



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”

July 2008

Vol. 1, No. 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Arlen Todd
Calgary, Alberta*

Bonjour, mes amis! During a recent chat, the President-elect for the Canadian Section, Jack Dubois, referred to the Section as a “great experiment in creating a virtual organization”. I immediately appreciated and understood what I think Jack meant! To expand, the Canadian Section exists, in a Canada-wide context, only on the website for The Wildlife Society (www.wildlife.org), and in the bylaws included there. In other words, all jurisdictions in Canada are listed there, as occurring within the section, which they do geographically. Yet, only two jurisdictional chapters of TWS exist at present (Manitoba and Alberta), as well as four student chapters (situated in 3 provinces). The Section spans a large, incredibly diverse country (including terrestrial landscapes, and both fresh waters and marine environments), yet the vast majority of the Section is not presently spanned by ‘sub-units’ (either jurisdictional or student chapters), which provide the effective working units in a Section—hence, Jack’s reference to a *virtual* experiment. That provides a wonderful set of both challenges and opportunities! I won’t elaborate in detail, but consider for a moment that the recently created Canadian Section has been striving to do pretty much what all the established sections, chapters, and student chapters in the United States are doing in that large, diverse land, with the aid of all the TWS staff members in Bethesda, Maryland. Fortunately, TWS staff members and neighbouring sections have been substantively supporting the new Canadian Section, as well.

To elaborate further on the *virtual* context for the Section, I am reminded of a movie starring a rather youthful Kevin Costner, “Field of Dreams”, which includes the recurrent, high-impact message: “*if we build it, they will come*”. The “great experiment” that Jack spoke of is to see, once we build the section in a virtual context, whether or not the chapters, student chapters,

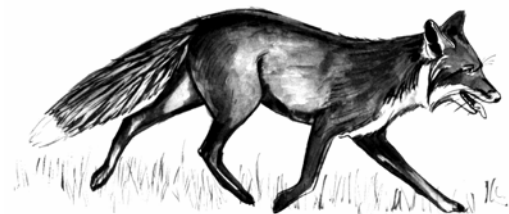
individual members, and attendant myriad benefits to individuals and organizations will all materialize, just as the baseball players materialized on that baseball diamond in the Iowa corn field, in the movie. My vision is “yes, we have built it, and yes, they will come”—time will tell, of course. We are most definitely in transition in the mean time, and in that unique milieu of challenges and opportunities.

We are moving rapidly towards the climax of our first year of existence—the upcoming annual conference and business meeting in Gimli, Manitoba during August 14-17th (refer to TWS and Manitoba chapter websites for more information). I sincerely hope that you will attend the Gimli conference. It will be a unique and worthwhile event, and will provide a wonderful opportunity to each of you to have your professional voice heard, to have your professional presence felt, and to influence evolution of the Canadian Section, and TWS in a higher sense. Please help to make this ‘*great virtual experiment*’ a great success!

It has been both a pleasure and a privilege to preside over the Canadian Section during this exciting and formative time. It has also been a time of challenge and opportunities, growth, fulfillment, and most definitely, some long work weeks!

Thanks for the experience, and for your consideration of these remarks! *Merci beaucoup!*

I’ll see you in Gimli!





SECTION REP'S REPORT

*Rick Baydack
Winnipeg, Manitoba*

As spring passes to summer out here in Manitoba, I must admit that this past spring has been one of the coldest in recent memory in our province. I am not sure about all parts of the country, but not seeing trees budding out until early June in eastern Manitoba is unusual indeed. I know that several colleagues in more easterly and westerly directions from ours have also commented on the lateness of the 'spring flush' in their respective areas. Now perhaps I can better understand why the buzzwords have been changed to 'Global Climate Change' rather than 'Global Warming'.....

As the lazy days of summer approach, I find it a wonderful time to reflect on past accomplishments and look forward to future opportunities. In terms of TWS, my first full year as Canadian Section Representative to The Wildlife Society Council is quickly drawing to a close. Where has the time gone? I remain convinced that the creation of a Canadian Section is paying dividends for the wildlife resource not only in this country but also across the entire network of the wildlife profession. Certainly our voice is being heard and listened to in all parts of North America where TWS has made its presence felt for many years, whether at the level of TWS HQ, our sister Sections, or the myriad of Chapters that now exist. In addition, I have been receiving many inquiries about how and why we formed a Canadian Section and how it is working, from various parts of the world, including Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, Brazil, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and Norway. The primary focus that I place in responding to these questions is to emphasize as has been said countless times '.....The World belongs to those who show up.....' And for those of us in the wildlife field, the hard work and dedication of serving our Society that promotes the things that we love to do is reason enough to move our ideas forward to reality.

As I look ahead, I continue to be impressed and amazed at the efforts of so many that contribute to The Wildlife Society at the various unit levels of our organization. I know that many others of you are just waiting for the 'right' moment to step forward and unleash a longstanding urge to 'Get Involved with The Wildlife Society.' My advice is to 'Just Do It,' as the rewards and sense of accomplishment that you will receive are unending. And as you ponder over the next few months how best to make your contribution to TWS, don't hesitate

to contact me to discuss ideas, ask questions, or just seek encouragement. The Wildlife Society needs you, and that need is found at the level of Chapter and Section Executives, committees and working groups, reviewers for our publications, volunteers at conferences and seminars, and in many other areas. You might also consider spearheading the formation of a Chapter or a University Chapter, as we only have 4 provinces currently formally represented with these units, in Alberta, Manitoba, BC, and Ontario. Or alternately, you might be more interested in championing the cause to make a bid to host the TWS Annual Conference in a Canadian location in 2012 or 2013. Possibilities obviously exist throughout our great land, but Council has especially noted that Ottawa, as our Nation's Capital, would be of considerable interest to our U.S. friends. We have many wildlifers there who could, I am sure, heed the call! On the other hand, Manitoba and Alberta, as our longest standing Canadian Chapters, are thought to have the member expertise and commitment to make this 'blue ribbon' event successful. But if a Chapter does not exist in a certain location, a 'joint' bid from a group of interested TWS members in any city along with the support and assistance from the Canadian Section Executive would be another possibility. So do let me know if you have any thoughts on how to best make Canada further emerge and stand tall on the TWS stage.

You should know that TWS has spent considerable time and effort in redesigning and reconfiguring our website. If you have not looked at it for some time, I urge you to go to www.wildlife.org to see the vast array of improvements that have been made. As technology continues to advance, the website is dynamic so that additional changes can quickly be entered that will further enhance our image and offerings. Once again, if you have ideas for change or come across website components that just don't seem to work, let me or TWS HQ know. The only way that we can fix things is to have a sense of what isn't working! On this note, you should soon receive a regular mailing from TWS about some problems being experienced by some members (myself included) with respect to email blasts. It seems that some computer system servers are programmed by default to filter out as spam any message that contains the words 'wild life' (or apparently, 'wildlife'), in its content. There are obviously ways to correct this, and TWS will be providing guidance as to how to do so. In the meantime, I suggest that you check with your IT administrator to see if this is a possibility in your organization.

Don't forget over the coming weeks that you should have by now received a ballot from TWS for the election of Vice-President of The Wildlife Society. If you



have not received yours and you are a member of TWS, please let me know immediately! That position of course transitions to TWS President-Elect, President, and then Past President. So your expression of support is needed for one of the candidates who have generously come forward to make this commitment of the next 4 years of their professional lives to TWS. If you are unaware of the candidates – Jon Haufler or Tom Ryder – their biographical and professional information as well as their answers to members’ questions is available at www.wildlife.org

In closing, please be reminded again that the **1st TWS Canadian Section Summer Meeting** will be held in Gimli, Manitoba from **August 14-17, 2008** in conjunction with the **53rd TWS Central Mountains and Plains Section Summer Meeting**. Further conference information is found elsewhere in this Newsletter or at: <http://www.umanitoba.ca/outreach/tws-section/index.php>. The Gimli Conference Planning Committee, under the very capable leadership of Don Sexton and Derek Kroeker, is now making the final arrangements for an event that should not be missed if you are a wildlifer in Canada (or anywhere else, for that matter!). It will be exciting, provocative, stimulating, and a whole lot of fun too! We of course need your contributions for the Fundraising Auction that will be held at the Farewell Banquet on August 16. So please bring along whatever you might have that relates to the wildlife profession, and if for some reason you are unable to join us, just let me know what you would like to contribute, and I will make arrangements to get it from you. Once again, I am sure that ‘Friendly Manitoba’ will live up to its name, and that wonderful professional networking and socializing opportunities in an idyllic setting along with exceptional technical and field programs will make this a trip to remember for years to come! See you soon.....



SECTION NEWS

Financial Generosity from Central Mountains and Plains Section

I am very pleased to announce that the Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society has recently and very generously donated \$1,000 to the Canadian Section, to assist with early, start-up expenses. Additionally, there is an expressed willingness to conceivably share profits from the auction fundraiser at the upcoming Gimli conference with both the Canadian Section and the Manitoba Chapter. Receipt of this donation is a huge step towards financial well-being for the Canadian Section, as it has operated on either no or very limited funds for most of its short existence, so far. Please join with me in thanking the Central Mountains and Plains Section for this generosity!!!

Also, be aware that each of you could further strengthen the Canadian Section, both financially and numerically, by joining and sending in your membership fees for 2008, if you have not done that already. Please refer to the membership application and instructions elsewhere in this newsletter. *Merci beaucoup!*

Arlen Todd
President, Canadian Section



NATIVE PEOPLES WORKING GROUP TRIBAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Nate Svoboda,
Chairman
Native Peoples Wildlife Management Working Group

On behalf of the Native Peoples Wildlife Management Working Group of The Wildlife Society I would like to announce the **2008 Native Peoples Working Group Tribal Scholarship Program**. This scholarship is a competitive scholarship being offered to any member of a Native American/First Nations Tribe currently enrolled in a natural resources related field. Through generous donations from the USDA-APHIS and the Little River



Band of Ottawa Indians, the Native Peoples Working Group is offering scholarships to selected students to attend the 2008 Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society being held in Miami, Florida from November 8-12, 2008.

The Native Peoples Working group will host a Tribal Symposium titled *Tribal Natural Resource Management in a Changing World* from 8:00 to 12:10 on Monday, November 10 for all conference attendees. Scholarship funds will be used to purchase airline tickets to and from the conference, conference registration as well as hotel accommodations for the conference. All Tribal/First Nations' members currently enrolled in a natural resources related field are strongly encouraged to apply.

Scholarship applications must be postmarked no later than **August 15, 2008**. An announcement related to the scholarship was distributed with this newsletter.



STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

The Wildlife Society announces the availability of travel grants for TWS student members presenting a technical paper or poster at the Society's Annual Conference held each fall. Travel grants of up to \$500 will be awarded to a limited number of students. Applications for student travel grants are accepted May 15 through June 30, only.

For more information, please visit:

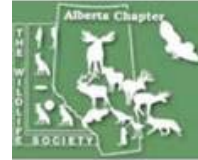
http://joomla.wildlife.org/Miami08/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=186

Shannon Pederson, Subunit & Certification Manager,
The Wildlife Society, Bethesda, MD



EXISTING CANADIAN CHAPTERS

Alberta Chapter



President: Brad Taylor

E-mail: brad.taylor@ab-conservation.com

Manitoba Chapter



President: Garth Ball

E-mail: Garth.Ball@gov.mb.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





JOINT CENTRAL MOUNTAINS & PLAINS AND CANADIAN SECTIONS ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

“Crossroads in Wildlife: New Great Plains Initiatives and Canadian Directions”

LAKEVIEW RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTRE
GIMLI, MANITOBA
AUGUST 14-17, 2008

Thursday, August 14

9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Registration**-Lakeview A & B, Conference Centre

Conference Opening and Welcoming

- Moderator:** Karla Guyn, Program Committee
- 1:30 p.m. Honourable Stan Struthers, Minister of Manitoba Conservation
- 1:40 p.m. Tammy Axelsson, Mayor of Gimli
- 1:50 p.m. Garth Ball, President, Manitoba Chapter, TWS
- 1:55 p.m. Dan Sverdarsky, President, TWS
- 2:15 p.m. Michael Hutchins, Executive Director/CEO, TWS
- 2:40 p.m. Tom Ryder, C.M.&P. Section Representative
- 2:50 p.m. Rick Baydack, Canadian Section Representative
- 3:00 p.m. **BREAK**
- 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Annual Business Meetings of C.M.&P. and Canadian Sections chaired by Gary White and Arlen Todd, respectively.
- 7:00 p.m. Fish Fry

Friday, August 15

7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Field Tour of Interlake Region (from garter snake dens to sharptail grouse habitat) and to the Oak Hammock Interpretative Centre

7:00 – 10:00 p.m. BBQ at Oak Hammock, return to Gimli

Saturday, August 16

8:30 a.m. – 12 noon **Plenary Session: Climate Change from the Arctic to the Great Plains**

Moderators: Evelyn Merrill and Anne Hubbs, Program Committee

8:30 a.m. **Climate Change, Seals and Polar Bears**
Dr. Nick Lunn, Environment Canada

9:00 a.m. **Global Climate Change and the Canadian Boreal Forest**
Dr. David Price, Natural Resources Canada

9:30 a.m. **Waterfowl and Climate Change**
Dr. Michael Anderson, Ducks Unlimited Canada

10:00 a.m. **BREAK**
10:30 a.m. **Southern Great Plains and Climate Change**
Dr. Doug Inkley, National Wildlife Federation

11:00 a.m. **Agricultural Lands, Water and Climate Change**
Dr. Irene Hanuta, Agriculture Canada

11:30 a.m. – 12 noon General Questions, Observations and Discussion by all attendees

12 noon – 1:20 p.m. **Lunch (on your own)**

Technical Session I
Moderator: Arlen Todd, President, Canadian Section, TWS

1:20 p.m. **Canadian Conservation History and the North American Model**
S.P. Mahoney, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

1:40 p.m. **Correlations of Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) Calling Indices and Small Mammal Surveys in Manitoba, Canada, 1986-2007**
James Duncan, Manitoba Conservation

2:00 p.m. **The Urban Heat Island and the Breeding Phenology of Owls**
Christian Artuso, University of Manitoba



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|-----------------|---|------------|--|
| 2:20 p.m. | Habitat Use and Abundance of the Common Garter Snake (<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>) at the Northern Limit of its Range in Manitoba Jonathan Wiens, Merlin Shoesmith, Rick Baydack and Dave Walker. University of Manitoba | 8:30 a.m. | New Initiatives in Prairie Conservation: A Large Scale, Adaptive Management Grazing Experiment in Grasslands National Park of Canada Nicola Koper, Darcy Henderson, John Wilmshurst, Pat Fargey and Robert Sissons. University of Manitoba |
| 2:40 p.m. | Deer, Corridors and Disease: Using Corridor Theory to Identify Potential Routes of CWD Spread Chris Garrett, Evelyn Merrill, Margo Pybus, David Coltman and Fangliang He. University of Alberta | 8:50 a.m. | Summerberry Marsh Research Project Dale Wrubleski, Ducks Unlimited Canada |
| 3:00 p.m. | BREAK | 9:10 a.m. | The Impact of Landscape Change and Conservation on Duck Production in Prairie Canada James H. Devries, Ducks Unlimited Canada |
| 3:30 p.m. | Anti-predator Behaviour of Elk on the Ya Ha Tinda Winter Range: Do Migrants and Residents Behave Differently? Barry Robinson and Evelyn Merrill, University of Alberta | 9:30 a.m. | Landscape Effects on Breeding Waterfowl Pair Abundance: Do Uplands Matter? Brian L. Joynt, David W. Howerter, Llwellyn M. Armstrong, James H. DeVries, Michael G. Anderson and Robert B. Emery, Ducks Unlimited Canada |
| 3:50 p.m. | Manitoba Chimney Swift Initiative. Mike Quigley, Manitoba Naturalists Society | 9:50 a.m. | Recent Distribution Records of the Little Brown Bat (<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>) in Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Jack Dubois, Manitoba Conservation |
| 4:10 p.m. | Threatened and Endangered Grassland Bird Monitoring and Management in Southwestern Manitoba Ken DeSmet, Manitoba Conservation | 10:10 a.m. | BREAK |
| 4:30 p.m. | Piping Plover Recovery Program Results on Alkali Lakes in the (US) Northern Great Plains Connie Mueller, Craig Hultbery, Elizabeth Madden, Mike Rabenberg, and Eric Rosenquist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | 10:40 a.m. | Utility Rights-of-Way as Habitats for Prairie Arthropods and Birds Lionel Leston and Nicola Koper, University of Manitoba |
| 4:50 p.m. | Development of Biodiversity Indices for a Large-Scale Regional Monitoring Program Gillian Holloway, Erin Bayne, Jim Schieck, Jim Herbers, and Stan Boutin. University of Alberta | 11:00 a.m. | Brush Encroachment on Pasturelands in Western Canada Marianne Schutz and David Walker, University of Manitoba |
| 7:00 – 11:00 pm | Banquet and Auction | 11:20 a.m. | Effects of a Logging Road on Boreal Woodland Caribou Movement and Range Use in Southeastern Manitoba Doug Schindler, David Walker and Tim Davis, University of Winnipeg. |
| 8:00 p.m. | Banquet Speaker Introduction: Merlin Shoesmith, Program Committee Health of Lake Winnipeg, Degradation and Recovery Dr. Al Kristofferson, Freshwater Institute, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, (Retired) | 11:40 a.m. | Row-crops and White-tailed Deer Herbivory on a Northern Tallgrass Prairie S.J. Gooch and David Walker, University of Manitoba |

Sunday, August 17

Technical Session II

Moderator: Gary White, President, C.M.&P.S., TWS

12:00 noon

Conference Closing

John Organ, Past President, TWS



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Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society

2008 Membership Application

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
T1W 1P1

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

