

NAWTA NEWS & VIEWS



To Ensure Excellence in Wildlife Technology Education

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

BY PRESIDENT BEN HOTELING

The NAWTA Annual General Meeting will be held this June 12 -16 at Holland College in Charlottetown, PEI, Canada. These meetings are combined with professional development and field trips that provide opportunities for sharing ideas among peers and seeing local wildlife habitats and research. All participants gain valuable experiences from other colleges that we can take back to our classrooms for the benefit of our students' technical training. This year's professional development will include trips to some unique seashore habitats and some ecological forestry initiatives taking place on the Island. We'll take a trip to some parts of the Island to see some wildlife including some of the best birding areas and some of the recent wind power generation initiatives.



Discussions on the technician certification through The Wildlife Society will continue as well as our usual business meetings and new accreditations. News about some college's progress towards four year degree wildlife progress will be presented and there will be opportunity for discussion.

The maritime region of eastern Canada is beautiful and unique with many habitats and incredible scenery and for those of you who wish to spend some extra time in the area there is a great deal of information available through the Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Provincial websites. For those who would rather contact me, please email your questions to bhoteling@hollandc.pe.ca. I will have some information mailed directly to you.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS

BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOHN R. MARKS

The 24th Annual General Meeting of The North American Wildlife Technology Association will be here before we know it. Ben Hoteling, our President, from Holland College is planning some wonderful professional development activities for us as well as ample time to discuss several very important issues facing our organization. We need to have a broad representation from as many of you as possible to continue our discussions regarding Wildlife Technician Certification with The Wildlife Society. We have made some great progress on this initiative, but need to address some additional issues that were raised at the March 2007 TWS Executive Committee meeting. Dan Svedarsky continues to provide the coordination between our two organizations.



It has been a number of years since we have addressed our NAWTA Accreditation Standards. The timing for looking at these standards is perfect. There are questions regarding on-line or distance learning courses and how they impact each of our programs. There has also been an increasing trend for our two-year and three-year graduates to continue their education at the four-year level. How can we cultivate additional articulation opportunities for our graduates?

There have been several recent articles relating to the large numbers of individuals working in the wildlife management arena that will be retiring within the next three, five, and ten years. The TWS "Wildlife Professional" has just come out with a cover story on "Graying of the Green – Facing the Retirement Gap". This is an excellent article with many meaningful perspectives. What are the possibilities for graduates of our wildlife programs to fill entry level positions that will result from other individuals moving up to fill vacancies resulting from these retirements? How can we become better advocates for our graduates?

Please make every effort to attend our meeting on beautiful Prince Edward Island, Canada. I look forward to meeting new individuals and to continue interactions with others that have spanned parts of three decades. All are welcome to experience the tremendous interactions, professional development, and friendships that arise out of our NAWTA Annual General Meetings. See you in PEI.

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TENTATIVE AGM AGENDA

- Tuesday, June 12 Arrivals, settle in, hospitality evening, introductions and registration.
- Wednesday, June 13 AM: Business meeting, campus tour
PM: Eagle banding (weather dependent)
Evening: Harbor Tour
- Thursday, June 14 AM: Tour of Eastern PEI
PM: Tour of Greenwich Parabolic Dune system
- Friday, June 15 AM: Business Meeting
PM: Macphail Woods Ecological Forestry Project tour
Evening: Banquet and guest speaker Bob Bancroft
- Saturday, June 16 Departures, optional field trip

North American Wildlife Technology Association Annual General Meeting

Holland College
140 Weymouth St.
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
C1A 4Z1
June 12 – 16, 2007

Contact:

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NOTES OF INTEREST

- Research data and project results will be provided at this year's AGM.
- Great movie resources for the classroom and beyond!
<http://www.pbs.org/pov/>
- As of April 29, 2007 NAWTA.org has received 17,392 hits.
- Don't forget to request certificates for you graduates!
- Registration forms for the 2007 AGM are due May 25.





**North American Wildlife Technology Association
Annual General Meeting
June 12 – 16, 2007**

Holland College ~ 140 Weymouth St.~ Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

**Registration Form:
(Please return by May 25, 2007)**

Name: _____

College/University: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Guest's names: _____

Flight information if requiring pick up: _____

Registration Fee: \$175 Can. Includes meals for June 13, 14, and 15.
 \$100 Can., meal package for guest

Accommodations are available at the new student residence at \$70 per night for a two bedroom apartment (includes continental breakfast).

Method of Payment

- Check payable to Holland College
- VISA
- Master Card

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Cardholder's Name _____ Cardholder's Signature: _____

Contact: Ben Hoteling, Learning Manager, Wildlife Conservation Technology
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