



The Alaskan Wildlifer

Newsletter of the Alaska Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Winter Issue - January 2014



Message from President Jerry Hupp

It's been a wacky fall and winter – both politically and weather wise. Between the debacle of the federal government shutdown and a warm, rainy fall that changed seemingly overnight to winter, my train of thought has been more scattered than in past seasons. In keeping with that theme, following is some miscellany news regarding Alaska Chapter activities.

One of the activities I've enjoyed as Chapter president is compiling the list of member publications for the newsletter. Some papers are sent to me by members as they're published. Others I find through an online search. This task gives me a chance to nose around in literature that I wouldn't otherwise peruse and see what people are up to around the state. By my count, Chapter members have published at least 52 peer reviewed papers in the past year. That's a minimum count as there are certainly publications I'm not aware of. I recognize that scientific publication is not the only, nor always the most significant means by which we advance wildlife conservation. Still, every publication represents a substantial amount of work in the field or laboratory, and in the office during project planning, data analysis, and writing. Ultimately, most of what we do in this business can be traced back to a scientific foundation. I'm impressed with the productivity of Chapter members – those whose jobs include scientific publication and those whose work contributes to other realms. I'm also impressed with the diversity of topics on which members are authorities. It's a pleasure to count so many accomplished colleagues among our ranks.

I don't particularly like conference calls. My apologies to anyone who has participated with me in a conference call. It's not you! I just don't find most electronic communication to be as satisfying as face time (and I don't mean the Apple app). However, I did have a chance to take part in a truly enjoyable conference call recently. Some members have been advocating for building a stronger relationship between the state chapter of TWS and the student chapter at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I agree that both groups could benefit. Those of us in the professional ranks always appreciate the injection of energy that comes from working with students. And, I think we can offer some opportunities to assist with professional development of the next generation of biologists. To discuss this topic, Grant Hilderbrand and I took part in a conference call with other interested TWS-Alaska Chapter members. We kicked around a number of ideas to strengthen ties between the two chapters. One was for the state chapter to sponsor a student-oriented skills workshop or field trip during our annual conference. Another is to regularly include news of student chapter activities in the state chapter newsletter. We're implementing that with this newsletter. Also, we discussed fostering one-on-one mentoring between professionals in Alaska and students. This would be done within the TWS mentoring program and facilitated by the Chapter.

So, here's the deal: If you're in the professional ranks and willing to serve as a mentor, sign up for the TWS mentoring program (<http://mentor.wildlife.org/about>) and send an email to the Chapter (twسالaska@gmail.com) that lets us know you're available, and tells something about who you work for and your interests. We'll then work with the UAF student chapter (and students at other UA campuses) to encourage their participation and

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help put students in touch with mentors. Also, we plan to look for ways to improve mentoring opportunities at our annual meeting. All of us in the professional realm were once students who benefited from the help of someone more experienced. This is your opportunity to give back to the system. If you have other ideas for strengthening collaboration between the student and state chapters of TWS, please contact Nate Svoboda (nathan.svoboda@alaska.gov), Travis Booms (travis.booms@alaska.gov), or Laura Prugh (lprugh@alaska.edu).

Elsewhere in the newsletter, former Chapter president Tom Paragi has an opinion piece on why you should consider running for Chapter President. I simply wish to echo Tom's remarks about the rewards of serving as a Chapter officer. This is a great organization. We've had a positive influence on professional wildlife management in Alaska in the past and have the potential to continue to do so in the future. But, it takes people willing to volunteer their time. I know that can be asking a lot in these days when it seems that there is never enough time. But, the payback is worth the investment. We'll be holding elections soon. I encourage you to consider putting your name forward to serve as regional representative, president-elect, or secretary-treasurer. Also, we continue to look for people willing to help with publication of the newsletter and management of our web site. Feel free to contact me (jhupp@usgs.gov) if you want to discuss ways you can serve the Chapter.

Finally, planning is underway for this spring's annual meeting in Anchorage (March 31 – April 3). We have a great group of folks who are engaged in that effort and I'm enthused about the program. There is more on the meeting elsewhere in the newsletter and information is on our website (<http://www.wildlife.org/alaska/>). Keep an eye out for the call for papers, save the dates, and plan to attend the annual conference.

I hope everyone has had a good autumn and winter so far and is looking forward to spring - and the spring conference.

-Jerry Hupp, President, TWS-AK Chapter

Volunteer Opportunities with the Alaska Chapter of TWS- Get Involved!

- Webmaster – Update the Chapter's web site and help with annual meeting registration.
- Conservation Review Committee – Track wildlife conservation issues of interest to the Chapter, advise the Executive Board on appropriate actions, collaborate with other chapters on regional issues.
- Serve on the next Executive Board – Consider running for office in our upcoming 2014 election.
- Newsletter Editor – Help produce our quarterly newsletter.

The Alaska Chapter cannot function without the work of volunteers. It's a great way to add diversity to your professional life and serve a good organization. If you're interested in these or other opportunities to serve, contact Jerry Hupp at: twسالaska@gmail.com.



Regional News

Southcentral

Cara Staab, Southcentral Representative

Nathan Svobovda was recently hired by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to serve as Area Biologist in Kodiak. Nate received his PhD at Mississippi State University where he studied multi-scale resource selection by carnivores and white-tailed deer in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. He also has six years of experience developing wildlife and habitat resource management programs for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. Nate has also been active in TWS' Native Peoples' Wildlife Management Working Group.

Sierra Doherty is the new Wildlife Education & Outreach Specialist for Region IV based in Palmer. Sierra holds a BA in Environmental Science and a MS in Environmental Education from Alaska Pacific University. Sierra worked previously for the Palmer Soil and Water Conservation District as an Education Specialist, where she coordinated Alaska's Envirothon, an environmental education program for high school students to challenge their knowledge of environmental science and natural resource management topics. Sierra also worked as a classroom teacher at Axios Academy in Wasilla and as the Director of the Farm School Program at APU's Spring Creek Farm in Palmer.

Melissa Gabrielson is a new wildlife biologist with the U.S. Forest Service's Cordova Ranger District for the Prince William Sound Zone. Melissa comes from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where she worked as a wildlife biologist with the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge stationed in Bethel. In Bethel, Melissa led a team working on sea ducks and spectacled eiders. She forged many partnerships with NGO's, other agencies and Russian biologists on those projects. Melissa has a master's degree from South Dakota State University in Range Science and is looking forward to working with moose and waterfowl habitat on the Copper River Delta.

TWS-Alaska Chapter Regions (Northern, Southcentral, Southeast)



Southeast

Karen Blejwas, Southeast Representative

Michael Kohan has joined ADF&G's Wildlife Diversity Program as a Wildlife Biologist I in the Douglas office. Michael has a B.S. in biology from the University of Washington and is currently completing a master's degree at UAF's School of Fisheries and Ocean Science. Her thesis is on variation in abundance and condition of juvenile chum salmon in the eastern Gulf of Alaska. Michael has a strong background in fisheries sciences and is excited about the opportunity to broaden her experience by working with wildlife. Michael was born and raised in Southeast Alaska and is looking forward to helping develop and grow the WDP's Citizen Science efforts in the region. She has participated in a variety of science outreach activities locally and also spent two years as a teacher and health care organizer with the Peace Corps in Cambodia. She began her position with ADF&G on April 1.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game would also like to welcome **Kelly Nesvacil** to the Wildlife Diversity Program and Division of Wildlife Conservation where she will be focusing on endangered species issues and research. Kelly has a strong background in the ESA and on-the-ground implementation of species habitat conservation related to implementing the Act. She is highly skilled



Regional News-Continued

in the application of GIS, mapping and data management tools. Previously, Kelly worked for the Division of Sport Fish in Anchorage, where she was involved with a number of wildlife projects including the Western Governors' Association Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (terrestrial game and other wildlife mapping with the Alaska Natural Heritage Program), Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC's), and moose habitat enhancement projects such as on the Kenai. Kelly also worked as biologist for the Balcones Canyonland Preserve in Texas, which is home to 8 endangered species and 27 species of concern, surveyed and mapped listed species occurrence for over 30 projects as environmental consultant for SWCA Environmental Consultants, and worked as a vegetation ecologist for The Nature Conservancy. Kelly has a B.S. in Zoology from the University of Texas -Austin, and a M.S. in Biological Sciences from the University of Northern Colorado where she researched the plant, herbivore and prescribed fire interactions in upland bitterbrush communities of Rocky Mountain National Park.

Northern

Kaiti Ott, Northern Representative

Maria Berger joined the National Park Service in November as the new education specialist with Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve and Yukon-Charley National Preserve. Maria previously worked as an environmental education specialist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in their Barrow field office where she developed and conducted culturally-relevant wildlife education programs.

Sonja Jahrsdoerfer has vacated the FWS Regional Endangered Species Coordinator position to become the Refuge Manager for the Lower Green River NWR Complex in the Uinta Basin of Colorado and Utah. Sonja has been integral to the

polar bear listing and recovery processes, as well as wood bison reclassification and reintroduction efforts. Sonja will be missed by her coworkers and partners across the state.

Torsten Bentzen was hired by ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation (Region III, Fairbanks office) as a caribou research biologist. Torsten completed a Master's degree in Wildlife Biology at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks in 2007, where he investigated the ecology and diet of Beaufort Sea polar bears. He worked as the assistant area wildlife biologist with ADF&G in Tok for five years, starting in 2008. During his time in Tok he was heavily involved in management issues and field work pertaining to trans-boundary caribou herds, including the Fortymile herd. This has given him a solid platform for his new position. He made a smooth transition to his new role in October, 2013, just in time for fall caribou capture work on the Fortymile Herd. With several peer-reviewed publications under his belt, as well as extensive knowledge and experience with Alaskan caribou herds, Torsten is now poised to make strong contributions to DWC caribou research and management programs.

Dr. Martha Ellis began her employment as a Biometrician II with the ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation (Region III, Fairbanks) in May 2013. She recently completed both her Ph.D. in Wildlife Biology and a Master's degree in Statistics at the University of Montana in Missoula. Her master's thesis focused on using survival analysis and population estimation with mark-recapture analyses to study the ability of these methods to accurately estimate survival of dormant plants. Her Ph.D. dissertation research focused on the role of transient dynamics in population projection models for Florida Ziziphus. Before joining ADF&G, she worked at the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station in Missoula, MT, where she developed a spatially explicit power analyses for occupancy-based monitoring of Rocky Mountain



Regional News-Continued

wolverine populations. Martha brings a strong suite of quantitative skills to the DWC research and management programs.

Dr. John Benson started as the new predator-prey biologist with ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation (Region III, Fairbanks) in May 2013. He recently defended his Ph.D. dissertation at Trent University (Ontario, Canada) on hybridization dynamics between eastern wolves and coyotes in and around Algonquin Park. His Master's degree research at Louisiana State University focused on the ecology and conservation of Louisiana black bears. When John started with DWC last spring, he started field work almost immediately, conducting black bear and moose calf captures and monitoring moose calf mortality as part of a continuing predator-prey study in GMU 19D near McGrath. John has several peer-reviewed publications pertaining to carnivore ecology, and brings a strong quantitative skill set to the position. John's strong research background and skills as a field biologist make him ideally suited for continuing the strong predator-prey research tradition in DWC Region III.

UAF Wildlife Society Student Chapter Activities

By Rachel Noriega

The University of Alaska Fairbanks Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society is the northernmost student chapter in the country and this has allowed us to have many unique adventures. This semester the student chapter has increased its activity level compared with previous years, allowing its members to gain valuable experiences and create unforgettable memories. Our first activity of the semester was an overnight camping trip to Denali to watch moose rutting behavior. Many moose were spotted through binoculars and spotting scopes, and we got to witness a couple male on male challenges. We learned a little about identifying tracks and scats along the way and in the morning when we woke up to a snow covered ground, we decided the trip was a success.

The next activity for the semester was a certification course in Basic Hunter Education. This course lasted two days and was provided by Bob Hunter of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The course provided knowledge of basic fire safety and hands on experience working with firearms. This semester we also conducted a fundraising event we called "The Cauldron Cook-off." The chapter cooked chili, made cookies, and hot chocolate and sold the items on campus. The fundraiser was a success and a learning experience for all of us. These were our main activities for the semester, but we also conducted smaller activities such as study nights, campus trail trips, movie nights, and an IACUC training session. Some future activities we have planned are a dog mushing excursion, a ski excursion, troopers ride along, a game dinner, and a kestrel box building project, which is part of the American Kestrel Partnership.

The UAF Wildlife Society Student Chapter strives to provide useful experiences to its members and look forward to our future endeavors.



Chapter News

Welcome Leigh Honig, the Chapter's new Secretary-Treasurer

The Alaska Chapter would like to thank Leigh Honig for stepping in to serve as Secretary-treasurer. Our longtime Secretary-treasurer, Todd Rinaldi stepped down from that position due to the sizeable workload he has taken on as the new Area Biologist for ADF&G in Palmer. Leigh is a Biometrician with ADF&G in Palmer and can be reached at leigh.honig@alaska.gov. Thanks also to Todd for his many years of service to the Chapter in that position.

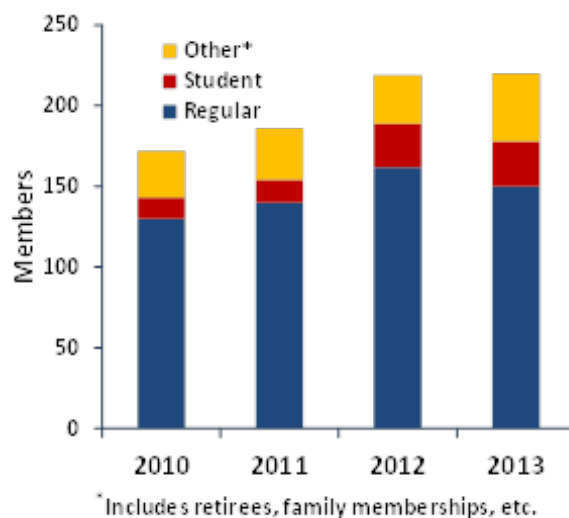
TWS proposes regional coordination on conservation affairs

The national office of TWS is working on a plan to better coordinate chapters and sections to address regional conservation issues. One goal is to improve communication among conservation affairs committees that exist in most TWS subunits and to focus efforts on shared conservation concerns. Another goal is to keep the Parent Society informed of local wildlife conservation issues. The Alaska Chapter bylaws provide for creation of a Conservation Review (CR) committee. However, that committee has not been active for some time. This new effort from the Parent Society provides us with an incentive to reinvigorate our CR committee. It also provides an opportunity to keep the national office better informed of the often unique issues that surround management and conservation of Alaskan wildlife. If you would like to take part in this process and serve on the CR committee, please contact the Chapter via email (twسالaska@gmail.com).

Membership Trends for the Alaska Chapter of TWS

TWS Alaska Chapter President Jerry Hupp recently examined trends in membership of the Alaska Chapter based on members who had renewed by the middle of the year. Here are the results:

- Membership over the past four years has been trending upward. The increase may not be as great as indicated in the figure as not everyone renews their membership on the same dates. There has been an increase in student members since 2011.
- On average, we've retained slightly over ½ of our members from one year to the next
- About 35% of our current members have belonged to the chapter since 2010. Almost ¼ of our members in 2013 first joined the Chapter that year.
- So, the Alaska Chapter has a core group of long-time members and had a significant influx of new members in the past two years. We've had more annual turnover in members than expected, and retaining new members is one of the keys to our continued growth. If you were a new member in 2013 look for an email welcoming you to our group, and please consider renewing your 2014 membership in TWS and the Alaska Chapter.



Upcoming: Meetings of Interest

Alaska Marine Science
Symposium Anchorage, January
20-24
<http://www.alaskamarinescience.org/>

Alaska Forum on the
Environment
Anchorage, February 3-7
<http://akforum.com/>

Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife
Society
Anchorage, March 31-April 3
<http://twسالaskameeting.com/>

North American Moose
Conference and Workshop
Girdwood, April 28-May 1
<http://alcesconference.org/>

North American Caribou
Workshop
Whitehorse, Yukon, May 12-16
<http://www.2014nacw.ca/>

The Alaska Chapter is on Facebook

You can now “like” us on Facebook. On our new Facebook page, we are posting information on scientific publications relevant to Alaska’s wildlife, announcements of upcoming meetings, and job openings. If you have ideas on how we can most effectively use our Facebook page, contact the Executive Board through the Chapter email (twسالaska@gmail.com).

New memberships and renewals are available on-line at The Wildlife Society (www.wildlife.org/alaska/). Click on membership to obtain membership forms.

The Alaska Chapter’s web site has moved. It’s new location is:
<http://www.wildlife.org/alaska/>
Please be sure to change your bookmark.



Dog Ticks Introduced and Establishing in Alaska

By Kimberlee Beckmen, Wildlife Veterinarian, ADF&G

Most Alaskans, including dog owners, veterinarians and biologists, are under the mistaken impression that there are no ticks in Alaska. This has always been incorrect as ticks on small mammals and birds are endemic to Alaska. The squirrel tick, *Ixodes angustus*, for example, although normally feasting on lemmings, hares and squirrels is the most common tick found incidentally on dogs and cats in Alaska. However, recently the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game along with the Office of the State Veterinarian have detected an increasing incidence of dog ticks that are exotic to Alaska (that is Alaska is not part of the reported geographic range) on not just dogs but people and cats. These alarming trends lead to an article on the ADFG webpage last year. http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifenews.main&issue_id=111.

Of additional concern is that many of these ticks are potential vectors of serious zoonotic as well as animal diseases and are being found on dogs that have never left the state. Wildlife disease specialists expect there to be profound impacts of climate change on animal and parasite distributions, and with the introduction of ticks to Alaska, we should expect some of these species will become established. Along with the ticks, which are competent vectors of disease, we should expect that tick-borne diseases in humans and animals including wildlife will follow.

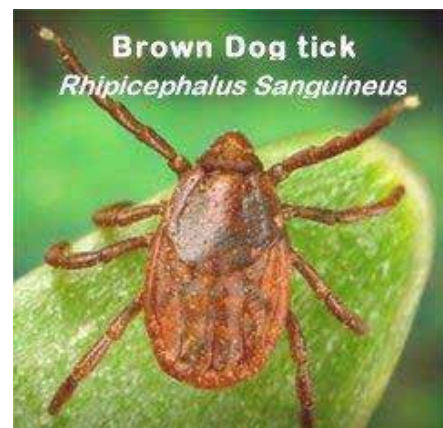
The conclusion that I must draw from the circumstances leading to the 48 tick infestations I investigated over the past 3 years is that we now have both the Brown Dog Tick *Rhipicephalus sanguineus* and the American Dog tick *Demacentor variabilis* are established in the Fairbanks and North Pole area as well as in Anchorage.

There are serious diseases potentially carried by these ticks. The American dog tick is a vector of

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF) and tularemia. The American dog tick is even more concerning as it is a vector of not only RMSF and tularemia but also Canine ehrlichiosis, canine babesiosis, Lyme Disease, and Q-fever. Of those, only tularemia and Q-fever are already present in Alaskan wildlife but the others could be easily introduced by just a single tick biting an infected traveler or pet carrying the infection and passing it on to their next meal. Recently a new tick borne disease related to RMSF was identified in four people in California. In addition, another new tick-borne disease was found to be transmitted in just 15 minutes of tick feeding, rather than the hours of tick attachment that most diseases require to be infective.

In addition to the two species of ticks I have evidence are already established, we identified two instances each of two other species, the Rocky Mountain Wood tick, *Dermacentor andersoni*, which of course is the main vector for RMSF, as well as Anaplasmosis, tick paralysis, tick fever and Q-fever; and the Lone star tick, *Amblyomma americanum*. The latter tick likes deer as well as dogs and is a vector of Ehrlichiosis and tularemia.

Please report all ticks (other than if you see an squirrel or hare with ticks) dfg.dwc.vet@alaska.gov and collect when possible for identification.



Why Run for Chapter President?

By Tom Paragi, Past President, TWS-Alaska Chapter

Once again the Alaska Chapter of TWS is seeking a few members willing to step up and to keep our volunteer organization functioning. Thankfully many people are willing to run for officer seats with 2-year commitments (regional representatives and secretary-treasurer), but only a few are willing to make the 6-year commitment to serve on the Executive Board as President-Elect, President, and past-President. I want to describe my path to serving as president during 2006-08, share with you why I count it as rewarding experience and honor, and encourage others to consider taking a turn as a candidate.

I joined the Alaska Chapter 27 years ago as an undergraduate because it was the primary scientific meeting each year that attracted researchers and managers—a great way to learn about interesting field projects and meet potential employers. Through the annual meetings I have met a lot of talented individuals and learned about how the Chapter engages on tangible conservation efforts in Alaska.

Some of my newfound colleagues became mentors who guided my youthful energy in the 1990s toward serving on committees that promoted science outreach. In 2002 I was elected as Northern Representative, and in 2004 I became President-elect. When I stepped down as past-President in 2010, I had acquired a tremendous appreciation for the diverse knowledge base of our members, our influence on some national TWS position statements, and why the Chapter has a unique role in Alaska wildlife conservation.

The President chairs the Executive Board of elected officers and non-voting representatives (student chapter and newsletter editor). He or she ensures legal function of a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation (tax reporting) and duties of operation under Chapter bylaws. The President also serves as a

defacto member of committees and may appoint an alternate for some duties.

My experience and review of the Chapter files back to its founding in 1971 convinced me the role of President is largely what you make of it! Beyond fiduciary duties, I think the most important task is to remain apprised of conservation issues in Alaska and consult with the Board on which issues warrant Chapter engagement. Some issues may require a brief letter of support, whereas others may require timely written or oral testimony. Complex or controversial issues may trigger drafting or revising a position statement or technical review. This is a serious decision of time commitment, from appointing a committee through membership review of draft documents. My greatest challenge was recruitment of Chapter members willing to step up as chair of a committee, which often means extra work as compiling editor and process maven.

Conservation has always involved politics because it represents a restraint on species exploitation or the conversion of nature to human desires. Within bounds of sustainable use is further politics on allocation among a range of interests. Non-government organizations (NGOs) serve a crucial role in legal and procedural oversight involving the public sector (government) and private sector. TWS provides this oversight while promoting science, stewardship of public resources, and education. We are a modest organization with little name or purpose recognition among most elected officials. However, we have engaged effectively when necessary (particularly on proposed access and resource development), whether in Juneau for state issues or in support of a lead role in Washington, D.C. by our parent organization on national interests involving Alaska. The Chapter provides a welcome forum for frank discussion, and sometimes action, on political issues affecting wildlife conservation that sometimes does not exist within organizations employing wildlife



professionals.

Our unique role is outlined in our written record over the last 42 years that provided factual information in support of species and habitat conservation, devoid of exaggeration or obfuscation. Reputation as a reliable source of objective information takes a long period to build and is subject to instant loss with a single imprudent transgression. TWS has generally distinguished itself from other NGOs by not taking sides in value judgments for or against a sustainable use or practice, which has led to some respectful but pointed discussions while crafting comments or positions. With an ever growing human population and its demands for resource development that include increased access by road, rail, and port, our volunteer organization must choose its conservation efforts wisely. Motivating others to pitch in and help is a never ending challenge!

I was privileged to have served 8 years on the Executive Board, helping with mundane tasks and the occasional high-profile topic. I experienced professional growth under Presidents Doug Larsen and Eric Taylor, who each set a high standard of achievement. My goals in 2006 were to increase member participation, continue collaborative efforts with other organizations, and increase public outreach on resource issues. I willingly put substantial time into engaging members on these topics. What I remember is not the “work” but the satisfaction of working with others (particularly the Board and committee members) toward modest success in achieving these goals and additional ones of the Chapter. These efforts with colleagues will remain among the highlights of my professional career.

Elections for Chapter officers will be held in February 2014

Consider submitting your name as a candidate for President-elect, Regional Representative, or Secretary-treasurer

Contact Jerry Hupp (jhupp@usgs.gov) for more information.

Wanted!

Volunteers to assist with management of the Chapter’s web site and take over development of the quarterly newsletter.

Contact:

- Elizabeth Manning (Elizabeth.manning@alaska.gov) for the newsletter.
- Liz Solomon (Liz.solomon@alaska.gov) to assist with the web site.



TWS Leadership Institute Experience: Developing Your Leadership Potential and Personal Vision in the Wildlife Profession

By Sarah L. Bullock, Wildlife Biologist, Bureau of Land Management, Glennallen Field Office

It was in May that I got the call I had been hoping for: I was one of the 10 applicants accepted into The Wildlife Society (TWS) Leadership Institute's class of 2013! The Wildlife Society's Leadership Institute program is designed for early career professionals to facilitate the development of new leaders within TWS and the wildlife profession as a whole. The program recruits 10-15 promising early career professionals from all levels of training. You engage with a variety of diverse groups, participate in a series of intensive activities, and benefit from mentoring relationships. The training serves to expand leadership skills and increase participants' effectiveness, in order to achieve better resource management. The program also exposes participants to the inner workings of TWS and facilitates the increase in numbers of active leaders in TWS and the wildlife profession.

Once accepted, you will meet and interact with an elite group of fellow early wildlife professionals that share your passion for wildlife and desire to explore and develop their potential to be an effective wildlife professional and leader. In addition, two mentors are assigned to you. One is an alumnus from past Leadership Institute classes and the second is a member of the executive board of TWS. My mentors were Ms. Wini Kessler (president of the TWS) and Ms. Susan Rupp (Enviroscapes Ecological Consulting owner and Leadership Institute class of 2007). The mentorship is a great addition to the program because it allows you to ask questions about assignments from folks that have past experience and you get to expand your network of other professionals that are eager to help you succeed.

The program begins in mid-May when you receive a list of required reading assignments: the TWS Leadership workbook, two books, and two peer-reviewed articles dealing with the wildlife

profession and/or leadership. These books and articles provided deep insight about the complexities facing today's wildlife professionals. They challenge you to look at both your strengths and your perceived weaknesses to empower you to re-create yourself as an effective leader. You also gain perspectives on developing your leadership potential from distinguished wildlife professionals. Aspects of these readings pervade throughout all assignments and help you apply what you have learned to real world challenges.

The first assignment requires you to make a brief introductory biography about yourself, both written and video. This allows each of the participants to see and read about each other, and share their unique stories. The next few assignments provide a base for discovering your potential and help you begin to think critically and to develop a personal vision (a portrait of your future that you can commit to). Developing a personal vision, I think, is one of the most important tasks that the Leadership Institute assigns. Everyone has a vision hidden in his or her psyche and the Leadership Institute helps you to realize it, discuss it, and most importantly commit to it by "writing it down."

You will also need to complete one of my other favorite assignments, conducting a "Conserving Our Wildlife and Conservation History" (COWCH; <http://www.wildlife.org/who-we-are/cowch>) interview. Alaska has a rich history in wildlife management and has been in the forefront of wildlife research for many years. Because of this, Alaska is blessed with a number of retired distinguished wildlife professionals. It behooves us to identify and learn from these professionals and take an active role in preserving our unique Alaskan wildlife management heritage. I had the privilege of interviewing Mr. Wayne Regelin, who worked in Alaska for over 30 years and had a hand in accomplishing many great projects that benefitted



Alaska's fish and wildlife resources.

The final assignment requires you to take your personal vision statement and incorporate how you can apply it at a local level. This is a great opportunity to think about how to extend your vision statement to help be a source of empowerment to others while serving to give back to the TWS, at the chapter, subunit, or working group level(s).

After all of these great assignments are completed, it will be time to attend the national conference in Milwaukee,

Wisconsin. As a bonus of participating in the Leadership Institute, TWS awards you a scholarship that pays for lodging, food, and airfare to attend the national conference. The purpose of attending the national conference has multiple functions. At the conference, you participate in a number of discussions over previous

assignments and reflect on how the assignments/readings encouraged your growth of your leadership skills. Past alumni led most of these discussions, which was refreshing. It was nice to see that you can continue to serve the Leadership Institute, even after you graduate. Another important factor of the conference is that you attend the council meetings to learn the inner workings of how the TWS functions. I cannot say enough about the dedication of the executive council members. They are great personable leaders that are deeply passionate about the future of young professionals. Observing their examples of leadership definitely empowered me to take a more active role in the Society.

My prior experience with national conferences was more from an academic and social perspective, which mostly included "nerding out" by attending symposia all day, presenting my graduate research,

and socializing by participating in the nighttime revelry with other wildlife professionals (which is real networking). The Leadership Institute did not take away from these experiences, but added to those previous experiences by providing an opportunity to meet and personally interact with all of the executive board, attend council meetings, and interact with my executive council mentor.

As I reflect on my experience from this year's TWS Leadership Institute, I want to convey that this was a wonderful opportunity to build a base of leadership skills, learn more about the Society, and increase a network of fellow passionate wildlifers. It empowered me to pay it forward by taking a more active role in the Society. Overall, the Leadership Institute is a very competitive program, but that should not discourage you from applying, or reapplying. I,

myself, wanted to participate in the Leadership Institute program since its inception in 2006. I applied once before in 2011, but was unsuccessful. The application process is similar to applying for a scholarship. It consists of submitting a cover letter, resume, transcripts, recommendation letters, and an essay, well worth the effort considering the knowledge, experience, and friendships gained. In closing, I challenge any Alaskan early career professional, whether in academia, research, or management, that is longing to make a bigger difference and learn more about the Society to invest in this program. I believe I will benefit from this program for many years to come, and I believe you will too. If you want to know more, go to <http://www.wildlife.org/professional-development/leadership-institute>. The application process starts in February, so be on the lookout for more information in the coming months!



Conferences, Books and Interesting Notes

TWS-AK Chapter Conference

The Alaska Chapter of the Wildlife Society will hold its annual conference March 31-April 3, 2014 at the Marriott Hotel in Anchorage. Don't miss it!

Caribou Workshop set for May

The 15th North American Caribou Workshop will be held in Whitehorse, Yukon, May 12-16, 2014, at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Center on the banks of the Yukon River. The theme of the workshop is "Caribou Conservation and Management: What's Working?" A full day will be devoted to presentations dealing explicitly with conservation and management initiatives throughout North America, and elsewhere, that address the conference theme. In addition to three days of technical sessions, there will be one day of workshops on May 12 and a field trip day on May 16. Registration and abstract submission will be conducted on-line through our website at www.2014nacw.ca.

2014 Alaska Trails Conference

Mark your calendars for the 2014 Alaska Statewide Trails Conference. It will be held in Anchorage at Alaska Pacific University, April 24-26. Alaska Trails is seeking volunteers to help with the conference. For information, call or email the Alaska Trails office, 907-334-8049, office@alaska-trail.org.

North American Moose Conference

The 2014 North American Moose Conference and Workshop will be hosted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Outdoor Heritage Foundation of Alaska. The conference will be held in Girdwood, Alaska, from April 28 to May 2, 2014. Please save the dates and visit the conference website for further details. www.alcesconference.org.

US-IALE 2014 set for Anchorage

The US Region of the International Association for Landscape Ecology will hold its annual symposium in Anchorage, May 18-22, 2014. The theme is "Cumulative impacts and landscape initiatives: a sustainability check during climate change." For more information visit the IALE web site: <http://usiale.org/>.

Help Needed for 2014 Envirothon

Envirothon 2014 will be held April 21-22 at Chena Hot Springs Resort. The Envirothon is an educational competition aimed at increasing student interest in natural resource careers through hands-on learning experiences. Volunteers are needed to help create and run field tests for students in the following fields: Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soils/Land Use and Wildlife. Field tests are graded and connected to the Envirothon Curriculum. Other help is also needed to chaperon teams during the competition. The Envirothon is a statewide environmental education program and event. If you would like to become an Envirothon volunteer please email at Envirothon Coordinator Te'Audra Sanders at teaudrasanders@gmail.com or call 907-745-1662. Volunteers will be rewarded with lodging at Chena Hot Springs, catered meals, an Envirothon t-shirt and admission to the hot springs. You can find more information at palmersoilandwater.org.

New Book Celebrates Cup'ik Youth

A new book released in November recognizes the efforts of Chevak youth and tells how a tribal village community in western Alaska worked with federal scientists to address declining bird populations. The book, "Banding Together to Learn and Preserve," contains a photographic history with images of youth involved in a 25-year bird banding project. The book is available at alaska.usgs.gov/products/pubs/2013/Banding_Together.pdf. For information, contact USGS Research Biologist Craig Ely, cely@usgs.gov, 907-786-7182.



Recent Publications by TWS-AK Chapter Members

We would like to highlight the contributions of Chapter members to wildlife science. If you or your colleagues have recently published articles in peer-reviewed journals, please send the citation to Jerry Hupp (jhupp@usgs.gov). The following are some papers that were recently published by Chapter members.

Albert, D. M., and J. W. Schoen. 2013. Use of historical logging patterns to identify disproportionately logged ecosystems within temperate rainforests of southeastern Alaska. *Conservation Biology* 27:774-784.

Baltensperger, A., T. Mullet, M. Schmid, G. Humphries, L. Kövér, and F. Huettmann. 2013. Seasonal observations and machine-learning-based spatial model predictions for the common raven (*Corvus corax*) in the urban, sub-arctic environment of Fairbanks, Alaska. *Polar Biology* 36:1587-1599.

Brinkman, T. J., D. K Person, W. F. Smith, S. Chapin, K. McCoy, M. Leonawicz, and K. J. Huntermark. 2013. Using DNA to test the utility of pellet-group counts as an index of deer counts. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 37:444-450.

Brinkman, T. J., G. Kofinas, W. D. Hansen, F. S. Chapin III, and S. Rupp. 2013. A new framework to manage hunting. *Wildlife Professional* 7:38-43.

Gates, H. R., S. Yezerinac, A. N. Powell, P. S. Tomkovich, O. P. Valchuk, and R. B. Lanctot. 2013. Differentiation of subspecies and sexes of Beringian dunlins using morphometric measures. *Journal of Field Ornithology* 84:389-402.

Gill J.R, R. E., C. M. Handel, and D. R. Ruthrauff. 2013. Intercontinental migratory connectivity and population structuring of dunlins from western Alaska . *Condor* 115:525-534.

Kendall, W. L., R. J. Baker, G. C. White, M. S. Lindberg, C. A. Langtimm, and C. L. Penaloza. 2013. Combining dead recovery, auxiliary observations and robust design data to estimate demographic parameters from marked individuals. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution* 4:828-835.

Kovach R. P., J. E. Joyce, J. D. Echave, M. S. Lindberg, and D. A. Tallmon. 2013. Earlier migration timing, decreasing phenotypic variation, and biocomplexity in multiple salmonid species. *PLoS ONE* 8(1): e53807.

Krebs, C. J., K. Kielland, J. Bryant, M. O'Donoghue, F. Doyle, C. McIntyre, D. DiFolco, N. Berg, S. Carriere, R. Boonstra, S. Boutin, A. J. Kenney, D. G. Reid, K. Bodony, J. Putera, H. K. Timm, and T. Burke. 2013. Synchrony in the snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*) cycle in northwestern North America, 1970-2012. *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 91:562-572.

Lake, B. C., M. R. Bertram, N. Guidager, J. R. Caikoski, and R. O. Stephenson. 2013. Wolf kill rates across winter in a low-density moose system in Alaska. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 77:1512-1522.

Lauper, M., I. Lechner, P. S. Barboza, et al. 2013. Rumination of different-sized particles in muskoxen (*Ovibos moschatus*) and moose (*Alces alces*) on grass and browse diets, and implications for rumination in different ruminant feeding types. *Mammalian Biology* 78:142 - 152.



- Lindberg, M.S., J. S. Sedinger, and J.-D. Lebreton. 2013. Individual heterogeneity in black brant survival and recruitment with implications for harvest dynamics. *Ecology and Evolution* 3:4045-4056.
- Mager, K., K. Colson, and K. Hundertmark. 2013. High genetic connectivity and introgression from domestic reindeer characterize northern Alaska caribou herds. *Conservation Genetics* 14:1111-1123.
- Meixell, B. W., M. A. Borchardt, and S. K. Spencer. 2013. Accumulation and inactivation of avian influenza virus by the filter-feeding invertebrate *Daphnia magna*. *Applied and Environmental Microbiology* 79:7249-7255.
- McCune, J. L., W. L. Harrower, S. Avery-Gomm, J. M. Brogan, A. Csergo, L. N. Davidson, A. Garani, L. R. Halpin, L. P. Lipsen, C. Lee, J. C. Nelson, L. R. Prugh, C. Stinson, C. K. Whitney, and J. Whitton. 2013. Threats to Canadian species at risk: an analysis of finalized recovery strategies. *Biological Conservation* 166:254-265.
- Parker, K. L., and P. S. Barboza. 2013. Hand-rearing wild caribou calves for studies of nutritional ecology. *Zoo Biology* 32:163-171.
- Taillon, J., P. S. Barboza, and S. D. Cote. 2013. Nitrogen allocation to offspring and milk production in a capital breeder. *Ecology* 94:1815-1827.
- Thompson, D. P. and P. S. Barboza. 2013. Responses of caribou and reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*) to acute food shortages in spring. *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 91:610-618.
- Winder, V. L., L. B. McNew, A. J. Gregory, L. M. Hunt, S. M. Wisely, and B. K. Sandercock. 2013. Effects of wind energy development on survival of female greater prairie-chickens. *Journal of Applied Ecology* doi:10.1111/1365-2664.12184.





CALL FOR PAPERS AND POSTERS

Annual Meeting of The Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society

March 31 – April 3, 2014

**Anchorage Marriott Downtown
Anchorage, AK**



You are invited to the annual meeting of the Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Please consider submitting an abstract for poster or oral presentation. Abstracts should focus on wildlife ecology, management, conservation, education, or policy. Meeting information and abstract submission are available at: <http://twسالaskameeting.com>. Online registration will soon be available at the same site.

Presentations:

Presentations from completed studies or significant results from ongoing work will be given highest priority. Acceptance of presentations of work in progress will depend on abstract quality and program space. Presentations and posters will be accepted based on technical merit and contribution to our knowledge of species, populations, communities, ecological processes, management practices, conservation initiatives, education models, or policy issues. However, meeting time and space is a limiting factor and we may not be able to accept all submissions.

Symposia:

The conference will include special symposia addressing resource selection, Dall sheep ecology, and effective communication during times of conflict. If you are interested in presenting in one of these symposia please contact the symposia organizers in addition to submitting your abstract online.

Symposium Topic: Resource Selection

Organizers: Sophie Gilbert (slgilbert@alaska.edu), Kevin White (kevin.white@alaska.gov)

Symposium Topic: Dall Sheep Ecology and Management

Organizers: Stephen Arthur (stephen_arthur@nps.gov), Gretchen Roffler (groffler@usgs.gov)

Symposium Topic: Effective Communication During Times of Conflict

Organizers: Grant Hildebrand (grant_hilderbrand@nps.gov), Jimmy Fox (jimmy_fox@fws.gov)

Abstract Submission:

Abstracts (maximum 250 words) may be submitted online during 7 January – 28 February, 2014 by visiting our online submission website at: http://twسالaskameeting.com/?page_id=123. Submissions should include a list of authors, a statement of objectives, a brief description of methods, principal results, and conclusions or management recommendations. The title should clearly describe what you will present. Please do not abbreviate place names (e.g., state or country) in the title or include literature citations in the abstract. For those who would like their abstract to be considered for inclusion in a specific symposium please contact the symposia organizer directly as well as specifying in their abstract submission that their presentations should be part of a symposium. An e-mail will be sent confirming that your abstract was received and saved. Presenters will be required to register for the meeting.

Deadline for abstract submission: February 28, 2014



Alaska Chapter Leadership

Your 2012-2014 Executive Board

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You can contribute. We need your story ideas. Help keep AK-TWS members connected.

Are you working on an interesting project you'd like to share with other AK-TWS members? Do you have news to share with colleagues? Please make note of upcoming events, projects, personnel changes, issues, or anything else of interest to other AK-TWS members, and pass them on to your regional representative for inclusion in our next quarterly newsletter. If you know of something that would make an interesting newsletter article and can't write it up yourself, please contact newsletter editor Elizabeth Manning at elizabeth.manning@alaska.gov or 907-267-2168. Help us make this an interesting and informative newsletter.

