

NORTHWEST WILDLIFER

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October 2007

NORTHWEST SECTION

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NORTHWEST SECTION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

This is my last report as your section representative, as my second term ended on 23 September at the TWS Annual Meeting in Tucson. Your new representative, Ellen Campbell, hit the ground running by participating in all the meetings and activities of Council. She is an excellent addition to the Council team, and will do a great job representing you as the Northwest Section Representative.

The annual meeting in Tucson was excellent in every respect. The plenary session, "Across the Borderline: Challenges and Opportunities in North American Wildlife Conservation" was a timely theme given the meeting's proximity to the border with Mexico and the creation of the new Canadian Section of TWS. The meeting was packed full of symposia, workshops, technical sessions, poster exhibits, fieldtrips, social events, and meetings of

every description. With 55 sessions offered, the hard part was choosing which to attend.

Council conducted a wide variety of business during its meeting of 21–22 September, including the following actions:

- Reinstated funding to support student conclaves starting in 2008 (something we had reluctantly suspended during the budget crisis a few years ago).
- Launched an effort to identify the 20 top issues facing wildlife and wildlife professionals.
- Approved creation of a new TWS/Caesar Kleberg Award for Applied Science, enabled by a new endowment from the Kleberg Foundation.
- Approved creation of an advisory/oversight board for the Journal of Wildlife Management.

- Approved new guidelines to facilitate the establishment and success of TWS Working Groups.
- Agreed to establish a committee to develop a position statement on lead introduced into fish and wildlife habitats by hunters and anglers.
- Approved the wildlife priority issues for the TWS Government Affairs Program.
- Agreed that draft position statements on oil and gas development, wind energy, and wildlife fertility control are ready for member review.
- Voted affirmatively to continue publishing *The Wildlifer*, with emphasis on electronic distribution.
- Approved the 2007 budget and the proposed budget for 2008 (both firmly in the black!)

In some respects it's hard to believe that 6 years have passed since you first elected me as your representative. But then I think of all that has been accomplished in that time, and have to marvel at the progress. Just in the last 12–18 months, TWS has: launched the new publication, *The Wildlife Professional*; combined the *Bulletin* and the *Journal* into one publication with improved format, more content, and much greater speed in getting results into print; rebuilt the

TWS electronic infrastructure including a vastly improved website; opened the TWS online store; initiated email blasts so that important announcements reach TWS members; digitized all TWS publications and opened the legacy collection (1937–95) to the world; made all publications 1995 and beyond available electronically to member-subscribers (no charge) and others on a pay-per-view basis; created a new Canadian Section; launched the TWS Leadership Institute; linked with mainstream media by joining the Environmental News Network; and on and on.

This has been an exciting and rewarding time to be on TWS Council and I feel greatly enriched, personally and professionally, by the experience. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve; it was a privilege and a pleasure.



Winni Kessler, Northwest Section Representative, Past

CANADIAN SECTION UNDERWAY

Elections were held and the first ever slate of officers have begun organizing and conducting business for the Canadian Section. The elected officers are:

- Richard (Rick) K. Baydack, Section Representative on TWS Council
- Arlen W. Todd, President
- Jack Dubois, President-Elect
- Martyn E. Obbard, Vice-President
- Evelyn (Evie) Merrill, Past President.

In addition to the elected officers, the Executive Board of the Canadian Section also includes the appointed Secretary-Treasurer, Jon Jorgenson; and Chapter Presidents Anne Hubbs from the Alberta Chapter and Derek Kroeker from the Manitoba Chapter.

More information on the Canadian Section and its activities may be found on the TWS website under “Canadian Section.”

ALASKA CHAPTER NEWS

Alaska is 2007 Chapter of the Year! Our chapter was chosen by a national panel for this annual award to highlight outstanding achievement. I'll be making my first trip to a national TWS meeting outside our state to accept the honor on behalf of the Alaska Chapter at the awards banquet in Tuscon and give a short presentation about our activities during the leader's luncheon. Some of the ideas or innovations our Chapter has embraced to keep up with the times are benefiting TWS and providing a model for how other chapters or the national organization can continue to improve service to members while meeting our conservation mission

COWCH program. I teamed up with an oral history specialist from University of Alaska-Fairbanks (UAF) in June to interview John Burns of Fairbanks. John came to Alaska in 1960 and completed a graduate study on mink of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, worked as a marine mammal researcher for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), and continues with part-time consulting work as principal of Living Resources, Inc. He served for many years on the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Marine Mammal Commission and on the Scientific and Statistical Committee of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. Over his career he produced over 100 papers and reports on the biology of marine mammals in the subarctic and arctic and was lead editor of *The Bowhead Whale* (1993, Society of Marine Mammalogy). John received an honorary doctorate of science from UAF in 2002. Upon retirement from ADFG in 1986 he began trapping marten in winter and commercial fishing for salmon and halibut in summer, activities that he presently continues.

Position statement on pack goats. Kimberlee Beckmen is chairing a committee review of information on the risk of introducing disease to Dall's sheep and mountain goats from domestic goats used

as pack animals in Alaska. Dr. Beckmen, along with Jim Herriges and Jim Lawler, submitted a position statement questionnaire to the Executive Board in May that was unanimously accepted. There is a small but growing use of goats and llamas as pack animals in alpine areas of Alaska, where wild populations are considered "naïve" with respect to immunity. A draft is expected for member review this autumn. (Note: immediately following the TWS meeting in Tucson there will be a workshop to examine potential disease risk to bighorn sheep when they come in contact with domestic sheep and goats. The workshop will address methods for doing quantitative disease risk assessment, provide background and foundational information, and present varied perspectives on the subject. Further information can be found at http://www.wildlife.org/conference/bighorn_sheep_workshop.pdf

Values and Functions of Scientific Societies. Past-president Eric Taylor took a leave of absence from his job with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in Alaska during 2005-07 to collaborate on a national internet-based survey of USFWS and US Geological Survey (USGS) employees by TWS. Eric worked at TWS headquarters in Maryland during this time. A brief account of preliminary results is in the summer 2007 issue of *The Wildlife Professional* (<http://www.wildlife.org/publications/index.cfm>). The study examined professional needs of employees, participation in TWS, importance of TWS products and activities, and factors that influence membership. Needless to say, the full-length articles to result from this work will have valuable insights on recruitment and retention of TWS members. Good job, Eric!

Northeast Petroleum Reserve Supplemental EIS. The Bureau of Land Management will soon release a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to address cumulative impacts of conducting a 400,000 acre oil

lease sale north and east of Teshekpuk Lake in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. The release of the document will begin a public comment period of presently unknown duration. Our chapter has been

involved in commenting on this proposal for several years, and we anticipate reviewing the SEIS.

Tom Paragi, President

WASHINGTON CHAPTER UPDATE

Planning is currently underway for our 2008 annual meeting to be held jointly with the Northwest Section. The Steering Committee has chosen Spokane, WA as the host city and we are currently negotiating with several of the downtown hotels to host the event. The meeting will occur during the third week of March. Updates will be available on the Washington Chapter website

(http://www.washingtonwildlifesoc.org/ns/default_ns.htm) as the program details are finalized. We are soliciting ideas and leaders for workshops, symposia, field trips and special sessions. We'll also need session moderators, contest organizers, etc., so if you'd like to volunteer to help with any activity associated with the annual meeting contact me (jmac@longfibre.com) or A. J. Kroll (AJ.Kroll@weyerhaeuser.com, President-elect) as soon as possible. Northwest Section members that are not Washington Chapter members are particularly needed!

The Chapter is also holding a contest to develop a new logo. The current logo features the Egyptian hieroglyphics panel of the parent society. A design with a local or regional theme would be preferred. The

contest will be open to all, and members of the Student Chapters are particularly encouraged to submit designs. A rough sketch will be sufficient, as the Board will select the top 2-3 entries and have a graphics artist finalize those designs, prior to a vote by the Chapter members. We'd like to announce the winner at the annual meeting, so get your entry in soon. The prize will be a year's membership in the Washington Chapter, Northwest Section, and the parent society (with all publications). This is an excellent opportunity for Senior-level undergraduates or graduate students to get started on what should be a career-long involvement in TWS at all levels. Entries can be submitted to any chapter Board member. Associated with the logo contest, is the need to develop an information/member recruitment pamphlet/brochure describing the Washington Chapter, officers, activities, and contacts. We will be working on developing the brochure over the next few months and all ideas and volunteers to assist with this are welcome.

Jim MacCracken, President

MONTANA CHAPTER NEWS

The 2008 Annual Meeting of the Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society will be February 25th – February 29th, 2008 at the Holiday Inn Parkside in Missoula, Montana. This will be a joint conference with the Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology. The theme for the conference is

Northwest Connections: Sustaining our Wildlife Populations in the Face of Climate Change, Human Population Growth, and Energy Development. Following the conference there will be field trip opportunities for out-of-state visitors. For further information contact Ryan Rauscher

at (406) 228-3725 or email:
rrauscher@mt.gov.

The Chapter will be voting on a resolution concerning the Public Trust Doctrine and North American Model in Fish and Wildlife Conservation. The Chapter wishes to have a written position concerning the importance of this subject that may be used to communicate with other interests and agencies. The position statement would also provide direction for future Chapter activities relating to the subject. The vote is expected to take place in October using the Chapter's website once it is ready.

The Chapter will be commenting on a massive subdivision called the Ameya Preserve in the Livingston area (southcentral Montana, north of Yellowstone National Park) that is being promoted as

"green" and claiming to be supported by biologists, and where those of "culture" will be living in harmony with wildlife. The Montana Chapter will be stating that the project is not supported by our membership. The project as planned would also involve the sale of 2 square miles of state lands to the developers.

Chapter members are also developing a comment on the expected impacts to wildlife from Energy Development, and are hoping to develop a joint statement with the Montana Chapter of American Fisheries Society. Comments will be submitted to several agencies that have influence over energy policy and development as well as the governor's office.

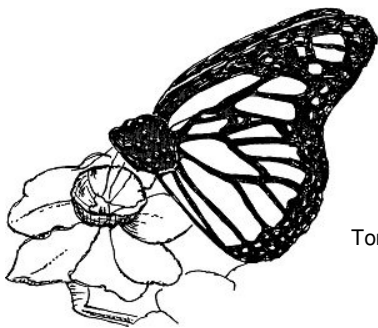
Gayle Joslin, Past President

NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED

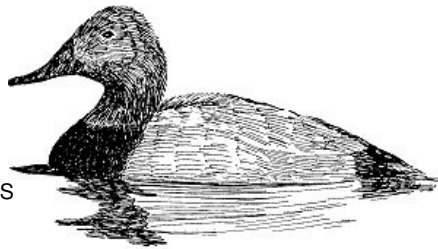
A search for a new newsletter editor for the Northwest Section is underway. After 5 years as newsletter editor, I am ready to pass the torch to another person. During my tenure it has been interesting and often challenging to transition from hard copies to an almost exclusively electronic format.

Please contact either President Sanjay Pyare or myself at the contacts shown in the Executive Board section with any questions about the duties or to express an interest in the job.

Lewis Young, newsletter editor



Tom Kelley, US FWS



CHAPTER NEWS

Check Out these Websites for more details on Chapter Activities!

Alaska: <http://www.wildlife.org/chapters/ak/index.cfm>
Idaho: <http://www.ictws.org/>
Montana: <http://www.montanatws.org/>
Oregon: <http://fw.oregonstate.edu/tws/>
Washington: <http://www.washingtonwildlifesoc.org>

NORTHWEST SECTION EXECUTIVE BOARD

Sanjay Pyare, President

Professor of GIS / Landscape Ecology
University of Alaska Southeast
11120 Glacier Hwy
Juneau, AK 99801

e-mail: sanjay.pyare@uas.alaska.edu
Voice: 907.796.6007
FAX: 907.796.6406

Michael I. Goldstein, Past President

USDA Forest Service
Alaska Regional Office
P.O. Box 21628
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1628

e-mail: mgoldstein@fs.fed.us
Voice: 907.586.7905
FAX: 907.586.7877

Ellen Campbell, NW Section Representative

62715 Mt. Glen Rd
LaGrande, OR

e-mail: dalellenc@hotmail.com
Voice: 541.963.6317

Harriet L. Allen, Vice President

Washington Dept. Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

e-mail: allenhla@dfw.wa.gov
Voice: 360.902.2694
FAX: 360.902.2162

Tom Paragi, Alaska

ADF&G
1300 College Road
Fairbanks, AK 99701

e-mail: tom.paragi@alaska.gov;
Voice 907.459.7327
Fax: 907.459.7332

Jim MacCracken, Washington

Wildlife Biologist
Timber Department
Longview Fibre Paper and Packaging
P.O. Box 667
Longview, WA 98632

email: jmac@longfibre.com
Voice: 360.575.5109

Kristin Hasselblad, Secretary-Treasurer

1472 E. Spinnaker Ct.
Boise, ID 83706

e-mail: kwoodchuck@gmail.com

Rita Dixon, Idaho

Zoology Program Leader
Idaho Conservation Data Center
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
600 S. Walnut Ave.
P.O. Box 25
Boise, ID 83707

email: rdixon@idfg.idaho.gov
Voice: 208.287.2735

Bruce H. Campbell, Oregon

1180 Kelli Ct.
Independence, OR 97351

e-mail: linbrucamp@yahoo.com
Voice: 503.947.6099 or
541.221.8042

Vacant, President-Elect

Carolyn Sime, Montana

Gray Wolf Program Coordinator
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 E. 6th Ave. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

e-mail: casime@mt.gov
Voice: 406.444.3242

Lewis Young
Newsletter Editor
50 Garrison Drive
Eureka, MT 59917
406.889.3492
llyoung@interbel.net