



# The Alaskan Wildlifer

Newsletter of the Alaska Chapter of  
The Wildlife Society

February 2009



---

## Highlights in This Issue

---

- *Message from president Howard Golden*
- *News from around the state*
- *A tribute to two Alaskan wildlifers and friends*
- *Joint Chapter and Northwest Section Meeting in Fairbanks takes shape.*

---

## Message from President Howard Golden

---

### Chapter and NW Section Meeting in Fairbanks

I encourage all members to attend the next Annual Meeting of the Alaska Chapter to be held April 7-9 in Fairbanks at Woods Center on the UAF campus. The organizing committee chaired by Kris Hundertmark has been working hard to prepare a great meeting. Please see their announcement and first call for papers later in this newsletter. This year the Northwest Section will be co-hosting the Annual Meeting and will hold its business meeting with the Chapter's on April 8<sup>th</sup>. This will be a good opportunity for all Chapter members to become better acquainted with issues within the Section and to meet several leaders and members from other areas of the northwest.

### Member Privacy and Contact Lists

Twelve Chapter members voted on potential options concerning the future availability of their contact information through the TWS registration files. Most voters as well as the Executive Board indicated they wanted the choice presented on the membership registration/renewal form that would indicate their preference regarding the availability of member contact information. Several members also voted not to allow any release of that information. I have been discussing this issue with leadership of the Northwest Section and will continue to pursue it with TWS, and I will keep you informed about our progress.

### Polar Bear Listing

TWS was asked to comment on the USGS scientific approach that led to listing polar bears as threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. TWS Council agreed to this request and will likely prepare either an affidavit or amicus (friend of the court) brief in Alaska's lawsuit against the Department of Interior. TWS asked the Alaska Chapter to help in providing

names of experts who could review the science. Several Chapter members with knowledge of polar bears and climate modeling offered names of experts that we forwarded to TWS. I greatly appreciate the quick response and good suggestions by our Chapter members. I will pass on any new developments on this issue in future newsletters.

### TWS Leader's Lunch Highlights

At the TWS Conference held in Miami in November, Darryl Walker, the new Membership and Conference Director, and Executive Director Michael Hutchins outlined some new programs and plans that TWS wants to start. Here are some highlights:

- There's a new Give-A-Gift campaign for TWS memberships, which allows anyone to give a TWS membership as a gift.
- TWS is working on establishing new links for students and others on FaceBook, YouTube, LinkedIn, and Twitter to offer more ways for members to communicate.
- Plans are in the works to institute "rolling memberships" in which the membership year begins whenever dues are paid. This should increase the incentive for folks to become members later in the calendar year when they would normally only get a few months of membership out of the deal.
- A new identity guide for the TWS logo is in development and TWS will ask Sections and Chapters to adopt more uniformity in how they use the logo.
- Monthly progress reports to Sections and Chapters are planned.
- TWS will be trying harder to connect better with state agencies.



- Job fairs for students may be initiated at TWS conferences.

### Tributes

We recently lost two Alaskan wildlifers and Chapter members who spent their careers contributing to the excellence in wildlife stewardship we all strive for. Please see tributes to the lives and accomplishments of Sigurd T. "Sig" Olson and Michele "Shelly" Szepanski later in this newsletter.

---

## News from Southeast:

---

By Dave Person, Southeast Representative

Thank you Doug Larsen, Kim Titus, and Steve Brockman for contributing to the SE report. Apparently, winter is the time people retire, move, or change jobs. **Bill Hanson** has accepted the job as Field Supervisor of the Juneau Fish and Wildlife Field Office of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. **Steve Brockmann** will serve as the deputy supervisor. There are a lot of personnel changes at Alaska Department of Fish and Game headquarters. **Pat Valkenburg** has been appointed Deputy Commissioner of Wildlife Conservation. Patrick worked for 26 years as a wildlife biologist and research coordinator at ADFG in Fairbanks and has spent the last 5 years running his own wildlife management consulting business. He will oversee the department's functions related to wildlife, habitat, subsistence, and a variety of issues that require state and federal coordination. **Kim Titus** has accepted the job of Wildlife Scientist for ADFG. Kim will be based in Juneau but will oversee the coordination of all of the Wildlife Division's research and management programs. **Maria Gladziszewki** has been hired as Assistant Director for the Division of Wildlife Conservation. She is taking over for **Ron Clarke** who retired last year. **Ryan Scott** was hired as the new Area Biologist for Juneau. **Kim Hastings** is leaving the USFWS Field Office and has taken a job with the National Park Service in Yosemite. Sadly, pioneering Alaskan biologist **Sigurd Olson** died on December 21 in Juneau. He was 85 years old. Please see the tribute included in this newsletter.

---

## News from Southcentral:

---

By Todd Rinaldi, Southcentral Representative

### People

**Coleen Brown** has accepted the position of Assistant Nongame Biologist with the Nongame Program of ADFG in Anchorage. Colleen will be coordinating the Alaska Citizen Science Program and working with Dave

Tessler, the Region II Nongame Biologist, to implement a number of nongame research projects throughout Alaska. The Chugach National Forest will be welcoming new Districts Rangers in all 3 district offices this winter. **Theresa Benson** will be leaving her post in the Glacier District to become the District Ranger in Cordova. She will be replacing **Dan Logan** who is retiring this year after many years of federal service. **Travis Mosley** is leaving the sunny southwestern US to take over the Seward District and **Kate Walker**, also from the lower 48, will be the new District Ranger in Girdwood. **Meg Hahr** will be leaving Kenai Fjords National Park in March to accept a new position as the Chief of Natural Resources at the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore on Lake Superior. **Rebecca (Kelleyhouse) Schwanke**, Assistant Area Biologist for ADFG in Glennallen, and husband Cory (ADFG Fisheries Biologist) became the proud parents of 9.7 oz Caden Wrangell Schwanke on December 17<sup>th</sup>. **King Salmon Area Biologist Lem Butler** will become the new Douglas Area Assistant Area Biologist for ADFG starting in mid-March. Lem will continue to work on the Southwest Alaska Peninsula caribou recovery work after his departure. **Corey Rossi** has moved over from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), to accept a newly created position at ADFG titled Assistant Commissioner for Abundance Management. His new responsibilities will be focused primarily on active management strategies to enhance fish and game populations.

### News

Governor Sarah Palin filed a notice of intent to file a lawsuit on 14 January against the Federal government challenging the listing of the Cook Inlet Beluga under the Endangered Species Act. In the press release the Palin Administration claims that the listing does not consider existing protection measures by the State of Alaska and the Marine Mammals Protection Act or provide adequate evidence that the Inlet Belugas are a distinct sub-species. ADFG Commissioner Denby Lloyd stated in the press release that "Belugas are protected by the State of Alaska and the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act," and that "An ESA listing is not appropriate or necessary at this time. The population is stable and beginning to recover, just as we predicted when advocating for MMPA protection." More information can be found at <http://www.gov.state.ak.us/>.

And last but certainly not least, reports of the very rare and elusive **Kenai Catamount** (*Felis concolor*) continue to trickle into local wildlife agencies. On 25 January the Peninsula Clarion reports that Maggie Taggart spotted what appeared to be a very large cat bounding across a field and over a snow berm as she



was driving her delivery route in Sterling. Taggart described the animal as having pointy ears and a very long tail and claimed the print left by the cat was larger than her hand and 3 times larger than her 110 lb. dog. Although there have been numerous reports from Homer to Hope over the last few years, there is still no conclusive evidence of mountain lions on the Kenai Peninsula. ADFG Area Biologist **Jeff Selinger** said that a photo would be ideal and that the collection of any physical evidence such as a tuft of hair or scat would allow a DNA sample to be obtained. In addition, Selinger said that anyone spotting a mountain lion should not shoot the animal unless it is in defense of life or property. So Wildlifers, keep those camera batteries charged and those Ziplocs handy on your next trip to the Kenai. You may be the one to gain notoriety as the one who finally put this controversy to rest!

If you have any noteworthy events, projects, promotions, births, retirements, writings, and/or opinions that you would like to share with the Chapter please email them to me at [todd.rinaldi@alaska.gov](mailto:todd.rinaldi@alaska.gov). And don't forget, our Chapter Website now has an [opinion page](#) specifically dedicated for the discussion of topics pertinent to TWS that complements our newsletter.

---

## News from the North:

By Kyle Joly, North Representative

### People

**Travis Booms** was hired as ADFG Interior Region non-game biologist. His primary research background and interests center on avian ecology. He brings significant field experience to the position including having conducted extensive research and monitoring efforts on passerines, shorebirds, and raptors in the Midwest, Greenland, and Alaska. He is currently finishing his PhD work on Gyrfalcon breeding ecology in Alaska at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. **Nathan Olson**, wildlife biologist, able-bodied seaman, and pilot for the Selawik NWR is transferring to the Koyukuk/Nowitna refuge complex, based in Galena, to serve the same duties. **Bo Sloan** arrived January 5<sup>th</sup> (amid -52 F temps) from Panther Swamp NWR in Mississippi to become the new refuge manager for the Innoko NWR. **Kevin Whitworth** will transfer from Koyukuk/Nowitna refuge complex to Innoko NWR to become the deputy refuge manager.

### News

**Innoko NWR**--The refuge will be assisting the ADFG and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in wolf and moose surveys in GMU21E during the end of February and early March.

**Kanuti NWR**--The Refuge's revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) was approved in August 2008. The CCP will provide management guidance, including specific goals and objectives, for the next 15 years. The Record of Decision, Final Plan, and Summary are online at: [alaska.fws.gov/nwr/planning/plans.htm](http://alaska.fws.gov/nwr/planning/plans.htm).

**Resolution on Wood Bison Introduction**-- Sen. Gene Therriault has introduced a resolution which "requests the Governor to direct the commissioner of fish and game to halt and reverse any further efforts to introduce wood bison into the Alaska wild." Randy Rogers, ADFG, states in an e-mail that "The ADF&G believes that with the efforts we have underway in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Law and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to designate wood bison in Alaska as a *nonessential experimental population* under section 10(j) of the ESA, wood bison restoration will not interfere with oil and gas or other resource development opportunities."

---

## Announcements

### Alaska Board of Game Appointments

Gov. Sarah Palin recently appointed Teresa Sager-Albaugh of Tok to the state Board of Game to fill a seat vacated by Dick Burleigh. Sager-Albaugh was appointed to the board a year ago but withdrew her name from consideration. Palin then appointed Craig Fleener of Fort Yukon, who has since been named director of the state Division of Subsistence. Stosh Hoffman of Bethel replaced Fleener. Palin also re-appointed Cliff Judkins of Wasilla to the board.

The **Alaska Board of Game** will meet 27 February - 9 March in Anchorage. The **Board** received a record 246 regulatory proposals for this spring's southcentral/southwest meeting. This is the highest number of proposals to be considered since going to an every-other-year regional format. One reason for this increase is due to the number of statewide proposals, and proposals submitted from other regions, including authorization of predator control programs. Proposals can be viewed at

<http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/>.



The 44<sup>th</sup> North American Moose Conference and Workshop will be held from 14 to 17 June 2009 at Idaho State University (ISU) in Pocatello, Idaho, USA. Information concerning the conference, including registration and abstract forms, is available at: <http://www.isu.edu/departments/bios/>.

The latest issue of **Wildlife Policy News**, at the TWS website, contains several items pertinent to Alaska, including:

- [Recreational Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Plan Released](#)
- [Senate Passes Public Lands Omnibus Package](#)
- [Stimulus Supports Energy and the Environment](#)
- [New Obama Administration Appointees](#)
- [BLM Policy Changes May Affect State Listed Species Protection](#)
- [USFWS Drafts Climate Change Plans](#)
- [BLM Acreage to Receive Name Designation](#)
- [Defenders of Wildlife Report on Climate Change and Wildlife](#)
- [Obama Halts Bush's Last Minute Rules](#)

## Membership Committee Report

Working with the Executive Board, the membership committee consisting of Kim Klein (ADFG) and Jimmy Fox (USFWS-Arctic National Wildlife Refuge), is focused on increasing the number of members, and making members feel like a part of the chapter. In the future, we'll ensure all incoming, renewing and past members receive a personal note from the chapter president or regional representative thanking them for their participation, and noting the benefits of membership and highlights of recent chapter accomplishments. You can help too! Reach out to your current and retired colleagues who are not currently members. We're in a new membership year so consider a gift membership for that retiring colleague. Take a few minutes each week to talk with others about the benefits of membership, and the influence the chapter has on wildlife conservation in Alaska. We have recruitment materials that can help such as the rack card and a list of recent chapter accomplishments, so contact your regional representative if interested. Sharing past newsletters can be an excellent way to showcase the value of this organization (archived at [joomla.wildlife.org/Alaska](http://joomla.wildlife.org/Alaska)). Finally, don't forget to renew your TWS and chapter memberships! (See last page.)

## A tribute to two Alaskan wildlifera and friends

### Sigurd T. "Sig" Olson

Sigurd T. Olson, long-time resident of Douglas, Alaska and renowned Alaskan wildlife biologist passed away at the Juneau Pioneers Home, December 21, 2008 at the age of 85.

Sig was born in Ely, Minnesota, September 15, 1923 – the eldest son of internationally famous conservationist Sigurd F. Olson and wife Elizabeth Dorothy Olson. Sig's father (1899-1982) was one of the first advocates of establishing the Boundary Waters Canoe Area on the Superior National Forest in northern Minnesota and the author of many books and articles on conservation practices, wilderness, and the BWCA.

Sig followed in his father's footsteps and during his graduate studies as a Wildlife Biologist authored a thesis on his studies of the loon, which remains an important research publication of that species.

Sig was a combat veteran of WWII, serving in the US Army Mountain Ski Division. He was serving in Italy at the time of its liberation from the dictatorship of Benito Mussolini, who was captured and hanged by Italian civilians fairly near where Sig was in service.

Sig's wife, Esther was also born in Ely, Minnesota. Sig and Esther were married in Austin, Texas in 1944. After WWII and graduation from college, Sig and Esther moved to Alaska, settling in Douglas in 1959. They later lived in Anchorage for six years and returned to Douglas in 1978. Sig and Esther had two sons, Greg and Robert, and several grand children.

After Sig came to Alaska, he first worked as a biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and later with the U.S. Forest Service. Sig not only served as Director of Wildlife and Sport Fisheries programs with the USFS, but also served on the state-wide team evaluating all of Alaska's lands for Alaska National Interest land designations by the Congress and President.

After retirement from the US Forest Service, Sig remained active with various wildlife and fisheries professional organizations, but he and Esther were able to devote more time to hiking, skiing, canoeing, and gardening and to various programs in the Douglas Methodist Church. Sig remained an active leader in the development and operation of the Eaglecrest Ski area



until he moved from his home to Indian Cove and the Juneau Pioneers Home earlier this year.

Sig's many friends throughout the community always enjoyed his exuberant love of Alaska, his visits to Eaglecrest, and the daily walks on the Sandy Beach and Treadwell trails. Everyone appreciated Sig's sense of humor and fond memories of the Boundary Waters in Minnesota and vast array of experiences throughout Alaska. Sig was a skilled writer and poet and enjoyed recalling rhymes he learned as a youth. "Be the labor great or small – do it well or not at all!" was an admonition he shared within various organizations in which he served.

Sigurd T. Olson's outstanding lifetime of service to his country during WWII; his eminent career as a wildlife biologist; and his personal life as an Alaskan husband, father, sportsman, skier, and faithful member of the Douglas Community and Methodist Church will forever be remembered by his family, co-workers, and friends.  
– *John Sandor*

Additional memories of Sig:

Sig Olson was one of Alaska's pioneer wildlife biologists. He lived and worked in southeast Alaska for many years and was involved in early deer research. Those of us who knew Sig remember him as a true gentleman who loved wildlife and the outdoors.  
– *John Schoen*

Besides his interest in wildlife, Sig was an avid skier and served many years on the Juneau Ski Patrol. He was among the hearty Juneau skiers who spent countless hours developing the ski area at Dan Moeller (just above the bridge on Douglas Island) and later was actively involved in the development of Juneau's Eaglecrest ski area. – *Doug Larsen*



Photo by Greg Olson

## Michele "Shelly" Szepanski

Fairbanks resident, Michele "Shelly" Szepanski, died peacefully in Minnesota on Dec. 4, 2008, after a courageous four-year battle with melanoma. Like us, many of you knew Shelly as a friend and professional colleague. She contributed substantially in her short life to the conservation of Alaska's wildlife and she will be greatly missed.

Shelly was born in Minneapolis on Feb. 4, 1967, and lived in Juneau, Anchorage, McGrath, and Fairbanks for most of her 41 years. She graduated from Juneau-Douglas High School in 1985 and was a member of the All-State Girls' High School basketball team her junior and senior years.

Shelly was fascinated with the outdoors and its wildlife resources throughout her life. She received a B.S. in Biological Sciences from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks (UAF) and a M.S. in Wildlife Resources from the University of Idaho. Her M.S. research involved the study of marine resources in the diet of the Alexander Archipelago wolf using stable isotope analysis. She spent one summer working under Dr. David Mech in Northern Minnesota on wolf and deer population dynamics, and three years with the U.S. Forest Service in Juneau, working on habitat assessment projects for ungulates, sea birds, and marine mammals. Shelly developed long-lasting relationships with many ADF&G biologists while working on a variety of research projects in Juneau, Anchorage, and Fairbanks. In 2001 she became the Assistant Area Wildlife Biologist in McGrath. She was instrumental in the successful undertaking of field operations during the McGrath predator control project, assisting with bear, wolf, and moose calf captures and necropsies, and data management and analyses. She returned to Fairbanks in January, 2004 to begin a Ph.D. project through UAF, measuring large-scale dynamics of moose nutrition across Interior and Southwest Alaska.

While battling cancer, Shelly continued to work on her doctorate degree and also earned her pilot's license. She purchased a plane, flew cross-country flights from Fairbanks to McGrath and Anchorage, and enjoyed a solo fly-in caribou hunt. During her time in Minnesota, she began taking dressage lessons and was an increasingly proficient rider. Throughout her life, Shelly maintained her love for the outdoors and Alaska. Her positive, self-confident nature was an inspiration to her friends and colleagues.

Shelly is survived by her parents, Lynn and Bill Szepanski of Anoka, Minnesota; her sister and brother-in-law, Jennifer and Steve Mendive of Palmer; grandmother, Lorraine Waller of Minnesota; and her



good friends, Kalin Kellie, Heather Wilson, and Caroline Brown of Alaska.

A celebration dinner will take place in Fairbanks on the evening of Saturday 21 February (call 378-5697 for details). Shelly's cremains will be spread at various Alaska locations, according to her wishes. For more about Shelly and her inspiring life, please visit <http://shellyszepanski.blogspot.com/>.

It's often said that we, in the natural resources profession, are a family. We believe this to be true. As we unite in grieving the loss of our close friend and "family member," we respectfully ask that we also unite in celebrating the love of life and the many contributions Shelly made to many of us, personally, as well as to the natural resources we all care so passionately about. Let's ensure Shelly's life remains a legacy for all of us to aspire to.

—Kalin Kellie and Doug Larsen



Photo provided by Kalin Kellie

## Alaska Chapter Leadership

### Executive Board

**President:** Howard Golden, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518-1599, [howard.golden@alaska.gov](mailto:howard.golden@alaska.gov), phone (907) 267-2177, fax (907) 267-2433

**President-Elect:** Kris Hundertmark, University of Alaska-Fairbanks, PO Box 757000, Fairbanks, AK 99775, [ffkh@uaf.edu](mailto:ffkh@uaf.edu), phone (907) 474-7159, fax (907) 474-6967

**Past-President:** Tom Paragi, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701, [tom.paragi@alaska.gov](mailto:tom.paragi@alaska.gov); phone (907) 459-7327, fax (907) 459-7332

**Secretary-Treasurer:** Karyn Rode, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99503, [karyn\\_rode@fws.gov](mailto:karyn_rode@fws.gov), phone (907) 786-3801, fax (907) 786-3816

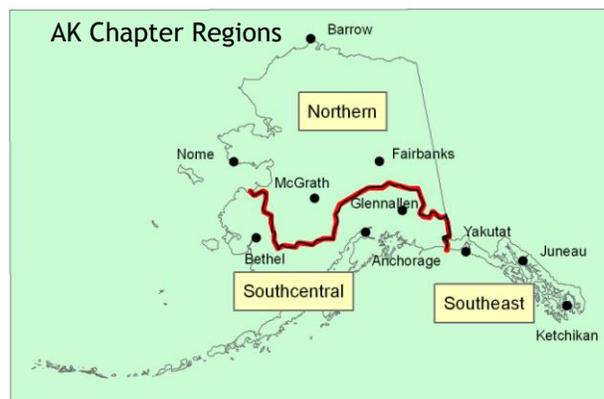
**Northern Representative:** Kyle Joly, National Park Service, 4175 Geist Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709, [kyle\\_joly@nps.gov](mailto:kyle_joly@nps.gov), phone (907) 455-0626, fax (907) 455-0602

**Southcentral Representative:** Todd Rinaldi, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518-1599, [todd.rinaldi@alaska.gov](mailto:todd.rinaldi@alaska.gov), phone (907) 267-2267, fax (907) 267-2433

**Southeast Representative:** Dave Person, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 2030 Sea Level Drive, Suite 205, Ketchikan, AK 99901, [dave.person@alaska.gov](mailto:dave.person@alaska.gov), phone (907) 225-2475, fax (907) 225-2771

**Newsletter Editor (non-voting):** Jim Herriges, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks, AK 99709-3844, [jim\\_herriges@blm.gov](mailto:jim_herriges@blm.gov), phone (907) 474-2373, fax (907) 474-2282

**UAF Student Chapter TWS Representative (non-voting):** Cortney Pylant, 5 Dead End Alley, Fairbanks, AK 99709, [fsclp17@uaf.edu](mailto:fsclp17@uaf.edu)



### Webmaster

Elizabeth Solomon, ADFG, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518-1599, [Elizabeth.solomon@alaska.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.solomon@alaska.gov), phone (907)267-2209



**First Call for Papers**  
**Joint Meeting of the Alaska Chapter and Northwest Section, TWS**  
**7-8 April 2009**  
**and**  
**Moose Population Modeling Workshop, 9 April**  
**Wood Center**  
**University of Alaska Fairbanks**

You are invited to join fellow wildlife researchers, managers, educators, students, and administrators from across the state for a joint meeting of the Alaska Chapter and the Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society. The meeting will be held in the Wood Center on the campus of the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Due to the fact that it is mid-semester, all lodging for out-of-town registrants will be off campus. Fountainhead Hotels, operators of Wedgewood Resort and Sophie Station Hotel, is offering special rates for conference attendees and offers free airport shuttle service ([www.fountainheadhotels.com](http://www.fountainheadhotels.com)). Other hotels near campus are: Fairbanks Princess, Pike's Waterfront Lodge, Extended Stay, Alpine Lodge, River's Edge Resort, Super 8, and Comfort Inn. Hotels are far enough from campus (most within 2-3 miles) that you will need a vehicle for commuting to campus.

We are accepting both oral and poster presentations on any topic relevant to wildlife conservation. In addition to general sessions for contributed oral and poster presentations, there will be a plenary session, 2 special sessions, and a student session during the conference, plus a separate day-long workshop following the conference.

**Plenary: Emerging diseases and parasites of Alaska wildlife**

Coordinator: Kimberlee Beckman, ADF&G-DWC, Fairbanks  
Presentations: Tues. 7 April in the morning

The keynote will be Dr. Susan Kutz from the University of Calgary. The fall 2008 issue of *The Wildlife Professional* ran her article, "Impending ills: impacts of climate change on infectious diseases in wildlife" starting on page 42

Presenters will discuss threats to wildlife from diseases and parasites, particularly those that were previously unknown in Alaska, and recommendations for research and monitoring strategies.

**Special session: Impacts of invasive plants on wildlife: a growing threat in Alaska**

Coordinator: Tricia Wurtz, US Forest Service, Fairbanks  
Date & Time: Tues., 7 April in the afternoon  
Sponsor: US Forest Service, Forest Health Protection

Three specialists from the lower 48 will speak on the spread of invasive plants in their regions, and the associated impacts to wildlife. Tom Toman, Director of Conservation for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, will describe the long-term impacts of invasive plants on elk habitat at a landscape scale. Shawna Bautista, a wildlife biologist with the US Forest Service, will describe impacts of invasive plants in riparian and coastal areas of the Pacific Northwest, considering purple loosestrife, reed canary grass and Japanese knotweed, all species that are spreading in Alaska. Steve Link, Washington State Extension Ecologist and editor of the *Natural Areas Journal*, will discuss the ecological effects of cheatgrass. Cheatgrass seed is routinely and inadvertently imported to Alaska in bales of straw, and widely dispersed as sled dog bedding. Three cheatgrass infestations have been documented in Alaska to date. The session will include information on an early-detection, rapid-response system for reporting new infestations in Alaska, and new research on the potential effects of white sweetclover on moose.



### Special session and workshop: Moose population modeling

Coordinator: Kalin Kellie, ADFG-DWC, Fairbanks  
Presentations: Wed., 8 April in the afternoon (part of the annual meeting)

Hands-On Modeling Workshop for Common Moose Survey Data: Thurs April 09, 08:30 am - 4:00 pm

Cost for hands-on workshop: \$30 per person; limited to 30 participants

This workshop reviews basic population modeling and teaches participants to build spreadsheet models for moose population trends. The session on Wednesday afternoon will showcase applied population modeling in Alaska. The hands-on session on Thursday will introduce a basic modeling framework that uses common survey data, then advance to more complex modeling that uses age- and sex-specific vital rate information. All models will be developed in Microsoft Excel. Participants are required to bring a laptop computer with Microsoft Excel installed.

### Banquet Keynote Address

Shane P. Mahoney  
Executive Director, Newfoundland Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Sustainable Development & Strategic Research Branch

Shane Mahoney is a passionate advocate for wildlife conservation. He currently is engaged in a \$20 million predator-prey study on Newfoundland and recently was named the International Conservationist of the Year by Safari Club International.

### Deadline for abstract submission: 15 March 2009

Direct inquiries to Kris Hundertmark,  
474-7159, [ffkh@uaf.edu](mailto:ffkh@uaf.edu).

Details about lodging, registration,  
and submission format will be  
distributed through e-mail and  
posted on the chapter's website as  
soon as they are finalized.  
<http://joomla.wildlife.org/alaska/>

### Student Travel and Presentation Awards

There will be travel awards for students wishing to attend the meeting, awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Students applying for awards should be presenting a poster or paper. Also, student oral presentations and posters will be judged and the top two presenters will win cash awards.

---

## 2009 Membership Subscription and Renewal--Online

---

### Its time to renew!

New memberships and renewals for the 2009 calendar year are available on-line at The Wildlife Society's store (<https://store.wildlife.org/>). An individual may renew their TWS membership (\$69 regular, \$35 student/retired; \$112 family) as well as their NW Section (\$5.00) and Alaska Chapter memberships (\$10).

Membership in TWS is required in order to be a member of the Alaska Chapter. In addition, journals can be ordered (delivered on-line or on-line and print) and TWS members can join one or more of the 18 TWS working groups. All members will receive *The Wildlife Professional* magazine in addition to *The Wildlifer* newsletter.