



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"

February 2010

Vol. 3, No. 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Merlin Shoemith
Winnipeg, Manitoba*

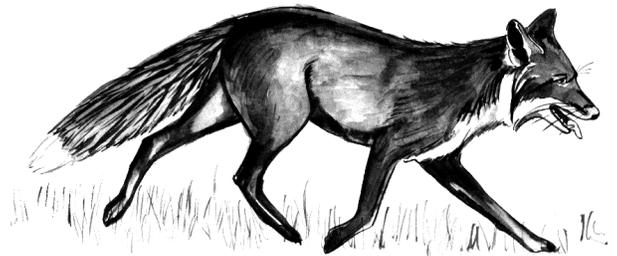
Affiliates or Chapters in Remote Areas of Canada

In the September 2009 Section Newsletter, I asked Chris Smith of Ducks Unlimited Canada stationed in The Pas to summarize progress in his attempts to form a network for communication and interchange among wildlife professionals working in northern Manitoba. Many of them do not have the opportunity to travel to or participate in the activities and programs of the Manitoba Chapter that are concentrated in the south. He has proposed a "northern affiliation" with the Manitoba Chapter. Some 21 wildlifers most who were not members of the Manitoba Chapter expressed an interest in staying in touch and developed quarterly newsletters that focus on a variety of northern Manitoba activities. You might want to review that article again to refresh your memory because I think the model for organization that Chris is proposing has potential for organizing wildlifers in other remote regions of Canada.

I heartily welcome this innovative approach for wildlifers who have limited opportunity to participate or become a part of the Manitoba Chapter. In my mind it begs a larger question of how we Canadians intend to include our northern comrades in a formal association with the Canadian Section and The Wildlife Society. After all, the northern half to two-thirds of Canada is remote. What is an appropriate model by which to form chapters or affiliations in this vast area where wildlifers working there will have limited opportunity to interact and directly participate in activities that we are used to in the rest of North America? Why do we need a northern affiliation to the Manitoba Chapter? Possibly they should be on their own if they can do their own banking of membership dues. What are the advantages and challenges of an affiliated northern group to a chapter? Electronic communication has made the world much smaller and much easier for northerners to remain in touch although they may never spend much time together face to face. Certainly newsletters, conference calls for conducting meetings, payment of dues, etc., can all be done by electronic media.

The Wildlife Society has established a Canadian Section and given us free rein to examine and develop our own means of organizing and including members from remote regions. Yukon, NWT, Nunavut wildlifers in particular deserve our help in developing a working model possibly some variation to that proposed by Chris for northern Manitoba. I encourage you to submit your views and be ready to discuss this item during our annual meeting in Edmonton.

Merlin Shoemith, President



"IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!"

Time to renew your Canadian Section Membership. Membership renewal can be done online via: <http://joomla.wildlife.org/> or by using the membership renewal form located at END of this newsletter!"



CANADIAN SECTION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Rick Baydack, University of Manitoba



'Baydack's Banter' (baydack@cc.umanitoba.ca)

As the year continues to unfold, each of us is no doubt thinking about the spring field season, and also looking ahead to our futures. The Wildlife Society is no different, with lots of bits and pieces being put into their places, and final details being added as we begin the year 2010. And the Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society also continues to move its agenda forward, with exciting and innovative ideas being advanced so that the Canadian voice is increasingly heard and recognized in 'representing and serving the professional community of scientists, managers, educators, technicians, planners, and others who work actively to study, manage, and conserve wildlife and its habitats worldwide.'

The Canadian Section continues to expand its influence, thanks largely to the dedicated efforts of an untiring Executive and many Committee Members. The Section is active on many fronts, and made a very positive and directed submission to TWS Council at the TWS Annual Conference in Monterey, California that focused on the Strategic Plan and its relationship to the Canadian wildlifer. As we all know, management of wildlife in Canada and the US is somewhat different, especially due to the larger human population base that supports more extensive environmental programming south of the border. But TWS and Canada have had a long association, and efforts to further cement the dialogue among those of us working in this field have been very positive indeed. Some interesting events took place in Monterey that add credence to the perspective that Canada is a necessary and important component of the TWS hierarchy. Not only are Canadian views being sought on a regular basis at the TWS Council table, but in *The Wildlife Professional*, a conscious effort is being made by new Managing Editor Lisa Moore (a Canadian by birth!) to ensure that the (often different) Canadian situation is accurately described. Our Canadian Conservation Affairs Committee is liaising with TWS HQ staff, and particularly Policy Director Laura Bies, to find ways to better influence wildlife policy in Canada generally and across our provinces and territories. Our Membership Committee and Executive of the Canadian Section continue to find new wildlife professionals to serve TWS not only in the new Canadian Section but also in new Chapters and Student

Chapters. As many of you know my view that the Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society is the crowning glory for our profession every year, I was delighted to bring forward and have accepted a recommendation that the venue for the Conference should be located in Canada at least once every 10 years as representative of the approximate percentage membership of Canadians in TWS. Council also agreed to change the rotation of the Annual Conference into a East-Central-West division, with the Canadian Section and Chapters having the option of submitting a bid to host in any of our country's geographical areas.

So my assessment is that Canada does matter to TWS. Connected to this feeling, however, is that we in Canada who believe in The Wildlife Society must also redouble our efforts to put forward Canadian perspectives for all of TWS members to hear. I believe that the more commentary, viewpoints, criticism, and suggestions that are generated by Canadian members about the relevance of/to The Wildlife Society/Canada, the more collaborative and functional our relationship will become. Please do not hesitate to express your views – whether in a Letter to the Editor of *The Wildlife Professional*, a posting on The Wildlife Society Blog, communications through the TWS Facebook, Twitter, or LinkedIn sites, or for those like me not necessarily keeping up with the new electronic approaches, a simple phone call or email to Michael Hutchins, Executive Director/CEO of TWS (Michael@wildlife.org), Merlin Shoemith, President of the Canadian Section of TWS (109mejo@mts.net), or myself (Baydack@cc.umanitoba.ca). We need your input, and with that input, we WILL achieve a stronger and relevant Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society that will do even a better job (...) 'to foster excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education among wildlife professionals in Canada'(...)

SECTION NEWS

Policy for Development of Position Statements by TWS Sections, Chapters, and Working Groups

The Wildlife Society, as the scientific society for professional wildlife managers and conservationists, has a responsibility to address national and international issues that affect the current and future status of wildlife in North America and throughout the world. The diligent development of authoritative, science-based statements on wildlife issues is essential for interjecting wildlife concerns into decision-making processes. The Wildlife Society fills this role through development of position statements. A "position statement" is a carefully prepared and concise exposition on a wildlife issue that defines the issue, contains factual background data, describes the most probable biological, social, and economic results of alternative actions, and may also contain a recommended

course(s) of action. Following a period of review and comment by the membership, The Wildlife Society Council reviews and votes on whether to approve these statements.

Sections, Chapters, and Working Groups may also desire to formulate position statements pertaining to subjects in their locale or subject area. They are authorized to do so when the statement addresses a topic upon which TWS does not have a position statement or when the statement would be consistent with existing TWS position statements. TWS Council must approve all position statements developed by Working Groups prior to their final adoption by the Working Group. Any statements by Sections and Chapters that conflict with those already adopted by TWS must be submitted to TWS Council for review and possible approval. Sections, Chapters, and Working Groups are encouraged to communicate with the Associate Director of Government Affairs when developing position statements. Copies of all statements adopted by Sections, Chapters, and Working Groups must be forwarded to TWS Headquarters upon approval.

deserving, long-standing member of the Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society, its past-president, and a productive, long-standing professional and contributor to TWS. Beth was nominated by Dr. Wayne Heimer from Alaska primarily for her contribution to the study of bighorn sheep and the design of mined landscapes to benefit bighorn sheep. Beth says: "By examining the biological needs of the bighorn sheep against the backdrop of an operating coal mine I was able to apply McHarg's "design with nature" concept. This approach incorporates environmental and societal values into every aspect of development, and promotes the evaluation of constraints and opportunities arising."

You can find out more about the convention and award at:

<http://www.wildsheepfoundation.org/>

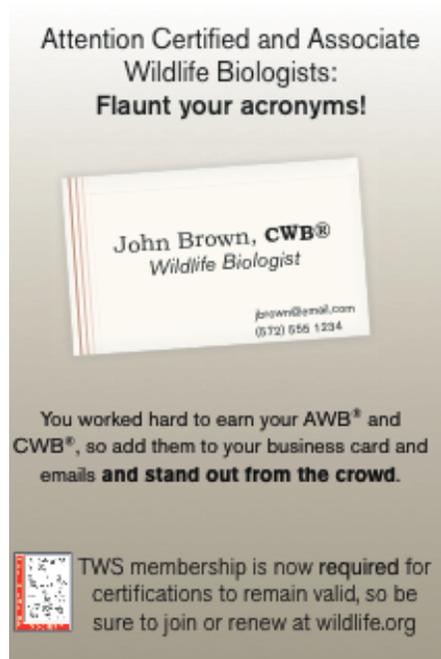


CHAPTER NEWS

Alberta Chapter

*By Evie Merrill, University of Alberta,
ACTWS President*

It has been 20 years since the formation of the Alberta Chapter of TWS this year and we are celebrating in style. Over the past year we have had a series of articles in our newsletter reminiscing of our past accomplishments. At this year's annual meeting in Red Deer we have invited past presidents and Rowan Award recipients, and several members have highlighted our history in posters and slide shows. This year we also have been on assessing the feasibility of a hiring a Executive Director. We have been able to gather membership feed back based our new web-based survey and are now in the process of writing a report to present to the membership at the March meeting. We also recently established a new publications award. The Chapter is trying to link more broadly to education networks in Alberta for giving wildlife presentations and there will be a special session at our annual meeting on this. We have membership drive in full swing with a newly updated brochure out for the asking. Plan to join us in Red Deer on March 12-14th for our annual meeting - see ACTWS website and this newsletter for more details. Keep active!



Outstanding Achievement Award (Wild Sheep Foundation)

The Wild Sheep Foundation's (formerly FNAWS) Board of Directors has selected Beth MacCallum to receive the prestigious "Outstanding Achievement Award" at the Wild Sheep Foundation Convention held in Reno, Nevada, February, 3 – 6, 2010. The award was presented on Saturday, February 6th, 2010 during the evening Banquet & Awards Program. Beth MacCallum is a well-

PARENT SOCIETY NEWS

*By Laura M. Bies
Director of Government Affairs
The Wildlife Society*

The Wildlife Society is now accepting applications for the 2010 Leadership Institute! The goal of the Institute is to facilitate the development of new leaders within The Wildlife Society and the wildlife profession as a whole. The Institute will recruit 10-15 promising early-career professionals for a series of intensive activities and mentoring relationships, exposing the participants to the inner workings of TWS and increasing the ranks of active leaders in TWS and the wildlife profession.

During the summer of 2010, participants will engage in a series of assignments to develop their leadership skills. Institute members will also attend the 2010 TWS Annual Conference in Snowbird, Utah, in October and participate in various activities, including mentoring and leadership workshop sessions. There is no tuition cost for the program and participants receive free registration for the conference, as well as a travel grant to cover expenses. **Application deadline is 1 March 2010.** **Email all materials (except the application form, which is submitted automatically) to Laura Bies (laura@wildlife.org).** Visit www.wildlife.org for more information (click on 'Leadership Institute' on the left).

Applicants should submit the following materials:

- Application form (available at <http://joomla.wildlife.org/leadershipinstitute/>)
- Cover letter, with evidence of leadership capacity or potential, such as previous leadership positions held in TWS Chapters or Student Chapters or in other organizations
- Résumé, which includes a list of publications, awards, etc.
- Academic transcript/s (scanned copy)
- 2 letters of recommendation from supervisors, academic advisors, professors, or others in leadership positions with whom you have worked and who are familiar with your leadership potential, commitment to TWS, and commitment to wildlife management and conservation (should be emailed directly to Laura Bies (laura@wildlife.org), subject line "Leadership Institute Recommendation for [applicant last name]")
- An essay (1000 word limit), which succinctly summarizes (1) your concept of leadership, (2) your aspiration for your role within TWS in 5 to 10 years, and (3) why you are an ideal candidate for the Institute.



MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

LATE CAREER REFLECTIONS ON THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY FROM ONE CANADIAN'S PERSPECTIVE

By Arlen Todd

My earliest recollection of The Wildlife Society (TWS) is that of a very young man working as a wildlife technician for the Canada Land Inventory Project (Wildlife Sector) in Manitoba. I was working in western Manitoba with another young man (Robert [Bob] Hudson—one of last year's William Rowan Award recipients—the highest award given by the Alberta Chapter of TWS) and realized that he was reading the *Journal of Wildlife Management* in the evenings in the motel room that we were sharing. Bob encouraged me to take a look at the journal issue he was reading and even encouraged me to become a member of TWS (Bob was always 'keen' and always an advocate for professionalism; however, 'the Journal' looked rather like Greek to me, at that time!). A few years later (1971), having gone to university (U of A) in the meantime and having decided on a fully professional career, I decided to become a member. I can still recall how I avidly read every word of every article in every issue, in those early years. I also recall the "Wildlife Society Bulletin" emerging as a new upstart publication (first published in 1972, but became defunct after thirty-six years)—I liked 'the Bulletin' at least as much as 'the Journal'. I vividly recall the dreams that I had of publishing articles in those most prestigious-seeming publications!

A few years after that I found myself in residence at the University of Wisconsin (UW)—Madison, doing postgraduate studies with a prominent Albertan, Lloyd Keith. While I won't elaborate much on that wonderful time at this time, I do have vivid memories of writing a Master's thesis in the (Aldo) Leopold Memorial Library on the UW campus there, during one highly productive week in the summer of 1974. While writing, I faced a prominent glass display case, which featured Leopold memorabilia. I hope that each and every one of you recognizes the name of Aldo Leopold as the founder of the discipline of wildlife management, as well as a prominent early leader of TWS, but perhaps not. Anyhow, to me, Leopold provided inspiration that week (quite some years after his death!), as did necessity—I had a job to go to, in Alberta.

The Wildlife Society continued to be important to me in the early years of my professional career in Alberta. It provided a forum for continuing professional development and also for accreditation—I chose to apply for status as a Certified Wildlife Biologist (and achieved it), as soon as I had the requisite five years of professional experience, in 1979. TWS

also provided an outlet for those publications that I had started dreaming about achieving, some years earlier. Accordingly, I felt quite honoured and ready to give something back in the mid-1980s, when I had an opportunity to serve on a TWS Technical Advisory Committee on “Traps, trapping, and furbearer management”. About that same time, I began daring to dream of filling senior leadership roles in TWS.

I have always had quite a lot of energy. So, as a younger man, I sometimes found myself filling a variety of volunteer roles with service clubs and community organizations. Yet, I literally **ached**, at times, to use my leadership skills more fully in my chosen profession. I can recall being an ardent but largely uninvolved supporter of the initiative to form an Alberta Chapter of TWS (ACTWS), later in the 1980s. I even had the temerity to run for office against the person who became the founding president (my good friend, Bill Glasgow) in the initial election for Chapter officers! In any event, the ACTWS provided other enjoyable and fulfilling opportunities to serve in subsequent years, eventually culminating in progressive leadership opportunities (director, 1997, 1998; President-elect and succeeding positions beginning in 2000). While in leadership to the Alberta Chapter, I also had the opportunity to step forward and help attract the International Conference of TWS to Canada, and went on to serve as Co-chair for the Local Arrangements Committee (with Terry Kowalchuk as the other Co-chair) for the 11th Annual Conference of TWS, held in Calgary in 2004. After three years of planning and organizing with TWS it was great to see a successful conference unfold; it was also great to concentrate on simply doing a day job (Species at Risk Biologist in Calgary) for some time after that!

In hindsight, it is now very obvious that our hosting of the 11th Annual Conference of TWS in Canada (Alberta and Manitoba Chapters in key roles) caused TWS to realize the vast, untapped potential for growth in Canada. Accordingly, it was no accident that TWS began working with selected individuals in Canada to develop an authentically Canadian, self-contained section of TWS. That impetus led to the development of a draft set of bylaws, which were circulated for approval to all members of TWS in Canada in 2007-- approved by a huge majority. Subsequent to that, it was a great honour for me to appear on the ballot of officers for the newly approved Canadian Section of TWS, and to serve as the founding president and past-president, in succession, during the first two years of the Section's existence.

To make a very simple but telling statement, the two most fulfilling things that I have done **so far** in my lifetime have involved parenting on one hand and TWS on the other! It has been very fulfilling to oversee and watch the Canadian Section become an early success, with the addition of a new provincial chapter (Ontario) and lots of additional student chapters emerging (Ontario, Quebec, Alberta, etc.). It is my hope that each substantive piece of land and water in Canada will some day be covered by a sub-unit of TWS. I believe that wildlife professionals, our constituents (Canadians), and wildlife populations and habitats will all be better served, if that proves

to be the case. I know how important the Alberta Chapter has been to me and many Albertans for professional development and support, for mentoring, for fulfillment, and sometimes just for fun! In a few words, it is very rewarding to me personally to watch the growth of sub-units, which will foster that kind of growth in wildlife professionals for decades to come.

Thanks, and good luck with maintaining the momentum!

Arlen Todd, Calgary (403-297-7349; arlen.todd@gov.ab.ca)



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 end 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

*Come One - Come All To Edmonton
This Summer!*

Society for Conservation Biology & CSTWS AGM

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, 2-7 July 2010

Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting supported by The Alberta Chapter of TWS and the Student Chapter of TWS at the University of Alberta will be held in conjunction with the International Congress on Conservation Biology (ICCB) on 3 July 2010 in Edmonton, Alberta.

There will be an open barbeque 11:30-1:30 on 3 July 2010 on the University of Alberta campus followed by the Canadian Section business meeting and discussions on making linkages among conservation groups in Canada. Instead of an open paper session at this year's meeting the Canadian Section is sponsoring two special symposia at the ICCB:

Sustainable Use in Wildlife Conservation: Sustainable use is a valuable tool for promoting the conservation of biological diversity, in many instances providing incentives for conservation and restoration because of the social, cultural and economic benefits that people derive from that use. In turn, sustainable use cannot be achieved without effective politics and conservation measures. Hunting, trapping and angling are forms of sustainable use of wildlife when properly managed. In this symposium, speakers will address biological, economic, socio-cultural and political aspects of sustainable use across the globe for what the future holds.

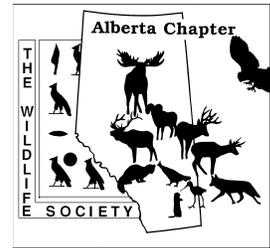
Caribou Conservation: International Perspectives on Management and Policy:

As one of the last example of remaining large ungulate migrations in the northern hemisphere, caribou and reindeer populations face a myriad of limiting factors. Given that the global population decline encompasses all subspecies of caribou and reindeer, and the immeasurable value of the species to northern cultures through subsistence hunting and herding, international dialogue on caribou and reindeer management strategies is needed. The purpose of this symposium is to provide an overview of region-specific caribou and reindeer limiting factors and policy in order to educate both professionals and students on the conservation and management of a "threatened" species with circumpolar distribution.

See details on **Canadian Section:**
<http://joomla.wildlife.org/Canada/>



Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society 20th Annual Meeting and Conference "20 years and going strong..."



Red Deer Lodge
4311 – 49th Avenue Red Deer, Alberta, Canada
403-346-8841 or 800-661-1657 or www.reddeerlodge.ca

March 12-14, 2010

If you haven't pre-registered yet – it's not too late!
Please do so on our website <http://joomla.wildlife.org/Alberta>

The Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society's 20th Annual Conference with the theme "20 years and going strong..." is being held at the Red Deer Lodge in Red Deer Alberta, from March 12-14, 2010. As part of our 20th Anniversary we are acknowledging and honouring our Past Presidents and Rowan Award recipients. We encourage all members and students to seek out these honourees (they will be easily identifiable by their special name tags) and persuade them to impart some of their experiences and wisdom. This year's plenary session is "Chronic Wasting Disease and other Disease Agents Threatening Wildlife and Their Habitats". Plenary speakers will present a state of the Province perspective on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), an overview of the Alberta Prion Research Institute that recently became part of Alberta Connects – Bio Solutions and the latest research being undertaken on CWD. There will also be presentations on the Pine Beetle in Alberta and the fungus White-Nose Syndrome that threatens bat populations in Western North America.

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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University of Calgary



Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society

2010 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>

