



# The Manitoba Chapter Wildlife Society Newsletter



Winter  
2003

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

*Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education*

January  
2003



## Presidents Corner

A few weeks back a newspaper article reminded me that our profession is ever challenged by the public. Well meaning, but in some cases self professed “experts” expound on the need for action to solve a problem, or in other cases let “nature take its course”. As wildlife managers we tread a fine line when to become involved, as the world is in many cases no longer natural and operating as it did before the impact of humans. Our actions are often dictated by current agency or corporate policy, and it is incumbent on us to insure those who set these guidelines are aware of the current science surrounding the issue.

At various times in my column, I have written about the need for wildlife biologists to keep current in their field and to become familiar with topics and issues of the day, and the science related to them. The Manitoba Chapter of The Wildlife Society is offering such an opportunity. The Delta Getaway (see notice in newsletter) will feature a one day seminar on Wildlife Diseases and their implications for biologists. This will include the effects on specific species, and also the potential for

wildlife biologists to be directly affected (or not) by working with infected animals. The seminar contains a cross section of diseases and parasites, some very current in the news, and others that are often present but sometimes overlooked by the media.

I also want to draw your attention to a few other items. Firstly, the Manitoba Chapter’s Conservationist of the Year Award. The details are elsewhere in the newsletter, but for several years now there have been very few nominations. Surely there are some deserving folks out there, so please review the criteria and get those nominations in. Secondly, the Central Mountains and Plains Section (to which we belong) of TWS has a new website that is in our links section, so be sure to check it out.

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And lastly for you students out there, our Manitoba Chapter Bursary Award is once again available, so look for details in this current newsletter.

I hope everyone has had a safe and memorable Christmas, and my best wishes on behalf of the Chapter Executive for the New Year- *Don Sexton*

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### **Species at Risk Act Given Royal Assent**

The *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) received Royal Assent on December 12, 2002, bringing to a close a nine-year legislative process to protect Canada's species at risk and their critical habitat. The new legislation will come into force in 2003.

SARA is one of three elements of the government's Strategy for the Protection of Species at Risk. Under the *Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk*, the Government of Canada works with provinces and territories on a common approach to protecting species at risk in Canada that includes complementary legislation and programs to protect habitat and species.

The other key component of the federal Strategy is stewardship, a cornerstone of the Government of Canada's approach to species protection. Canada's Stewardship Agenda, approved earlier this year by federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of Wildlife, encourages Canadians to work together in a landscape approach to protect habitat, contribute to the recovery of species at risk and conserve Canada's natural heritage. One such initiative is the federal government's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, which funds projects that support habitat conservation and

stewardship. Hundreds of projects involving Aboriginal organizations, landowners, businesses, industries, and non-government organizations have been approved over the last three years. The Government of Canada committed \$45 million to the Habitat Stewardship Program over 5 years.

The species at risk legislation ensures that species are assessed under a rigorous and independent scientific process that operates at arm's length from the federal government. It also requires the development of recovery action plans for species that are found to be most at risk, and recognizes the essential role of Aboriginal peoples in the conservation of wildlife by requiring the establishment of a National Aboriginal Council on Species at Risk.

SARA will come into force by an order in council in 2003. In the period leading up to the order in council, the Government of Canada will develop the regulations required under the Act, including regulations on compensation.

Source: Government of Canada Website  
[http://www.ec.gc.ca/press/2002/021212\\_n\\_e.htm](http://www.ec.gc.ca/press/2002/021212_n_e.htm)

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### **Important Bird Area Community Conservation Fund Proposals**

The purpose of the Important Bird Areas Community Action Fund is to provide funding support for high-priority projects that contribute to the conservation of bird species and their habitats within an Important Bird Area. Emphasis of the fund is local conservation action. All projects must be conducted within an officially recognized Important Bird Area, and/or contribute to the conservation of the birds

and habitats for which the site has been identified. For Manitoba IBA sites visit [www.manitobanature.ca](http://www.manitobanature.ca) and click on the Important Bird Areas link.

Maximum annual grant is \$5000.00. A 1:1 match is required, which may be cash, in-kind (eg. materials and/or volunteer time), or a combination of both. Matching funds must be in place prior to the disbursement of the first installment. Also, documentation verifying the 1:1 match (letters of commitment from supporters) must be forwarded to the Canadian Nature Federation prior to the disbursement of the first installment. All applications will be subject to external review.

Application deadline for 2003-2004 funding cycle is January 17th, 2003. The guidelines are available at [www.ibacanada.ca](http://www.ibacanada.ca).

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### **Announcing a Contest for Design of a TWS Membership Poster**

*Winner to be Selected at TWS Conference,  
Burlington, VT, Sept. 6-10, 2003*

Create a Poster that invites Membership in The Wildlife Society. Your poster should be designed for printing on a large format, high resolution printer/plotter. The winning poster(s) will be made available on TWS' website as a pdf file, and downloaded and printed as needed by TWS units for use at international, section and chapter meetings to recruit new members.

#### **Contest Guidelines**

Entries should promote the benefits of membership in The Wildlife Society. TWS membership offers many benefits. The list below will get you started. Please use as

many as will fit your design, giving special attention to the nine items marked with an asterisk (\*). Creativity is encouraged.

- Join The Wildlife Society - an international organization of wildlife professionals and students dedicated to Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship through Science and Education\*
- Take advantage of Continuing Education and Networking opportunities offered by TWS' annual conference, as well as section, chapter, and working group meetings\*
- Bring wildlife science to bear on critical Wildlife Policy Issues\*
- Receive six issues of The Wildlifer newsletter to keep up with professional news\*
- Subscribe to the Wildlife Society Bulletin - a quarterly magazine covering all aspects of wildlife conservation and management\*
- Subscribe to The Journal of Wildlife Management & Wildlife Monographs - the definitive source of wildlife science\*
- Advance your skills by participating in special topic Working Groups\*
- Receive recognition of your professional credentials by becoming an Associate or Certified Wildlife Biologist\*
- Expand your Professional Network and Access to Jobs and Graduate Student Positions by subscribing to TWS' electronic discussion group
- Advance Science-Based Wildlife Management

- Present your Work to a large audience of your peers at TWS' Annual Conference
- Publish Your Work in the Bulletin or Journal
- Develop Leadership Skills by serving as a leader of one of our many sections, chapters, and working groups
- Give Service to your Profession by serving on a committee
- Take advantage of Membership Discounts on books and conference registration
- For a Membership Application, please go to [www.wildlife.org](http://www.wildlife.org)\*

Entries should be attractive, full color, include photos or graphics, and display the TWS logo. Posters should be 24" x 36" (horizontal or vertical).

Posters should be designed for printing on a large format, high resolution printer/plotter. The winning poster(s) will be made available on TWS' website as a pdf file, and downloaded and printed as needed by TWS units for use at international, section and chapter meetings to recruit new members.

Entries should be submitted as both a hard copy and cd-rom (pdf file format preferred, but also will accept jpeg, ppt, pm, wpd, and doc files) at the Burlington conference.

All contestants must send an email to [catherine\\_hibbard@fws.gov](mailto:catherine_hibbard@fws.gov) by August 1 to inform organizers of your intent to participate so adequate display space may be made available. If you are unable to attend the conference, please contact [catherine\\_hibbard@fws.gov](mailto:catherine_hibbard@fws.gov) for details on how to make your submission by mail.

All TWS members are eligible to participate. Limit of one entry per person.

Conference participants will select the winning poster from among qualified entries.

Prizes will be awarded as follows:

- 1st - \$500 TWS gift certificate
- 2nd - \$100 TWS gift certificate
- 3rd - \$ 50 TWS gift certificate

Gift certificates are redeemable for TWS (national) books, merchandise, membership, registration fees, or other services (expire Dec. 31, 2005).

Winning entries may be modified by TWS to meet graphic and text standards. TWS reserves the right to unlimited use of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place posters, and use upon approval by the designer of any other poster submitted to the contest. The designer will be recognized on all posters used by TWS.

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## **Wildlife Management Field Courses**

EcoLife Expeditions, South Africa

International Universities Program

16 May - 14 June 2003

20 June - 19 July 2003

These 30 day Wildlife Management Courses are for students and professionals interested in African conservation. The course includes lectures, classes and hands-on projects taught by instructors from the University of Pretoria's Centre for Wildlife Management.

Course topics include:

- Wildlife Management Techniques
- Sustainable Resource Utilization
- Ecosystem and Biodiversity Conservation
- Reserve and Resort Management
- African Local Community Cultures and Conservation Perspectives
- Africa Tourism Principles and Historical Sites.

8 credits from the University of Pretoria.

Cost:\$2600 (US dollars)

For more information contact:

Ecolife Expeditions

976 Duncan Street

Brooklyn, Pretoria 0181

South Africa.

Phone: +27 12 460 5430

Fax: +27 12 460 9707

www.ecolife.co.za

email: Education@ecolife.co.za

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## **CHAPTER NEWS**

### **Delta Getaway 2003 Wildlife Disease Workshop**

#### **What is it ?**

The Manitoba Chapter holds an annual weekend getaway at Delta Marsh featuring speakers on wildlife issues of current interest. In addition there are opportunities to interact with wildlife professionals and researchers in a social atmosphere. There will be opportunities to enjoy the local outdoors (weather dependent).

#### **When is it ?**

February 21 – 23 , 2003.

Starting at 19:00 on 21 February

#### **Where is it ?**

The University of Manitoba Field Station at Delta marsh. Maps available to registrants.

#### **What does it cost ?**

*Chapter Members:*

Student: \$35 (wknd), \$20 Saturday only

All Others: \$60 (wknd), \$30 Saturday only

*Non Members:*

Student: \$45 (wknd), \$30 Saturday only

All Others: \$70 (wknd), \$40 Saturday only

#### **What do I get for my money ?**

All meals are provided. This will include Saturday and Sunday Brunch, Supper on Saturday and snacks on Friday and Saturday night. All accommodation. Saturday only registrants get lunch, supper, & coffee at breaks

#### **What is the speaker topic this year ?**

Wildlife Diseases; epidemiology and implications for wildlife biologists. An expanded program of speakers is found later on in this newsletter.

### **What else is there to do before/after the speakers ?**

Friday night will be a mixer and student posters on wildlife topics ( these will also be available to view Saturday ). There may be a wildlife related film - we're still looking for a top rated one! On Saturday, following the speakers, we will hold the annual "Great Perch Search" (icefishing at its best on Lake Manitoba), or snowshoeing and cross-country skiing on the beach ridge or marsh. Or just relax in front of the huge fireplace in the Main Lodge

### **What do I need to bring?**

Warm clothing and equipment for your particular outdoor pursuit (a fishing license required if you fish), personal items and a towel- all bedding is provided.

### **How and When do I register?**

Contact Cory Lindgren at  
c\_lindgren@ducks.ca or (204) 467-3000,  
*before 15 February.*

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### **Wildlife Diseases: Their Epidemiology and Implications for the Wildlife Biologist**

**Saturday, 22 February 2003  
U of M Delta Field Station  
9:00am to 3:00pm**

- *Lime Disease*: Dr. Terry Galloway - Entomology, U of Manitoba
- *Hanta Virus and West Nile Virus*: Dr. Robbin Lindsay - Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health
- *Duck Malaria*: Dr. Lane Graham - Zoology, U of Manitoba
- *Flukes and Tapeworms*: Dr. Vince Crichton - Manitoba Conservation

*The Wildlife Society - Manitoba Chapter*

- *Tuberculosis and Chronic Wasting Disease*: Dr. Terry Whiting - Veterinary Services Branch

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### **Manitoba Chapter Student Award .**

The Manitoba Chapter presents an annual student award valued at \$500. It is awarded to a graduate student enrolled at a Manitoba University carrying out research on a topic related to wildlife in Manitoba. The basis of the award is a proposal made by the student in writing. Details of the award and how to apply are available on the Chapter website under "AWARDS". The deadline for application is March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003. The award will be presented at the Annual General Meeting to be held in late March.

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### **Manitoba Chapter Conservationist Award**

The Manitoba Chapter, will again be seeking nominations for the Conservationist Award. This award is presented to an individual who has made a significant contribution to wildlife management in Manitoba and need not be a member of the Chapter or a wildlife professional. An application form can be accessed via the Chapter website, under "AWARDS". For more details contact Don Sexton at d\_sexton@ducks.ca or 467 3275.

**Manitoba Chapter Bylaws  
-Update-**

The Executive of The Manitoba Chapter are currently reviewing and preparing a revised draft of the Chapter Bylaws . These Bylaws will be the “rules” that guide Chapter business and must conform to the basic outline and overriding bylaws of The Wildlife Society. The Manitoba Chapter Executive will be asking the membership to endorse the revised bylaws at the Annual General Meeting of the Chapter in March 2003. The “proposed guidelines” will be posted on the Manitoba Chapter Website in February, 2003. As well, all members will be notified of this posting and the proposal for ratification at the AGM. Watch for these coming soon to the Chapter website.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Wildlife Society Meeting  
Calgary  
September 18-24,2004**

Planning has already begun for the 2004 Wildlife Society Annual Meeting, to be held in Calgary, but its not too late to get involved. The Arrangements Committee is still seeking subcommittee co-chairs in a number of areas. As well, by March 2003, the Program Committee will get busy on finding co-chairs for a number of their subcommittees. This is the first time TWS has held the Annual Meeting in Canada and it will likely be several years before it gets back this way again. Organization of these events takes a lot of work but can also be fun. So, here's a chance to get involved . For further information contact Don Sexton at [d\\_sexton@ducks.ca](mailto:d_sexton@ducks.ca) or (204) 467-3275.

**10th Annual Conference of  
The Wildlife Society**

**Burlington, Vermont  
September 6-10, 2003**

***Call for Papers and Associated Meetings.  
Deadline: February 14, 2003***

The Wildlife Society will hold its 10th Annual Conference in Burlington, Vermont, September 6-10, 2003. The meeting will include symposia, workshops, contributed papers (oral presentations), and posters. Submission of technical papers and posters on topics of wildlife science, management, education, or policy within the broad theme of *Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship through Science and Education* are invited. Presentations will not be published, so reports are encouraged from the author's most recent scientific investigations and management experiences. Papers and posters should present results from completed studies or completed phases of long-term projects. Papers and posters will be accepted based on their technical merit and contribution to our knowledge of species, populations, communities, ecological processes, management practices, education models, or policy issues.

To place a request for an Associated Meeting at the 2003 Conference, please download and complete the Request for Associated Meeting form from the Society website at [www.wildlife.org](http://www.wildlife.org). You can also download the 2003 Conference Call for Papers and Posters for more information on paper and abstract submissions.

## **Preliminary Program**

### *Symposia*

- Stable Isotopes in Wildlife Studies
- Wildlife Toxicology Issues in the Northeast
- Woodland Vernal Pools in Northern Temperate Forests
- Globalization of Wildlife Education and The Wildlife Society
- Modeling, Estimations, and Decision Making in Natural Resource Management
- Sustainability Science and the Wildlife Profession
- Suburban Wildlife: Lessons, Challenges, and Opportunities
- Wildlife Disease and the Urban/Suburban Environment
- Forest Management Effects on Songbirds: Strong Inferences and Syntheses
- Relationships Between Herbicides and Forest Biodiversity
- Assessing Risks to Wildlife Populations from Multiple Stressors
- Influencing Policies through Coalitions: Why Wildlife Biologists Should Participate
- Spatial Statistics in Wildlife Biology: Concepts and Applications
- Conservation, Controversy, and Modern Wildlife Management

### *Workshops*

- Use of GPS Collars for Monitoring Wildlife
- Wildlife Investigator Series: Total Instructional Packages for Your Next K-12 Presentations
- GAP Analysis for Natural Resources Professionals
- Educational Competencies for Wildlife Students in the 21st Century
- Habitat Conservation in Burlington, Vermont: A Case Study
- Trapping Matters: Furbearer Management in Modern Wildlife Conservation

### *Special Poster Session*

- Celebrating a Century of Conservation: The National Wildlife Refuge System

### *Contributed Papers and Posters*

- Ecology and Conservation of Birds
- Ecology and Conservation of Mammals
- Ecology and Conservation of Reptiles and Amphibians
- Conservation of Communities, Ecosystems, and Landscapes
- Wildlife-Habitat Relationships
- Wildlife Population Dynamics and Management
- Wildlife Damage Management



- Human Dimensions, Conservation Education and Conservation Policy
- Wildlife Diseases and Toxicology
- Biometrics in Wildlife Management
- New Technology in Wildlife Management
- Other Aspects of Wildlife Management



### **3rd International Wildlife Management Congress**

**Ki te raki ki te tonga - Ki uta ki tai**  
*(From north to south - From mountains to sea)*

The beautiful coastal city of Christchurch, New Zealand will be the exciting setting for the 3rd International Wildlife Management Congress. December 1-5, 2003 is early summer, the perfect time to visit New Zealand!

#### ***Programme highlights:***

The Congress will have a strong Pacific and Southern Hemisphere flavour, but the main focus will be on contrasting perspectives on wildlife management in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. Within the theme of

the Congress (Ki te takikite tonga - ki uta kitai: From the north to the south - from mountains to sea) we will bring these contrasting perspectives together for a fascinating global focus on wildlife management issues in the 21st Century.

#### ***Principal themes will be:***

- Wildlife conservation
- Wildlife utilization
- Management of over-abundant wildlife
- Wildlife health and diseases
- Wildlife toxicology
- Contrasting wildlife management systems
- Wildlife population management and dynamics
- New technology in wildlife management
- Management of wildlife by indigenous people
- Landscape issues and wildlife management
- Wildlife-based tourism
- Other aspects of wildlife management

#### ***Hosts:***

- The Wildlife Society (USA)
- Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research (New Zealand)
- Australasian Wildlife Management Society
- Ngai Tahu (Maori tribe of New Zealand's South Island)

- New Zealand Department of Conservation

For more information, visit the conference website at  
<http://www.conference.canterbury.ac.nz/wildlife2003/>

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### **7th Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference** *Keeping the Wild in the West*

The 7th Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference is coming to the Calgary February 26-29, 2004. This conference has a tradition of excellence due to strong support and attendance from a broad cross-section of society including conservation groups, industry, government, and academics. More than 600 people are expected to attend. Keeping the Wild in the West will focus on sharing information and ideas on conserving prairie ecosystems, both big & small. The conference will be of interest to a wide range of participants from the

agricultural community, First Nations, energy industry, government agencies, municipalities, universities and conservation groups. For more information visit the conference website at  
<http://www.PCESC.ca>.

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### **LINKS OF INTEREST**

- Current issue of EnviroZine.  
[http://www.ec.gc.ca/envirozine/english/home\\_e.cfm](http://www.ec.gc.ca/envirozine/english/home_e.cfm)
- USFWS Conservation Library.  
<http://library.fws.gov/>
- Facts about West Nile Virus.  
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/wnv>
- Urban Goose Working Group (Winnipeg). <http://www.gov.mb.ca/ugwg>
- The Central Mountains & Plains Section of The Wildlife Society.  
<http://www.cmpswildlife.org/>