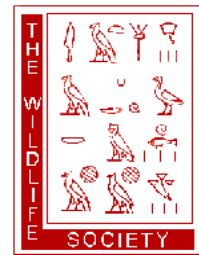




The Alaskan Wildlifer

Newsletter of the Alaska Chapter of
The Wildlife Society

August 2009



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Message from President Howard Golden

Committee Progress

The committees working on the Ballot Initiative, Intensive Management, and Disease Risk of Pack Goats position statements for the Alaska Chapter continue to make good progress. The Ballot Initiative committee, consisting of Cindi Jacobson, Karen Blejwas, Bobbie Jo Skibo, and Neil Barten, is nearing completion of its first draft. The Intensive Management committee, consisting of Kyle Joly, Mark Bertram, Wade Willis, and Kim Titus, is reviewing background information and preparing to write its first draft. The Disease Risk of Pack Goats committee, consisting of Jim Herriges, Kimberlee Beckmen, Jim Lawler, Steve Arthur, Tom Lohuis, Todd O'Hara, Mark Bertram, and Kyle Joly, is revising a draft. I again want to thank all committee members for the hard work and time that they're volunteering on behalf of the Chapter.

Three more interviews with long-time wildlife biologists were conducted this spring as part of the "Celebrating Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage" (COWCH) Program. The COWCH Committee, consisting of Thomas McDonough, Kyle Joly, Todd Rinaldi, and John Schoen, interviewed Jim Rearden, Will Troyer, and John Morrison with the help of Karen Brewster of the UAF Oral History Program. They also hope to interview Jack Lentfer in the near future. Liz Solomon, Chapter Webmaster, is looking into the possibility of making the digital video recordings of the interviews available for download through our website.

Annual Meeting

It is time to put together an organizing committee for the 2010 annual Chapter meeting, which will be held in Anchorage. We could really use the help from members living in the greater Anchorage area. It's a great opportunity to volunteer your time to help the

Chapter. Please contact Kris Hundertmark (kris.hundertmark@alaska.edu) or Howard Golden (howard.golden@alaska.gov) if you'd like to help with the annual meeting.

In the last newsletter, we included a questionnaire asking members to indicate their preferences regarding timing of the Chapter's annual meeting. Only seven responses came in and we realized the way we set it up made it difficult to tally. Therefore, we will revise this and send it out as a separate item to all members. Please vote on annual meeting date preferences when you receive the ballot!

Donations

The Executive Board recently approved two donations by the Chapter. One was a \$300 donation to help with the TWS Annual Conference in Monterey, California. The other was a \$100 donation to help fund the distribution of the DVD called "Opportunity for All", (narrated by Shane Mahoney, our keynote speaker for our last annual meeting) which describes the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and the contributions of sportsmen. The University of Tennessee Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society distributed copies of the DVD as an educational tool to all TWS student, state, and section chapters and will also provide copies to all TWS Annual Conference participants in Monterey.

Letter of Support

The Executive Board also voted to approve lending the Chapter's support to a letter being sent to U.S. Senators. It encourages Senators to ensure passage of comprehensive climate and energy legislation that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and dedicates 5% of the total allowance value for natural resources



adaptation. This letter of support follows the passage by the House of Representatives in June of the American Clean Energy and Security Act.

We want to hear from you

Don't forget that you have a great forum to discuss topics or ideas with fellow Chapter members in the "Your Opinions" section of the newsletter and on the Chapter website. Please send in your opinions through your Regional Representative. It's a great way for your voice to be heard and to stimulate professional discussion.

Tribute for Meg Hahr

I am saddened, once again, to report the loss of an Alaska Chapter member. Meg Hahr, who until recently was a wildlife ecologist for Kenai Fjords National Park and Preserve, died on June 21, 2009 from injuries she sustained in a mountain biking accident near her new home in Munising, Michigan. Please see the tribute celebrating her life and accomplishments in this newsletter and also on the Chapter website.

News from Southeast:

By Dave Person, Southeast Representative

People

Rod Flynn was hired by Alaska Department of Fish and Game as Regional Supervisor for Region 1 (Southeast Alaska). Rod brings >20 years experience as a research biologist with ADFG. Rod replaces **Dale Rabe** who became deputy director of the Division of Wildlife Conservation last March. **Tom Schumacher** was hired to replace **Karen Blejwas** as biologist in charge of permitting for ADFG.

Projects

Todd Brinkman (UAF) completed his PhD dissertation research developing a DNA-based estimator for deer populations in Southeast Alaska. Todd's work is a technological breakthrough that will provide a reliable means to monitor deer populations in the temperate rainforests of the region. **Kevin White** (ADFG) received funding from the U. S. Forest Service enabling him to expand research concerning sightability of mountain goats during aerial surveys. **Steve Lewis** (ADFG) continues his successful study of the ecology of wolverines in Southeast. Steve's work will be instrumental to understanding the ecology of those elusive mustelids. **Dave Person** (ADFG) received supplemental funding from the U. S. Forest Service to purchase GPS radio collars and a portable ultrasound device for his study of Sitka black-tailed deer fawn

mortality on Prince of Wales Island. In addition, he and **Kris Hundertmark** (UAF) obtained funding from the Forest Service to develop a method to estimate wolf population from DNA extracted from scats. **Tom Hanley** and **Mary Freiburg** (USFS, Pacific Northwest Research Station) and **Jim Brainerd** (USFS, Tongass National Forest) have been working to develop a new habitat suitability model for deer in Southeast Alaska. Their work focuses on Tom's food-based model developed over the last decade, converting it to a practical monitoring tool that can be used at small and large scales.

News from Southcentral:

By Todd Rinaldi, Southcentral Representative

People

Robin West, Refuge Manager at the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge and former Southcentral Representative of the Alaska Chapter of TWS, is leaving Alaska after 31 years to accept a new position as Refuge Supervisor in the USFWS Regional Office in Portland, Oregon. Robin began his work in Alaska in 1978 evaluating routes for the proposed natural gas pipeline for the USFWS. He has done a wide variety of work for USFWS, including service as Izembek NWR Manager and a Regional Migratory Bird Coordinator, before becoming Kenai Refuge manager in 1995. A farewell dinner, hosted by the Refuge Staff, will be held at the Soldotna Sports Center on August 29th at 6:00 pm. The cost will be \$25 per person. Attendance is by RSVP only and must be received by August 19th. For more information or to RSVP, contact the Kenai NWR at kenai@fws.gov.

Marianne Snively, has accepted the position of Assistant Nongame Biologist for ADFG Region II. She will be coordinating the Alaska Citizen Science Program and working with the Region II Nongame Biologist (**David Tessler**) to implement a number of nongame research projects throughout Alaska.

After serving for five years as ADFG Division of Wildlife Conservation Regional Supervisor, **Grant Hilderbrand** has announced that he will leave his position in December to pursue other interests. During Grant's tenure with Fish and Game he has worked also as a bear biologist and Regional Moose Biologist.

Merben Cebrian (a BLM wildlife biologist in Glennallen) has accepted an invitation to join the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC) for the term 2009 -



2012. This group provides technical guidance to specialized conservation work in various parts of the world. Merben will be involved in setting up the 2010 Wild Cattle and Buffalos Specialist Group workshop.

News

The **Anchorage Ducks Unlimited Spring BBQ** held at the Dena'ina Convention Center this past April is being heralded as the largest DU event in Alaska's history. According to Martin Scoby, DU Area Chairman, 930 people attended this year's event generating almost \$200,000 for conservation efforts. In comparison to 2008's event, this is a 67 percent net increase in revenue and 33 percent increase in attendance. There is also some speculation that Anchorage's event could be the largest DU event in the nation this year.

News from the North:

By Kyle Joly, North Representative

People

Neil Lehner has entered the graduate program at UAF in the Department of Biology and Wildlife. His master's project will involve arctic fox satellite telemetry on the North Slope with **Erich Follmann**, comparing movement patterns and diets between the oil field and NPR-A. He was recently employed at ADFG - Division of Wildlife Conservation. His project is a follow-up to that of **Nate Pamperin** who completed his master's degree last year. Nate is currently employed with ADFG.

Brandon Saito joined the Selawik NWR staff on July 15 as the new Interdisciplinary Biologist. He is moving from the Kodiak NWR where he was the Subsistence Biologist.

Lisa Saperstein, USFWS wildlife biologist with Kanuti NWR, has accepted a job as a biologist with the US Army, Yakima Training Center and will be leaving Alaska about 21 September.

News

Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge Land Exchange
The USFWS chose the "no action alternative" for a proposed land exchange between the Refuge and the Doyon Corporation, which means the Refuge has no plans to move forward with the exchange. The deal would have given Doyon ownership of Refuge lands with oil and gas development potential in exchange for Doyon lands adjacent to the Refuge.

Caribou Photo-censuses

The ADFG had another busy summer with caribou photo-censuses. The Western Arctic Herd was photographed on 3 July in tight and photogenic groups in Cape Sabine and Cape Thompson areas. They photographed the Fortymile herd on 5 July. The groups were loose but above treeline, improving ADFG's ability to count them in the photos. The Delta and White Mountains herds were censused on 6 July. In these censuses, only large groups were photographed, but small planes searched surrounding areas and tallied caribou in small groups. Unfortunately, the Porcupine Caribou Herd, once again, did not group up enough to photograph this year. The herd is now widely scattered in the mountains and it is unlikely they will group back together this year. The ADFG has not been able to photo-census the herd since 2001. Results from these efforts will not be available for several months because the ADFG needs time to develop and print film, lay out the photos and count the caribou.

You can contribute!

Please make note of upcoming events, projects, personnel changes, issues, or anything of interest to other AK-TWS members, and pass them on to your regional representative by the 25th of October, January, April, or July.

And don't forget, our Newsletter and Chapter Website now have an [opinion page](#) specifically dedicated for the discussion of topics pertinent to AK-TWS.

Announcements

The 2009 Arctic Science Conference, "Impact of Environment on Human Health: Interdisciplinary Science and Education," will be held 14-16 September 2009, in Juneau, Alaska. This meeting is the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Arctic Division. <http://www.arcticaas.org/meetings/2009/>

Recent Mammals of Alaska is a new book by S.O. MacDonald and Joseph A. Cook. Detailed entries for each species include distribution and taxonomic information, status, habitat, and fossil history. Appendices include quick reference listings of mammal distribution by region, specimen locations, conservation status, introductions and translocations,



and the incidence of Pleistocene mammals.

<http://www.uaf.edu/uapress/book/>

Best Research Practices, is a new book by Utah State University professor Charles Romesburg who examined 5,000 top scientific articles, studying the methods used to produce reliable knowledge. It explains how to plan and carry out reliable experiments, conceive and circumstantially support research hypotheses, test research hypotheses with the hypothetico-deductive method, and discover cause and effect.

<http://print.google.com/print?isbn=9780557017836>

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

1. [Administration Rejects Bush-era Forest Plan](#)
2. [America's Wildlife Heritage Act Introduced](#)
3. [Clean Water Restoration Act Wins Committee Approval](#)
4. [Western Governors' Association Signs Conservation Agreements](#)
5. [Climate Change Threatens National Wildlife Refuges](#)
6. [21st Century Youth Conservation Corps](#)
7. [Hunting Heritage Bill Introduced](#)
8. [Proposed Change to the Safe Drinking Water Act](#)
9. ['Solar Energy Zones' Promote Renewable Energy](#)
10. [Administration Fills Interior Positions](#)
11. [Updates](#)

2009 TWS Election Results: Paul R Krausman was elected vice president and all three proposed changes to bylaws were approved:

- 1) Changes how member dues are charged (from calendar year to anniversary date).
- 2) Requires that all individuals who wish to remain as Certified Wildlife Biologists or Associate Wildlife Biologists must be members in good standing which minimally requires that they have paid their national dues.
- 3) Provides for Section Board Members to be selected by other than an election, and

provides another option by which Sections may choose to compose their Executive Board.

JWM Sales Are Down; Help is Requested: TWS Council and staff were recently informed by Allen Press of unexpected significant drops in revenue from the sale of *The Journal of Wildlife Management (JWM)* to libraries, probably as a result of the recession. Revenue from page charges is also down. This is resulting in some severe budgetary belt-tightening at TWS Headquarters. TWS requests that all member professors at colleges and universities contact their libraries and let them know how important it is for you and your students to have access to *JWM*.

Alces Establishes Albert W. Franzmann and Distinguished Colleagues Memorial Award

Inspired by the passing of our beloved colleague, mentor and friend Al Franzmann in February, 2009, and to honour all of those who have passed on and have contributed to our knowledge and understanding of moose biology and management, *Alces* has established the "Albert W. Franzmann and Distinguished Colleagues Memorial Award." The one-time award, valued at CDN \$1,500, will be given annually to a graduate student entering or continuing in a Master's or Doctoral program at a recognized university in Canada or the United States. The applicant's research should be directed toward studies of the biology and management of moose within their circumpolar distribution or other ungulates or mammalian carnivores overlapping their range. The recipient of the award will be announced at the Annual North American Moose Conference and Workshop. For application details contact Dr. Arthur Rogers.

Donations (non-deductible) to support the *Albert W. Franzmann and Distinguished Colleagues Memorial Award* should be made payable to **Lakehead University Alces Account # 50-1606-2051** and be sent to: Dr. Arthur R. Rodgers, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Centre for Northern Forest Ecosystem Research, 955 Oliver Road, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada P7B 5E1. (From *The Wildlifer* #352).

New memberships and renewals for the 2009 calendar year are available on-line at The Wildlife Society's store
[\(https://store.wildlife.org/\)](https://store.wildlife.org/).



A tribute to an Alaskan wildlifer and friend— Margaret “Meg” Hahr

Former Alaska biologist, Margaret “Meg” Hahr, 41, died suddenly June 21, 2009 from injuries sustained in a mountain biking accident near her home in Munising, Michigan.

Meg recently moved to Munising to accept the position as Chief for the Division of Science and Natural Resources at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. She transferred from Kenai Fjords National Park in Seward, Alaska, where she served as a wildlife ecologist since 2006. She had been an active member of the Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society, running as a candidate for Secretary-Treasurer in 2008.

Meg was born November 19, 1967 in Plainfield, New Jersey. She earned a B.A. in English with a minor in Biology from Rutgers University and a M.S. in Environmental Studies from the University of Montana. Following a Student Conservation Association internship for the Bureau of Land Management in western Oregon, Meg spent two years as an Agroforestry Specialist with the U.S. Peace Corps in sub-Saharan West Africa. While there, she provided technical assistance to rural, subsistence farmers and herders in the areas of rangeland management, soil conservation, reforestation, wildlife conservation, watershed management, and sustainable agriculture.

Meg’s employment with the National Park Service began in 1998 as a wildlife technician at Glacier National Park. She conducted a winter distribution and habitat use study of lynx, fisher, and wolverine in Glacier National Park for her Master’s thesis through the University of Montana. Meg moved to Alaska in 2002 to manage the wildlife and natural resources program at Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in Skagway, Alaska. Her efforts there focused on bear management, habitat restoration, and inventory and monitoring of landbirds, waterbirds, western toads, and forest owls. As the wildlife ecologist for Kenai Fjords National Park, Meg was responsible for designing, implementing, and managing the park’s wildlife program. Her efforts focused on seabird monitoring, black oystercatcher research, and brown and black bear management.

Meg had spent only four months in her position at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, but she quickly conveyed her skills and abilities not only as a top notch resource manager but as a communicator and

supervisor. “The entire Lakeshore staff and the town of Munising are devastated at this loss of such a young, vibrant, capable, and dedicated person,” said Superintendent Jim Northup. “The National Park Service has truly lost a leader in her field. We will miss her greatly.”

Despite their short time in Munising, Meg and her husband, Sidney Shaw, who is a mental health professional, had become quickly engaged in the social fabric of the community and endeared themselves to many. “Meg was always one to fully engage in the act of living life, and to participate at all levels, at all times,” her family recalled. “Her kindness was infectious, and her energy and spirit inspirational. Meg was an accomplished outdoors woman who loved to hike, sea kayak, ski, and snowshoe. She also completed a yoga instructor’s course in Costa Rica, and was constantly exploring the outdoors and the world with her husband and friends. She was an amazingly balanced and centered individual who knew how to find and celebrate the joys in life, and who touched all our lives for the better.”

Meg is survived by her husband, Sidney Shaw of Munising; her parents, Arthur and Barbara Hahr of Plainfield, N.J.; and her sister and brother-in-law, Nancy and Neil Weidner and their family. Since Meg felt most at home outdoors and believed in the preservation of wilderness areas, a fund has been established with the Nature Conservancy. Donations may be made to this fund in Meg’s name at: Nature Conservancy, PO Box 6020, Albert Lea, MN 56007-9824; 1-800-628-6860; account #12005888. — *Gregg Bruff, family, and friends*



Gregg Bruff photo



American Association Of Wildlife Veterinarians Position Statement On One Health

Health care stewards of animals and humans face unprecedented challenges associated with emerging pathogens, loss of biodiversity, climate change, and explosive human population growth resulting in habitat loss and increased wildlife/human interactions. About 60% of existing human pathogens, and more than 75% of those appearing over the past two decades, are zoonotic. Many of these have a link with wildlife. An interdisciplinary "One Health" approach is needed that involves veterinarians, physicians, biologists, public health experts, and environmental health professionals, working to collaboratively address health concerns associated with these complex issues.

See the complete position statement at:
www.aawv.net/AAWVOneHealth.doc

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FREE hat to anyone who signs up a new member to the AK Chapter



Alaska Chapter Leadership

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