007. I am pleased to be able to say that the Canadian Section is up and running, with the initial organizing completed.

In the near term the Executive Board plans to form a "**Conservation Affairs Committee**". This committee would prioritize issues for action and undertake the preparation of position statements and other materials to support effective conservation decisions and approaches across the country. Secondly, we are considering forming a **Membership Committee**, to develop and help implement ways of increasing membership of Canadians in TWS and membership in the Canadian Section. If you are interested in leading or serving on either of these committees (Conservation Affairs, Membership), please contact me directly.

As detailed elsewhere in this newsletter, Executive Board has accepted an invitation from the Manitoba Chapter to co-host a joint meeting of the Canadian Section and the Central Mountains and Plains Section next summer. The joint meeting will be held just north of Winnipeg at the Lakeview Resort in Gimli, Manitoba

during the dates of August 14-17, 2008 (field trips included). Please put that event on your calendar now, and commit to attending; be sure to attend the first annual business meeting for the Canadian Section at that time (same venue), as well. The Gimli conference promises to be a very fine event! Finally, on this item, please also consider presenting at the conference (see the "call for papers" elsewhere in this newsletter).

All Canadian members of TWS automatically became charter members of the Canadian Section for 2007. To remain a member in **2008**, interested persons are encouraged to do one of the following two things:

- **If you are a becoming a member of TWS or are renewing your TWS membership for 2008**, simply check off membership in the Canadian Section, too, on the renewal/membership application form, and include the \$10 (Canadian, US) fee for the Canadian Section membership (you could also renew membership in either of the provincial chapters or any of the three student chapters at that same time, although those memberships [and dues] are separate from the Canadian Section);
- **If you are not a TWS member, but want to join the Canadian Section**, please complete the membership application form in this newsletter and mail it directly to Jon Jorgenson, Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Section, along with the \$10 membership fee (students and all others pay the same fee, including associate members who reside out of the Section).

Please join the Canadian Section, one way or the other. There is truly strength in numbers! An effective, vibrant Canadian Section will materially strengthen wildlife conservation and management in the country! Benefits to wildlife professionals and wildlife populations in Canada will both be very substantive. The Canadian Section of TWS provides opportunity for a new, unified voice for wildlife professionals in the country, while remaining strongly affiliated with the highly successful organization in the United States—a wonderful way to build on



strength! Additional information on the Canadian Section (including the bylaws) can be found on the TWS website (<http://www.wildlife.org/sections/Canada/>).

As you know, sections of TWS that adjoin (and formerly included) parts of Canada were re-described this past summer, coinciding with the formal creation and establishment of the Canadian Section. According to TWS (and Canadian Section) bylaws, the place of residence or employment determines eligibility for voting membership in TWS and its sub-units. However, it is certainly possible for voting members in one section to be Associate (i.e., non-voting) members in one (or more) adjoining section(s). The Canadian Section intends to maintain the strong relationships that have been created and maintained with American colleagues, while variously building or strengthening other relationships.

The Executive Board of the section and the Section Representative, Rick Baydack, are strongly interested in facilitating the establishment of additional chapters and student chapters in Canada. To that end, we are inviting and will be undertaking discussions with key or interested individuals in the weeks and months ahead. Ideally, over the long-term, we would like to see every piece of land and water in the country encompassed in a chapter of TWS, of one kind or another. Though we have considered and recommended priorities for formation of new chapters we recognize that local interest and preparedness to create momentum are really what is required to form and nurture new chapters. We also recognize that highly creative approaches may prove to have great merit!

Please accept my sincere wishes for a happy, fulfilling, successful year in 2008. Please join with me, other members of the Executive Board, and TWS leaders everywhere, in making the Canadian Section a success!

Merci beaucoup (*thanks, everyone!*)



## SECTION REP'S REPORT

*Rick Baydack*

I am honoured to provide the first Report of a Canadian Section Representative to The Wildlife Society Council. As you know, I was elected this past summer and officially took my place at The Wildlife Society Council table at the 2007 annual conference in Tucson, Arizona. I

must say that over the past several months I have been busier than expected in learning the business of the Society. Although the learning curve is steep and the documents to read are lengthy, I can see that I can make a significant contribution to the administration and operation of our professional organization. Providing a Canadian perspective to the governing body The Wildlife Society will no doubt improve.....*Excellence in Science and Education in the Stewardship of Wildlife*.....

One of the first things I did before taking a seat at the Council table in Tucson on behalf of Canadian wildlifers was to review the Guiding Principles of The Wildlife Society. In case you have not looked at them recently, here is what we stand for:

### *Our Mission*

**TWS represents and serves the professional community of scientists, technicians, managers, educators, planners and others who work actively to protect, manage and conserve wildlife and their habitats worldwide.**

### *Our Vision*

**TWS seeks a world where people and wildlife co-exist, and decisions affecting the management, use, and conservation of wildlife and their habitats are made after careful consideration of relevant scientific information and with the engagement and support of an informed and caring citizenry.**

### *Our Focus*

**TWS' primary focus is on the science-based management and conservation of wildlife in a world dominated by human-influence. We recognize that effective wildlife conservation in the contemporary world requires approaches that respond to the needs of both humans and wildlife.**

Equipped with that knowledge base allowed me to join Council deliberations with the background needed to enter into discussions and provide a voice for Canadian concerns. And discuss is what Council does! Two full days of an agenda prior to the actual start of the Annual Conference, followed by a half day comprised of keynote addresses and the Awards Ceremony, and finally another half day of 'new' Council business, the Annual General meeting, and Members' Forum. At the final Council meeting, new Council members (like me) volunteered or were nominated to serve on various Council subcommittees or technical review subcommittees. It soon became clear that the Canadian voice was being sought in many areas, as my role over the next year will be as a



member of the following subcommittees:

- Strategic Plan
- Publications
- Membership
- Group Achievement Award
- Celebrating Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage (COWCH)
- Certification Review Board
- Certification for Wildlife Technicians and Conservation Law Enforcement Officers
- North American Model of Wildlife Conservation
- Impacts of Oil and Gas Development on Wildlife

If any of you would like more information on any of the above or have thoughts that would be useful in helping me to do my job, please let me know. My contact information is found elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Precedent indicates that new Council members will Chair one or more of the subcommittees on which they serve as other Council members move off Council or on to other Committees. It clearly is a dynamic organization that involves its Council members right from the get go, and I very much look forward to offering my expertise to the organization in the coming months.

A summary of Council meeting minutes is provided in other documents distributed by The Wildlife Society, but let me provide 3 highlights of my perceptions from my first formal interaction with Council.

1. Council is a highly dedicated and motivated team of individuals who have a diverse array of ideas, insights, and experiences with the wildlife resource. Their commitment to the cause is truly amazing, and leads me to believe that our Society is in very good hands indeed.
2. Council business might be perceived as petty and bureaucratic. But it is a job that someone has to do, and without an effective and efficient Council, I do not feel that The Wildlife Society would be making the positive strides that we are.
3. The Wildlife Society is all about its members, and Council decisions clearly are being made with the interests of all members as the foremost priority.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find descriptions of other activities with which I have been involved as Canadian Section Representative. I hope you will see that the Canadian Section is starting off in a very positive way under the capable leadership of President Arlen Todd, a tireless worker, and other members of the Executive Board. We hosted a Canadian Members' Reception at the Annual Conference in Tucson which attracted many Canadian wildlifera from 5 provinces as well as many of

our US friends. I truly hope you take the opportunity if at all possible to take part in the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society which will be held in Miami, Florida in November 2008. As well, the Manitoba Chapter is busy planning for the first Annual Meeting of the Canadian Section, in conjunction with the Central Mountains and Plains Section in which Manitoba was previously located, to be held in Gimli, MB in August 2008. It will be an event that you do not want to miss!

My intention in the coming year is to make my way to meetings in all of the existing Canadian chapters, and I will soon be scheduling my trips to the Alberta Chapter, the University of Alberta Chapter, the Lethbridge College Chapter, and the Lakehead University Chapter. Obviously my location in Manitoba means I am a regular attendee at Manitoba Chapter activities, including our Annual Delta Get-Away Weekend in February and our AGM in March. I am also hoping to attend other meetings in other provinces at which I would be pleased to provide information on The Wildlife Society and advice on how to become a Chapter and its benefits. So please contact me at any time if you are interested in hearing more about our organization and how you can increase your involvement for the good of the wildlife resource. As we all know, no one can do this type of work alone, and although it may not be glamorous, serving The Wildlife Society has been the most rewarding time of my career in wildlife-related activities. I urge you to step forward and become involved – it is a decision that you will not regret. Welcome aboard!





## SECTION NEWS

### Merlin Shoesmith Honoured as TWS Fellow

Canadian Section member Merlin Shoesmith was honoured as a TWS Fellow at the 2007 Annual Conference of TWS in Tucson, Arizona. Merlin joins an elite group of wildlife professionals so honoured across the U.S. and Canada since 2003. The Wildlife Society Fellows Program recognizes members who have distinguished themselves through exceptional service to their profession. Fellow appointments are for life and are announced at the Annual Conference.

Merlin Shoesmith received his B.S. degree in Fish and Wildlife Management from Iowa State University in 1963, his M.S. degree in Vertebrate Ecology from Purdue University in 1965, and his PhD in Zoology from the University of Manitoba in 1977. Merlin became a member of TWS in 1963, and has a long history of service to the organization over the intervening 44 years. He has served on numerous committees of the parent society: Urban Wildlife (1980-81), Professionalism (1983-84), Nominations (1984-85), Professional Education (1986-87), International Affairs (1989-91 and 2002-07), Honorary Membership and Special Awards (1992-93), Editorial Review Committee, Wildlife Society Bulletin (1994-2000), Aldo Leopold Memorial Award 2006-07). He served as President of the Central Mountains and Plains Section (1979-80) and also was a nominee for Section Representative for the CMPS in 1986. He is a charter member of the Manitoba Chapter and served as President in 1977. He has faithfully served on numerous committees of the Chapter and supported its many activities to date.

Merlin began his professional career as an Upland Game Biologist with the Iowa Conservation Commission in 1965. In 1971 he joined the Manitoba Department of Natural Resources where he spent the next 30 years of his career as a biologist in research and administration. Most recently he has taught courses and supervised graduate students in the Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources at the University of Manitoba as the External Liaison Officer for the Faculty.

### Dennis Murray wins 2007 Publication Award

Canadian Section member, Dennis L. Murray of Trent University in Peterborough and co-authors Eric Cox, Warren Ballard, Heather Whitlaw, Mark Lenarz, Thomas Custer, Terri Bennett, and Todd Fuller were recipients of the 2007 TWS Publication Award – Monograph Category. Their study of a declining moose population in northwest

Minnesota was documented in: *Murray, D.L., E.W. Cox, W.B. Ballard, H.A. Whitlaw, M.S. Lenarz, T.W. Custer, T. Barnett, and T. K. Fuller. 2006. Pathogens, nutritional deficiency, and climate influences on a declining moose population. Wildlife Monographs No. 166.* The award was presented at TWS's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference held in September 2007 in Tucson, AZ.



## Information on the Organization of Sections and Chapters of TWS

The Wildlife Society is an international, non-profit association dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. Membership is available at different geographic levels (national/international, section, chapter, student chapter).

### Sections

Sections are the regional networks of The Wildlife Society in North America. Each Section encompasses several states, provinces, or republics. Sections bring a regional perspective to wildlife conservation issues and enable members to be active in professional affairs in a regional context. Sections promote cooperative efforts and the exchange of information among wildlife professionals and Wildlife Society chapters in a broad geographic area.

### Chapters

Chapters are the local networks of The Wildlife Society. They generally use a state or province boundary to define their memberships, although more or less than one state or province may be served by a chapter depending upon local membership needs. Chapters hold meetings, workshops, training events, and social activities to meet the educational and networking needs of their members. They also publish newsletters and provide expert review of local wildlife conservation and management issues.

### Student Chapters

Student Chapters are the college or university-level networks of The Wildlife Society. Student Chapters are run by the students for the students while being advised by a college or university faculty advisor. Student chapters are composed of student and professional members of the



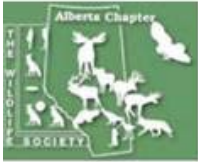


Society on college campuses. Chapters establish their own locally-focused objectives and have their own bylaws, officers, committees, and dues structure.

## Focus on... University of Alberta Student Chapter

### EXISTING CANADIAN CHAPTERS

#### Alberta Chapter



President: Anne Hubbs  
E-mail: [anne.hubbs@gov.ab.ca](mailto:anne.hubbs@gov.ab.ca)

#### Manitoba Chapter



President: Derek Kroeker  
E-mail: [derek.kroeker@gov.mb.ca](mailto:derek.kroeker@gov.mb.ca)

Established in 1999, the University of Alberta Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society (UACTWS) has recruited roughly 70 paying members, with 200 more on the e-mailing list. We have 4 elected and 3 appointed members on our executive board. UACTWS hosts regular meetings, activities and events to expand members' knowledge of wildlife science and resource management. Field research opportunities currently focus on the Urban Deer Project (UDP), in which devoted students take part in trapping and collaring of deer and studying their movements in the Edmonton area.

As part of our seminar series, Dr. Kashif M. Sheikh recently presented the talk "Translating Words into Action", which focused on conservation in the developing world. The Chapter also hosts regular student workshops on wildlife field skills such as waterfowl identification, radio telemetry, GPS, and compass navigation skills. Members volunteer for activities sponsored by other TWS chapters, such as the Annual Meeting of the Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society. We regularly post job opportunities on our website to promote professional development of our members.

### STUDENT CHAPTERS

#### University of Alberta

Contact: Amy Darling (Pres.)  
E-mail: [amy.darling@gmail.com](mailto:amy.darling@gmail.com)

#### Lethbridge Community College

Contact: Kalista Pruden (Pres.)  
E-mail: [kalista.pruden@lethbridgecollege.ab.ca](mailto:kalista.pruden@lethbridgecollege.ab.ca)

#### Lakehead University

Contact: Douglas Vincent (Pres.)  
E-mail: [dvincent@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:dvincent@lakeheadu.ca)



(Photo: UA Student Chapter members Matt Pyper, Shevenell Mullen-Webb, Sheila Holmes (L to R) assist with the Urban Deer Project.)



Annual social events sponsored by UACTWS include "Improv Night" at which University of Alberta biology and natural resource professors and graduate students



compete to give the “best” improvised presentation on slides they’ve never before viewed...it is always hilarious!

The annual Game Potluck Dinner also is an excellent fundraiser, and a way to socialize and network with other wildlife students. This lively social event includes a silent auction and door prizes where prizes are donated by local hunting and conservation groups, a bountiful potluck dinner complete with the “Mystery Dish”, and a live band.

We round it all off with regular outdoor activities such as skating, tobogganing, and hikes in local parks. Through education, networking, and entertaining activities UACTWS helps foster an appreciation of wildlife at the University of Alberta and prepares members for careers in wildlife biology, conservation and management.



(Photo: L to R: Mara Erikson, Andrea Morehouse, Michelle Bacon, Christine Robichaud, Charlie Loewan, Lani Stinson at the UA Student Chapter game dinner).

For more information on student activities, membership, and the benefits of having a local Student Chapter of TWS on campus, see our web site (<http://www.rr.ualberta.ca/wildlifesociety/index.htm>) or contact board members.

**Current Executive Board Members of UA Student Chapter TWS:** Amy Darling (President), Carmen Von Conrad (Vice-President), Stuart Morrison (Treasurer), Crystal Kirton (Secretary), Ian Levitt and Robert Found (Urban Deer Project Coordinators), Aaron Monk (Webmaster), and Liv Vors (Education and Information Coordinator).

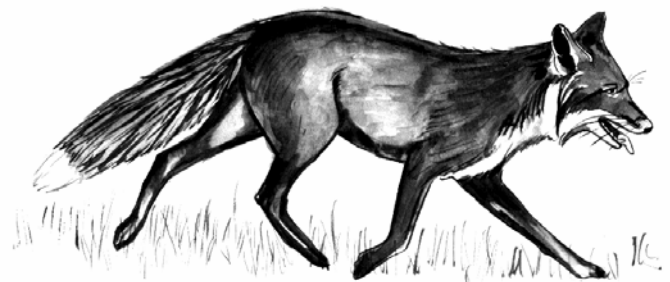


## President’s Message – Alberta Chapter

Happy New Year! Members of the Alberta Chapter have been very active on many fronts. Some of the many activities we have been engaged in are:

- Preparing for our annual conference and business meeting in Red Deer from February 28 – March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008. This year’s plenary theme is *Hunting: Archaic or Conservation Necessity?* A Call for Papers and Conference details are available through the Alberta Chapter website.
- Modifying our website to provide a new fresh look with updated information on news and events. A new very interesting section on the history of the Chapter has also been added, along with a page on the roles and activities of each Executive Committee. The website can be viewed at: <http://www.albertadirectory.net/actws/>.
- Our Conservation Committee has been busy as always providing comment on issues such as chronic wasting disease, a crown land conservation task and industrial activity in sensitive wildlife areas. We are close to finalizing a conservation fund that members could apply for when attending advocacy-related activities on behalf of the Chapter.

Cheers, Anne Hubbs





## It's time...a call for nominations for next year!

As the Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society moves forward in its inaugural year, it is already time to start thinking about nominations for next year's candidates for Vice President and President Elect. Two very able veterans of The Wildlife Society, **Brent Patterson**, research scientist with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in Peterborough, ON and adjunct professor at Trent University, and **Kathy Martin**, senior research scientist with the Canadian Wildlife Service in Vancouver, and a Professor at the University of British Columbia have agreed to join me on the Nominations and Elections Committee. Over the next few months we will be soliciting nominations, and will prepare a slate of a minimum of two candidates for each position to be voted upon by members of the Canadian Section early next summer. Nominees agreeing to run for either position will be expected to submit a nomination statement to the committee, and results will be announced at the Canadian Section's Annual meeting being held 14-17 August in Gimli, MB. Candidates must be voting members of the Canadian Section that reside or work within Canada. If you are interested in running for either of these Offices, would like to make a nomination, or have questions, please contact one of the committee members. Continued high-quality leadership is essential to the success of the Canadian Section. We look forward to hearing from you!

**Evelyn Merrill**, Past President and Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee, Dept. Biological Sciences, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB T6G 2E9. Tel.: (780) 492-2842, E-mail: [emerrill@ualberta.ca](mailto:emerrill@ualberta.ca), **Brent Patterson**: Tel.: (705) 755-1553, E-mail: [brent.patterson@ontario.ca](mailto:brent.patterson@ontario.ca), **Kathy Martin**: Tel.: (604) 822-9695, E-mail: [kathy.martin@ubc.ca](mailto:kathy.martin@ubc.ca).



## CALL FOR ORAL AND POSTER ABSTRACTS

The Central Mountains and Plains and Canadian sections of The Wildlife Society invite submission of abstracts for oral and poster presentations for their joint summer meeting: **Crossroads in Wildlife: New Great Plains Initiatives and Canadian Directions** to be held at the Lakeview Resort and Conference Center in Gimli, MB from 14-17 August 2008. A plenary section of invited speakers will be held on 16 August to address the topic of *Climate Change from the Great Plains to the Arctic*, and an oral presentation session for students is planned. Additional information on abstract submission can be found at: <http://www.wildlifesociety.mb.ca/>, or at: <http://www.wildlife.org/sections/Canada/>

Direct questions to Merlin Shoesmith, Program Chair, (204) 222-4651, [109mejo@mts.net](mailto:109mejo@mts.net) or to Evelyn Merrill, Past President, Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society, (780) 492-2842, [emerrill@ualberta.ca](mailto:emerrill@ualberta.ca).



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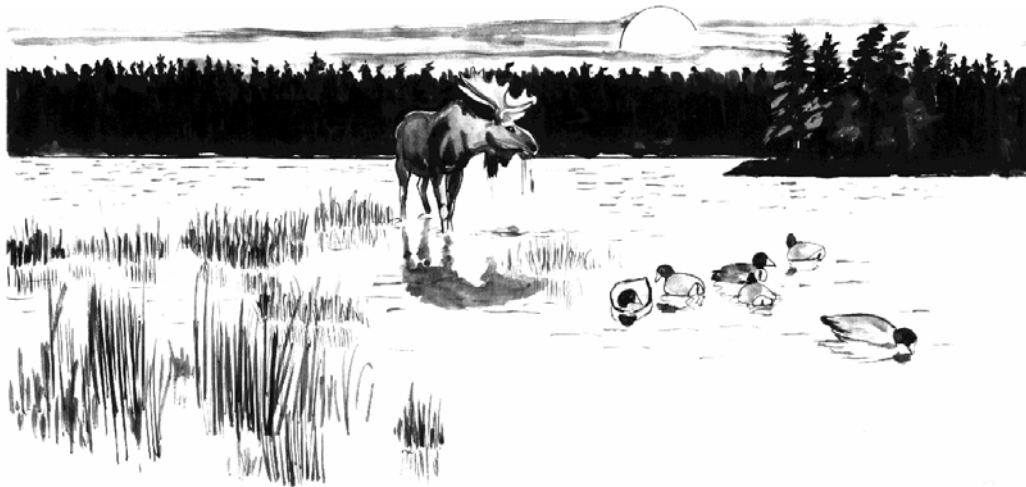
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**Editor:** Ontario Ministry Natural Resources  
Address information above







# Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society

## 2008 Membership Application

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The newly created Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society invites you to join its growing ranks. For 2007, all Canadian members of TWS automatically became charter members of the Canadian Section. To remain a member, 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Province:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Postal Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Affiliation:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please make payment out to: Canadian Section of TWS

Please mail membership form and dues to:

Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society  
c/o Jon Jorgenson  
Alberta Sustainable Resource Development  
Suite 201, 800 Railway Ave  
Canmore, Alberta  
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