

BioLink

The Official Newsletter of the Atlantic Society of Fish & Wildlife Biologists

January 2006



2005 Annual Meeting Held in Fredericton, New Brunswick

The 42nd annual meeting of the Atlantic Society of Fish and Wildlife Biologists was held October 5th-7th, 2005 at the Hugh John Flemming Forestry Complex in Fredericton, New Brunswick.



There were 20 oral presentations, including several very interesting student presentations and 1 poster presentation by Francois Villeneuve entitled: **Influence of intensive forest management on behaviour and population dynamics of American marten.** Lesley Corning (above photo) was awarded best student presentation for her work with Hugh Broders on: **Factors affecting the spatio-temporal activity patterns of Eastern pipistrelles (*Pipistrellus subflavus*) over a large spatial scale in Southwest Nova Scotia.** Gerry Redmond was presented with the 2005 Merit Award (see biography in this edition of the newsletter). The annual silent auction in support of the ASFWB scholarship fund was once again successful. For a complete list of presentations from the 2005 meeting please visit our website.

<http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Environment/ASFWB>

Society Supports Scholarship at Acadia

Submitted by: Rosemary Curley

The results of the spring 2005 vote by the membership indicates that Acadia University will be the home of a new graduate scholarship funded by The Atlantic Society of Fish and Wildlife Biologists and Friends of Acadia. The Society arrived at this decision slowly, but with wide support of the members. Fifty per cent of 78 voting members wanted the scholarship to be established at Acadia, and they selected a graduate level award as most appropriate.

The closest runner-up, the University of Prince Edward Island received 9 votes. The results were ratified at the Annual General Meeting in Fredericton New Brunswick October 7th, 2005. The meeting also approved naming the scholarship after Don Dodds, who established the wildlife program at Acadia and was also a founding member of the Atlantic Society of Fish and Wildlife Biologists. Andrew Boyne and Tony Duke will be meeting with Acadia University to discuss the procedures to set up the fund. When ASFWB concluded fundraising for the David J Cartwright Memorial Scholarship at UNB (the fund stood at \$20,002.80 on April 30, 2004), members indicated a desire to start a second wildlife scholarship at another university in Atlantic Canada. A committee consisting of Rosemary Curley, Tony Duke and Jason LeBlanc was struck to make it happen and chose a vote by members as the best way of determining where the scholarship should be located. A ballot was prepared questioning which university should host the scholarship, whether it should be a graduate or undergraduate scholarship, and how it should be named. Ballots were available for use at the ASFWB Spring Seminar in April, 2005 and the remaining paid up members were contacted by mail with a July 1st

deadline to receive votes. Lapsed members were also asked to renew their membership and vote. The votes were tabulated by Duke and LeBlanc and the results were ratified at the Annual General Meeting.

ASFWB Scholarship Vote Tally

<i>School</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Votes</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Acadia</i>	Grad	30	
	Undergrad	8	
	Both checked	1	39
<i>Dalhousie</i>	Grad	3	
	Undergrad	0	3
<i>Memorial</i>	Grad	4	
	Undergrad	1	
	Neither checked	1	6
<i>Mount Allison</i>	Grad	3	
	Undergrad	2	
<i>St. Mary's</i>	Neither checked	1	6
	Grad	5	
<i>UNB (St. John)</i>	Undergrad	3	
	Grad	0	1
<i>U of Moncton</i>	Grad	3	
	Undergrad	1	4
<i>UPEI</i>	Grad	7	
	Undergrad	2	9
<i>St. FX</i>	Grad	1	
	Undergrad	1	2
TOTAL		78	

Speaking With Don Dodds A Portrait of the Conservationist

By Patty Mintz
Courtesy of Eastern Wood & Waters Magazine

Once a month, retired wildlife biologist Don Dodds heads to town for a get-together with friends and former colleagues. Over a glass or two of cold beer at Rosies, a downtown Kentville restaurant, guys like Al Much, Fred Payne, Hugh Fairn, Lloyd Duncanson and others update each other on local news, tell a few jokes, discuss conservation and, for the sake of the other patrons, try not to get too rambunctious.

They rarely talk about their careers, even though each one spent a part or all of a working lifetime immersed in studying, teaching, or researching wildlife. Most built lives around a

passion for animals which, in most cases, sprouted in boyhood.

Every so often Don returns for a visit to his boyhood stomping ground in upstate New York. Naturally, things have changed around Wayne County, but there is some left that compares to the relatively untamed countryside he once explored.



His interest in natural history comes partly from his father, who trapped for a living out of sheer necessity. His grandfather was a real source of inspiration. "That is who I first hunted ducks with, but I hunted upland game with Dad."

Don used to curl up in his bedroom with copies of *Field and Stream* and envision a life in northern Ontario where the lynx and bear roamed. Little did he know that his path in life would eventually lead him, not north to Ontario, but northeast to Newfoundland and Nova Scotia and all the way to Africa and the Caribbean. Or that the B.Sc. in Science Education and the M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Wildlife Biology and Management he was destined to earn from Cornell University would serve as a basis for a long and distinguished career.

Of course, he couldn't have done it without the support of his wife, Pearl. To emphasize the point, Don gestures to the framed certificate that hangs on the wall of their book-filled den in Coldbrook. The Ph.T. stands for "Putting Hubby Through" and is honorary proof – signed by the dean -- that Pearl gave unwavering support to her husband's pursuit of higher learning. The high school sweethearts grew up a couple of miles from each other and married in 1945.



Don, his wife Pearl, their son Tracy and dog Johnnie Fox in Cormack, Newfoundland at Christmas time, 1956.

Don recalls the starting point in his relationship with Canada's Atlantic Provinces – Newfoundland & Labrador. He would eventually be in charge of conservation enforcement for the entire West Coast of Newfoundland, from Port aux Basques to St. Anthony.

“When I was at Cornell headed for my Masters, one of my professors was from Ontario. He had a friend in Newfoundland, Dr. Douglas Pimlott, who was one of the premier Canadian conservationists. Doug was living on the west coast of Newfoundland, and he needed someone to go there for a summer. I thought my professor had said goose. I didn't know until the day before I left when I said, 'I'm ready to do the goose work' and he replied “Goose? You're going to study moose! It sounds funny but if you're interested in nature, particularly mammals and birds, and if you have a chance to work seriously on any wild critter, it's great.

“So in 1953 I went to Newfoundland to study moose for my Masters. Moose were plentiful. Once, doing behaviour observation we saw 47 different animals in an hour-and-a-half. In the two summers we were there we documented populations, food habits and pre-copulatory behaviour. It was a good introduction for me and after I finished my Masters at Cornell I was asked to return to Newfoundland. They were looking for someone to take over as a first regional biologist. I agreed on the basis that I'd be able to do research

for my Doctorate on snowshoe hare. While working on my Doctorate we lived in Cormack, north of Deer Lake and lived in a house built for veterans in a farming community. We didn't have power but we were used to that. We didn't have power when we were first married.

“So I became the district biologist and worked with the best: Harry Walters, director of wildlife for the Newfoundland government and Doug Pimlott. I worked on snowshoe hare from 1955 to 1958, particularly aspects of reproduction, productivity and populations, then returned to Cornell and received my degree in 1960. I went back to Newfoundland twice after that on grants to finish up some work on parasites and diseases. We both had a fondness for Newfoundland and the people there. The people we knew were very good, hard-working people who would do anything for their neighbours.

Don was lured to Nova Scotia by the desire to soothe a deer hunting dispute. He ended up staying.

“I wasn't planning to come to Nova Scotia but by the time I got my Ph.D. we had two children that we had adopted in Newfoundland and I had to find work quickly. I was just about to go to Montana to work on an agricultural wildlife problem involving antelope and beef cattle when I got a phone call from Clarence Mason, the director of wildlife here. He wanted me to come to Nova Scotia, but I said no. He pressed on and asked me to meet him in the lobby of a hotel in Syracuse and I said, okay, I'll meet with you but I'm not going to Nova Scotia.

“At that time hunters had fair political clout with local members of the legislature, because they were the loudest voice in the conservation arena. It's important to understand that throughout the last century, hunters and fishermen have been far and away the largest contributors to wildlife and fish conservation, research and management in North America. Clarence said, well, you come here for just one year and help get this situation settled. The hunters were really complaining there weren't enough deer, and the average hunter does require a lot of targets to be satisfied. Clarence was hoping I'd be able to soothe the nerves of all hunters, and all the fuss in Nova Scotia would die down.

“Anyway, Clarence persuaded me. I told him I wanted to teach and he said, “We have a little university called Acadia and I'll see to it that you teach there.” So, in the end we came to Kentville

and I became the big game biologist with Lands and Forests, still intending to stay just one year.

“At the end of my first year, Clarence became ill, so the Minister named me Assistant Director and I stayed. Clarence died in 1964 and I was named Acting Director, while I was also a Visiting Professor at Acadia, teaching courses such as conservation of natural resources, wildlife biology and mammalogy. By the end of 1964 I had to make up my mind between a permanent position with Acadia or staying with Lands and Forests. It was not an easy decision. In 1964 I left the department and went fulltime as Associate Professor in the Biology Department. I stayed at Acadia, with a few interruptions, until I retired in 1987. Our students took Parks and Wildlife positions from Newfoundland to British Columbia.

Though Don was often tempted to take higher paying jobs in the United States, something always made him change his mind. He remembers what turned his attention to Africa instead.

“One time, in 1966, a friend had relocated, leaving a job with the University of Tennessee. I went down for a visit and we had a lot of fun as the Deans argued over who had the best illegal whiskey. There was a position for me working in the wildlife program in the forestry school and we decided we should move, but when I returned from the office a day or so later and pulled up in our driveway in Kentville, Pearl came out to meet me and said, ‘Do you want to go to Africa?’ I had always wanted to go there but had never sought the opportunity.

“There was a telegram waiting from Thane Riney, a New Zealander who had studied in California and was in charge of wildlife and parks for FAO in Rome. He asked me to take a job for one year in Zambia to set up a major wildlife and natural resource program. We decided to go to Africa!

“The first thing was to document the wildlife, the parks, tourism potential and the role of agriculture. There was a tremendous variety of mammals and birds. We conducted a census of elephants and found 21,000 in 12,000 sq. miles. Our technical reports made recommendations on several aspects of development. Later, census work confirmed 100,000 elephants in the 21,000 sq. mi. watershed.

When I got back to Acadia we were very fortunate to get Peter Austin-Smith [Ph.D. at Cornell] on staff at Acadia. That made two of us in a developing wildlife program. He did most of the ornithology stuff and I did most of the mammal



Don and some of his Acadia students on a winter field trip in the early 80s.

stuff. We taught a course together in conservation of natural resources, which evolved into human ecology. The students jokingly named it the Yogi and Boo Boo course! Peter ended up with the Department of Natural Resources and I stayed at Acadia.

“In 1972 I was asked by the UN to go back to Africa and review the project, and returned several more times through 1983. I went over first as an idealist, but the UN is a very difficult political instrument. In the end, most projects failed. In the Luangua Valley of Zambia, 100,000 elephants were reduced to 10,000 by ivory hunters after we pulled out.

“If there was any good that came out of most projects in Africa at that time it was that certain individuals got the opportunity to study in North American universities.

“My guide in Ethiopia saved my life one time. I was traveling on an American passport and we were at the edge of a conflict area with Somalia. I was ushered into a building by a couple of soldiers and I was fearful of being tossed into jail. My guide talked and I sweated. The officer eventually handed my passport back and when we got back in the Land Rover and headed off, my guide asked if I could get him to Canada to study at “my university”. So I did. He came to Acadia wanting a degree in biology.



On top of everything else Don has experienced and accomplished – his curriculum vitae includes everything from farm labourer, salesman and truck driver to a dean of science – he operated a private consulting company which handled a list of contracts for industry, government agencies and other consulting organizations. But life after retirement also has its challenges.

“In 1987 I retired early, but I probably shouldn't have, monetarily. We sold our farm here and moved to our place in Cape Breton. I began working on some projects for Lands and Forests, one of which was the History of the Wildlife Movement in Nova Scotia. But the thing that really kept me busy was the first Wildlife Advisory Council. Usually those things are nothing more than window dressing, but on occasion they get one or two things accomplished. The council was to advise the minister directly on matters of importance as seen by the public. It was an interesting experience. How do you determine success? There were a few things that were changed for the better, but the public doesn't understand that there are literally dozens of reports such as the one we produced that come from various commissions and councils that have been shelved. Nothing happens. One public servant in Lands and Forest drafted several major management plans as part of his work and all were put away without comment. It depends on where you are on the ladder and once in awhile it depends on who you know. You know you're really retired when nobody asks you to do anything, but I still try to do some writing.

Don reflects on conservation practices and the state of the environment.

“Looking back, when I first came here to the Annapolis Valley, I thought I'd like to fish the Cornwallis River. Then we did sampling with students up and down the river and discovered you couldn't walk on the river without sinking but you damn near could. It was a mess! Coliform counts essentially equaled raw sewage.

“There is a problem with forest harvesting, too. I'm not against clear-cutting, only the way it's done. I think our clear-cuts are too big and don't preserve adequate riparian areas or deer wintering areas. Our cutting practices have an effect on all wildlife and not just deer. We can plan clear-cutting in ways that wildlife can be preserved while still providing wood for the mills, but we have yet to

begin. We need to act locally but think globally as we improve our conservation practices.

“Right now there's an area the size of Texas in the South Pacific clogged with plastic. Tropical rainforests are being lost at a rate that is almost unbelievable, not just in South America but in Africa. Nova Scotia is still a place that is a lot better than most others, but the fact is we're not benefiting our natural resources base much today.”

Don is a prolific writer and author with numerous professional publications, papers and books to his credit, as well as various wildlife columns. He currently has two books in process.

42nd North American Moose Conference

June 12 - 16, 2006 Baddeck, Nova Scotia, Canada



Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources is pleased to host the North American Moose Conference and Workshop which will be held at the Inverary Resort in the scenic community of Baddeck, Nova Scotia. The conference will facilitate the exchange of knowledge, research and management among moose biologists throughout North America and beyond.

Conference theme:
**"Managing Population Density
Extremes"**

As plans develop, information can be found at:
<http://gov.ns.ca/natr/mooseconference/Welcome.asp>

ASFWB 2005 Merit Award Recipient: Gerry Redmond

Submitted by Mary Beth Benedict



Gerry Redmond is a well-respected and recognized wildlife biologist. His career has spanned provinces and has ranged from field work to management to educator.

Gerry has worked as a field technician on projects involving eastern coyote, moose, white tailed deer, spruce grouse, and American woodcock. His work experience has also included woodland caribou research with the Newfoundland and Labrador Wildlife Division in Goose Bay. Subsequently, Gerry moved to New Brunswick and work for 13 ½ years as the Program Manager for the Big Game and Furbearer Program at the Fish and Wildlife Branch of the NBDNR in Fredericton.

Beyond direct field work and management, Gerry has also spent a good portion of his career in education. He has been a Wildlife Management Instructor at a variety of educational facilities:

- Wildlife Management Instructor with the Faculty of Forestry at Lakeside University, Thunder Bay Ontario.
- Wildlife Management Instructor with the Resource Technician Training Program of the Labrador Institute of Northern Studies, Goose Bay Labrador.

- Fish and Wildlife Management Instructor (2001 to present) with the Maritime College of Forest Technology, Fredericton New Brunswick.

Further, Gerry is very active in several professional associations. He is co-editor of the moose management journal, ALCES; co-editor of the newsletter, Moosecall; and he is a member of the Wildlife Society, the International Bear Association and the ASFWB.

Gerry has been a member of ASFWB for more than twenty years, wherein he spearheaded the New Brunswick contingent and promoted student involvement. In addition, Gerry has provided strong leadership within the ASFWB by participating as an Executive member for a decade, as follows:

- Newsletter Editor (1992 to 1996)
- President (1996-1998)
- Past President (1998 – 2000)
- Treasurer (2000 – 2002)

By presenting Gerry with the ASFWB Merit Award, we are recognizing his accomplishments and contributions to wildlife management and education and to the ASFWB.

ASFWB EXECUTIVE 2005

President – Andrew Boyne
Andrew.Boyne@EC.GC.CA

Past President – Mary Beth Benedict
mb.benedict@nspower.ca

Secretary / Treasurer – Andrew MacFarlane
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VP Membership – Rosemary Curley
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VP Student Affairs – Colin Garroway
cgarroway@hotmail.com

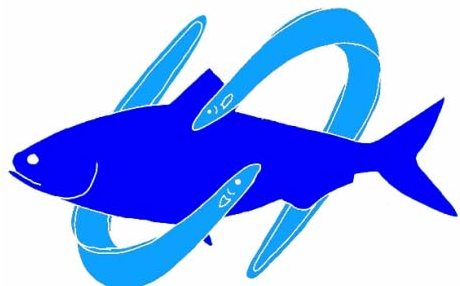
VP Student Affairs – Leslie Corning
lesley_corning@hotmail.com

VP Program (NFLD) – Currently vacant

Newsletter Editor – Jason LeBlanc
leblanje@gov.ns.ca

SYMPOSIUM ANNOUNCEMENT

Challenges for Diadromous Fishes in a Dynamic Global Environment



Date: 17-24 June, 2007
Location: Halifax, Nova Scotia
<http://www.anacat.ca>

This symposium will review the current state of scientific knowledge with respect to biology, ecology, and conservation of diadromous fishes (including anadromous, catadromous, potamodromous, and amphidromous species). The symposium theme will build upon that of the very successful 1986 American Fisheries Society symposium, **Common Strategies of Anadromous and Catadromous Fishes** (*Dadswell et al. 1987. Am. Fish. Soc. Symp. 1*). However, emphasis will be shifted to address how recent alterations to the environment and human activity has affected diadromous fishes with respect to their sustainability and role in aquatic ecosystems.

FOR MOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

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ASFWB Financial Statement

30 Sept 2004 - 27 Sept 2005

BALANCE FORWARD
30 Sept 2004 \$4617.37

AGM 24-26 Oct 2004 (Stanley Bridge, PE)
Revenue \$2627.00
Registration \$1200.00
Regular Memberships \$ 405.00
Student Memberships \$ 30.00
Banquet Tickets \$ 650.00
Silent Auction \$ 342.00

Expenditures \$1605.12
Labels \$ 29.98
Receipt Books \$ 17.30
Mussels \$ 50.00
Banquet, Catering \$1407.84
Student Award \$ 100.00

Spring Seminar 13 Apr 2005 (Sackville, NB)
Revenue \$ 995.00
Registration \$ 550.00
Regular Memberships \$ 375.00
Student Memberships \$ 70.00

Expenditures \$1166.68
Facility, support, catering \$1166.68

Other Revenue \$ 440.00
Regular Memberships \$ 420.00
Student Memberships \$ 15.00
Scholarship Donation \$ 5.00

Other Expenditures \$1456.92
Wall of Fame Plaque \$ 575.00
- Text \$ 57.50
- Laminating \$ 24.62
Website Fee \$ 75.00
Newsletter Expenses \$ 216.35