



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Leaders in Wildlife Science, Management and Conservation

British Columbia Chapter

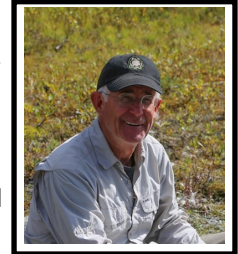
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President	Rod Davis
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Secretary-Treasurer	Tyler Muhly
Director	Pat Baird
Director	Bill Harrower
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You can reach us any time at tws.bc.chapter@gmail.com	

Message from the President

Welcome to our inaugural TWS BC Chapter newsletter. Your new executive board has been working enthusiastically on revitalizing the Chapter as an organization serving the interests of people dedicated to sound management and conservation of the rich wildlife heritage of British Columbia. You will find short bios of us in this and subsequent newsletters. We have been working on several things needed to provide opportunities for members to engage and to ensure a sound governance framework for the organization. This has included drafting a program framework, and considering ideas for newsletters, a membership survey, membership recruitment, webinars, annual meetings, training opportunities, etc. You will find some of these ideas explained in this newsletter. But we are really looking for ideas and involvement from all of you. We are currently a small organization spread out across the Province, and this will challenge our capacity to get people together. Expanding our numbers by encouraging new members to join and lapsed members to re-join will help build our capacity to deliver an interesting program. Building partnerships with government agencies, other associations such as the College of Applied Biology and the Association of Professional Biologists, and others will help build momentum.



So, we'd like to hear from you! Please take time to complete the survey you will be receiving and consider volunteering on a committee to help us out. And encourage others to join taking advantage of The Wildlife Society's 'Give Back' program allowing you to sponsor a colleague for a 6-month free membership.

The Wildlife Society's 'Give Back' Program

The Wildlife Society has initiated an incentive program whereby a TWS member can gift a six-month complimentary TWS membership to an active wildlife professional of their choice to introduce that person to the many benefits that TWS has to offer. You'll find details on the TWS website (<http://wildlife.org/giveback/>). Membership benefits include association with ~10,000 researchers, managers, conservationists, Federal and Provincial employees, and other wildlife professionals world-wide, and also access to three significant scientific journals: (*Journal of Wildlife Management*, *Wildlife Society Bulletin*, and *Wildlife Monographs*). The Canadian Section of TWS, created in 2007, has several provincial chapters established across the country, of which the BC Chapter is one. Help us build the BC Chapter by nominating a colleague to join!

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Get involved in the BC Chapter of The Wildlife Society (BCTWS)

You don't need to be on the Executive to play an important role in BCTWS. The BC Chapter is made up of several standing committees, each with a critical role in supporting and directing the Chapter. We are looking for volunteers to chair and participate in each of the following committees:

Membership and mentoring: Are you interested in meeting and networking with other wildlife professionals? Do you have ideas about how to get more people involved in BCTWS or are interested in helping young professionals gain experience and launch their careers? Join the Membership committee!

Programs: Want to help plan or do you have ideas for the BCTWS annual meeting? Join the Programs committee!

Conservation Review: Are you passionate about making sure wildlife have a voice in legislative and policy decisions in BC and Canada? Join the Conservation committee!

Education: Are you interested in teaching and sharing the importance of wildlife biology and management with the public? Join the Education committee!

Public Statements: Are you interested in hearing and sharing what others have to say about wildlife management in BC? Join the Public Statements committee!

Audit: Do you like finances? Are you interested in how BCTWS spends its money? Join the Audit committee!

Please email tws.bc.chapter@gmail.com to get involved in any of these committees, **with subject line "committees"**

Logo Contest for all Wildlife Society Members

The Executive of TWS-BC Chapter encourages every member to get in touch with their artistic talents and design a logo for our Chapter. It can be any size when you submit it, and should be either square or more horizontal than vertical in order to fit well on stationery and on this newsletter. Perhaps further on we can envision adding t-shirts, ball caps, tote bags, and mugs. Be creative! The logo should reflect the habitat of BC, including animals that live in BC. The logo can include more than one animal (e.g. mammal, bird, insect, etc.) - so long as it lives in BC and will be recognized. Your name will be at the bottom of each logo, so start creating! You may send the logo as a png, or as a quick sketch on a Word document. It does not have to be in its final form. Send it to: tws.bc.chapter@gmail.com with **"logo contest"** in the subject line. **Due 1 April**

The BC Chapter's Plans for the Coming Month

- ◆ **Members who want to join The Annual Meeting of the Manitoba Chapter.** The next meeting of the Manitoba Chapter and the Canadian Section of TWS will be held in Winnipeg 15-17 March 2018 at the Holiday Inn airport West & Fort Whyte Alive, Winnipeg Manitoba. **The Abstract Deadline for Papers and Posters has been extended until 1 March.** For more information, go to:
<http://www.tws-mb.com/2018-joint-annual-general-meeting-conference>
- ◆ **Deadline for articles for the next Newsletter** is 15 March 2018. Please submit news items of interest or breaking news on wildlife research, conservation, or management.
- ◆ **April 5-7 Richmond—Meeting of the Association of Professional Biology.** "Emerging Science and Shifting Challenges: Looking Beyond Wildlife Policy" and a panel on the future of wildlife management in BC. They want perspectives from BC projects, especially using innovations in monitoring and conservation technology. Opportunity for members to share their work, especially if it would contribute to wildlife conservation & management in BC. *<https://professionalbiology.com/professional-development-networking/annual-conference/>*

IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE

With input from you our members, we hope to keep connected, not only with this newsletter, but also with annual meetings held in various parts of the Province. We may also have Twitter information on wildlife in BC and we can even have a Twitter conference down the line. Send all ideas to tws.bc.chapter@gmail.com with “ideas” in the subject line.

Introducing the Board

Tyler Muhly Tyler has over 15 years of experience as a wildlife biologist. He grew up in Hinton, Alberta where he spent a lot of time outdoors and developed a passion for wildlife. He has a PhD and Masters degree in wildlife ecology and management from the University of Calgary. For the last two years he has been working for the provincial government in the Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch. He spent one year as a Director of the Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society before he moved to British Columbia. He is excited about the opportunity to grow the British Columbia Chapter of the Wildlife Society and to continue to get to know members of British Columbia’s community of wildlife professionals.



Scott Yaeger Scott Yaeger has been a professional wildlife biologist for more than 25 years, with wildlife research and environmental consulting experiences spanning North America. He holds a B.S. degree in Wildlife Management and an M.S. in Natural Resources from Humboldt State University in California, and secured his R.P.Bio. after moving to British Columbia in 2014. Since relocating to British Columbia, Scott has focused on monitoring, restoration, and reclamation programs associated with energy infrastructure programs and the development of furbearer habitat conservation approaches.

After 25 years in our profession, Scott still feels fortunate to have made this his career choice indicating that his satisfaction is in no small part due to his enjoyment of his fellow colleagues. As a long-term member of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society, Scott looks forward to the challenge of launching the British Columbia Chapter and helping it to grow and thrive as an entity where members can find the support, energy, and learning resources they need in pursuit of a rewarding career. Equally important to Scott is to help make the B.C. Chapter **fun**.



Provincial Project Snapshot—how you can share your research with members

Let BCTWS members know about your efforts. Share a brief description of your project or idea in a future newsletter by sending 300 words or less to BC.TWS@google.com with “**project snapshot**” in the subject line. Stories could be about the project you are involved in now or one that was meaningful to you, why BC Wildlife are important to you, and any more information about yourself as someone who is interested in the BC Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Be sure to include your contact information so those interested can reach you.

Provincial Project Snapshot - Lower Mainland Mesocarnivore Surveys—Scott Yaeger



Studying mesocarnivores species in B.C.

The *Lower Mainland Mesocarnivore Survey* started in fall of 2017 in the Lower Mainland. Its goal is to increase the understanding of the current status and distribution of mesocarnivores in the Fraser Valley. For those of you who have forgotten, mesocarnivores are carnivorous animals where 50-70% of the diet are vertebrates, with the rest including invertebrates and plants. Examples in Canada are foxes, coyotes, raccoons, martens, and skunks.

With funding from Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program-Coastal, Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, and in-kind support from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Ministry of Forest, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, the project’s overarching goals are to fill identified knowledge gaps and secure information needed to support informed management decisions for sustainable mesocarnivore populations.

Of the several species of mesocarnivores historically occurring in the Lower Mainland, two are of conservation concern: the Blue-listed wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) and fisher (*Pekania pennanti*). Two other species, the long-tailed weasel (*Mustela frenata altifrontalis* subspecies) and Western spotted skunk (*Spilogale gracilis*) also have historical distributions in the Lower Mainland, but little is known about their current distribution or population status.

Our project aims to collect and synthesize historical information on each mesocarnivore in select Lower Mainland watersheds (specifically the Stave and Jones/Wahleach Watersheds). In addition, remote camera field surveys are being used to assess current occupancy and distribution of mesocarnivores in these select Lower Mainland watersheds. We would welcome your help with contributions of any location information you might be willing to provide for these species.

For more information on the project or to provide species location information, please contact Scott.Yaeger@gov.bc.ca.

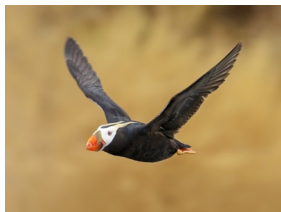
Black Bear

Ursus americanus



Tufted Puffin

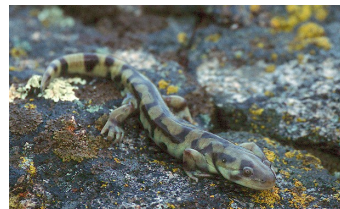
Fratercula cirrhata



Blotched Tiger Salamander

Ambystoma mavortium

Endangered



Elk

Cervus elaphus



Jobs and Opportunities

The BC Oil and Gas Commission is looking for an RPBio who can provide expert technical advice and support to staff, applicants and other stakeholders in the areas of the aquatic and terrestrial habitat impacts of oil and gas development. The position provides and develops environmental strategies and tactics as it relates to proposed oil and gas activities, ongoing cumulative effects initiatives and directs and analyzes environmental reviews and impact assessments across various regions of the province. This is the Commission's aquatic and terrestrial habitat expert and as such provides direction, assistance and specialized professional expertise related to habitat impacts, species at risk, and assessment methods to government staff, industry, consultants and the public.

<https://www.bcogc.ca/careers/opportunities/all>

https://www.bcogc.ca/sites/default/files/job-postings/201803%20Posting%20%26%20JD_1.pdf

The Calgary Zoo is looking for field technicians to work on research projects with black-tailed prairie dogs, burrowing owls, Vancouver Island marmots, and sage grouse this coming field season.

You can find full job ads here: <https://www.calgaryzoo.com/careers-volunteers/job-openings>

How to contribute to the BC Chapter and help direct its evolution

Members and Former Members –Here is your chance to provide guidance to the Executive for where we want the BC Chapter to head. Included with this newsletter is the Program Framework of what ideas the Executive had. Please take time to read it and provide any comments to tw.bc.chapter@gmail.com

with “guidance “in the subject line

2018 BCTWS membership survey

Within two weeks, you will be receiving by email an invitation to participate in the 2018 BCTWS membership survey. This survey should take most participants less than 15 minutes to complete, and will be your opportunity to help the new BCTWS executive board know what is important to YOU. We encourage you to take just a few moments before the survey arrives to read the BCTWS framework (that arrived with this newsletter) and to ask yourself why (or why not) you are a member of the BC Chapter, and what actions/activities you would value most from membership. Also included in the survey will be a number of questions re: conferences and communication methods; all are intended to help the executive move the Chapter in the direction most desired by those who are interested in active participation.

Pat Baird , Newsletter Editor

TWS—BC Chapter

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