



Volume 14, Number 2

Spring 2003

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

It's here, spring has sprung and that means our annual meeting is just around the corner. I have included an application form inside for you to fill out and send in. Why not do it now

The following is a quote from Reed Noss in "The Naturalists Are Dying Off" (Conservation Biology 10(1):1:3, 1996) which is well worth digging out to read in its entirety.

"Like probably most of you reading this journal, I do not get out in the field much anymore. It is easy to rationalize the life of armchair ecology (now better called key-board ecology): field biology is laborious and low-paying. We have too many teaching and committee responsibilities—or too many papers to edit—to afford time in the field. We do not want to be away from our families for so long. Our dissertations are still sitting there on the shelf largely unpublished, so why collect more data? We cannot get big grants to do field work anymore. Computer modeling produces publishable results much quicker anyway. We can have much more influence and prestige spending our time supervising research projects, writing, speaking, and attending important meetings rather than tromping around in the woods recording data. The mosquitoes, chiggers, and cold wet feet are unbearable. We are getting to old for that stuff.

Every now and then I break free from the office, the computer, the telephone, the piles of manuscripts, and take up an invitation to visit a field site somewhere. I stumble over logs, get ripped by thorns, bitten by horseflies, stuck in mud, sunburned, and bruised.

I sweat, groan, spit, curse, and generally have a wonderful time. I fight back tears when I see old, long-forgotten friends—the wildflowers, ferns, trees, salamanders, fungi, and beetles I once knew so well but whose names now elude me as often as not. I begin to wonder what we, as conservation biologists, lose when we spend our time in conference centers rather than mountains, in airplanes instead of canoes, or peering into computer screens instead of down tortoise burrows. What do our students lose when we teach them how to model population viability and analyze remote sensing data, but not how to distinguish the song of the Bay-breasted Warbler from that of the Cape May, the track of the mink from that of the marten, the taste of the birch twig from that of the cheery."

It was hard to know where to stop with that quote, but I can promise we'll have you out in the field each and every day you are here. All you have to do is show up. I can't promise everyone will be bitten by horseflies, but we'll give it a go. Let's not have anyone accuse us of being "a bunch of computer nerds with no firsthand knowledge of natural history." See you at the meeting.

Hoagy Schaadt, President

**North American Wildlife Technology Association Conference  
Penn State University, DuBois Campus, DuBois, PA 15801  
May 29-June 1, 2003**

We've arranged for (modern) cabins with bathroom, kitchen and deck. They easily accommodate 2 or more people with a queen size bed and a sleeper sofa, but you need to bring your own linen (if that's a problem let me know, I'm sure we can arrange to provide some or at the least some sleeping bags). They are located in a forested setting, near a heavily developed lake, within 5 mi. of campus. The conference will begin with registration on Thursday PM (May 29th) and conclude at the end of our last field trip on Sunday (June 1).

Meals will be on campus-buffet style- featuring a pig roast with all the trimmings on Friday and a chicken barbeque on Saturday. I will need to know when you are planning to arrive and if you are staying on through Sunday's field trips. Spouse and family are welcome and can stay in the cabins with you. If you would like to share a cabin with someone else let me know and I will try to arrange it. I will also need to know how many are coming with you.

Pennsylvania at this time of year should be pleasant with highs generally ranging 80-90F and overnight lows of 50-70 F. Rain is always a possibility. The tentative schedule and additional details can be found in the last newsletter.

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**Registration fee of \$70.00 to be submitted with this form.**

The remaining fees will be collected at the conference.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will need one cabin (@ \$30.00/cabin/day, payable after arrival

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to share a cabin

\_\_\_\_\_ Total number of people that will be attending (including yourself)

If you have other need please advise me at 814-375-4747, or email [cps2@psu.edu](mailto:cps2@psu.edu)

Meal package: \$60.00/person. To be paid after arrival, in includes the reception, all meals on Friday & Saturday and breakfast on Sunday.

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Print this form and mail to:

Hoagy Schaadt  
MPB 7  
Penn State Univ.  
DuBois, PA 15801



**Hoagy Schaadt, President**

## **TENTATIVE AGENDA for the Spring 2003 ANNUAL MEETING**

### **Thursday, May 29**

PM: Arrival, check-in and informal reception in the evening

### **Friday, May 30**

AM: Business meeting and campus tour

PM : Tour and demonstration of elk population management techniques  
Host: Rawley Cogan, former student and PA Game Commission elk biologist, now with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

EVENING: Dinner speaker Gary Alt: former student, PA Game Commission bear biologist, now managing PA's (huge) deer population

### **Saturday, May 31**

AM: Continue business meeting

PM: Visit old-growth forest, Cook Forest State Park (possible herptile collecting) Host: Dale Luthringer, former student, Park Naturalist and old-growth specialist

EVENING: Dinner speaker Rob Brooks: Professor and original organizer of NAWTA.

### **Sunday, June 1**

AM: Conclude business meeting (if necessary)

PM: Canoe trip on the Clarion River



**Hugh Banks, Executive Director**

Our annual general meeting this year takes place from May 29th to June 1st at Penn State, Dubois and I would like to encourage members from all of North America's Wildlife Technology institutions to attend. I believe that present, past and potential members could all benefit from the professional development activities and peer information exchange planned for this year's meeting.

Although the general principles of wildlife management are geographically independent, the applications of these principles are greatly influenced by local habitat and environmental pressures. Since we are meeting in Pennsylvania this year, we plan to look at elk, deer and bear population management techniques from that area. I have always found it beneficial, from a personal education point of view, to compare management techniques from different places. It can often lead to changes in perspective and understanding of one's own region.

I don't believe that the importance of peer information exchange can be overstated. Education in wildlife technology in North America has tended to occur in relatively isolated pockets and unless a conscious effort is made to network our related programs, there is the potential for the lack of communication to lead to a considerable duplication of effort. Discussion of similar problems, pressures and frustrations along with anecdotal accounts of attempted solutions to these difficulties have, personally, been very useful. Although conferences on wildlife management are not uncommon, meetings on education in wildlife management are rare. These meetings have been very helpful in the past and I am sure that we will find this year's meeting just as valuable.

**This year is the twentieth anniversary of the inception of the North American Wildlife Technology Association and I would again like to extend my invitation to all interested parties to attend. Hope to see you in Dubois.**

Hugh Banks, Executive Director, NAWTA

P.S. for Canadian attendees: I am traveling through Toronto Thursday morning (May 29th) in a minivan and will have room for a few "hitch-hikers". Anyone interested in a ride from Toronto to Dubois should contact me ASAP by e-mail ([hbanks@flemingc.on.ca](mailto:hbanks@flemingc.on.ca)) or by phone: (705) 324-9144 Ext. 3355.

**NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION  
~ ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONS ~**

**Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College – Tifton, Georgia USA**

**Aurora College – Fort Smith, Northwest Territories CAN**

**Central Carolina Technical College – Sumter, South Carolina USA**

**Haywood Community College – Clyde, North Carolina USA**

**Holland College – Prince Edward Island CAN**

**Keewatin Community College – The Pas, Manitoba CAN**

**Lakeland College – Vermillion, Alberta CAN**

**Muskingum Area Technical College – Zanesville, Ohio USA**

**Pennsylvania State University DuBois – DuBois, Pennsylvania USA**

**Selkirk College – Castlegar, British Columbia CAN**

**Shawnee Community College – Ullin, Illinois USA**

**Sir Sandford Fleming College – Lindsay, Ontario CAN**

## **Brief Book Review**

Wildlife Ecology and Management, Fifth Edition by Eric G. Bolen and William L. Robinson has just been published by Prentice Hall. If you have used any of the previous editions of this text you will know the quality of the diverse content presented. The authors have continued in their goal “to introduce undergraduate students to wildlife management by presenting a broad overview across a spectrum of topics –wildlife diseases to public policy, exotic introductions to forest management, and predation to urban wildlife”. I have used this text since 1989, when Dan Svedarsky from the University of Minnesota, Crookston, introduced members of NAWTA to this book at our Annual General Meeting.

This new edition brings a comprehensive overview of so many critical topics our students need to know and recognize throughout their studies. A sense of history is included along with the presentation of new developments in each chapter. The authors indicate in the Preface that more than 390 new references are cited. I definitely recommend this text to you.

John R. Marks

## North American Wildlife Technology Association 2002 - 2003 Officers / Committee Chairpersons

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### ~ IMPORTANT NOTICE ~

Please identify items of importance to be included in our Spring Newsletter 2003. Send or email all announcements, committee updates, articles, photographs or other materials by April 1, 2003 to:

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