



The Alaskan Wildlifer

Newsletter of the Alaska Chapter of the Wildlife Society
February 2012



Message from the TWS-Alaska Chapter Executive Board

By President-Elect Jerry Hupp

Here is a mix of topics from the Executive Board pertaining to recent and ongoing Chapter activities.

First, the resignation of Corey Rossi as Director of Wildlife Conservation in ADF&G captured the attention of people throughout Alaska, but was of special significance to wildlife professionals. Ethics are a central pillar of our profession, and The Wildlife Society has a code of ethics and standards for professional conduct (http://joomla.wildlife.org/documents/TWS_bylaws.pdf). Because ethics and professional standards are important to objective wildlife management, President Kris Hundertmark sent a letter to the Commissioner of ADF&G stating important qualifications in selection of the next Director of Wildlife Conservation. They include a commitment to science-based management, demonstrated technical competence, and adherence to professional standards and integrity. A copy of the letter is included in this newsletter on page 14-15. A revised version of the letter was published as a commentary in the Juneau and Fairbanks newspapers and online by the Alaska Dispatch (<http://www.alaskadispatch.com/article/corey-rossi-replacement-must-be-dedicated-science-based-management>). The commentary makes it clear that the alleged actions of Mr. Rossi in no way reflect the professional integrity of the wildlife biologists in ADF&G. It also serves as a call for the next leader of Wildlife Conservation to be selected on the basis of professional qualifications, rather than political expedience. The Chapter's commentary was not directed at any individual that may be a candidate for the position. Rather the goal was to offer recommendations to ensure that the next leader of Wildlife Conservation has the same high

level of professional and scientific commitment as the agency's biologists.

Second, the Executive Board hopes you will plan to attend the Chapter's annual meeting in Anchorage on April 10-13. Details regarding the meeting are included on pages 2-3 of this newsletter. The annual meeting is more than a gathering to listen to talks and view posters. It's one of the rare occasions where wildlife professionals and students of all affiliations can meet to discuss common issues, learn new skills, and renew acquaintances or make new ones. This year's plenary session on ethics in wildlife conservation is timely and will offer thought provoking approaches to address wildlife management dilemmas.

Third, please take time to vote in the upcoming election for Chapter officers. These are the people who will help direct Chapter activities for the next two years and ensure your opinions are considered during Board actions. Candidate profiles are included beginning on page 4 of this newsletter as are instructions on voting. On this note, thanks to Past-President Howard Golden, Northern Representative Steve Arthur, Southcentral Representative Dave Battle, and Southeast Representative Deborah Rudis for their service on the Executive Board. Thanks also for the service of outgoing President Kris Hundertmark. Kris will remain on the Executive Board for the next two years as Past-President.

Finally, and with sadness we note the passing of colleagues and friends Carl Grauvogel, Warren Ballard, Gail Person, and Frances Nelson. Their obituaries follow on pages 11-13 of the newsletter. We honor their accomplishments and memories, and send our regrets to their families.

Issue Highlights

- Annual Meeting of the Alaska Chapter of the Wildlife Society, April 10-13, news on pg. 2-3
- TWS Alaska Chapter Officers Election, voting details on pg. 4-6
- Featured Research: Sounds of a Changing Climate, p. 8-9



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ALASKA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Marriott Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska
April 10-13, 2012



The Alaska Chapter will hold its annual conference in Anchorage, April 10-13 and the organizing committee has been working hard to put together an informative and exciting meeting. This year's conference includes a plenary session on ethics in wildlife conservation, and special sessions on management of wildlife that cross jurisdictional boundaries, managing human-wildlife interactions, and ecology of bats in Alaska with an emphasis on assessing the risk of White-nose Syndrome. There will be sessions for contributed oral and poster presentations and workshops on wildlife hazing, and cartographic design for wildlife professionals. As a bonus, attendees have an opportunity to take a post-conference class on water ditching and survival. If you fly in a floatplane in Alaska, you should have this class.

Options for daily and full registration are available. Registration will allow you to attend any of the workshops or take the water ditching class at no extra cost. These learning opportunities alone are more than worth the cost of registration. But, register soon as space is limited for each of the workshops.

Full registration allows you to attend the poster session and social mixer plus the evening banquet at no additional cost. This year's banquet will include a showing of the movie "Green Fire" about the life and evolving philosophies of Aldo Leopold. Leopold scholar Michael Nelson will introduce the movie.

Students, this is a great opportunity to meet future colleagues, learn more about wildlife management and ecology in Alaska, and present your research. Students can register for the conference at a reduced rate. A limited number of travel grants are available and prizes will be awarded for the best student paper and poster. Details are on the meeting website.

The Chapter will hold its annual business meeting on April 12 at the Marriott. This will include a light lunch. Plan to attend so that you can meet the new Executive Board and learn more about Chapter affairs.

Meeting information, registration, and abstract submission are available at:
<http://www.wildlifeprofessional.org/Alaska2010/index.php/Alaska2010/aktws2012>

Here are some important dates to put on your calendar:

- **March 9** – Deadline for abstract submission
- **March 11** – Deadline for room reservations at the Marriott Hotel at a reduced rate
- **March 31** – Deadline for early registration (rates increase after this date)
- **April 10** – Wildlife hazing and GIS workshops
- **April 11-12** – Oral and poster presentations at the Marriott. Annual business meeting
- **April 13** – Water ditching and underwater egress class

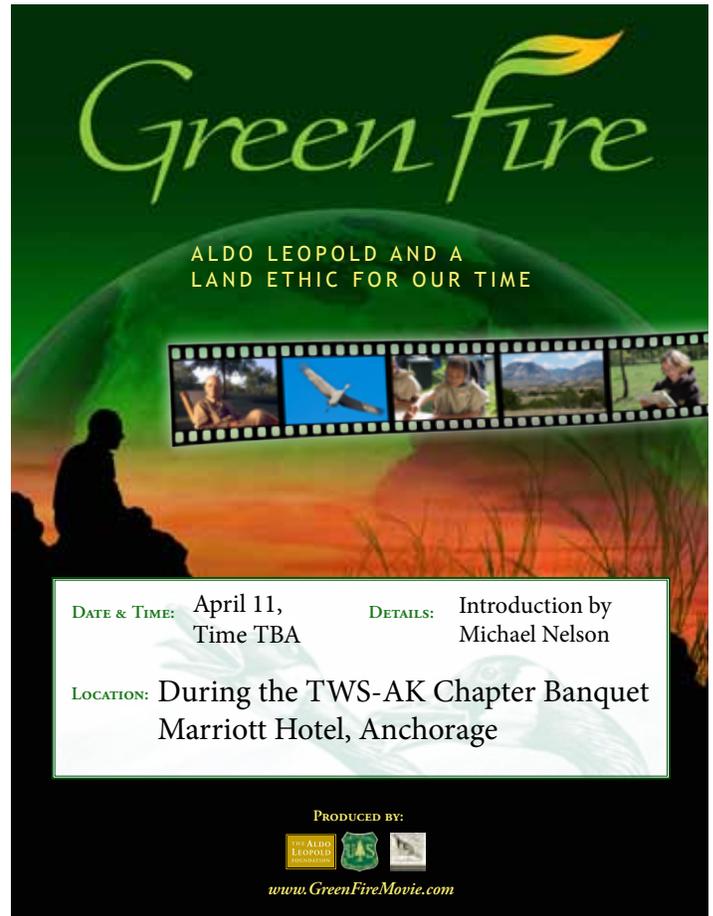


Join us for a screening of Green Fire at the TWS-AK Chapter Banquet, April 11

See the first full-length, high-definition documentary film ever made about legendary conservationist Aldo Leopold and his environmental legacy. TWS AK Chapter is hosting a screening of Green Fire for the community. Join us at the Banquet on Wednesday, April 11! Green Fire shares highlights from his extraordinary career, explaining how he shaped conservation and the modern environmental movement. It also illustrates how Leopold's vision of a community that cares about both people and land continues to inform and inspire people across the country and around the world, highlighting modern projects that put Leopold's land ethic in action in a multitude of ways.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<http://www.GreenFireMovie.com>



Contact your regional representative to submit items for the annual business meeting

The Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society will hold its annual business meeting from 11 am to 1 pm on April 12 in the Valdez Room of the Anchorage Marriott Hotel (820 W. 7th Ave.). The meeting will take place during the Chapter's annual conference. If you have business items that you would like to bring before members, please contact your regional representative so that we can place them on the agenda.

The regional representatives are:

Southeast Region – Deborah Rudis (deborah_rudis@fws.gov)

Southcentral Region – David Battle (david.battle@alaska.gov)

Northern Region – Steve Arthur (steve.arthur@alaska.gov)

New memberships and renewals are available on-line at The Wildlife Society (<http://joomla.wildlife.org>). Click on membership to obtain membership forms.



Vote in the 2012 Election of Chapter Officers

Want to take part in an election that doesn't involve super-pacs, has no mud-slinging or inane debates, and involves genuinely good people that are willing to serve their profession? Then please vote in the 2012 election to select officers for the Alaska Chapter's Executive Board. Up for election are candidates for President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and Regional Representatives. The Executive Board handles Chapter affairs, reviews position statements before they're submitted to members for approval, and through the newsletter helps keep members up to date on events around the state. Those elected will serve for two years. A sincere thanks to the Chapter members that have offered to serve as candidates.

To vote, go online to http://joomla.wildlife.org/AlaskaElection_2012/index.cfm starting March 6. If you do not have access to the online ballot, you can request a paper ballot from Jerry Hupp (907-786-7096). All online balloting must be completed and paper ballots returned by April 2, 2012. You must be a member of the Alaska Chapter of TWS to vote. So, if you haven't renewed your membership for 2012, now is the time to do so.

IMPORTANT: Please only vote for the representative from your region of the state (Northern, Southcentral or Southeast). See the map on page 11 if you are uncertain which region you live in.

Here are the positions and the candidates:

President-Elect: 1 Candidate, Grant Hilderbrand

Grant Hilderbrand: I currently serve as the regional wildlife biologist for the National Park Service. Prior to joining NPS, I worked for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as a member of the research staff for 7 years and the Regional Supervisor for Southcentral Alaska for 5 years. I earned a Ph.D. in Zoology from Washington State University in 1998 focusing on the nutritional ecology of coastal brown bears. Through time, my research interests have focused primarily on predator ecology and ecosystem processes. In 2008, I completed a fellowship with the National Conservation Leadership Institute and I continue to serve as a referee for roughly a dozen research journals and as associate editor for *Ursus*.

Working in multiple roles in two different agencies in the Alaska has provided me with a working knowledge of Alaskan wildlife science, management, state and federal regulatory processes, policy, and politics. Given my background, I value the Wildlife Society as I believe it empowers us both individually and collectively as conservationists, regardless of our agency affiliation or organizational ties. This collective is crucial to the sound conservation and management of the wildlife and resources held in our trust as professional biologists. I also am strongly committed to the role TWS can play in supporting and fostering students, our successors and tomorrow's conservation leaders.

In my spare time, I conduct private fitness consulting for individuals looking to participate or enhance their performance in outdoor recreational activities. Beyond that, fun with my wife, three little ones, and too many critters to count simultaneously keeps me young and ages me tremendously.

Secretary-Treasurer: 1 Candidate, Todd Rinaldi

Todd Rinaldi: During my 10 years as a member of The Wildlife Society, I have strived to be an active and productive participant. I have been fortunate to attend the 5 National Meetings and took on leadership roles within three planning committees for the 2006 Annual TWS meeting in Anchorage and again in planning this



year's upcoming Chapter Meeting. In addition, I have made it a point to attend both National and Chapter business meetings and Leader Luncheons. Here are some specific roles I that I have filled with the Alaska Chapter:

- Secretary/Treasurer, Alaska Chapter 2009 - present.
- Planning Committee Member, Alaska Chapter Annual Meeting 2010/2012
- Southcentral Representative, Alaska Chapter 2007-2009
- Program Committee Member, 2008 Alaska Chapter Annual Meeting.
- Media and Photography Committee Co-Chair, 2006 TWS Annual Meeting.
- Fundraising Committee Member, 2006 TWS Annual Meeting.
- Geographic Information System, Remote Sensing, and Telemetry Working Group.

As we have moved in to the 21st century TWS has certainly stepped up to meet the challenge. New national leadership and staff have worked hard to create new publications with modern formats as well as relaunching The Wildlife Society Bulletin online. An aggressive membership campaign continues to increase in membership and we now have a Canadian Section with many Chapters. In addition, some critical position statements have been defined such as the position on Economic Growth and Use of Science in Policy and Management Decisions. These are solid steps; however, TWS must continue to move forward to remain strong. I applaud the creation of the TWS Leadership Institute which creates an opportunity for recent graduates to take an active role in TWS while fostering leadership skills. This important approach will attract young professionals and ensure that TWS will remain a respected and professional organization that is integral to the scientific community. I am excited to be running for re-election. In the coming years, I would like to continue exploring avenues for fundraising, similar to what we have done within the Chapter, so that our students can have more access to National Meetings and work at increasing the number of our members that take active roles within TWS. I believe this is an important step that can be accomplished at the local level to build our reputation within Alaska and across the nation.

Northern Region Representative: 2 Candidates, Kyle Joly or Kaithryn Ott

Kyle Joly: I am interested in returning to the TWS-AK Chapter Executive Committee as the Northern Representative, a post I held from 2008-2010. I have been active with the chapter, serving on a number of committees and developing position statements. I am currently a Wildlife Biologist for the National Park Service in Fairbanks working primarily on caribou and moose projects. I started wildlife work in Alaska in 1994 and have worked for the NPS, US Geological Survey, and Bureau of Land Management in the state. Prior to that, I worked for the Forest Service in Colorado and Washington. I obtained my PhD (UAF) in 2011, MS (Penn State) in 1996 and BS (Syracuse) in 1992.

Kaithryn Ott: I received an M.S. in Zoology from the University of Wyoming and I was fortunate to conduct my graduate research in Alaska on the population genetics of coastal river otters in Prince William Sound and Kenai Fjords National Park. During my time in southcentral Alaska, I fell in love with the state, its active outdoor lifestyle, and hunting and fishing opportunities. I moved to Barrow in the fall of 2009 and assisted with the North Slope Borough Wildlife Department 2010 bowhead whale census. Most recently, as a biologist with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, I conducted a successful mark-recapture study on lemmings near Barrow. I currently work in the Service's Fairbanks office and my career interests lie in conservation biology and wildlife management. I've been a member of TWS since my time as an undergraduate at the University of Wyoming, where I served as the Student Chapter president in 2004. I am enthusiastic and appreciative of this opportunity to be the Alaska chapter's Northern Representative.



Southcentral Region Representative: 2 Candidates, Jessy Coltrane or Carl Staab

Jessy Coltrane: I am the Area Wildlife Biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Anchorage. I have a B.S. in biology from Davidson College, a M.S. in wildlife ecology and conservation from the University of Florida and a Ph.D. in wildlife biology from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I have a wide range of wildlife management and research experience ranging from primates and ungulate populations in the Peruvian Amazon to marine mammals in the Arctic Ocean. As the Anchorage Area Biologist, I am responsible for managing wildlife species for consumptive and non-consumptive use in the largest human population center of the state.

Cara Staab: I have been a TWS member for almost 25 years, since my undergraduate days in Arizona. During all of that time, I have truly appreciated what the Society has done for me, other biologists, and wildlife around the world. I am now well established in my career, and am wanting and able to contribute more to TWS. I am currently the Wildlife Program Lead for the Bureau of Land Management at the Alaska State Office. I have been in this position for 2 ½ years, and in Alaska for 5 years. I am humbled by this short tenure, as I know many of you have devoted significant portions of your lives to benefitting the wildlife of Alaska. Let that be all the more reason why you will allow me to assume some of the work in keeping our professional society vibrant and strong. Vote for Cara!

Southeast Region Representative: 1 candidate, Karen Blejwas

Karen Blejwas: I have been the Regional Wildlife Biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Wildlife Diversity Program in Southeast Alaska since 2009, and earned my Ph.D from the University of California Berkeley studying coyote predation on domestic sheep in northern California. I have research experience with a diversity of habitats and species in both California and Alaska, including marine mammals, terrestrial carnivores, small mammals, ungulates, birds and amphibians. Prior to moving over to the Wildlife Diversity Program, I worked as a staff biologist at HQ and for the ADF&G Marine Mammal Program. Previously, I was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Alaska Southeast, where I also taught a variety of undergraduate biology classes. I have been an active member of The Wildlife Society since 1996, helping to organize several TWS Alaska Chapter conferences and draft a position statement on wildlife regulation in Alaska.

***You can contribute! We need your story ideas!
Help keep AK-TWS members informed and 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 by April 25, 2012 for the May issue. 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!



Announcements

Upcoming Conferences

North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, March 12-17: The 77th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference will be held March 12-17, 2012, at the Hilton Atlanta in Atlanta, Georgia. A wide variety of conservation organizations will be attending this conference and holding meetings or workshops. These include the Wildlife Society, the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association (NMFWA), all four Flyway Councils, the Endangered Species Act Joint Task Force, the CWD Alliance, the National Association of University Fish and Wildlife Programs, and many others. Visit <http://www.wildlifehc.org/event/77th-north-american-wildlife-and-natural-resources-conference/>

March 15: Dr. Michael Conroy will present an introductory seminar on Structured Decision Making in Anchorage, Alaska. The seminar will take place at the USGS APU campus, Glenn Olds Hall conference room @ 9:30 AM, on Thursday March 15, 2012. For more information, contact Tammy Wilson, NPS-Anchorage, tammy_wilson@nps.gov or 907-644-3682.

Human-Bear Conflicts, March 20-22: The 4th International Human-Bear Conflicts Workshop will be held March 20-22, 2012 in Missoula, Montana. This is a professional development workshop for people who work to manage and prevent human-bear conflicts. Topics will include (1) proactive management to reduce conflicts; (2) new technology and best practices for managing bears; (3) effective community-based approaches; (4) effective communication and outreach strategies; (5) improving public messaging and approaches; and (6) risk and liability concerns. For more information, <http://www.cfc.umt.edu/humanbearconflicts/>.

National Landscape Conservation Cooperative Workshop, March 27-28, 2012, Denver, CO: For more information, visit <http://www.nationallcc2012.com>.

Coastal Temperate Rainforests, April 17-19:

The Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center is hosting a symposium April 17-19, 2012, in Juneau, Alaska. Coastal Temperate Rainforests: Integrating Science, Resource Management, and Communities will be a multi-day event including a field trip to Berners Bay, impressive keynote speakers, an international plenary, and concurrent sessions discussing the following themes: adaptation strategies, climate effects, conservation across borders, ecosystem services, public policy, and education and outreach. For more information visit http://acrc.alaska.edu/acrc_sw/symposium/index.html. Join us for stimulating conversation between experts, scientists, traditional knowledge bearers, educators, policy makers and community members regarding the coastal temperate rainforest in our backyard.



American Society of Mammalogists, June 22-26:

The 92nd annual meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists Meeting will be held June 22-26, 2012, at the Peppermill Resort Spa and Casino in Reno, Nevada. Visit <http://www.dce.k-state.edu/conf/mammalogists/> for more information.

Conference Proceedings Online

TWS-Hawaii Conference: A vast majority of the talks delivered at The Wildlife Society Annual Conference are now available online. These talks include the PowerPoint, which is synched to the talk. Conference attendees can log on at <http://tws.sclivelearningcenter.com/index.aspx> for free access to the talks. Your username is the email address you used to register for the conference and your password is your last name. TWS members can purchase all the sessions for \$199, while non-members can purchase it for \$249. To receive the discounted member rate, TWS members can login using the email address that TWS has on file. Your password for this particular purchase is your last name.



Featured Research: The Sounds of a Changing Climate

By David Tessler

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Wildlife Diversity Program Regional Biologist

What can we understand about the impacts of global change by listening to the environment? Potentially a great deal, provided we have suitable means of quantifying environmental sound and relating the soundscape in a meaningful way to environmental parameters. That is precisely what a new project at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Diversity Program is attempting to do. The Alaska Wetland Climate Change Project (AWCCP) is examining the effects of global change on Alaskan wetlands and wetland-obligate wildlife species employing Acoustic Recording Units (ARUs) and a suite of ground-based, airborne, and satellite sensors to relate biological conditions to a complex set of climatic, hydrologic, and other environmental conditions.

Although the AWCCP is a stand-alone project, to maximize the value of the information produced, we are also leveraging resources with multiple organizations to function simultaneously as a regional component of the broader-scaled Terrestrial Wetland Global Change Research Network (TWGCRN).

This network first implemented field work in 2008 and is dedicated to providing rigorous scientific information on long-term impacts of global change on interconnected wetlands and uplands across North America. Partners and collaborators in the expanding TWGCRN currently include the U.S. Geological Survey, Canadian Forest Service, University of New Brunswick, St. John, Environment Canada, Canada Centre for Remote Sensing, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. National Park Service, Parks Canada, St. Joseph's College, and the University of Alberta. TWGCRN research sites are located in Alaska, the

Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Colorado.

The integrated and standardized TWGCRN approach uses established and state-of-the-art technologies to measure key relationships between climate and land-use change and hydrologic and biological conditions from individual wetlands to broad landscape scales. AWCCP/TWGCRN research sites are located along environmental gradients (e.g., temperature, season length, permafrost, precipitation, wetland density, rate of climate change, and human activity), allowing comparisons of results from individual and regional sites with results from other locations across the network. Thus, the TWGCRN provides a unique capacity for integrated assessment of the effects of global change along environmental gradients at meaningful spatiotemporal scales. TWGCRN

goals include describing and predicting the impacts of global change on essential ecosystem services produced by these critical interconnected wetlands and uplands and identifying any potential management options for mitigating negative effects.

Our AWCCP pilot project includes five wetland study sites scattered

along a rough latitudinal transect across two-thirds of Alaska's Interior. From north to south, our wetland sites include: Wiseman along the Dalton Highway, the Fort Wainwright Army installation near Fairbanks, Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge near Tok, private lands near Talkeetna, and Far North Bicentennial Park in Anchorage. Additional TWGCRN research sites in Alaska are located in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Denali and Wrangell-St. Elias National Parks, and the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

Each AWCCP study site is instrumented with a Wildlife Acoustics™ Song Meter 2 (SM2) Acoustic Recording Unit (ARU) and a series of remote data



Rusty Blackbird: A target species of the AWCCP



(Sounds, continued)

loggers to measure various physical parameters through time. The ARUs detect and record all sounds within the range of 0 to 11025 Hz at each study site, which includes all amphibian and bird calls, as well as rain, thunder, and anthropogenic sounds. We record for five minutes on the hour every hour for about 3.5 months (early May through the end of August).

Response variables from the ARUs include site occupancy, calling phenology, and relative calling intensity of wetland breeding birds and amphibians, a measure of species diversity, as well as data on human activity. Our collaboration with the TWGCRN enables us to benefit from the Network's development of novel approaches and software for analyzing the large volumes of acoustic data generated at each site. One very important advance in the evolution of acoustic software enables automated analyses of recordings and the production of a data set that describes the entire season's recordings in terms of date, time, frequency, and dB levels. We then can use this data set in a variety of ways to visually and aurally determine presence/absence, the timing of calling activity, and the diversity of sounds in a manner that minimizes false positives and negatives. These new technologies and approaches are powerful tools for linking climatic parameters to wildlife activity on the ground and for comparing the relationships between climate and wildlife among years and between locations.

While TWGCRN research sites across North America each target a representative mix of local species, the wood frog is one organism that exists or potentially exists at all individual TWGCRN sites, and its broad geographic range and sensitivity to water quality and hydrologic conditions make it an ideal subject for examining the effects of global change at a continental scale. Other target species of the AWCCP include a range of organisms dependent upon interior wetlands,



Wood Frog: A target species of the AWCCP

including: shorebirds such as the lesser yellow legs and Wilson's snipe, and wetland associated passerines like the rusty blackbird and blackpoll warbler. While some TWGCRN / AWCCP target species have immediate conservation concerns (e.g. lesser yellowlegs and rusty blackbird), others remain relatively common and are considered representative of these wetland-upland complexes.

Each AWCCP site also includes

other data loggers to measure climate-associated physical parameters at each study site: air temperature, water subsurface temperature, and water depth. We are also measuring a number of water quality parameters (pH, conductance, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen) and sampling water for the presence of *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd), an amphibian chytrid fungus linked to drastic amphibian population declines and extinctions globally and detected in Alaska recently.

Our final step is to relate these in-situ environmental measurements with a suite of global change related variables measured from a variety of satellite platforms. These satellite sensors permit measurement of snow presence and duration, ice-out, vegetation green-up and structure, earth-surface phenology, primary productivity, hydrologic conditions, surface-water extent, habitat connectivity, and land-cover change in 2500 km² blocks surrounding the primary wetland study sites. This work is being developed and conducted by TWGCRN scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey and the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing who specialize in remote sensing and geospatial analyses. We look forward to integrating the results of these analyses with those from our in-situ sensors as they become available for our Alaskan sites.

For more information about this project, contact David Tessler at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game david.tessler@alaska.gov, (907) 267-2332 or visit the TWGCRN website at <http://www.umesc.usgs.gov/twgcrn.html>.



Regional News

Southcentral

By Dave Battle, Southcentral Representative

There have been a few personnel changes at USGS recently:

Dr. Todd Atwood has been selected to lead the U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Science Center, Polar Bear Research Program. Todd is currently with the US Dept. of Agriculture's National Wildlife Research Center, in Fort Collins, CO, where he conducts research on carnivore and ungulate ecology, human-wildlife interactions, and wildlife diseases. He previously worked for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Todd received his Ph.D. from Utah State University in 2006, has a research background in predator ecology, and experience working with diverse stakeholders in a research program. He is an expert in spatial ecology and incorporating demographic, genetic, disease and behavioral aspects in the holistic assessment of carnivore landscape ecology. Todd starts at USGS on March 26.

Dr. Karyn Rode will join the USGS Alaska Science Center Polar Bear Program as a Research Wildlife Biologist. She is currently with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 7 (Alaska), Marine Mammals Management Program, where she co-leads research on the Chukchi-Bering seas polar bear population and serves on the scientific working group for the US-Russia polar bear treaty. Karyn previously worked for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game on grizzly bear ecology, and in Africa on ecology of monkeys. She received her Ph.D. from Washington State University in 2005, is an expert in nutritional ecology, and has led a diversity of applied research programs. Karyn begins her position on March 26.

Dr. John Pearce has been selected as Chief of the USGS, Alaska Science Center's Wetland and Terrestrial Ecology Branch. John previously worked for the Center as a Geneticist and Research Wildlife Biologist on a wide variety of avian research projects. His recent research has focused on use of DNA markers to assess

population structure of migratory birds and movement of avian influenza viruses. John received his Ph.D. from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 2008 where he used molecular techniques to study population structure of North American mergansers.

Southeast

By Deb Rudis, Southeast Representative

Director Recruitment: The University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) in Juneau is recruiting for the position of Director, Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center (ACRC). ACRC is an innovative center for collaborative scientific research and educational outreach focusing on coastal temperate rainforest ecosystems and communities in the North Pacific region (see <http://acrc.alaska.edu/>). While housed at UAS, the Center is a partnership involving multiple universities, public agencies, tribal organizations, and non-governmental organizations. The successful Director will be a results-oriented person who has strong scientific credentials and experience in organizational development and leadership. While the position is primarily focused on strategic leadership, the successful applicant will be eligible for term faculty rank at UAS. The position is open until filled, with first review of applications after March 1, 2012. Some travel, including to international destinations, is required. Apply at www.uakjobs.com, job posting number 0063339.

Personnel news: Mike Goldstein's detail to the Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center ends on April 30 and he returns to the Forest Service Alaska Regional Office on May 1.

Northern

By Steve Arthur, Northern Representative

No news from this region.





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

Obituaries

Carl Grauvogel, retired Fish and Game Wildlife Biologist, passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 11, 2011, at his home in Palmer, Alaska. He was born in Portola, Calif., grew up in Winnemucca, Nev., and graduated from the University of Nevada in Reno in 1965. He attended graduate school at the University of Alaska Fairbanks from 1965 to 1967. Following his tenure in graduate school, he honorably served his country as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, including a tour in Vietnam.

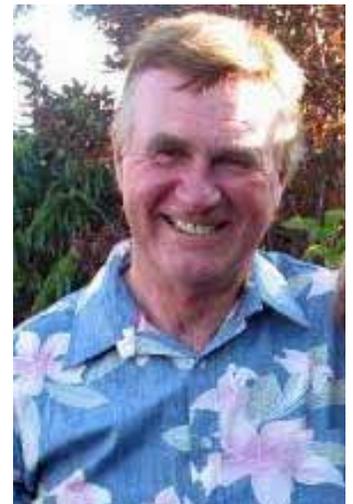
After his military service, he returned to Alaska where he began his 20-year career as a dedicated State Wildlife Biologist. During his career, he was responsible for managing wildlife resources from the Nome office for the entire Seward Peninsula. He was instrumental in re-introducing muskoxen to the area. After working in Nome for 15 years, he finished his career as a supervisory area biologist in Palmer, Alaska. He was honored to receive the State of Alaska Biologist of the Year for 1989 for his work to help enhance moose survival during the previous winter which was marked by heavy snowfall.

He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Laura; sons

and daughters-in-law, Zachary, Eric and Lori, Alex (Bo) and Nathalia, of Anchorage; brothers, Dean (wife Janet) Grauvogel, Lyle (wife Karen) Damon of Reno, Nevada and Larry Damon of El Cerrito, California, along with many nieces, nephews, grand nieces and nephew; his many lifelong friends and his constant companion “Jazzy” who always provided her unconditional love, affection and her well-known bird retrieving skills.

Carl was a cherished and loving father, teacher of life skills, bush pilot, hunter, basketball, soccer and Little League coach, scientist, commercial fishermen, consummate fly fisherman, friend to everyone, loving brother, and a dearly beloved husband, who will be missed by all.

Reprinted from ADFG’s Workforce Update, January 2012.



Obituaries-continued

Dr. Warren B. Ballard Jr., beloved husband of Heather A. Whitlaw and widely-published author and nationally-recognized professor in Texas Tech University's Department of Natural Resources Management, passed away peacefully at his Lubbock home on January 12, 2012 after a brave fight with pancreatic cancer.



He is lovingly remembered by his mother, LaVerne Rosemary Ballard (nee Bernat); wife, Heather Whitlaw; children, Cindy Bergamo and husband, Greg, Laurina Wittig and husband, Thomas, Warren Ballard III and Raymond Ballard; grandsons, Ezra Bergamo, and Blair and Brandon Ballard; mother-in-law, Nan McGhee, father-in-law, David Whitlaw, sister-in-law, Patricia Whitlaw; nieces, Elizabeth Jones and Paige Jones; and graduate students, colleagues, and friends around the world. He is preceded in death by his father, Warren Baxter Ballard, Sr.

“His legacy lives on in the students, faculty and research projects he touched,” said Michael Galyean, Interim Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. During Warren’s long career he produced more than 200 peer-reviewed journals articles and raised some \$3.2 million in grant, contract and research support.

Warren was born on April 28, 1947 in Boston, MA, to LaVerne Rosemary Ballard (Bernat). LaVerne soon met her husband and Warren’s adoptive father (Warren Baxter Ballard, Sr.) and the family moved to Albuquerque, NM in the early 1950s where Warren attended St Pius X High School. He earned a Bachelor’s degree in fish and wildlife management from New Mexico State University and his Master’s degree in environmental biology from Kansas State University. He earned his doctorate in wildlife science from the University of Arizona. On June 7, 1995, Warren married the love of his life, Heather Whitlaw, in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada.

Dr. Ballard was a Texas Tech Horn Professor and the Bricker Chair in Wildlife Management. Warren was also the Editor-in-Chief of the Wildlife Society Bulletin, an international scientific journal for wildlife scientists. In 2009, Ballard was awarded the Outstanding Research Award from Texas Tech’s College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, and the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society in 2007.

He was named a Wildlife Society Fellow by the National Wildlife Society in 2005, and was presented the Chancellor’s Council Distinguished Research Award at Texas Tech in 2002. He was presented a special service recognition award from the Wildlife Society that same year. In 1989, Warren was honored by his peers with the Distinguished Moose Biologist award.

Prior to joining the Tech faculty in 1998, Dr. Ballard worked as a research supervisor with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. He also served as director and associate professor with the New Brunswick Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at the University of New Brunswick (Canada). Warren spent 18 years as a wildlife biologist and research scientist with Alaska Department of Fish and Game. His ground-breaking research on predator-prey relationships, wolf ecology, and ungulate populations is still widely recognized.

Reprinted with permission from the family. For more information or to donate to a memorial scholarship fund, visit http://cherokee.tosm.ttu.edu/ttunrm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=328&Itemid=159.



Obituaries-continued

Frances Anne Nelson passed away on Sunday, January 8, 2012 in Anchorage Alaska. Frances was battling complications from a long-term illness.

Frances was born in Santa Rita, New Mexico, grew up in Wichita Falls, Texas and received a B.S. degree in Wildlife Biology with a minor in Mycology from University of New Mexico, Albuquerque. She moved to Denver, Colorado and was very proud of her work at the prestigious Children's Hospital.

Frances traveled to Juneau, Alaska in 1976 to visit a long-time friend. As happens to many people who come for the summer, it lasted a little longer than that. She worked for the U.S. Forest Service for a short period and then joined the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game as one of the first women biologists ever hired. Frances moved to Fairbanks, and continued her career with ADFG. Frances's work led her to Anchorage in the early 1980's where she met John Westlund and they married in 1988. Frances left state service in 1985, and started an allergy clinic, Advanced Allergy and Health Care Center, in Anchorage. She expanded that opportunity to Hawaii, when she determined that allergies were more serious from January through May.

Frances loved Alaska. She loved the beauty, the wildness, and the wonderful opportunities and adventures available for those who looked for them. Running Mt. Marathon, catching a 100 lb. halibut, dipping red salmon on the Kenai, and exploring the wilds of Alaska were all experiences that she treasured.

More than that, Frances loved her flowers. The flower garden she created at her home was a spectacle of color and variety that was her pride and joy. The tranquility and sheer joy she got from working in the garden was a wonder to behold. She continually tended and cajoled her orchids in the house to bloom, creating a beautiful and ever-changing scene on the fireplace threshold.

Frances experienced chronic health problems for most of her adult life. Her strength, courage and character through that long fight was something that amazed

her husband and those around her. Her spirit and her presence will be missed.

She is survived by two brothers, L.O. Nelson of Wichita Falls, Texas, John Nelson, unknown, and her husband, John Westlund.

Reprinted from the Anchorage Daily News.

Gail Elizabeth Person, 56, died Feb. 8, 2012, in Ketchikan.

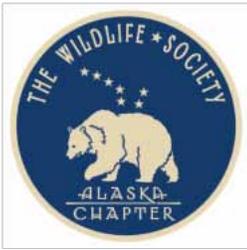
She was born Gail Elizabeth Jouppi on July 12, 1955, in Minnesota, and had resided in Ketchikan since 1998. She was married on April 22, 2000, in Luetzen, Minn.

Mrs. Person was a woodworking artist, and was known as the "Lamp Lady" of Ketchikan.

She is survived by her husband, Dave Person of Ketchikan; brothers Alvin Jouppi of Isabella, Minn., and Kenneth Jouppi of Fairbanks; and sisters, Margery Longstreth of Duluth, Minn., and Margaret Ohlgren of Monticello, Minn.

Reprinted from the Ketchikan Daily News





THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

ALASKA CHAPTER

Kris Hundertmark, President

PO Box 757000

Fairbanks, AK 99775

The Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society is a professional society founded in 1971. With over 200 members, the Alaska Chapter is one of the largest chapters of The Wildlife Society, an international organization representing wildlife biologists and managers employed by state, federal, and borough resource agencies, academic institutions, non-governmental conservation organizations, and private industry. Our mission is to enhance the ability of wildlife professionals to conserve biological diversity, sustain productivity, and ensure responsible use of wildlife resources in Alaska for the benefit of society.

January 18, 2012

Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
1255 W. 8th Street
Juneau, AK 99802

Dear Commissioner Campbell,

As the sole professional organization of wildlife biologists in Alaska, The Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society would like to offer its views on important qualifications for the Director of the Division of Wildlife Conservation (DWC). We hope you will consider these views as you select an appointee for that position.

Management of Alaska's wild resources must be based in science to be successful. Although we recognize that social and economic considerations can influence management of wildlife, it is imperative that understanding gained through scientific effort also be used to make informed management decisions. Failure to do so results in wasted effort by staff and diminished credibility of the management agency. Moreover, failure to include relevant scientific findings in the deliberative process may result in ineffective management programs. Therefore, we think it is critical that the person selected to lead the DWC be dedicated to science-based management of wildlife. That individual should be willing to accept staff recommendations that are supported by science, encourage scientific collaboration between ADF&G employees and biologists in other agencies and academic institutions, and ensure that staff be able to freely communicate science-based recommendations to the Board of Game and other entities. In our view, the Director of the DWC must be committed to the open, collaborative, and objective science necessary to ensure the health of Alaska's diverse wildlife resources.

Technical expertise is also an important qualification for the Director. Management of wildlife is increasingly based on an array of sciences including genetics, ecology, mathematics, physiology, computer modeling, etc. Integration of information across scientific disciplines is often needed to address complex resource management issues. The Director should have sufficient training to understand technical recommendations made by staff. We recommend that the Director of the DWC be capable of meeting the minimum qualifications required to be a Certified Wildlife Biologist (criteria available at <http://joomla.wildlife.org/documents/certbook.pdf>). Those criteria include completion of a Bachelor of Science or equivalent degree in the biological sciences or resource management, and at least five years professional experience as a wildlife biologist. The Director of DWC serves as a critical link between the agency's technical staff and you, the Board of Game, the public, and other agencies. We think it important that the Director have adequate training to understand and accurately communicate the technical findings of staff.



Demonstrated leadership abilities, professional integrity, and organizational competence are important qualities for the Director. Biologists within the DWC are highly dedicated and widely respected in professional circles due to their competence. We hope that the future Director will recognize the unique skills of the biological staff and exhibit a professional commitment to ethical conduct and maintenance of departmental integrity. These are critical to morale of the workforce and to ensure the agency continues to enjoy a high level of professional respect. Maintenance of a supportive workplace is also critical to recruit the brightest of the young biologists that will be needed to fill positions in the future.

Alaskans deeply value the diversity and abundance of our wildlife resources. Those resources also provide vitally important and sustainable economic inputs to Alaska's economy. In order to maintain those resources it is important that the Director of DWC value the workforce, acknowledge the importance of science-based management, and have the technical competence to understand and implement staff recommendations.

Thank you very much for considering our views on your appointment of a Director of DWC.

Sincerely,



Kris Hundertmark
President

Copies to: Governor Sean Parnell



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