



March 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Peter Hettinga
Longbow Lake, Ontario

I am pleased to announce that after a long hiatus that the Ontario Chapter of The Wildlife Society is back! Following an election which took place this past summer, the six positions of the Executive Committee are staffed with members committed to the continuation of the chapter and its development as a resource for new and existing Ontario Chapter members.

The intent of this newsletter is to inform existing Ontario Chapter members on what the new executive has in mind for the upcoming year and to encourage new members to sign up. We would also like to take this opportunity to bring some attention to what is occurring within the Canadian Section and the Parent TWS.

Since becoming the new executive back in June 2017, we have been busy considering what role the Ontario Chapter should play to current and future members. Of principal interest to the

executive is in maintaining and building our membership through providing a forum for discussing and promoting the awareness of wildlife related issues in the province.

The Ontario Chapter will soon be making a student travel award available to student chapter members. These awards will ideally promote wildlife related research topics being given greater attention at research forums in Ontario and elsewhere. The intention is for this award to be made available and advertised by this spring in anticipation for conferences occurring in summer 2018.

Another project underway is the revision of the Ontario Chapter bylaws to bring them more in line with those of other chapters and the Canadian Section. Proposed changes include shortening the term length for chapter president down to a single year and allowing e-ballots for the purpose of voting in executive committee members. Hopefully the results of these, and other, efforts make the Ontario Chapter more accessible to its members and

easier to manage for those who wish to take a role on the executive committee.

The current initiatives being considered are based on what the current chapter executive feels would benefit the chapter membership the most. To this extent, it is important that we

hear from the membership on what they want from the Ontario Chapter. There are many potential paths forward the chapter can take and using the knowledge of existing chapter members will allow us to build on our collective strengths and create something we all find valuable.

MEET YOUR CHAPTER EXECUTIVE

President – Peter Hettinga

Peter is a wildlife biologist with an interest in large mammal species; particularly modelling species habitat relationships to inform land use planning. Currently, he is a biologist with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in Kenora, Ontario where he does a range of wildlife related activities including supporting harvest planning for three Wildlife Management Units, planning studies for and managing species at risk and providing biological expertise into land use planning. Peter's prior employment was as a biologist with an environmental consulting company located in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Notable accomplishments included providing support for completed environmental assessment work at two environmental hearings, producing a poster presentation for the 22nd Annual TWS Conference and preparing Regional Cumulative Effects Assessments for moose and coastal caribou populations. Peter is a TWS parent society member since 2014 and an Ontario Chapter member since 2016.



Past President – Neil Dawson



Neil has been employed by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources since 1986 and his current position is as the Wildlife Assessment Program Leader, Northwest Biodiversity & Monitoring Unit in Thunder Bay. He obtained a BSc from the University of Guelph in wildlife biology & management (1984) and worked as a District/Area Biologist in Chapleau District from 1986 to 1996 before moving to Thunder Bay. He has been a member of TWS from 1989-1994, and 2000 - present. He has been a member of the Canadian Section and Ontario Chapter of TWS since their establishment.

His primary work activities are in broad-scale wildlife monitoring for terrestrial vertebrates in the area of commercial forestry in Ontario and wolverine management in the province.

President Elect – Danielle Ethier

Danielle has spent the last decade studying species-at-risk in Ontario's agroecosystems, resolving critical ecological knowledge gaps to better inform recovery planning and implementation. Specifically, for her PhD, Danielle developed an applied research program on Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark to better inform Ontario's Grassland Stewardship Initiative. Danielle is also a founder and manager of the Ontario Badger Project, which uses interdisciplinary research approaches, including extensive public outreach, to understand the habitat characteristics and resources needs of this elusive carnivore. Danielle is currently working as a Terrestrial Ecosystems Science Specialist with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in Peterborough.



Secretary-Treasurer – Morgan Hawkins

Morgan currently works as a Wildlife Research Technician with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF). She has been a part of the Wildlife Society family since she was an undergraduate at Trent University. During that time she filled the roles of Treasurer, Secretary, President and Advisor for the Student Chapter on campus. She is a passionate advocate for wildlife conservation and supporting young professionals in the field through experience and education. Over the past five years she has worked with Trent University professors and OMNRF research scientists studying a plethora of species such as meadowlarks, black bears, northern and southern flying squirrels, fishers, and skunks. Many of these projects were conducted to answer questions that advised provincial management decisions. She is an enthusiastic addition to the Ontario Chapter, please do not hesitate to connect with her regarding the Chapter or wildlife work in general!



Member-at-Large – Emilie Kissler



Emilie is a wildlife biologist and has always been interested in cross-disciplinary work and her focus is on plant-animal interactions at an ecosystem level. Currently, she is a terrestrial ecosystem science specialist with the Northeast Region of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in South Porcupine Ontario. Emilie completed her HBSc. at the University of Guelph in Biological Sciences with a focus on Wildlife Biology. She gained her MSc. at the University of Sydney in Australia on Wildlife Health and Population Management. She is currently completing her PhD at Memorial University in Newfoundland on the impacts of moose on forest regeneration across the island of Newfoundland.

Prior to starting her PhD Emilie worked with Newfoundland's provincial Wildlife Division as a research biologist on topics ranging from moose health, to rare lichen abundance and diversity. While working in NL she also worked and contributed to the research and game management programs for both small mammals and fur bearers (snowshoe hare and the NL marten) and big game species programs including moose, caribou and black bears.

Member-at-Large – Matt Dyson

Matt is a PhD Candidate in the School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability at the University of Waterloo studying waterfowl demography in the western boreal forest. Matt completed his BSc at the



University of Northern British Columbia in 2013 and was active in their student chapter during his undergrad. Matt received his MSc from the University of Western Ontario in 2015, where he studied habitat selection and survival of wood ducks. Matt has been an active member of the Canadian Section as a member of the executive board, Student Rep 2013 and Secretary-Treasurer 2014-2016, and as a committee member for the website, newsletter, education, and membership and recruitment committees. In addition to completing

his PhD, Matt is also currently working on his Associate Wildlife Biologist certification through TWS.

Matt is interested in promoting the value and importance of a professional society/network of wildlife biologists in Ontario through helping to reenergize the Ontario Chapter. Matt enjoys spending time fishing, hunting, and hiking with family. If you are interested, you can follow Matt on twitter @mattdyson89 to keep up with his research.

CHAPTER NEWS

NEW LOGO – You may have noticed at the top of the first page that there is an Ontario Chapter logo which was designed for us after the executive committee considered a variety of different options. Because it is such a nice logo I have decided to show it again here:



The executive committee is in agreeance that it is pretty awesome. It features our province as the backdrop to a moose, the trillium, the gray jay and a turtle; all representing various categories of wildlife we strive to understand and conserve. Lynzey Ruscitti, a wildlife activist in her own right, was the artist we worked with to create the logo. If you know someone who needs a professionally designed logo, particularly one that features a wildlife species, Lynzey is the person to contact. In addition to her nominal fee, Lynzey was provided with a complimentary membership to the Ontario Chapter. Welcome aboard Lynzey! (Contact: lynzeyruscitti@gmail.com).

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED – The Ontario Chapter has been recently approached by chairs of two committees run through the Canadian Section to have representatives of the Ontario Chapter on board. As the executive committee of the Ontario Chapter is busy with a number of things, we would like to extend the invitation to join either the CSWTS Conservation Affairs Committee or the Certification Committee to Ontario Chapter members. A brief description of these two committees is as follows:

Conservation Affairs Committee. (Standing Committee) This committee shall review legislative proposals, administrative regulations, environmental assessments and impact statements, prepare white papers on critical wildlife issues, and other subjects or issues affecting wildlife or wildlife habitat within the geographical area of the Section and make recommendations to the Executive Board for any action that should be taken by the Canadian Section. This committee is comprised of a chair, interested members, as well as the chair from each of the active chapter CACs. Further information on the Conservation Affairs Network can be found here:

<http://wildlife.org/policy-2/conservation-affairs-network/>

Certification Committee. (Ad Hoc Committee) The CSTWS Certification Committee will work with the TWS Parent Organization's Certification Review Board (CRB), provincial certification associations within Canada (e.g., Alberta Society of Professional Biologists, the College of Applied Biology in British Columbia, L'Association des Biologistes du Québec, and ECO Canada), and various levels of government in Canada (e.g., Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee) to achieve a nationally recognized wildlife certification standard.

If you are interested in becoming involved in one of these two committees please let me know at peter.hettinga@ontario.ca so I can pass on your information to the respective committee chairs.

Contribute to the Wildlife Professional magazine! Do you have Ontario-related wildlife research or stories that wildlife professionals in other provinces and countries might be interested in? If so then I encourage you to submit an article for publication to the Wildlife Professional. More information can be found at <http://drupal.wildlife.org/publications/twp>.

CANADIAN SECTION NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Erin McCance, CSTWS President, Wildlife Biologist, EcoLogic Environmental Inc.

Hello fellow CSTWS members,

I hope this newsletter finds you all doing well, with thoughts of spring soon to come keeping you all positive!

We have a great event planned that we hope all of you can attend. The Canadian Section and the Manitoba Chapter of The Wildlife Society are hosting a joint conference on March 16, 17th, 2018 at the Holiday Inn West, in Winnipeg Manitoba. The conference includes: a Student Networking Event, Thursday March 15th, 2018 at the Holiday Inn West from 7-10pm, both the CSTWS and MB Chapter TWS AGMs on Friday March 16th, a Poster and Networking Event on Friday evening (bus transportation included) at Fort Whyte Alive, a special Boreal Plenary, on Saturday morning March 17th and a Dinner and Banquet event with award announcements on Saturday, March 16, 2018. To register, please visit the following link: <http://www.tws-mb.com/2018-joint-annual-general-meeting-conference>. A draft agenda of the conference is located within this newsletter.

The Call for Paper and Posters for the Conference is ongoing! The submission form can be found on the Manitoba Chapter of TWS website: <http://www.tws-mb.com/2018-agm-paper-submission>. Poster and paper submission deadline is March 1, 2018. We look forward to your submissions!

Student Travel Awards are available (up to \$1000) to attend the joint meeting of the Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society and the Manitoba Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The application deadline has been extended to February 21, 2018. To apply, please follow the link on our conference website: <http://cstws.ca/canadian-section-agm/>, and submit applications to Dr. Nicola Koper: nicola.koper@umanitoba.ca. Applications from all students will be considered. Preference may be given to applicants who live more than 100 km from Winnipeg (and thus whose travel expenses are higher).

If any of you have Silent Auction items that you can donate to the cause and bring to the event, we would be very grateful! Don Sexton will be accepting the donated silent auction items on Saturday, March 17th at the back of the conference room. Thank you!

Over and beyond the above noted joint CSTWS and MB Chapter Conference, is the up and coming 25th Annual TWS Conference, to be held in Cleveland Ohio. This being the 25th Anniversary event, it is sure to be an exciting event with a diverse array of presentation sessions and networking events. Please find the "Save the Date" and the Field Trip Announcements in this newsletter. Please note that the conference dates are Oct. 8-11 (Monday-Thursday), which are the core conference days, although workshops will be held on Sunday, Oct. 7. We hope that we will see many Canadians presenting and attending!

In other news – The search for the Canadian Section of TWS Executive Coordinator is under way with the selection committee reviewing and interviewing candidates for that opportunity. The contracted Executive Coordinator position is a one-year term position aimed to assist the Canadian Section in advancing our position on wildlife management and science in Canada and to assist us with a number of key strategic steps to that effect. The Selection Committee will provide updates on that process as they become available.

Lastly, if there are any members of the Canadian Section who would like to join one of our various committees, or get more involved, please forward me an email: emccance@shaw.ca. We would love to hear from you! Thank you to all for the continued support.

PARENT SOCIETY NEWS

TWS Leadership Institute Now Accepting Applications

The Wildlife Society's flagship leadership training program, the Leadership Institute, is now accepting applications for its Class of 2018! Select early-career professionals will receive leadership training, mentoring, and a travel grant to attend TWS' Annual Conference in Cleveland, Ohio, in October 2018.

Participation in the Institute is geared toward early-career professionals, typically individuals 2 to 3 years out of school (either undergraduate or graduate school), currently working full-time in a wildlife professional position, and with demonstrated evidence of their leadership potential. Also eligible are more recent graduates who have shown strong evidence of their leadership potential and those who are working while concurrently pursuing a graduate degree. All applicants must be members in good standing of TWS and a chapter or section of TWS. The selection committee will be seeking to create a diverse group with participants of varying gender, ethnic, and regional diversity, with selection based upon:

- An excellent academic record
- Demonstrated leadership capability or potential
- Demonstrated level of excellence in current position
- Commitment to and involvement in TWS

Preference will be given to individuals who are certified as Associate Wildlife Biologists® or Certified Wildlife Biologists®, or who have submitted such an application to TWS.

Learn more and apply [here](#). The application deadline is 18 March 2018.



MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

Ontario Chapter members have been up to some interesting things recently. Here is a link to one such story involving the transport of woodland caribou between islands in Lake Superior.

<http://wildlife.org/tws-member-helps-relocate-caribou/>. Keep up the good work Art!

Join Entomica! Join Entomica at the 4th Annual Sault Ste. Marie Science Festival from April 23 to April 28th, 2018. Entomica, Sault Ste. Marie's Insectarium, will be visiting select seniors retirement residences as part of our Science for Seniors program. Seniors will engage with live, hands-on insect displays of some of the worlds most beautiful insects and will have the opportunity to interact with scientists eager to share their passion and expertise in the field.

The festival wraps up with the Science Carnival on April 28th at the Machine Shop. This is a one day community celebration to provide families with the opportunity to participate in engaging, fun and interactive science and technology activities. Entomica will be there presenting our live insect collection and providing hands-on interaction with a variety of exotic insects.

Entomica is always looking for volunteers who have a keen interest biology, entomology, science education or would just like to be involved with a bugtastic community organization! Come help us out with the Science for Seniors program, the Science Carnival, or just come by and say hello. We would love for you to bug us! For more info contact: michael@entomica.com

Canadian Fish and Wildlife Professionals Facebook Group: An Invaluable Resource for New and Seasoned Wildlifers Alike!

The Canadian Fish and Wildlife Professionals (CFWP) Facebook Group was started in May 2015 (originally named Ontario Fish and Wildlife Professionals) by Dr. Everett Hanna CWB(r), then a contract professor at Fleming College in Lindsay, ON. Everett started the group to provide a way to unite the community of fish and wildlife professionals across the large province of Ontario because he had always wanted a similar resource in the early days of his career. The group has since grown to greater than 435 members at last count, including members from BC to the Maritimes, hence the name change in 2016.

The group is a great place to keep up to date with all things fish and wildlife ecology and management, but CFWP is particularly valuable as a place to learn about employment and graduate student opportunities. Many of the current members have learned of and secured employment through the group, both in Canada and the USA. To that end, the membership is keen to provide support to others seeking to secure employment, including navigating the logistics of obtaining a Visa required for working south of the border.

So, if you're looking to secure an amazing job, or just wanting to broaden your professional network, consider joining the CFWP group!

Do you have something you would like added into the newsletter as a 'member contribution?' If so please contact me at peter.hettinga@ontario.ca.

CONFERENCE & MEETING NEWS

Joint Canadian Section/Manitoba Chapter TWS
Annual General Meeting and Conference
Winnipeg, MB
March 16-17, 2018

52nd North American Moose Conference and
Workshop
Spokane, WA, USA
May 14 – 18, 2018

Canadian Society for Ecology & Evolution (CSEE)
University of Guelph
Guelph, ON
July 18 -21, 2018

North American Congress for Conservation
Biology (NACCB)
Toronto, ON
July 21 – 26, 2018

7th International Martes Symposium
Ashland WI, USA
July 30 – August 2, 2018

2018 Canadian Herpetological Society Annual
Conference
Kamloops, BC
September 21 – 24, 2018

The Wildlife Society (TWS) 25th Annual
Conference
Cleveland, OH, USA
October 7 – 11, 2018

17th North American Caribou Workshop
Ottawa, ON
October 29 – November 2, 2018



Ontario Chapter of The Wildlife Society



2018 Membership Renewal/Application

Join online at TWS's secure website at: <http://wildlife.org/join/> (Parent TWS membership required also)

OR

Complete this form and return with your payment (cheque) to:

Secretary Treasurer, The Wildlife Society – Ontario Chapter, 3517 B-Line Road Pembroke, ON K8A 6W7

OR

Complete this form and contact Morgan (Secretary Treasurer) at mm-hawkins@live.com for other payment options

Last Name

First Name

Address

City

Province

Postal Code

Telephone (daytime)

Email Address

Annual Fees:

\$10.00 Regular

\$5.00 Student

Academic Institution: _____

Please make payment out to: TWS Ontario Chapter

Please Note: The Wildlife Society – Ontario Chapter will not share your information with third party organizations, although your information may be shared with The Wildlife Society parent organization for records management. The Wildlife Society – Ontario Chapter may contact you from time to time with updates on Chapter events and activities.