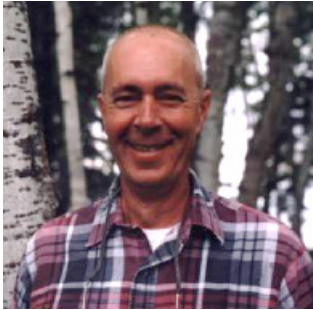




PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



NAWTA offers many benefits of membership and foremost is the opportunity to share regional experiences through our Annual General Meetings. All of our annual meetings provide access to new habitats for exploration

and discussions with professionals concerning management activities. I have gained valuable experience and lessons from traveling to schools throughout the U.S. and Canada that I bring to the classroom. We meet resource managers, see other school's teaching facilities, books and methods, get outside to tour unfamiliar territory, and see the similarities and differences in technical training. This professional development aspect of our meetings has been a teaching treasure. This year at Haywood Community College we will visit the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and are fortunate to have as our guide for Friday the park's premier Fishery Biologist, Steve Moore. On an all-day excursion we will have Steve's unique insights into the history of the wildlife-rich and immensely popular Cades Cove area, as well as current Brook Trout and fish management research results. Our after-dinner speaker for Saturday night will be Shannon Rabby, our new wildlife instructor. Shannon has dual AAS degrees in the areas of Wildlife and Forestry from HCC plus BS and MS degrees from Western Carolina University. Shannon's research concerned small mammal populations and how they are affected by forest cutting practices over time. His techniques documented first time records for two species in this region and highlighted some interesting population trends.

Our discussions this year during the business meetings concerning certification of technicians through TWS will be of enormous interest to us all. We look forward to hearing from any schools that might be interested in learning more about our NAWTA organization. While here, some may be interested in staying for a while to learn more about the southern Appalachians. This region is well endowed with recreational opportunities and

historic places to visit. If you have time after the meeting and want to do some sightseeing we will be glad to assist. I mentioned some items that you might find interesting in the last newsletter. Any guests coming to the meeting are welcome to accompany us on our field trips. During our business meetings there is always time for guests to do some exploring (especially shopping) and we will provide help with that too. Numerous attractions are within a one hour drive from campus. The Cradle of Forestry in America and Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education are nearby. It takes about 15 minutes to get on the Blue Ridge Parkway to see some fantastic scenery with elevations up to 6600 ft. The Biltmore Estate is the largest private home in America and visitors from around the world come to tour the magnificent house and gardens. Another area of intense popularity near campus is the elk reintroduction project in the beautiful old farmstead in the Cataloochee Valley area of the Smokies in North Carolina (camping, trout fishing and trails galore).

Ecologically the southern Appalachian highlands region is rich in biological diversity especially for plants, salamanders, small mammals, and birds. The USFS Coweeta Hydrologic Research Lab is only about 2 hours away from campus and very unique due to the long term climate and forest manipulation research conducted on a huge scale. Whitewater rafting on the Nantahala River is unforgettable and mountain bike trails at Tsali are world class. Snorkeling, trout fishing, camping, hiking, biking, boating on Fontana Reservoir, plus more. It's all here. If anyone is planning to come early or stay for a while after the meeting just let me know your interests. We are about 40 minutes from the Asheville airport where rental cars are available. I look forward to hearing from you. Rick

This is how pretty I was when we visited Keewatin Community College in The Pas, Manitoba. If you don't know about this NAWTA organization and you can't identify this tree, you need to check us out! Excellent, yes; Stuffy, no. You should have tasted the walleye and lake trout. From polar bears in the great white north to Georgia bobwhites, Congaree's snakes to Mount Lassen's lizards, "The Wilds" of Ohio to Idaho Peak, BC. What's near your school? We are interested!

North American Wildlife Technology Association
Annual General Meeting

Haywood Community College
Clyde, North Carolina
June 15-17, 2006

Tentative Agenda:

Thursday
15 June Thursday arrivals - shuttle service provided from Asheville Airport upon request
Afternoon: Officers Meeting (TBA)
7:00 p.m. Hospitality night/ Introductions/ Registration

Friday
16 June 7:00 a.m. Breakfast (provided)
8:00 a.m. Call to Order-AGM
8:30 Campus Tour
9:30 a.m. Depart for Great Smoky Mountains National Park All-Day Tour
12:00 noon Lunch (provided).
7:00 p.m. Dinner (provided)

Saturday
17 June 7:00 a.m. Breakfast (provided)
8:30 a.m. Business Meeting
12:00 noon Lunch (provided)
1:00 p.m. Business Meeting -TWS Certification discussion/planning
Time permitting: Afternoon Tour of Scenic Blue Ridge Parkway
7:00 p.m. Dinner (provided)

Sunday
Breakfast on your own
Optional Activities (TBA)
Departures/ Airport Shuttles



Some Smoky Mountain sites that Rick is monitoring for Trailer Park development...

North American Wildlife Technology Association
Annual General Meeting

Haywood Community College
185 Freedlander Drive
Clyde, North Carolina 28721
15-17 June 2006

Contact: Rick Lindsay, Instructor, Fish and Wildlife Management Technology
Phone: 828-627-4565
Fax: 828- 627-4690
Email: rlindsay@haywood.edu

Registration Form: (Please return to Rick by May 20, 2006)

Name: _____

College/University: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Guest's Names: _____

Flight information if requesting shuttle service: _____

Registration Fee: \$100 U.S.

Credit card payment can be made in advance by contacting our Cashier, Teresa Wood, at 828-586-4161. Checks should be made payable to Haywood Community College and delivered to the address at the top of this form. **Be sure to mention NAWTA, Attn: Rick Lindsay.**

Accommodations: Contact: Oak-Park Inn in Waynesville, NC 28786

Carolyn Brunk or Rick Gordon and specify NAWTA

Email: oakparkinn@aol.com

Phone: 828-456-5328

Fax: 828-456-8126

Please make reservations as soon as possible so we can release rooms that are not needed.



Executive Director's Comments – Spring 2006

I hope that all of you are beginning to enjoy the phenological changes that occur during the spring of the year in each of our regions. This has been a great year for our organization. The NAWTA web site has been available for all to access since July of 2005. Our webmaster, Lisa Clever, has been making updates and changes as needed to keep everything on the site current. We have added a Membership Application to the homepage, and encourage all of those individuals receiving our electronic newsletter to consider joining our fine organization. We have posted a number of links to educational materials that should be useful for faculty, students, and employers. I want to encourage all of you to provide feedback to me regarding our web site, and how it may better serve your needs as well as those of our organization.

I have been in contact with Dr. Dan Svedarsky, Professor and Head of the Natural Resources Department at the University of Minnesota – Crookston, over the recent weeks. We met up with each other at the 71st North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference held March 22 – 25, 2006 in Columbus, Ohio. During these meetings Dan and I had an opportunity to discuss certification of wildlife technicians that might be co-developed by The Wildlife Society (TWS) and NAWTA. Dan introduced me to Dr. Michael Hutchins, the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of TWS, and I discussed with him this exciting possibility. His vision for TWS is to develop partnerships and collaborations with other organizations to enhance their goals. He indicated that “change” is important as we look to the future. I was able to make a presentation at their Council Meeting, held during the conference, to let all of their members know about our organization and the excitement we have about working with TWS on this initiative. The Wildlife Society Council gave approval to establish a committee to work on this initiative. Dan Svedarsky has agreed to Chair this committee to look into this possibility and develop a framework on which to proceed. Dan will be attending our Annual General Meeting at Haywood Community College to facilitate a dialog with all of those present regarding wildlife technician certification. This will also be an opportunity for all of us to look at our Accreditation Standards and make recommendations on how they may be improved for the future.

I look forward to having Dan with us in North Carolina, and look forward with great anticipation the opportunity to work with TWS and Dan on the certification of wildlife technicians. This is a MAJOR step for the North American Wildlife Technology Association. I certainly want to thank Dan for all of his efforts. Many of us have been discussing this type of need for many years. Please make every effort to attend our June 2006 Annual General Meeting so this issue can be discussed. We will also benefit from the tremendous professional development activities that Rick Lindsay, our President, is planning for us.

SEE YOU IN NORTH CAROLINA!!

John R. Marks, Executive Director

NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION - ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONS

Aurora College – Thebacha Campus – Fort Smith, Northwest Territories CAN

College of the North Atlantic – Corner Brook, Newfoundland CAN

Haywood Community College – Clyde, North Carolina USA

Holland College – Prince Edward Island CAN

Lakeland College – Vermillion, Alberta CAN

Northern Alberta Institute of Technology – Edmonton, Alberta CAN

Pennsylvania State University DuBois – DuBois, Pennsylvania USA

Selkirk College – Castlegar, British Columbia CAN

Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology – Woodland Campus

Prince Albert, Saskatchewan CAN

Sir Sandford Fleming College – Lindsay, Ontario CAN

Zane State College – Zanesville, Ohio USA

OUR NAWTA WEB SITE IS UP AND RUNNING

www.nawta.org

NAWTA
North American Wildlife Technology Association

"To Ensure Excellence in Wildlife Technology Education"

We provide a forum for:

- To bring together, communicate and coordinate interests
- to ensure wildlife and fisheries technology programs of the highest level
- to develop curriculum guidelines
- to review programs
- to determine technologically specific needs, standards and budgets

Dedicated to the Promotion & Advancement of Wildlife and Fisheries Technologies for Twenty-two Years

North American Wildlife Technology Association
www.NAWTA.org

PLEASE CHECK US OUT!

Mission Statement:

“To Ensure Excellence in Wildlife Technology Education”



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