

NAWTA NEWS & VIEWS



To Ensure Excellence in Wildlife Technology Education

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

BY PRESIDENT BEN HOTELING

Preparations are underway for the NAWTA Annual Conference to be held on Prince Edward Island, Canada, June 13 – 16, 2007.

Plans are shaping up to include two Professional Development field trips. Our first adventure will be to the Greenwich Dunes adjunct to the PEI National Park. This site is one of the few parabolic dune systems in the world. The second Professional Development trip will be to the Mcphail Woods Ecological Forestry project. Gary Schneider has been practicing ecoforestry for the last several years at Mcphail Woods and has produced some fantastic results.

PEI is a fantastic area for birding, for those of you who are interested we may be able to look at some of the local avifauna. Take some time to look at PEI visitor information. I welcome any suggestion for entertainment or can help you schedule a personal adventure. For more information contact me by email at bhoteling@hollnadc.pe.ca; I'll see what I can do to help you out. Visitor information can be found on the provincial government website <http://www.gov.pe.ca/visitorsguide>.

Of course we will be conducting the usual business meetings and accreditation and since the Island is known for its traditions lobster suppers that is what we will be planning for the banquet. Don't forget to register soon. More information will be available on-line and in our next newsletter.



Vol. 18, Num. 2 - Winter 2007

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS

BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOHN R. MARKS

I hope everyone is looking forward to the 2007 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of NAWTA to be hosted by Ben Hoteling and Holland College. Prince Edward Island should be beautiful during our meeting dates of June 13–16, 2007. Please check out the newly added photos of the region that are posted on our web site.



Individuals traveling to Canada via air plane from the United States need to be reminded of the **new travel requirements** effective January 23, 2007. They require individuals traveling by air to have a valid U.S. passport. This requirement does not impact those traveling by motorized vehicle until January 1, 2008. However, securing your passport ahead of time may be a very good idea. Please do not delay in applying for your passport, since it may take from 6 to 8 weeks for processing. Please plan early so you will be able to attend our meetings! Additional information is available on-line at the following web address: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc_2223.html (There is an underline symbol before the 2223.html)

Continuing progress is being made regarding Wildlife Technician Certification. Dan Svedarsky from The University of Minnesota – Crookston will be providing information to TWS Executive Committee in mid-march. Comments from the NAWTA sub-committee studying this process have been forwarded to Dan. I would be interested to hear any additional comments regarding this issue from wildlife faculty.

Our Web Site continues to develop and our Newsletter is on schedule to be delivered three times per year. I encourage all of you to make a few comments so we can continue to improve on these communication vehicles.

I look forward to some wonderful opportunities in June 2007 at our AGM. Please make every effort to attend.

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WEBMASTER'S WORDS

BY NAWTA WEBMASTER LISA CLEVER

NAWTA.org keeps growing. As of March 12, 2007 we have had 167,718 hits! Our most active month in the past year was January 2007. I look forward to posting many new and interesting photos and further developing our *Member's Only* section. If anyone has photos they would like to see online please email them to lisaclever@yahoo.com.

PASSPORT PROBLEMS?

BY LISA CLEVER

If you are planning to fly from the United States to Canada its not too late to apply for a passport. New federal regulations require US Citizens to show a passport for all international air travel.

To obtain a passport for the first time, you will be required to apply in person. This can be done at most Federal, state and probate courts, post offices, some public libraries and other municipal offices. When applying for a passport you will need to bring two identical photographs of yourself, proof of US Citizenship (ie. certified birth certificate), and a valid form of photo identification.

Renewal of a passport can be done by mail if your most recent passport is available to submit and not damaged, it was issued within the last 15 years, and you still have the same name or can legally document your name change. If you do not meet all of these criteria you must renew your passport in person.

Receiving your passport can take up to 10 weeks, so apply early to avoid paying for the Expedited Service. Routine Service cost \$97.00; this includes the passport application fee of \$67.00 and an execution fee of \$30.00. Routine Service passport requests are normally received within six weeks but can take longer. Expedited Service passport requests are normally fulfilled in two weeks. This service costs an additional \$60.00 plus overnight delivery costs. Because of the sudden demand for passports the Expedited Service can take as long as four weeks.

Don't delay your application for a passport. For more information and detailed application requirements visit <http://travel.state.gov/passport>, your local library, or post office.

NOTES OF INTEREST

- The deadline to submit copy for the next NAWTA newsletter is April 21. Please email copy to lisaclever@yahoo.com.
- Registration information for the 2007 AGM will appear online after April 9. Additional information will be available in the Spring Newsletter.
- US Citizens are required to present a passport for all international airline travel. Don't forget to apply for or renew your passport for the 2007 AGM at PEI, Canada.

