



The Official Newsletter of the Atlantic Society of Fish and Wildlife Biologists

Green policies get failing marks from environmental auditor

March 7th, 2008 Excerpted From The Canadian Press.

OTTAWA — The federal government's environmental policies are falling short when it comes to protecting people, plants, animals and habitat, says the environment commissioner Ron Thompson who monitors the environment for Auditor General Sheila Fraser. His report to the Commons gives the government a grade of unsatisfactory in nine of 14 areas and says governments have promised for years to protect wildlife and habitat, but didn't follow through.

Environment Minister John Baird laid the blame squarely on the former Liberal government. "They did

little or nothing to fix those problems," Baird said in a statement. "We're taking real action; action to clean up our Great Lakes, action to protect species at risk, action to protect habitat."

Auditors recommended six years ago that the government develop an inventory of species at risk, but there is still no comprehensive list. The Species at Risk Act requires the government to develop recovery strategies for 228 species as of last June. The three departments involved - Parks Canada, Fisheries and Oceans and Environment Canada - have recovery plans for 55 species. Environment, re-

sponsible for 142 endangered species, has produced recovery plans for just 17 of them. "The government has broken its own law, and that's not an

inconsequential thing," said Thompson.

There are also problems with adding species to the endangered list, including some populations of grizzlies, belugas, caribou, cod, sturgeon and salmon. The last three weren't listed because of socio-economic considerations." "We found that Environment Canada could not demonstrate

how it used socio-economic information in developing a

recommendation to list or not to list a species." And the departments haven't designated critical habitat areas for most of the troubled species. The commissioner also said management of bird sanctuaries and other protected wildlife areas is weak and full of gaps.

"They're one of the smallest government departments in terms of funding . . . they don't get enough funding to do their job properly," said Julie Gelfand of Nature Canada. Stephen Hazell of the Sierra Club said there is also a problem of leadership. "They have sort of given up hiring people who know something about wildlife," he said. "The operating theory in the government of Canada is that if you can manage widgets you can manage wildlife." (continued page 2)

44TH Annual AGM at Acadia University Donald G Dodds Honoured

By Jason LeBlanc

The official announcement of the ASFWB Donald G. Dodds Scholarship at Acadia University took place at the banquet at the 44th AGM October 10-12, 2007 at the Old Orchard Inn. Dr. Dodds, one of the original members of the Atlantic Society of Fish and Wildlife Biologists in 1963, and Wall of Fame member, attended and offered felici-

tations to our members and young biologists. The Society made an additional financial contribution to the scholarship to bring the current balance to \$7,779.44. Members also raised \$1076 at the Banquet from the silent auction, raffle and donations and this will be added to the total shortly, giving 8855.44 or 35 % of the \$25,000 goal.

(see AGM, page 2)



Award Winner Jolene Sutton & J LeBlanc

Green policies (continued)

I don't think that's necessarily true. Understanding something about ecology, I think, counts for something. But that's not the way the government works." The report slams Ottawa for failing to properly monitor genetically engineered fish, which could pose a threat to native species. Labs are not required to report their work, and researchers do not have to tell Ottawa if a so-called Frankenfish escapes into the wild. To see the report: http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/aud_ch_cesd_200803_12_e_30138.html#ch12hd5a



ASFWB President Jason Leblanc, & Don Dodds (center) with Marlene Snyder, Soren Bondrup-Nielsen and Tom Herman, all of Acadia University

AGM (CONTINUED)

NS Wildlife Director Julie Towers was guest speaker at the banquet.

Our conferences and seminars continue to have excellent support and attendance from students. All who attended from around the region were treated to 27 excellent presentations on a wide variety of topics and species. Jolene Sutton from Acadia University won the ASFWB award for best student presentation for her work co-authored with Sara Good-Avila entitled: "Detecting the genetic consequences of shoreline degradation in Nova Scotian populations of the rare plant, *Sabatia kenedyana* (fern)."

The ASFWB Award of Merit was presented to two members who were both extremely dedicated biologists and Society supporters throughout their careers. The 2007 recipients of the Award of Merit were Tony Duke and Barry Sabean.

Thank you to Glen Parsons, Tony Nette, Tony Duke, Jenn Madden, Sarah Spencer and Bev Cavanagh-Pick, all from the Wildlife Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Natu-



Barry Sabean and Tony Duke were presented with ASFWB Merit Awards at the Banquet. They were surprised.

ral Resources, and Soren Bondrup-Nielsen of Acadia University for organizing a fantastic meeting. Thanks also to all of the presenters, students and ASFWB executive who helped in any way to make the meeting successful.

On behalf of the membership, I would like to thank outgoing executive members, Lesley Corning and Pam MacDonald for time and expertise, and outgoing secretary-treasurer Andrew

Macfarlane for his tremendous contributions to our Society.

Please plan on attending the Spring Seminar on the effects of renewable energy projects on wildlife, and the 45th annual meeting to be held in November in Prince Edward Island. I hope everyone has an exciting and fulfilling 2008.

ASFWB EXECUTIVE

President – Jason LeBlanc leblanje@gov.pe.ca

Past President – Andrew Boyne Andrew.Boyne@EC.GC.CA

Secretary / Treasurer – Deanne Meadus d_meadus@ducks.ca

VP Membership – Glen Parsons parsongj@gov.ns.ca

VP Student Affairs – Aaron Spares sparesa@yahoo.com

VP Program (PEI) – Kirby Tulk kirby.tulk@pc.gc.ca

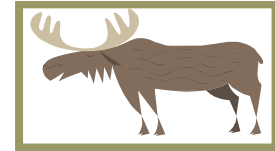
Newsletter Editor – Rosemary Curley frcurley@gov.pe.ca

<http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Environment/ASFWB/>

Thank you to **Greg Johnson** who currently maintains our website. At the fall AGM in Prince Edward Island, the job of web site coordinator will be considered for inclusion on the executive.

Jim Hancock Retires

After 17 years as Director of Wildlife with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Jim Hancock has retired. In a note to his peers he stated that he always felt privileged to have the opportunity to work in the field of wildlife conservation, "Healthy wildlife populations and ecosystems are a fundamental part of those "quality of life" items treasured by Canadians" he said.



David J Cartwright Memorial Scholarship

Melissa A Fulton of Minto NB was the 2007-2008 recipient of a \$900.00 scholarship derived from the fund. Melissa is a 4th year science student in the Environmental Biology Program on the Fredericton Campus. She is a member of the Biology Society, the Environmental Society, the Student Union and the Orientation Committee at UNB. Plus, she was on the Deans 'list for the academic year.

Each year the Society receives an Endowment Report from the Univer-

sity of New Brunswick concerning the David J Cartwright Memorial Scholarship. As of April 30 2007 there was \$24,242.28 in this scholarship.

Fall 2007 COSEWIC Determinations

Olive Sided-Flycatcher. Threatened

Wood Turtle Threatened

Harbour Seal, Not at Risk

COSEWIC Spring 2008 Plans

Species to be assessed in April 2008 include Beach Pinweed, Canada Warbler, the Redbreast Sunfish, found in NB, and the Pygmy Snaketail, an odonate (Ophiogomphus howei) also found in NB. The Short-eared Owl which occurs in all 4 Atlantic provinces will be reassessed. The polar bear which occurs in NL will also be brought back for reassessment.

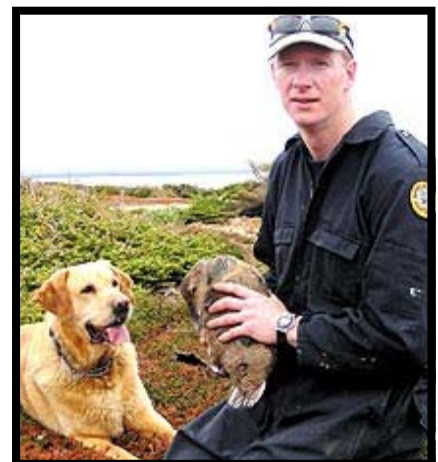
John Blake named NL Director of Wildlife

Excerpted from : http://www.newfoundlandsportsman.com/content/outdoor_news.asp?nID=9

John Blake of Pasadena was recently selected to succeed Jim Hancock as the new Director of Wildlife for Newfoundland and Labrador effective Jan. 7th, 2008. An avid hunter, angler and conservationist, John holds a degree in Environmental Science (biology) from Memorial University. He has been with the Wildlife Division for 19 years, beginning as a field technician and then management officer involved in various wildlife research and management programs, as well as wildlife enforcement and nuisance wildlife control duties.

From there the St. John's native became active in hunter education train-

ing, and in 1995 he was named manager of Conservation Services. He also managed the Salmonier Nature Park from 1997 up until the division headquarters moved to Corner Brook in 2001. Sportsman magazine editor Gord Follett applauded the decision to appoint him director. "I know John has a deep respect and love of this province, its wildlife and the outdoors in general." Blake said he's looking forward to working with everyone interested in ensuring the sustainability and biodiversity of this special province, and is sincerely humbled to be working in this capacity.



Geoff Williams, MSc candidate at Acadia University

by David Shutler



A few years ago, local bee consultant Dick Rogers and I hatched a plan to fund an MSc student via a federal scholarship program. A few years later Geoff Williams took the bait and arrived at Acadia. We told him to do some stuff on bee diseases, and left it open after that. Bring us fame, you do the work. Geoff initially floundered from idea to idea (all good ones, but not the one he wanted), until, with some guidance from local bee-keepers, he decided to pursue research on a little-studied parasite called *Nosema apis*. *Nosema* is a single-celled entity that basically causes intestinal problems and shortens host life-span, with potentially significant economic losses. Geoff's main project is to test the efficacy of an antibiotic on *Nosema*.

In December, Geoff (and I) wrote a grant proposal that was funded to the tune of \$16.7 K over 2 years, and he attracted another \$1250 from other partners interested in the research.

While Geoff waited for spring when the bees become active, he formed a partnership with another MSc candidate in the Department, Aaron Shafer, a geneticist and they decided to

look at genetic variation in *Nosema*. They extracted DNA, and mailed it off to a lab for sequencing. To his amazement, the species that they had found wasn't *N. apis*, it was *N. ceranae*! This is an Asian species, reportedly more pathogenic, that had not been known from North America. This news came shortly after bee-keepers across North America were reporting catastrophic losses of hives under mysterious circumstances. Was this THE anti-grail? After we calmed down, we realized that the broad and synchronous losses point to many separate anti-grails colluding nefariously. Anyway, Geoff and Aaron and co-authors quickly produced a manuscript that eventually was accepted to Journal of Invertebrate Pathology. Before Geoff had even been in my lab for a year. And, he's got another, admittedly multi-authored, paper tentatively accepted. He's scarcely begun his MSc data collection!

Did I mention that he's already made seven presentations at professional meetings, some of which focus on his thesis, others on his multiple parallel projects? Did I mention that he's essentially overseeing research by two of my BSc (Hons) students, one of whom is working on *Nosema*, the other on deformed wing virus?

Geoff's research incorporates both pure and applied science. To get his research up and running, he has had to forge partnerships with local bee keepers and with local government labs, to learn the ins and outs of the industry, and to master skills necessary for sampling bees, among other things. He's an irregular dynamo.

Geoff's publications:

Williams G, ABA Shafer, REL Rogers, D Shutler and DT Stewart. 2007. First detection of *Nosema ceranae*, a microsporidian parasite of European honey bees (*Apis mellifera*), in Canada and central U.S.A. *J Invertebr Pathol*:in press August.

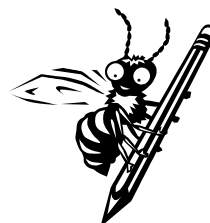
Bochkov, A.V., **G. Williams**, and H. Proctor. 2005. First record of *Picobia zumpti* (Acari: Syringophilidae) from quills of the rock pigeon in North America and description of the male. *Belgian Journal of Entomology* 7:121-127.

Good-bye Birds, Hello Bees by David Shutler

My entry into the world of bees is recent; my specialty to date has been birds. Geoff Williams has completely reoriented my lab's focus toward bees; in one year, I have gone from only vertebrate students to 4 apidology students and 1 lonely ornithology student. Hot on the heels of Geoff Williams' successes in bee research ,

my other MSc student, Cate Little, just heard that her application for funds from the N. Am. Pollinator Protection Campaign was successful. Cate was senior author (I'm listed as P.I.; collaborators include Shelley Adamo at Dalhousie, Russell Easy at SMU, Dick Rogers of Wildwood Labs, and Geoff

Williams at Acadia) on a proposal entitled "Effects of miticide and Fumagilin-B® on honey bee survivorship and immune responses". A total of \$32K was available for the 19 proposals that were submitted. Cate asked for and got \$10K



SHORT SNAPPERS

The Wildlife Society has released its technical review **Impacts of Wind Energy Facilities on Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat**. The 50-page report, prepared by a committee of experts, discusses both direct and indirect effects of wind power on wildlife and makes recommendations about addressing these effects to better protect native wildlife and their habitats. The document is available through the Wildlife Society's Website, at www.wildlife.org

The Fundy Biosphere Reserve is one of twenty-three new sites in 18 countries that have been added to UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves. Biosphere Reserves are areas of terrestrial and coastal ecosystems which



Caught between a tall tower and the Bay of Fundy

aim to promote solutions to reconcile biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource use.

http://www.unesco.org/mab/BRs/new_BRs2007.shtml

Recreational Fisheries Policy

By Rosanne MacFarlane

Prince Edward Island will soon have a recreational fisheries policy.

A discussion paper was prepared to provide background on six core issues: angler recruitment,

access, habitat restoration and land use, stocking, regulations and future threats. The issues have been identified by anglers themselves, as well as through a number of existing publications and recommendations. In January, 2008, the Recreational Fisheries Advisory Committee began holding a series of public meetings across the province to solicit input on what topics should be addressed in the new policy. The Committee of volunteers is expected to complete a report to the Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry by April. From this, Government will create a policy to guide recreational fisheries management into the future.



RECENT LITERATURE:

Burgess, Neil M and Michael W Meyer. 2008. Methylmercury exposure associated with reduced productivity in common loons. *Ecotoxicology* 17 (2):

Broders HG, G Forbes, S Woodley, and I. Thompson. 2006. Range extent and stand selection in forest-dwelling northern long eared and little brown bats in New Brunswick. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 70(5): 1174-1184

Cameron, Robert P Thomas Neily, and David H.S. Richardson 2007. Macrolichen Indicators of Air Quality for Nova Scotia. *Northeastern Naturalist* Vol 14 (1) 114.

Carbyn, S, PM Catling, SP Vander Kloet and S Basquill. 2006. An analysis of the vascular flora of Annapolis valley heathlands. *Canadian Field-Nat.* 120(3): 351- 362.

Clair, Thomas A. Ian F. Dennis, David A. Scruton, and Mallory Gillis 2007. Freshwater acidification research in Atlantic Canada: a review of results and predictions for the future. *Environ. Rev.* 15: 153-167

Cowan KL, Shutler D, Herman TB, Stewart DT, 2007. Extreme male-biased infections of masked shrews by bladder nematodes. *J Mammal* 88:in press March.

Dadswell MJ. 2006. A Review of the Status of Atlantic Sturgeon in Canada, with Comparisons to Populations in the United States and Europe. *Fisheries: Vol. 31, No. 5 pp.* 218-229

Lavers, Amanda J, Stephen D Petersen, Donald T Stewart and Tom B Herman. 2006. Delineating the range of a disjunct population of Southern Flying Squirrels (*Glaucomys volans*). *American Midland Naturalist* vol 155 (1): 188-196

MacKinnon, Colin and Andrew Kennedy. 2006 An observation of the Spring 2006 migration of Black Scoter *Melanitta nigra*, in Northumberland Strait, Interrupted by the Confederation Bridge, New Brunswick–Prince Edward Island. Canadian Field-Nat: 120(2):233-234.

Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources. 2007. Recovery Plan for Moose (*Alces alces Americana*) in Mainland Nova Scotia. [Http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/biodiv/species_recovery.htm#moose](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/biodiv/species_recovery.htm#moose)

Parsons, K. and L. Hermanutz. 2006. Breeding system variation, potential hybridization and conservation of rare, endemic braya species (Brassicaceae). Biological Conservation 128(2): 201-214

Roberts, BA, NPP. Simon, and KW Deering 2006. The forests and woodlands of Labrador, Canada: ecology, distribution and future management. Ecological Research 21(6): 868-880.

Shutler D, and AA Campbell, 2007. Experimental addition of greenery reduces flea loads in nests of a non-greenery using species, the tree swallow *Tachycineta bicolor*. J Avian Biol 38:7-12.

Shutler, D, RG Clark, C Fehr and AW Diamond, 2006. Time and recruitment costs as currencies in manipulation studies on the costs of reproduction. Ecology 87:2938-2946.

Spares, A.D., J.M Reader, M.J.W Stokesbury, T McDermott, L. Zikovsky, T.S. Avery, and M.J Dadswell. 2007. Inferring marine distribution of Canadian and Irish Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar* L.) in the North Atlantic from tissue concentrations of bio-accumulated caesium 137. ICES Journal of Marine Science, 64: 394–404.

Woodley, Stephen J, Greg Johnson, Bill Freedman and David A Kirk 2006. Effects of timber harvesting and plantation development on cavity-nesting birds in New Brunswick. Canadian Field -Nat 120(3):298-306

More Short Snappers

Reserve Protects Rare Plant at Sandy Cove, NL

In 2007 the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador declared a provisional ecological reserve at Sandy Cove on the Northern Peninsula, to protect Longs braya (*Braya longii*), an endangered plant endemic to NL which is found on a 10-kilometre stretch of coastal limestone barren near the community of Sandy Cove.

"The Limestone Barrens Species at Risk Recovery Team identified six primary strategies to help secure the survival of the braya, including protection of habitat."

Long's braya is designated as endangered under the federal Species at Risk Act and the NL Endangered Species Act because of its extremely restricted global range and its loss of limestone barrens habitat

Environmental Damages Fund Supports Atlantic Beached Bird Analysis

1 February 2008 - Bird Studies Canada Atlantic Region is receiving \$20,000 from the Environmental Damages Fund for an Atlantic Beached Bird Analysis (ABBA). This project, which will be delivered in conjunction with Dr. David Lieske of Mount Allison University and Environment Canada, aims to: (1) map the relative importance of areas of Atlantic Canadian coastline for receiving birds exposed to oil pollution, using empirical models to estimate the key coastal areas for bird foraging, risk of oil exposure, and likelihood of being washed up on collector beaches; (2) deploy staff and volunteers on beaches prioritized for

collection in order to test the model; and (3) provide a report on the value of targeted, beached-bird surveys in Nova Scotia, as well as recommendations for their possible extension or modification in the province. Beached Bird Surveys have been ongoing in various parts of the Maritimes since 2001 but they have generated very little data (i.e. few beached birds). This project will allow us to target surveys in a more efficient way and should ultimately result in more data generated.

Source: Bird Studies
Canada



Not beached yet!



2007 Self-photo

Biologist Gareth Ackerman Died in Plane Crash in Florida

(Excerpted and Adapted from the Chronicle-Herald by David Jackson, and CBC interview)

A plane crash 80 kilometers from West Palm Beach in Florida on March 13th, 2008 killed four people, including ASFWB member Gareth Ackerman. His father Jeremy is a former Nova Scotia NDP leader

Gareth Ackerman, 36, was an ornithologist working on a six-month contract with Florida Atlantic University to study migratory birds. He spent the 2007 summer as a researcher conducting standardized point counts in northwestern New Brunswick for the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas Project, through Bird Studies Canada.

He completed his undergraduate honours degree at Saint Mary's University before pursuing a master's at Dalhousie. Hugh Broders, a professor in the Saint Mary's biology department, said Mr. Ackerman took ecology and conservation biology courses from him between 2003 and 2005. "He was incredibly bright," Mr. Broders said Thursday evening. "He was an excellent writer and expressed himself very clearly and intelligently.

"Mr. Ackerman received awards from the Natural Sciences Engineering and Research Council of Canada for both his undergraduate and graduate work, Mr. Broders said.

He described Mr. Ackerman as hard-working and reliable, and also somewhat reserved — "not an in-your-face-type person. He was quiet, but effective, I would say, a really nice person."

He recalled talking to Mr. Ackerman several years ago about a summer job the student already had lined up to help the Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation try to re-establish a colony of roseate terns, an endangered species, on Quaker Island in Mahone Bay.

Mr. Broders suggested doing an honours thesis on it, and Mr. Ackerman, who was isolated, living in a tent for much of that summer, did an incredible job, the professor said.

"I think we've lost a good one. For sure," he said.

Cindy Staicer, who was Gareth Ackerman's thesis adviser at Dalhousie University, said Ackerman completed his master's degree in biology six months ago. "Gareth was doing what he wanted to do and was contributing to the conservation of birds. So he was really excited about it," she said in an interview with CBC Halifax.

Environment Canada 'muzzles' scientists' dealings with media

Excerpted from, The Ottawa Citizen

by Margaret Munro

Friday, February 01, 2008

Environment Canada has "muzzled" its scientists, ordering them to refer all media queries to the federal government, where communications officers will help them respond with "approved lines."

The new policy which sent a chill through the department research divisions, is designed to control their media message. "Just as we have 'one department, one website' we should have 'one department, one voice'," says a PowerPoint presentation from Environment Canada's executive management committee that's been sent to department staff. It laments that there has been "limited co-ordination of messages across the country" and how "interviews sometimes result in surprises to minister and senior management."

Environment Canada scientists, many of them world leaders in their fields, have long been encouraged to discuss their work on everything from migratory birds to melting Arctic ice with the media and public. It's insulting," says one senior staff member, who asked not to be named. She says researchers can no longer even discuss or confirm science facts without approval from the "highest level."

Until now, Environment Canada has been one of the most open and accessible departments in the federal government. All media queries must now be routed through the federal government, where "media relations will work with individual staff to decide how to

best handle the call; this could include: asking the program expert to respond with approved lines; having media relations respond; referring the call to the Minister's office; or referring the call to another department," the presentation says.

Gregory Jack, acting director of Environment Canada's ministerial and executive services, says "there is no change in the access in terms of scientists being able to talk." He says the intent of the new policy is to respond in a "quick, accurate way that is consistent across Canada."

The reality, say insiders, is the policy is blocking communication and infuriating scientists. Researchers have been told to refer all media queries to the government. The media office then asks reporters to submit their questions in writing. Sources say researchers are then asked to respond in writing to the media office, which then sends the answers to senior management for approval. If a researcher is eventually cleared to do an interview, he or she is instructed to stick to the "approved lines."

Climatologist Andrew Weaver, of the University of Victoria, works closely with several Environment Canada scientists. He says the policy points to the Conservative government's fixation with "micro-management" and message control. "They've been muzzled," says Mr. Weaver of the federal researchers. "The concept of free speech is non-existent at Environment Canada. They are manufacturing the message of science."

"They can't even now comment on why a storm hit the area without going through head office," says Mr. Weaver, who's been fielding calls from frustrated media organizations who can no longer get through to federal expert scientists who once spoke freely about their fields of work, be it atmospheric winds affecting airliners or disease outbreaks at bird colonies.

Muskrat Study Planned

Musk rats are disappearing from Prince Edward island reports Jim Brown of the Guardian, January 8, 2008. President Carl Balsor of the PEI Trappers Association confirmed his group passed a resolution at their annual meeting calling for the Province to help fund a study to find answers to this disturbing trend. Daryl Guignon of UPEI told the trappers' meeting "The population has collapsed in many parts of PEI and we don't know why". Mr. Balsor noted that it is a phenomenon happening all over Eastern North America.

The Northeast Fur Resources Technical Committee discussed the muskrat at their 2006 meeting. Presenter Nathan M Roberts of Cornell University showed data from eight jurisdictions which indicated that low harvests did not (continued page 9)

Bancroft and Reed Honoured



(Photos by Allena MacDonald)

Taking an holistic approach to forestry has won biologist Bob Bancroft and artist Alice Reed the title of 2007 Eastern Region Woodlot Owners of the Year from the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources. According to an article by Allena MacDonald in Atlantic Forestry, (Volume 14(3) January 2008) the couple has taken a second growth woodlot on land that once was farmed and reintroduced the more rare

Acadian species to promote diversity, erected nest boxes for owls, and constructed a pond for wildlife. Several ASFWB members attended a field day at the Bancroft and Reed property. Congratulations to Bob and Alice!



Fisheries Biologist John Macmillan (above) and Forester David Sutherland (right)

attended the September field day at the Bancroft/Reed woodland.

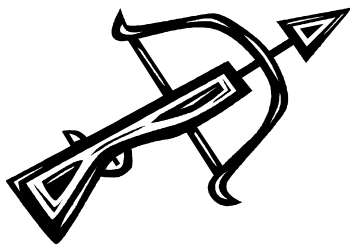


DONATE NOW

New Canadian Section of the Wildlife Society

The Wildlife Society (TWS) has recently formed a Canadian Section after Canadian members of TWS voted overwhelmingly (98%) to do so last spring. An inaugural slate of officers was elected in August with Arlen Todd as President. In August, 2008, President-elect Jack Dubois (Manitoba) will take over.

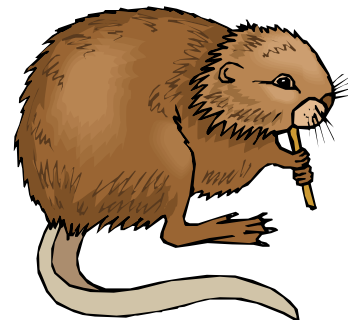
A first newsletter (Vol. 1, No. 1 Winter 2007/08) includes information on the upcoming 1st annual conference and business meeting, to be held in Gimli, Manitoba Aug. 14-17, 2008. For more information contact arlen.todd@gov.ab.ca; telephone: 403-297-7349. Further details can be found on the TWS website (<http://www.wildlife.org/sections/Canada/>) including bylaws, membership information and applications. It will remain possible for voting members in one section to be Associate (i.e., non-voting) members in one (or more) adjoining section(s).



(Muskrats continued)

seem to be a function of low pelt prices. He also noted that declines seemed to begin in the mid- Atlantic states and then moved north.

Now the PEI Forests Fish and Wildlife Division has agreed to fund a Masters research program at UPEI to look into the many theories of why muskrats are in decline. Stay tuned to the Biolink for updates!



Donate to the ASFWS Donald G Dodds Scholarship

1. You can donate on-line to the at Acadia University by visiting the website <http://www.acadiau.ca/externalaffairs/development/> and following the "Donate now" links. Make sure you note **ASFWS Donald G Dodds Scholarship** on the on-line form.
2. If you are an Acadia graduate and get a form in the mail, use it to make the contribution, specifying the **ASFWS Donald G Dodds Scholarship** as the recipient.
3. You can also telephone toll free to 1-866-222-3428
4. Or fill out the following form and mail or fax it

First Name _____ Initial _____ Last Name _____

Address: _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Phone Number _____ E-Mail _____

Payment Method : Cheque__ Money Order__ Credit Card__

Specify: Visa__ Mastercard__ American Express__

Card number: _____ Expiry Date ___/___

Signature _____

Donating to: The ASFWS Donald G Dodds Scholarship

mail to Acadia University
Alumni and Development Office
512 Main Street Wolfville NS B4P 2R6

fax to 1-902-585-1069

Thank You



**Mary Beth Benedict 1959-2008
Past President of ASFWB**

Mary Beth Benedict was President of the Atlantic Society of Fish and Wildlife Biologists from 2001-02. She served as Secretary Treasurer from 1992-94 and as Past President from 2003-2006. She was a faithful attendee at ASFWB events.

Terry Toner of NS Power recalls that Mary Beth started her career with Nova Scotia Power in 1987 as a Biologist with Environmental Policy & Programs. During this time she worked on the environmental assessment of transmission lines associated with the construction of Point Aconi and Trenton 6. In 1995 she moved over to Customer Operations where she took on the role of Environment Specialist and oversaw various environmental issues. She was part of a group that won a CEO environment award in 2006, a fitting recognition for her many environmental accomplishments. She was well liked by all her colleagues..

Mary Beth was very active in her community, volunteering with Sackville Rivers Association and other organizations. She coached and played hockey, ringette and soccer.

In her own words:

BENEDICT, Mary Beth - My name is Mary Beth Benedict and I left this life early in the morning of January 30, 2008, as a result of pancreatic cancer. Please know that I passed away counting my blessings surrounded by my family's love. I began life in

The Chignecto Isthmus – a 2C1Forest Priority

Landscape Linkage

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) held a workshop in February 2007 in Amherst, Nova Scotia to discuss the Chignecto Isthmus connecting Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The area has been identified by 2Countries1Forest as an at-risk landscape for connectivity and conservation, and its maintenance as crucial to the health and integrity of the entire Northern Appalachian/Acadian ecoregion. Thirty-two individuals representing government, organizations, forestry and land owners on both sides of the Isthmus attended the workshop.

The key human infrastructures in the linkage include the trans-Canada highway connecting New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, the Moncton to Shediac highway which cuts across the northern part of the Isthmus, and multiple secondary and logging roads. The towns of Moncton and Amherst bracket the border. CPAWS identified that the main challenges as

- Sprawl on the New Brunswick side between the city of Moncton and town of Shediac,
- Preponderance of private land ownership, resulting in piecemeal land use patterns
- Multiple roads crisscrossing the landscapes on both sides of the Isthmus,
- Protecting key habitat connected to the Isthmus and beyond,
- Lack of local ecosystem research on the distribution and movement of local species, and
- Little cross border Provincial coordination in the monitoring of more common species

Priority actions and areas of significance to both provinces were identified. The workshop report "Natural Ecosystem Connectivity across the Chignecto Isthmus - Opportunities and Challenges" can be requested on line. http://www.cpawnsb.org/chignecto_isthmus.html.

Sudbury in 1959 and after graduating from Marymount College, studied marine biology and forestry at Guelph where I completed a Bachelor's in Science in 1981. My love of nature and science became the basis of my career, initially as an environmental biologist with Trans Canada Pipelines and, thereafter for many good years with Nova Scotia Power Corporation where I eventually became Senior Environmental Specialist and worked on the protection of habitat and important wildlife species. I loved to work with children on environmental education as well as being a coach and participant in hockey and soccer. I grieve to leave my husband, Brad Benedict, and my three magnificent sons, Craig, Todd and Cameron. They were my angels, my reasons to live and they know I will be with them

always. Left behind, as well, is my dear and faithful mother, Anne (Tait) Cassidy, who cared for me in my last months, as well as my five sisters and brothers all of whom came from their far away homes to spend precious time in those painful but unforgettable final months: Patty Anne Dickieson, Sudbury, Ont.; Chris Cassidy, Sudbury; Mike Cassidy, Thunder Bay, Ont.; Sue-Ellen Cassidy, Prince George, B.C., and Jennifer Cassidy, Sudbury. I am sorry to leave my life so young but it was a complete life - one that I departed counting the innumerable blessings of wonderful children, a loving family, dear friends, neighbours and working colleagues.

MEETINGS

April 16, 2008, 9:30am - 3pm Atlantic Society of Fish and Wildlife Biologists Spring Seminar. "Renewable energy projects and their interactions with wildlife". Crabtree Auditorium, Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB. Cost: \$15 (includes lunch and coffee) \$10 students (includes lunch and coffee) Please e-mail your intention to attend to Jason LeBlanc leblanje@gov.ns.ca so numbers for lunch can be confirmed. Watch the web site <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Environment/ASFWB/> for more information.

April 24, 2008. Beware Alien Species, What they are and what we can do about them. Farm Centre, Charlottetown. For Information contact Jackie Waddell at exdir@islandnaturetrust.ca

May 14 - 16 2008. ACCESS, the Atlantic Canada Coastal and Estuarine Science Society, is holding its 2008 Workshop and General Meeting at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography in Dartmouth, NS Website: <http://www.cerf-access.ca>

August 17-21, 2008, Ottawa "Regulating the Impacts to Fish and Fish Habitat and Contributing to Healthy and Productive Aquatic Ecosystem": American Fisheries Society (AFS) 138th Annual Meeting - a call for papers has been posted.

September 21-23 , 2008. Atlantic International Chapter of American Fisheries Society. Digby Nova Scotia. <http://www.fisheries.org/units/aic/> or contact NS Dept. of Fisheries and Aquaculture (902) 485-5056.

November 4-6, 2008 Atlantic Society of Fish and Wildlife Biologists Annual General Meeting. Charlottetown area, Prince Edward Island. Contact Kirby Tulk kirby.tulk@pc.gc.ca

ASFWB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Date:

NAME :.....

TITLE:.....

AFFILIATION:.....

TELEPHONE: (H).....(O).....

MAILING ADDRESS:.....

.....
.....

EMAIL:.....

REGULAR MEMBER (\$15): ____ STUDENT (\$5): _____

Besides newsletters, I would like to receive notices, announcements, etc. by:

email ____ regular mail: ____ (Newsletters will be mailed out and available online).

Please remit your cheque or money order to the Treasurer, Deanne Meadus, Ducks Unlimited Canada, P.O. Box 430., Amherst, NS B4H 3Z5 902-687-2776 d_meadus@ducks.ca