



The Alaskan Wildlifer

Newsletter of the Alaska Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Spring Issue - May 2017



Message from President Scott Brainerd

Our Annual Meeting is the highlight of the year for the Alaska Chapter. There are a lot of moving parts that have to be attended to, and there are always last minute glitches that need to be identified and fixed. With stricter agency policies regarding travel and attendance of scientific meetings, there is also the concern that we will not achieve the minimum number of registrants to ensure that receipts balance expenses. In addition, it is important that these meetings are perceived as worthwhile by those attending. Our aim is to provide a venue for professional development and training, networking between professionals and students, and recognition for those that have made lasting contributions to wildlife conservation in the state.

The core of the organizing committee is the President-elect and members of the Chapter Executive Board. Local members also often help in planning and helping out with the meeting. The President sits in on the planning meetings, but the prime responsibility is on the shoulders of the President-elect. Planning for the next meeting usually starts soon after an annual meeting is held. Each President-elect is responsible for planning two meetings before becoming president.

This year, President-elect Nate Svoboda was responsible for organizing the meeting held in Fairbanks last month, and he did an outstanding job. Early on, he identified the main theme of the conference: "Cross Cultural Connections," a

theme which is near and dear to his heart. Nate drew upon his contacts and experience with the Native community to put together a meeting that addressed the issues and concerns regarding wildlife management on Native lands in Alaska. Although past meetings have focused on subsistence issues, I believe this was the first meeting to address wildlife management from an Alaska Native perspective. It was certainly also the first one with a significant component addressing Alaska Native culture as a context for wildlife management. Alaska Natives have a long tenure as stewards of our wildlife resources and heritage, something we should all know and appreciate as wildlife professionals.

Other committee members engage in insuring that the many details concerning registration, logistics and finances are addressed to keep things running smoothly in a timely manner. A special thanks to Kerry Nicholson for her hard work on the meeting and banquet logistics, and to Dan Thompson for his innovative and tireless work with online registration and payment. Both individuals put in a tremendous effort which helped to ensure success while saving the Chapter money. Thanks also to Dr. Todd Brinkman, UAF student chapter president Jessica Herzog, as well as all the students from UAF and UAA that volunteered at the meeting and banquet! Thanks also to Grant Hilderbrand for helping overcome some critical and unexpected last minute hurdles!

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President's Message - Continued

This was the first joint meeting with the [Alaska Herpetological Society](#) (AHS), which helped in many ways with organizing the conference and ensuring that the meeting was a success! For many of us traditional Wildlifers, it was interesting to learn more about a taxonomic group that receives little attention at our meetings. Thanks to AHS president Mark Spangler for reaching out to us. I would also like to thank UAF graduate student Nils Pedersen, for stepping up to provide a workshop on Wildlife Service Dogs, which by all accounts was very interesting and informative!

The wonderful introduction to the first day's session, performed by the Inu-Yupiaq Native Dance Group, literally set the tone for the first day's program. Plenary speaker [Larry Mercurieff](#) gave us important insights into Alaska Native culture and experience that was helpful in that regard. His interactive workshop was both entertaining and insightful for many of us. The roundtable discussion with representatives from the Native community and managers that have worked closely with them provided important perspectives, as did the presentations the following day given by Ahtna representatives.

In addition to our main theme, there were presentations on a variety of topics, including work conducted outside of Alaska, in such far flung places as Mongolia and Fennoscandia. The depth and breadth of presentations and posters was impressive, and it was gratifying to see so many students presenting their work.

Harriet Allen, Northwest Section representative on the TWS Council, gave an important update on news from the Parent Society (see her piece on pages 6-7). At the business meeting, an overview of chapter activities was given, as well as a call for committee members for our COWCH work and for strategic planning. Thanks to Todd Brinkman for offering student involvement in COWCH, and to Tom Paragi for volunteering to lead work on revising our strategic plan, which will include a reevaluation of our goals and vision as a Chapter, including our financial basis. Another issue that was discussed was whether to change our bylaws to allow membership independent of the Parent Society. Tom Paragi will also help us to define

the question on the ballot that will be sent out to membership on this issue, as required by TWS bylaws.

Rather than hold the banquet at Wood Center, it was held at the Exhibit Hall at Pioneer Park. This presented more challenges in terms of transportation, catering and bartending, but the extra effort paid off with a nice venue with live entertainment by the band "Cotton Ginny" and an interesting talk about the history of bowhead whale hunt management by Dr. Craig George, Senior Biologist at the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management. The highlight for me was presenting well-deserved awards to Mr. David James (Lifetime Achievement) and Mr. Kevin White (Professional Achievement). Read more about their achievements on pages 4 -5 of this newsletter!

Thanks again to everyone who organized and/or participated in this year's Annual Meeting! We are already starting our work on planning next year's meeting, so stay tuned in our next newsletter for an initial announcement regarding the meeting location and dates.

Follow us on Facebook!

You can "like" us on Facebook! On our Facebook page, we are posting information on scientific publications relevant to Alaska's wildlife, announcements of upcoming meetings, and job openings. If you have ideas on how we can most effectively use our Facebook page, contact the Executive Board through the Chapter email: twsalaska@gmail.com



Regional News

Northern

Kerry Nicholson, Northern Representative

Personnel Changes

John Haddix formerly with Fort Wainwright, Alaska Natural Resources Program has started a new position with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Fairbanks. His position is the Assistant Field Manager for Eastern Interior Field Office, Visitor Services and Manager for the Steese National Conservation Area (NCA). Within the Steese NCA it is John's intent to attract more research oriented projects to the area. John would like to hear from researchers that may be interested in working in the Steese NCA on what research projects they may be interested in, what challenges researchers see as limiting their ability to conduct research, and how BLM can, with limited resources attract and better support research in the NCA. Contact John at jahaddix@blm.gov or (907)474-2350.

Don Young is retiring from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). Born in a small blue-collar Pennsylvania town, Don Young spent most of his free time playing sports, fishing, hunting and trapping. Don's love for hunting and trapping sparked a need to understand how to look after this precious resource that gave him so much enjoyment. Thus, Don moved out west to study wildlife management at the Universities of Idaho and Montana. He could *bearly* contain himself as he chased black and grizzly bears around Idaho and the Selkirk mountains and taught science to rural kids of central Montana. In the late 80s Don decided he needed more grizzly adventures so he jumped on a plane and headed north – Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was calling his name. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service captivated Don's spirit for 8 years as he chased more bears, wolves, eagles, and caribou before he decided he needed a new challenge – to manage the frontline of public information for hunters and fishermen throughout Interior Alaska for ADF&G. This was just the platform he was looking for as it launched him into his dream



TWS-Alaska Chapter Regions: Northern, Southcentral, and Southeast.

career as the Fairbanks Area Biologist. For the next 20 years Don managed people, big and small game, and his beloved furbearers and became a steward of wildlife that he had dreamed about as a young boy in Pennsylvania. Don is now retiring and off to start yet another new chapter on the YBAR ranch in New Mexico.

Southcentral

John Trent, Southcentral Representative

Personnel Changes

Tim Peltier has accepted the Palmer Area Biologist position with ADF&G in Region IV – a role he has been effectively fulfilling since August. Tim, a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, completed his graduate work in wildlife biology at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks examining ungulate nutritional ecology. He brings over 23 years of multiagency experience to this position including more than 13 years with the ADF&G as the division's Permit Biologist, and most recently as the Palmer Assistant Area Biologist. Over the years Tim has demonstrated a strong understanding of the complexities wildlife managers face as well as a commitment to the successful management of Alaska's wildlife resources. Tim is a team player and his personable nature will serve him and the region well in this position.

Continued on page 10.



Wildlife Conservation Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement

Award winner: Mr. Kevin S. White
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Juneau.

Mr. White has published at least **11 peer reviewed papers** in the past 5 years on moose and mountain goats. His work on mountain goats has essentially set the benchmark of understanding goat ecology in Alaska. His early collaboration with present and past goat researchers in creating a range-wide assessment of goat survival was innovative in combining new and historical data to better understand goats throughout Alaska. His collaborations with Aaron Schafer on goat genetics (2 publications) defined goat biogeography, and his 2014 paper in Ecology elegantly tells of how migratory behavior within a population of moose can influence fitness. Along with being very prolific in publishing, Mr. White is passionate about presenting his work at professional meetings. For example, he has been a lead author on a presentation to the Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council meeting every meeting since 2006.

His long-term study on Gustavus moose has, and will continue, to contribute to our understanding of moose ecology. Fiscal conservatives will also appreciate that his Gustavus work is often done on a shoestring budget through a successful methodology of ground darting (i.e., tip toeing through the forest), eliminating the expense of helicopter captures.

Outside the peer review arena, Mr. White is also a skilled photographer. He authored the Mountain Goat Research section of the ADF&G website, which includes some of his amazing photography. Mr. White helped spearhead an educational pamphlet to help hunters distinguish the difference between male and female goats to aid in focusing the harvest on males, which contributes to the long-term sustainability of harvest. This has had a positive impact on goat management across Alaska's goat range. Mr. White has also helped strengthen cultural traditions. He has fostered relationships with **Alaska Native weavers** in acquiring goat wool for producing traditional native tapestries.



In addition to his strong publication record, Mr. White is a great source of information for his colleagues across agencies and is always available to provide insight and assistance. He is quick to volunteer for such time consuming tasks as organizing professional meetings, including the 2014 Alces Conference, TWS Alaska Chapter meetings, and a department symposium on mountain goats. Mr. White is an all-star biologist with the Department of Fish and Game and highly deserves this recognition for Outstanding Professional Achievement.



Lifetime Achievement in Professional Accomplishments over at Least 20 Years

Award winner: Mr. David D. James
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fairbanks
(retired)

Mr. James worked for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for over thirty years, retiring in July 2015. He was also a certified wildlife biologist with TWS. During that time he worked as an assistant area biologist in Kotzebue, an area biologist in Ambler and Petersburg, and a management coordinator and regional supervisor in Fairbanks. Throughout his career, Mr. James maintained an uncanny recognition of the importance of public involvement in state resource management decisions.

As an area biologist, Mr. James made it an integral part of his management program to regularly visit villages, meet with residents, and integrate local knowledge and ideas into regional policies and wildlife conservation efforts. Though it required an incredible amount of time and energy to provide this involvement, Mr. James understood the long-term value and importance of doing so and never compromised this aspect of his management programs. As a result, he was deeply trusted and respected by locals and colleagues alike and was thereby able to implement successful conservation actions. He always understood the importance of seeking to understand the big picture and avoid jumping prematurely to inaccurate or inappropriate conclusions. He believed that local ideas and perceptions, though sometimes at odds with Western teachings and practices, should be treated respectfully and incorporated whenever possible. His actions built trust, and that trust resulted in local support.



When Mr. James moved to Petersburg, he inherited local hostilities towards the Department. During his short tenure there, he was able to turn those hostilities into positive working relationships that resulted in positive conservation actions for local wildlife populations. In Fairbanks, as Management Coordinator and later Regional Supervisor, Mr. James was able to connect with a broad array of groups, individuals, and interests. Groups with vastly different ideals and agendas trusted him. During these years as a supervisor, he was successful in leading efforts to collect data, share that data with

the public, and implement needed but often controversial antlerless moose hunts. Mr. James' confident, open, and honest approach to issues, and the integrity he never compromised, enabled him to be an ambassador for wildlife and a consummate conservationist.

With his trustworthiness and tenacity, he was successful in implementing highly politicized predator management efforts. In his later years with ADF&G he was instrumental in accomplishing the reintroduction of wood bison onto Alaska's landscape, arguably one of the greatest conservation efforts for Alaska. His patience, persistence, and ability to work with diverse

interests to find common ground were keys to this success.

Beyond these accomplishments, he mentored a large cadre of young and upcoming biologists. As a result, these professionals are better prepared to successfully undertake the challenges of managing and conserving Alaska's wildlife. With his legacy of competence, integrity, persistence, and trust, Mr. James richly deserves recognition with this Lifetime Achievement Award for professional accomplishments spanning the past thirty years.



TWS Northwest Section Representative Report on TWS Council Activities - April 2017

by Harriet Allen

It's been a busy spring, and I am grateful to have been able to attend Chapter meetings in Montana, Alaska, and Washington this year. All three meetings had diverse, interesting and timely plenary sessions that generated a good deal of participation from the members attending. There were also good discussions at the chapter business meetings. This year The Northwest Section met with the Montana Chapter; next year it will be meeting with the Alaska Chapter.

The Deadline for TWS Awards was May 1. Don't forget to honor your colleagues by nominating them for these TWS awards!! The deadline for all other nominations was also May 1. Visit wildlife.org/awards to learn more about all of our annual awards. One of the new TWS awards is the **Jay N. "Ding" Darling Award for Wildlife Stewardship through Art**. This award, presented for the first time last year at the Raleigh conference, recognizes any type of "artistic" item or accomplishment that promotes, achieves, or benefits wildlife stewardship.

Since last fall, The Wildlife Society has continued active engagement and implementation of its' Strategic Plan and a strong emphasis on providing benefits to members. Benefits now include: *The Wildlife Professional* magazine, which is now delivered 6 times per year; the weekly eWildlifer and TWS talks; free online access to all TWS journals; the online member directory: TWS Network; an online policy library; and discounts for conferences, journals and textbooks. If you're not already a member, go to <http://wildlife.org/join/> for more information.

Some activities from this spring include:

Council Meeting. The Wildlife Society's Spring Council meeting was held March 5-6, 2017 in Spokane, Washington, prior to the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference. An important task for Council at this meeting was to approve the budget and operations plans for 2017-18. Executive Director Ken Williams presented a proposed budget that was

discussed, refined, and then approved by Council. The Society continues to be financially vigilant, through frequent, detailed monitoring, and is maintaining a strong, positive financial position, while remaining conservative in expenditures. We also addressed future development and staffing of Society programs, partnerships, and opportunities for international engagement.

Jane Jorgenson. TWS suffered a huge loss in March with the passing of Jane Jorgenson. She served TWS for several decades, and was the Society's institutional memory. Her broad responsibilities included bookkeeping, financial tracking and reporting, human resources, and contract administration. She was known and loved by hundreds of TWS members and will be greatly missed.

Leadership Succession. Current TWS Executive Director Ken Williams is retiring at the end of June and the Society has named Ed Thompson as its next Executive Director (ED) and Chief Executive Officer. Thompson was selected from more than 30 candidates as part of a year-long search process. The Search Committee interviewed 5 candidates just prior to the Spring Council meeting. Thompson, who currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of the Society, will take over the new Executive Director role on July 1 when current ED Ken Williams retires. He brings more than 20 years of executive experience in membership organizations, including three years with TWS.

2017 Annual Conference. The 24th Annual TWS conference will be Sept 23-27 in Albuquerque, NM. The Education and Training Committee is in full swing reviewing proposals submitted for symposia, workshops, panel discussions, and paper and poster presentations. The conference website will open for registration May 15. Student, Professional and New Professional members will receive a \$50 discount in addition to their \$200 member savings if registered by June 30.



TWS Council Report - Continued

Funds have been raised for Native American Student travel grants, which will enable TWS to bring between 11-15 students to the Conference, so if you know of someone who might be interested in applying for the grants, please let them know about this opportunity.

Working Groups. At the request from two TWS working groups (Wetlands and Student Development), headquarters will be providing a table during the Annual Conference so all Working Groups can be promoted during the meeting. TWS has 27 working groups, which cover a broad scope of the wildlife profession. The working groups are an important source of expertise to provide input and review for the Society's position papers and technical reports. Please consider joining a working group that you may be interested in.

Publications. Council approved Dr. Merav Ben-David, a professor of wildlife ecology and management at the University of Wyoming, as the new editor-in-chief of Wildlife Monographs. Ben-David obtained her doctoral degree at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and after graduating, remained there as a research associate, investigating subjects such as the ecological impacts of the Exxon Valdez oil spill. She replaces Dr. Eric Hellgren, professor and chair of wildlife ecology and conservation at the University of Florida, Gainesville, who oversaw the publication of 25 monographs during his 10 years as editor-in-chief.

Membership – TWS membership was 9,799 in January—an increase of 878 members from last year. The current membership mix is 53% professional, 27% student, 11% new professional, and 9% retired. Automatic renewal is also now available and has been adopted by about 30% of the membership.

A new initiative, the Give Back Program was launched in December. Under this program, renewing members may nominate a colleague for a 6-month free membership. The nominee may accept or decline. This is a great benefit that members can offer to

colleagues who may want to try out membership for free. Since the launch of the program, 2,592 members have renewed online and 592 have nominated an individual for a free six-month membership. Of that number, 451 have accepted the offer. Consider nominating one of your colleagues when you renew!

Government Affairs and Partnerships. The Council approved Government Affairs and Partnerships policy priorities for the 115th Congress (through January 3, 2019). While implementing these new priorities, staff will also work in the broad scope of issues that impact wildlife professionals and their work in sustaining wildlife populations and habitats. Government Affairs staff continued to engage in policy efforts with Sections and Chapters through the Conservation Affairs Network. The new online Policy Library is now available through the Member Portal. It allows members to search for TWS policy letters, comments, and testimonies submitted since 2010.

Certification. Council approved a request from the Early Professional Working Group to amend the current certification program requirements to provide for a 3-year extension to the 10-year time limit for Associate Wildlife Biologists to apply to become Certified Wildlife Biologists. This will allow more time, if needed, for applicants to obtain the required 5 years of professional experience.

Hope you are having a great spring,

Harriet Allen
Northwest Section Representative to Council

Join or renew memberships

New memberships and renewals are available on-line at The Wildlife Society (www.wildlife.org/alaska/). Click on membership to obtain membership forms.



Bats in Alaska - Volunteers Needed to Monitor Bats

By Riley Woodford, ADF&G

On a pleasant evening in mid-May I watched 1,213 bats emerge from a roost in Juneau. A steady stream of one, two, or three bats flew out every few seconds for a half-hour, between 9:45 and 10:15. I know the exact number because a state wildlife biologist carefully counted them.

With the help of almost 150 volunteers in a half-dozen communities across Southeast Alaska, biologists have learned a great deal about Alaska's bats in the past three years. They've documented the presence of species that were not known to be found in Alaska. They're gaining a better understanding of habitats where bats are found, and their distribution.

Two factors help fuel the current interest in bats – White-nose Syndrome and translocation. White-nose syndrome (WNS) is a fungal disease that infects bats in winter during hibernation. Over the past decade, millions of bats in the Eastern US and the Midwest have died from the disease, and it's spreading. In the spring of 2016, an infected and dying bat was found near Seattle, more than 1,300 miles from the nearest known case of WNS, in the Midwest. How the fungus spread to the Seattle area is unknown, but some biologists suspect the bat hitched a ride on a ship or some other form of transport, and was translocated.

It's well documented that bats have "stowed away" on boats in North America and been transported to Europe; and to Iceland as well, which has no native bats. Bats in Central America boarded ships passing through the Panama Canal and were discovered en route to Australia. Bats are also translocated when they get closed inside shipping containers. A pallid bat was discovered in Victoria, British Columbia, in a shipment of lettuce from California.

Biologists with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game are working to minimize incidents of "hitchhiking" bats. They encourage people to carefully check camping and boating gear that is pulled out in the spring after being in storage for winter. Bats



A biologist tags a little brown bat with a metal wing ID band at Fish Creek on Douglas Island near Juneau.

will tuck themselves away in awnings, umbrellas, covers, and in and among piles of gear, and then get transported in RVs, trailers, and boats.

Biologists also want to know when hitchhiking bats are discovered. This can help biologists better understand, and hopefully combat, the spread of bat diseases to Alaska and other western states. Biologists also want to know if people find sick or dead bats, especially in the spring. More information on reporting sick or dead bats is available here: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livingwithbats.deadbats>

State wildlife biologist Tory Rhoads is focusing on bats and is organizing surveys in five Southeast communities in 2017 – with the help of volunteers. This is the fourth year citizen scientists have helped with bat monitoring and research.

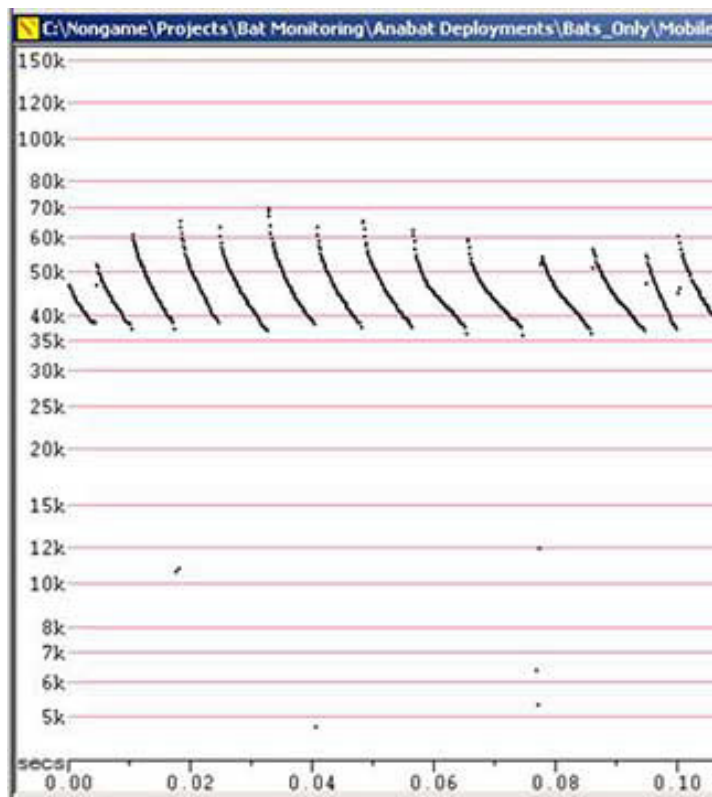
“The last three years of data have been incredible for us, thanks to citizen scientists,” she said. “Gathering population data on Southeast Alaska bats is crucial in assessing the impact of White-nose Syndrome, should it arrive.” A great deal has been learned by citizen scientists conducting driving surveys. The process is pretty straightforward: about 45 minutes after sunset, the volunteer drives an established route at 20 mph for about an hour, with a bat detector that signals (and records) when it “hears” a bat. A GPS logs the route and helps record the location of bats. The bat detector translates the high-frequency bat call into something



Bats in Alaska - Continued

audible to human ears. Rhoads said the citizen scientist can hear the call on the bat detector when it is detected.

“It’s a kind of repetitive clicking sound,” she said. “The detector also saves a sonogram of the bat call so we can analyze it and determine the species.” A sonogram is a visual representation of a bird song or bat call, showing the duration and frequency of the sound.



A bat sonogram - a visual representation of a bat call. the vertical axis represents the frequency, the horizontal axis the duration.

Surveys will be conducted this summer in Juneau, Sitka, Petersburg, Wrangell, and Haines. This spring, Rhoads and biologist Steve Lewis delivered presentations and training in each community, providing a slide show of the different bat species, results from previous surveys and instructions on how to conduct a survey. They also visited local schools.

Biologists enlisted volunteers to drive a survey once a week, or every other week, over a 25-week period



A volunteer citizen scientist prepares for a driving survey. She’s plugging the microphone into the bat detector.

between early April and early October. A volunteer can drive a single or multiple surveys.

Patty Kermoian drove surveys the last two summers in Haines, and she’ll be volunteering again in 2017. She drove both transects in Haines, and said setting up the bat detector is fast and pretty easy. “You’re driving very slow, and you do hear the bat sounds, and sometimes you’ll see a bat,” she said. “There’s a website set up and you can see your results. It’s fun to get the results and find out what bats (species) you’re seeing on the different routes you drive, and how it progresses over the summer.”

There are two transect routes in Juneau, one on Douglas Island and another running from the Mendenhall valley north out the road. There are also two transect routes in Haines, one from Chilkoot Lake to Mud Bay and the other starting at mile 31 on the Haines Hwy and ending downtown. Other communities have a single transect. The volunteer has flexibility regarding which night to drive. “It’s totally weather dependent,” Rhoads said. “It can’t be rainy or really windy.” Volunteers sign a volunteer agreement before checking out the equipment and fill out a data sheet about weather and conditions at the time of the survey.



Regional News - Continued

Southeast

Kevin White, Southeast Representative

Personnel Changes

ADF&G Wildlife Technician **LaVern Beier** retired in November 2016 after working for the State more than 40 years. He began his tenure with the department in 1973 as a Fish and Wildlife Protection Aide and throughout his career worked in Southeast Alaska studying salmon, bears, goats, moose, deer, elk, wolves, and wolverine. A natural inventor, he advanced the development of wildlife capture tools and procedures for many species. His dedication to the conservation and management of bears in Alaska was evident during his safe handling of more than 1,000 captured bears. From the early days studying brown bears on Admiralty Island to his last project estimating population abundance along the Yakutat Forelands, he eagerly contributed his unique skills and expertise which translated into program success. Lavern intends to stay in Juneau, living on his 1937 wooden Bristol Bay monkey boat, writing a series of books chronicling his adventures with bears and the people with whom he served.

Annual Meeting Student Poster and Oral Presentation Award Winners!

Mathew Cameron

University of Alaska - Fairbanks
\$100, 1st Place Oral Presentation

Joseph Eisaguirre

University of Alaska - Fairbanks
\$75, 2nd Place Oral Presentation

Taylor Stichcomb

University of Alaska - Fairbanks
\$50, 3rd Place Oral Presentation

Adam Haberski

University of Alaska Museum
\$100, 1st Place Poster Presentation

Jessica Herzog

University of Alaska - Fairbanks
\$75, 2nd Place Poster Presentation

Elise Stacy

University of Alaska - Fairbanks
\$75, 2nd Place Poster Presentation

Tessa Hasbrouck

University of Alaska - Fairbanks
\$50, 3rd Place Poster Presentation

Bats in Alaska - Continued

Bats are active seasonally in Alaska, from April to October, and it's suspected they hibernate locally. Passive bat detectors set up in Juneau have detected bats in winter. "Activity falls off at the end of October, but we picked up a silver-haired bat at Auke Lake in December last year," Rhoads said.

Seven species of bats have been documented in Alaska. The distribution of the most common and widespread species, the little brown bat, includes most forested regions of the state south of the Brooks Range, and in coastal areas extending along Southeast to the Alaska Peninsula and as far north as Norton Sound. Six other species of bat, Keen's myotis, California myotis, long-legged myotis, Yuma myotis, hoary bat, and the silver-haired bat have an annual range that is restricted to Southeast Alaska.

Click here to volunteer for [community driving surveys](#)

Here, a two-minute video: "[Bat Driving Survey](#)," shows how the survey process works.

Another video, "[Bat Captures in Southeast Alaska](#)," offers details about bat captures and research in Alaska. Biologists are not planning any bat captures or tagging this year.

More information on [citizen science](#)

What to do if you find a sick or dead bat

More info on bats, bat monitoring, reporting observations, and bat citizen science

[Living with Bats](#) and,

[Bat species profiles](#)



In Memoriam - Jim Rearden (1925-2017)

Published in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner on Feb. 23, 2017

Greatly loved and surrounded by family, Jim Rearden died unexpectedly Feb. 18, 2017, at the South Peninsula Hospital in Homer. The family planned a private graveside service for Feb. 23, with a memorial tribute planned for a later date.

Jim was born in Petaluma, California, the second son of Barton and Grace Rearden. After finishing high school at 17, and with his father's permission, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in March 1943, and served on board the USS *Lovering* as a sonar man in the Central Pacific. After an honorable discharge at the end of the war, he enrolled in Oregon State College at Corvallis, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in fish and game management in 1948.

He was accepted by the University of Maine, where he earned a Master of Science degree in 1950. He was then hired by the University of Alaska Fairbanks to organize a new wildlife department. He taught as head of that department for four years. He resigned his university position in 1955 and became a full time freelance writer, photographer, and big game guide.

In 1959, he was hired as the area biologist for the newly formed Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Cook Inlet, a position he held for nearly 10 years. In 1970, he became the outdoors editor for Alaska Magazine, a position he held for nearly 20 years. Simultaneously, he was field editor for Outdoor Life magazine. He wrote approximately 500 magazine features for 40 magazines around the world, including National Geographic, Audubon, the German and



Jim Rearden in 2013

Photo by Homer News

French GEO, National Wildlife, and International Wildlife.

In 1970, he was appointed to the Alaska Board of Fish and Game where he served for five years. In 1975, he was appointed to the Alaska Board of Game and served seven years. In the 1970s, President Gerald Ford appointed him to the National Advisory Committee on Oceans and Atmosphere, where he served 18 months. Jim has written 28 books on Alaska subjects.

He was named Historian of the Year in 1999 by the Alaska Historical Society for his book, "Alaska's Wolf Man." In 2005, UAF awarded Jim an honorary degree for his teaching, wildlife conservation work and writing.

In 2011, the Alaska Humanities Forum honored Jim with the Governor's Award for distinguished service to the humanities. In 2016, the Homer Council on the Arts named Jim the Artist of the Year for outstanding professional accomplishments and service to the community.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, a sister, grandson, and former wife, Ursula Rodgers. He is survived by five children, Kathy Rearden, Mary (Bruce) Bookman, Mike (Nita) Rearden, Nancy (Ken) Kleine, and Jim K. Rearden, three stepchildren, Terry Sagmoen (Loulare), Mike Sagmoen, Tamara (Charles) Halkett; his wife of 51 years, Audrey; 20 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and many close, dear friends.

Please visit www.legacy.com/obituaries/newsminer to sign an online guest book.



TWS Alaska Chapter Leadership

Your 2016-2018 Executive Board

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You can contribute. We need your story ideas. Help keep AK-TWS members connected.

Are you working on an interesting project you'd like to share with other Alaska TWS members? Do you have news to share with colleagues? Please make note of upcoming events, projects, personnel changes, issues, or anything else of interest to other Alaska TWS members, and pass them on to your regional representative for inclusion in our next quarterly newsletter. If you know of something that would make an interesting newsletter article and can't write it up yourself, please contact newsletter editor Kaiti Ott at kaithryn_ott@fws.gov or 907-456-0277.

Help us keep this newsletter interesting and informative!

