

NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION

TO ENSURE EXCELLENCE IN WILDLIFE TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

PRESIDENT'S PIECE



Jim Westerhold, NAWTA President-Elect
Horry Georgetown Technical College

ACCREDITATION RENEWALS!

- College of the North Atlantic
- SIAST: Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science & Technology
- Selkirk College

I am honored to serve as your President-Elect and feel challenged to be a guide through the 2012 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Georgetown, South Carolina scheduled for June 19-23. We will attempt to provide the same quality of education and entertainment value provided during the 2011 AGM from the staff of Lakeland College, Vermillion, Alberta. A huge “thank you” to Chris, Darcy, and Vee! You guys provided the warm and comforting flavor to a very cold climate. I still cannot believe snow-angels were done in June. The mountains are beautiful and countryside full of people wanting to please. Thank you again.

The 2012 AGM will be the 29th in NAWTA’s history, but the first in Georgetown, South Carolina and hosted by Horry Georgetown Technical College (HGTC). Georgetown is located along the coast about 1 hour north of Charleston and 1 hour south of Myrtle Beach, SC. HGTC (Brian Clark, Deanna Eddy, and myself) look forward to helping in any way which includes rides to/ from the airport to recommendations for grits toppings.

South Carolina is rich in history and natural resource diversity, both of which increase along the Atlantic Coast. Forests are the largest habitat component due to their strong revenue potential and we will observe forestry practices as we move from one field trip to another. Our educational field trips will be centered on wildlife ecology much as our students experience. We will attempt to spend a day on the Yawkey Wildlife Center assisting with research of the American alligator (we will have to catch a few), the endangered Red-cockaded woodpecker, and the Loggerhead sea turtle. There will also be a day trip to Charleston with stops at historic Boone Hall Plantation and beautiful (cont. p. 5)



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Terri Rogers, NAWTA Executive Director.
Hawkeye Community College

FIRST TIME ACCREDITATION!

Maritime College of Forest Technology was granted three year accreditation at the 2009 AGM. Their program is located in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada.

Spokane Community College was granted one year accreditation at the 2010 AGM. This Fish & Wildlife Technician program is located in Spokane, Washington, USA.

Welcome to NAWTA!!!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS

The big news for the semester is that the NAWTA web site has been thoroughly overhauled using the directive the members came up with at the AGM in Waterloo in 2010: make the site attractive to students visiting the site as well as faculty while maintaining our professionalism. All pages have been updated, web links to member institutions have been tested to ensure that they are currently working, and word documents have been corrected to reflect the current year.

However, we encourage you to contact me if you see any errors or broken links immediately so that they can be fixed. If there are links you wish to have changed, or resources that you find useful, please let me know so that we can make them available to all.

Just a note to let members know that the site does have a working members only page now that we can post information on, so if there are items you would like to see there, please let us know.

A Flash page has been added as an introduction as a trial basis. We CANNOT insert our own photos on it. If members believe it is distracting, I will remove it. Check it out and let me know. The text can be changed if you have suggestions.



Dwayne Oakley offers his 'paw' to scale Grey Wolf tracks found in the alpine of the Cardinal Divide at the 2011 AGM.

**2012 AGM WILL BE HOSTED BY HORRY GEORGETOWN TECHNICAL COLLEGE JUNE 19-23
AT GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA**

*Thanks to Chris Olsen and Lakeland College for hosting the
2011 NAWTA Annual General Meeting!*

NAWTA 2011 AGM

Officers for 2011-12

- Terri Rogers, Hawkeye Community College, Executive Director
- Chris Olsen, Lakeland College, President
- Jim Westerhold, Horry Georgetown Technical College, President-Elect
- Gerry Redmond, Maritime College of Forest Technology, Secretary
- Scott Albaugh, Zane State, Treasurer

By Chris Olsen

The 28th Annual General Meeting of the North American Wildlife Technology Association was hosted by Lakeland College, in Vermilion Alberta. Wildlife program faculty from ten member institutions were present (College of the North Atlantic; Holland College; Horry Georgetown Technical College; Lakeland College; Maritime College of Forest Technology; Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology; Selkirk College; Sir Sanford Fleming College; Spokane Community College; and Zane State College). Representatives from three additional member colleges (Hawkeye Community College; Pennsylvania State University; Vermilion Community College) attended a portion of the meetings by teleconference.

Following an evening reception on June 13th, business meetings were held in Vermilion on June 14th and early on June 15th. Highlights from the business meetings included reaccreditation applications and presentations from the Fish and Wildlife Technician Program of the College of the North Atlantic, the Integrated Resource Management Program at the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology, and the Recreation, Fish and Wildlife Program at Selkirk College. Based on reviews by the Accreditation Committee and the presentations, each was granted the full five-year reaccreditation. The organization also welcomed Spokane Community College's new Fish and Wildlife Technician program with a one-year, first accreditation. Thanks to each Program for their thorough documentation and excellent presentations!

Additional items of business related to our website updates, upgrades to our certification, and the ongoing efforts to finalize certification with the Wildlife Society (members can see the detailed minutes on the website). Holland College brought a new Transfer Credit agreement for NAWTA-accredited programs to the table, and we are pleased to note that the University of Prince Edward Island is now among a growing list of universities that welcome our graduates with block transfer.

Business aside, there was time for a little fun too, and everyone relaxed at a western-style Alberta beef barbeque on Tuesday night. Wednesday was largely a road day, and the group travelled to Hinton in the eastern slopes of the Rockies to experience some of the activities our students participate in during their 10-day fall camp. The friendly staff at the Forest Technology School in Hinton provided lodging and extraordinary dining while we toured and examined fish and wildlife on the industrial landscape adjacent to Jasper National Park. As always, mountain weather can bring anything, and a torrential downpour overnight sent streams over their banks and flooded the haul roads on the Cheviot mine. Our mine tour and electrofishing expedition were scrubbed, but local fisheries biologists gave us an on-site seminar on the elusive Athabasca Rainbow, and we followed Whitehorse Creek to see some Harlequin Duck habitat. Rain had turned to snow on the Cardinal Divide, and that was a chance to show our southern guests how the alpine can exist in fog and a foot of snow one day, and as a carpet of forbs and flowers the next.

On Friday, consultant Beth McCallum led our group to some of the reclamation in the area and we discussed wildlife on the industrial landscape. No grizzly bears showed up on this day, but we had a chance to see Bighorn Sheep up close and even watched an elk do her version of a 'distraction display' in the middle of parturition.

Our meetings and professional development finished on Friday with a trip into nearby Jasper National Park. The group toured to Maligne Lake, and hiked the trails in Maligne canyon. Friday evening was a time for fine dining on the banks of the Athabasca River, and to say farewell until meeting in South Carolina next year.



Dwaine Oakley demonstrates correct snow angel techniques to an incredulous (I can't believe it snows in June!) Jim Westerhold, and a 'this is sure not summer in Ohio', Scott Albaugh. (Left to right) 2011 AGM BELOW: Oh, yes, there are meetings!



DNR/HGTC interns William Mace (from left) and James Thompson secure a 9-foot female alligator so MUSC researcher Thomas Rainwater can take measurements for a study on the presence and effects of pollutants. They caught the reptile at the Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center Heritage Preserve on Friday July 8, 2011.



NAWTA 2012 AGM PREVIEW

We at Horry-Georgetown Technical College (HGTC) in South Carolina are very excited to host the 2012 Annual General Meeting during the dates of June 19-23, 2012. We will have the usual day or two business meeting including accreditation review. Educational field trips will include the Yawkey Wildlife Center (alligator capture (see attached picture and story), sea turtle research, endangered Red-cockaded woodpecker and Wood stork surveys, management of old rice fields for wildlife, and more), other private plantations on our way to historic Charleston, and local wildlife refuges.

HGTC has 3 campuses, but most/all of our time will be based at the Georgetown Campus. Georgetown is a coastal city located about 1 hour south of Myrtle Beach and 1 hour north of Charleston.

More on the Yawkey Wildlife Center and Alligator study the NAWTA 2012 AGM participants will most likely be involved with: Newspaper story:

<http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2011/jul/10/gators-give-warning/>

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Accreditation packages for 2012 are due April 1st.

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Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge. Other plans are to make short trips to local wildlife exhibits and possibly see marsh communities via a boat trip.

Of course we will have a day - two business meeting. During this business meeting we will review accreditation applications, meet new school representatives, update our commitments to NAWTA, share teaching techniques, and select new officers. The business meeting will tentatively take place during the majority of June 20th and the afternoon of the 21st.

All of the special equipment needed for the field trips will be supplied. The temperatures will be warm with highs around 90 degrees F and high relative humidity's. A detailed agenda and registration will be in the Spring Newsletter. However, feel free to contact me with any questions at 843-520-1401 or James.Westerhold@HGTC.edu.

Cardinal Divide: Day 1 Vs. 2



2011 Delegates in the traditional 'sign photo'. L-R front are Scott Lenthe, Zane State., Damian Baldwin, College of North Atlantic; Dwaine Oakley, Holland College; Michelle Lanoie, SIAST; Scott Albaugh, Zane State; Darcey Shyry, Lakeland College; and Vee Gotceitas, Lakeland College. L-R back are Dave Wood, Fleming College; Lu Marinelli, Selkirk College; Gerry Redmond, Maritime College; Chris Olsen, Lakeland College; Brian Gilbert, Spokane Community College; and Jim Westerhold, Horry Georgetown .