



TWS MANITOBA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Chapter Business

Chapter Business

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President's Corner

Hello and happy spring to our MBTWS members! I will take this opportunity to welcome our new executive – we have some returning and some new members to the team and I am so excited and honoured to work with all of them this term.

We are starting to see more daylight and greater diversity with the change of season, the mornings are louder with an abundance of bird calls and the signs of green are filling our trees. As Manitobans, we are known to embrace all the seasons we take on in the year and our spring is precious to us. With the COVID-19 pandemic, social distancing protocols have made some major changes to the way our field work is conducted, gatherings can take place and the ways we are able to access the outdoors. For these reasons, we are focusing efforts on increasing our social media communication as a way to stay connected with our members. We hope to be a resource for you to learn about the amazing workshops and educational tools that are being created online to connect wildlife biologists and fulfill the wildlife piece we all hold in our hearts.

There is opportunity for us learn about new exciting research and initiatives during this period of unknowns - please reach out to us if there is anything that you want to share or experience during this time.

Take care of yourselves and stay healthy!
Justine Josephson-Laidlaw, President



Results of 2018/19 Internal Chapter Financial Audit

Reviewed:

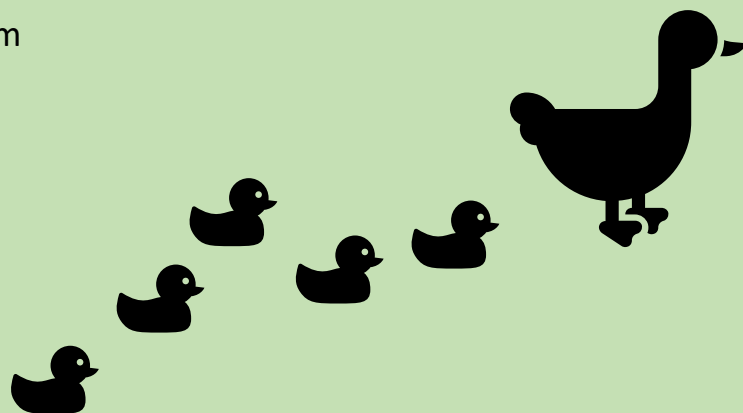
- 4 TD Bank Account statements (5221833, 544 and 362, and 346)
- Expense Claims
- Online deposits
- Invoices

Summary:

- The chapter finances appear to be in good order.
- Opening balance on April 1st, 2018 showed \$10,886.15. Closing balance on March 31, 2019 showed \$12,010.95.
- Online organization of expense claims and receipts is very helpful.
- The adoption of a financial tracking report has made following and auditing revenue and expenses very simple.
- AGM, Fall Mixer, and Winter Getaway represent major outputs and inputs of the chapters cash, and appear to be well managed.
- The scholarship reserve, security balance and fiscal stability fund provide the chapter with a healthy financial buffer.
- The chapters scholarship funds received generous donations from Jack Dubois and Rick Riewe.
- Chapter finances are complex. The role of Chapter treasurer continues to be very important.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Wiens, CWB
Jonathan.p.wiens@gmail.com
(204) 414-2295
May 22, 2020



Financial Report

The Chapter is doing well financially. We currently have a total of \$8,829.24 in our bank accounts with \$4,727.48 being the total available to us, as we have some of our funds in a GIC account, as well as two business investor accounts. In the 2019-2020 fiscal year, we made \$7,458.75 in revenue and the total expenses were \$10,658.53. These expenses include the delayed response for refunds given for the AGM that was cancelled due to Covid-19.

This gives us a net revenue of -\$3,199.78, which is also in assets, as it was used to purchase our merchandise.

The 2020 Winter Getaway brought in \$4,060.52. We have sold \$871.00 in merchandise! The Chapter is also proud to have given \$1,370.00 in awards to our members in the 2019-2020 fiscal year!

-Alyssa Reimer

Membership Report

The Manitoba Chapter currently has 112 members. The Chapter has 63 members that are Professionals, and 49 members that are students. Out of our 112 members, 17 are Honorary members. We have 4 memberships expiring in the May/June 2020 timeframe, if you are one of them please re-new, as our members are critical to the overall function of the Chapter and each and every one of you are important to us. We will best protect and conserve Manitoba wildlife by working together! Thank you to all our current members for your continued support!

Take care and stay healthy, and happy!
-Emily Thoroski

A special thank you....

The current TWS Manitoba Chapter executive would like to extend a special thank you to Brian Kiss for his time served on the executive. He has stepped up to the plate on numerous occasions managing and helping the executive, planning events, preparing workshops, chairing committees, creating letters to the minister, networking with students, facilitating meetings, creating connections and the list continues. Brian recently finished his last term on the executive as the Past President for two consecutive years, his working knowledge of TWS and its intricacies have been a noteworthy asset to the executive and the membership. Brian has taken the time to contribute so much to TWS over the years and for that we are thankful. Thank you Brian, we wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

-Past President Mitch Leclair

Welcome to the New Executive!

President- Justine Josephson-Laidlaw



Justine is a Master of Environment student at the University of Manitoba, her current research is focused on the nesting habitat, home range and spatial ecology of urban Merlins (*Falco columbarius*) in the city of Winnipeg. Previous work has focused on the development of wildlife management strategies for birds of prey, places special emphasis on the importance of citizen science and has worked closely with local rehabilitation centres. Justine is currently on the CSTWS Membership Committee, CSTWS Certification Committee and previously served as CSTWS Student Representative from 2017 to 2019.

President-Elect- Melanie Dubois

Melanie is a Senior Riparian and Biodiversity Biologist in the Science and Technology Branch at Agriculture and Agri Food Canada. Her work is currently focused on understanding and quantifying resource requirements of pollinator (focus on native bees) pollinator contributions to agro-ecosystems, and implications of and mitigations for pollination services deficits. She also works with quantifying and understanding interactions of wildlife and natural systems with agricultural ecosystems, reporting on ecosystems service, and assessment of risks that predispose livestock operations to predation and/or crop systems to depredation, along with the mitigations and policy/program responses. Her Masters in Natural Resources Management from the University of Manitoba focused on integrated vertebrate pest management and economic cost thresholds for wildlife damage in forage systems. Melanie also maintains her certification as a Wildlife Biologist through the Wildlife



Past President- Michel Leclaire

Spring 2020



Michel is a Wildlife and Fisheries Biologist with EcoLogic Environmental Inc. Having completed a certificate in Natural Resource Management Technology from University College of the North in The Pas, an honours degree in Environmental Sciences, and a Master of Science degree at the University of Manitoba, Michel is well versed with all aspects of field related work to desktop research and analyses. Michel has worked on numerous wildlife baseline and monitoring projects in northern Manitoba. He has delivered presentations, information sessions, and workshops to a wide array of people from varying backgrounds.

Treasurer- Alyssa Reimer

Alyssa is an environmental studies student at the University of Manitoba, working towards becoming a Certified Wildlife Biologist. She enjoys spending her time outdoors while hunting, fishing and hiking. She loves to volunteer in her free time and has even travelled to Costa Rica to work alongside biologists to help conserve sea turtle populations. Alyssa is excited to be a part of the team and meet other wildlife enthusiasts!



Member at Large- Hannah Martin



Hannah Martin is an Environment Science student with a focus area in conservation and biodiversity. She has been a member of the the Wildlife Society since October 2017. Working towards becoming certified as a wildlife biologist where research will take her around the globe to study various wildlife species and learn new conservation techniques. She loves to travel and spend time outdoors with her dogs, and she excited to be working for on the executive again this year!

Western Rep- Allison Krause-Danielsen

Allison has worked as the regional wildlife biologist for Sustainable Development in Brandon for the last seven years. She has a passion for grassland conservation and have surveyed varied Manitoban wildlife, from moose to skinks. She also enjoys camping and exploring new and interesting landscapes from the Canadian shield to Californian desert!



Northern Rep- Ryan Shewchuk



Ryan is currently working in forestry in The Pas, Manitoba. A graduate of the University of Winnipeg, he has also completed a diploma in Natural Resource Management Technology from the University College of the North in The Pas. Having worked in wildfire, wildlife, fisheries, and forestry, Ryan has a broad range of experience working in the field throughout Manitoba.

Secretary- Emily Thoroski

Emily Thoroski is a student at the University of Manitoba completing her Master of Environment degree within the Department of Environment and Geography. Emily's project involves researching human perceptions of wildlife conservation and is incorporating music within the project as a method of showcasing the research. Emily has been a proud member of The Wildlife Society, including the Parent Society, Canadian Section, and the Manitoba Chapter since 2016. And has been on the Chapter Executive since 2018 in the position of Treasurer and is now excited to take on the Secretary role! If you want to stay updated on Emily's masters project, please follow 'The Environmental Musician' on social media!





William (Bill) Dowie completed his BA in Applied Economics / Applied Mathematics at the University of Manitoba and is a Master of Environment graduate student in the research unit of Environment and Geography (where his co-advisor is TWS Fellow, Rick Baydack). Bill works as a multi-disciplinary researcher with the faculties of Engineering, Architecture, and Environment (NRI) at UManitoba. Bill merges his academic pursuits with his professional work – studying and designing wildlife-friendly, biologically diverse residential landscapes. A self-proclaimed naturalist and a certified permaculture designer, he is an avid follower of Aldo Leopold’s landscape ethos. Bill is excited to be the Graduate Student Representative for TWS, while concurrently serving as a Senator for UManitoba.



Undergraduate Rep- Katrina Wilcox

Katrina Wilcox is a Biology student at the University of Winnipeg with a focus on wildlife conservation. Katrina has been a member of The Wildlife Society since 2017 and was a past president of the University of Winnipeg Student Chapter. As an avid backpacker and birder, Katrina is excited to share their passion of The Wildlife Society with new students and members!



Welcome to all executive members, both new and returning. They are all excited for their new roles and to work with all you Manitoba Wildlifers!

Western Region Update

The ongoing Pandemic has definitely changed some plans for many biologists in the western region. Owl surveys and many other wildlife survey opportunities have shifted to “close-to-home” options. I have noticed the birdwatching community is certainly very active this spring, with many bird feeder counts and even a Virtual “big day” in May. It seems like now is good time to get involved with citizen science from and every spring there are opportunities to do so! Here are some of the opportunities this year:

Nocturnal Owl Survey (March 15 to April 15)

<https://www.birdscanada.org/birdmon/mbowls/main.jsp>

Sharp-tailed Grouse Lek Monitoring (April 15 to May 15)

<https://www.birdatlas.mb.ca/accounts/speciesaccount.jsp?sp=STGR&lang=en>

Chimney swift monitoring (May 20 to June 24)

(<https://www.mbchimneyswift.com/?p=2239>)

There's also some neat research going on to look at a effects of the pandemic on wildlife population, led in part by Nicola Koper from U of Manitoba (<https://www.c19-wild.org/>) and an abundance of webinars that have made information more accessible to rural biologists. Here are some examples:

PCAP (<https://www.pcap-sk.org/upcoming-events/pcap-speaker-series>),

Westman Naturalists (<https://westman-naturalists.github.io/events.html>)

Prairie Regional Adaptation Collaborative

(<https://www.prairiesrac.com/event/enhancing-biodiversity-in-a-changing-climate-a-prac-webinar/>).

Hopefully the summer weather will allow us to get outside do what we do best! Stay safe and healthy everyone.

Allison

Our COVID-19 Update

There have been a lot of changes and uncertainty with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We know many of our members' summer plans, events, workshops and field jobs have been cancelled. TWS-MB understands that this pandemic has been hard on our members, and that is why we are striving to provide great workshops and events throughout this summer and fall that will allow MB Wildlifers to learn and have fun while practicing proper physical and social distancing. We are currently working on providing great events and workshops for our members. Please check our social media pages and your emails regularly as we will send updates on our events as they are planned. Currently we have a Wildlife Biologist Certification Webinar that will be available to our members shortly.

Upcoming Events

Certification Webinar

Our Certification Webinar, produced by Master's student, Emily Thoroski, will be available online and is a highly anticipated workshop that we look forward to offering to students and new professionals. The video is of our Certification Workshop that took place in the Fall of 2018 and contains information on how to become certified as an Associate Wildlife Biologist and/or a Certified Wildlife Biologist within the Certification Program that The Wildlife Society has to offer. Our video features talks from Don Barnes, who is the Chair of the Certification Committee for the Canadian Section of TWS, Dr. Rick Baydack who is a professor at the University of Manitoba, as well as Melanie Dubois, and Jonathan Wiens who are both wildlife professionals that work within Manitoba. All four of our presenters are Certified Wildlife Biologists and provide great advice! The video also ends with an interesting Q and A session so stay tuned as it will be posted on our social media accounts, as well as our website!



Annual Winter Getaway

The 2020 Winter Getaway was held in Pinawa, Manitoba. We had 29 students and 8 professionals attend the event. We had incredible student and professional presentations. Our keynote speakers were Dr. Vince Crichton, Dr. Jim Duncan, Dr. Art Rodgers and Dr. Merlin Shoemsmith. Our eight student presenters showcased the amazing research that they are currently undertaking. We held a fantastic brain worm workshop that was hosted by Brian Kiss and Kathryn Yarchuk and an ice fishing workshop by Mitch Leclaire and Don Sexton. We have an incredible turkey dinner that was cooked graciously cooked by Dr. Rick Baydack, Bill Dowie and Don Sexton with warm weather which allowed for students to enjoy a cross country ski and venture out to the Pinawa Dam on Sunday morning.



Rumor's Fundraiser

On January 15, 2020 we asked our friends, family and other Wildlifers to come enjoy a night of food, drinks, and a comedy show at Rumor's Comedy Club to support our TWS-MB members. We sold 90 tickets to this event which allowed us to raise \$600 from this event to help TWS-MB members attend events such as the Winter Getaway. Way to go Manitoba Wildlifers!

Congratulations to the Award Winners

Conservation Award- Jack Dubois

Jack Dubois was born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba where he eventually studied biology at the University of Manitoba, graduating in 1972 with a Bachelor of Science degree. Beginning in 1971, Jack spent 30 years working at the Manitoba Museum as Curator of Mammalogy and Ornithology, where he had a particular research interest in small mammals. He also worked a two year secondment with Parks Canada where he helped development Riding Mountain National Park's first ecosystem management plan. In 2002 he was hired as Director of the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch of Manitoba Conservation where he worked until his retirement in 2011. Throughout his career he also served on various committees and boards including the Manitoba Environmental Network, Manitoba Round Table on Environment and the Economy, Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development, Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, Fur Institute of Canada, Wapusk National Park, Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre, Churchill Northern Studies Centre, Nature Manitoba, and many others. Jack has also been a member of The Wildlife Society for over 35 years, and is an honorary member of the Manitoba Chapter in which he served as President for in 1985-86. Jack was also the first Vice-President (and subsequent President) of the Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society. He has also served as the Chair of the Manitoba Chapter's Conservation Affairs Committee. Jack is currently the President of Nature Manitoba and has collaborated with the Chapter to comment on several recent conservation issues.

Richard C. Goulden Memorial Award- Emma Ausen

Emma Ausen is a MSc student at the University of Manitoba studying beluga habitat in the Western Hudson Bay estuaries and the effects of noise pollution from shipping traffic on the belugas. She completed her bachelor's degree in Environmental Science at the University of Manitoba and has experience working with prescribed fires with The Nature Conservancy of Minnesota and as a naturalist with Minnesota State Parks and Trails.

Student Travel Award- Kathryn Yarchuk

In September of 2019, I was fortunate enough to attend the TWS & AFS Joint annual Conference in Reno, Nevada. At this conference I served as Volunteer Coordinator and a Chapter Officer, representing the Manitoba Chapter of TWS. Through these positions, I was provided with significant opportunities to engage with professionals and other students from across North America.

As volunteer coordinator, I gained a new appreciation for the hard work and dedication contributed by TWS officers to ensure the success of this event. This role assisted me in creating personal connections with volunteers and conference coordinators. Thank you to all of our volunteers and the other coordinators for helping operations run smoothly!

Incredible posters and presentations were delivered by attendees throughout the duration of the conference. As this was a joint conference with American Fisheries Society, a wide variety of topics were covered, providing ample learning opportunities in areas outside of our personal expertise. I had an excellent time presenting my poster on the *Examination of white-tailed deer feces for the presence of P. tenius to determine the level of existence of brainworm within Riding Mountain National Park* on Monday evening. One of my conference highlights is learning about the research conducted by my “poster neighbors” and their various backgrounds.

I am incredibly thankful to have had such a rewarding experience at the conference. Thank you to the TWS: Manitoba Chapter, for assisting with travel costs and making this opportunity a reality!

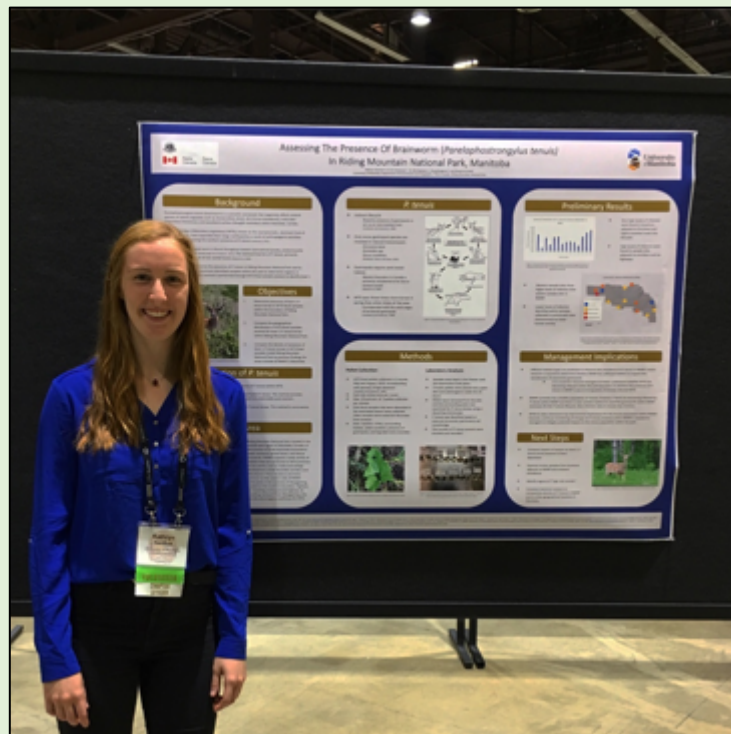
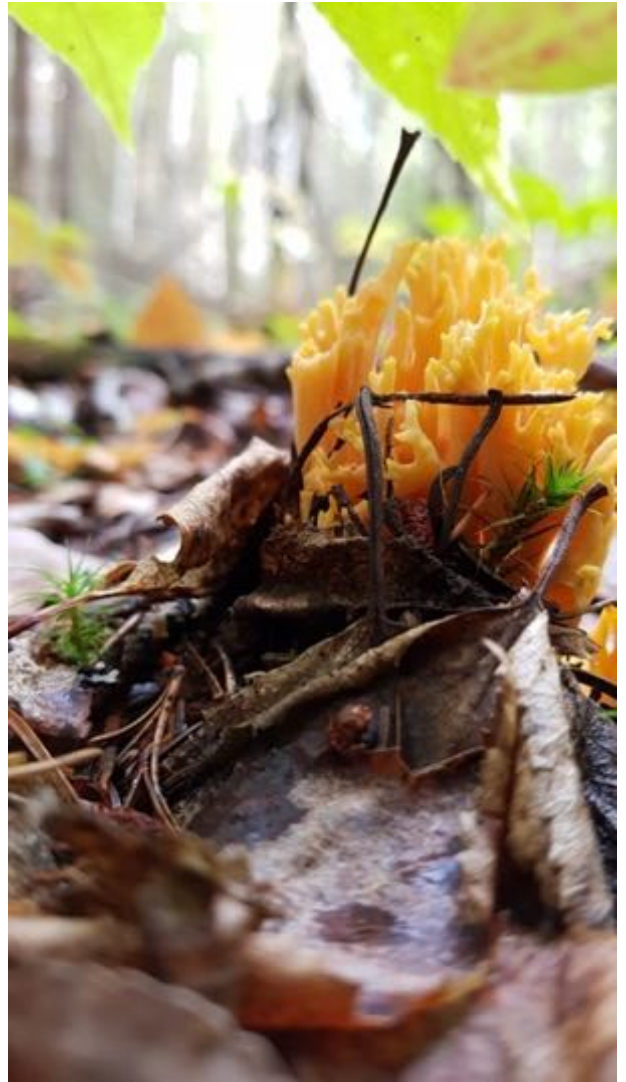


Photo Contest Winners

Flora Category- Jeremy Price



General Category- Aynsley Woods



Fauna Category- Michael Salazar

Upcoming Awards

TWS Annual Conference Travel Award

Update: Conference is now going to be held virtually

We will honour this award by covering registration costs for the conference

Visit: <https://twsconference.org/> for updates on the conference

TWS:MB will be providing the Annual Conference Travel award to a student that meets the following criteria:

- (1) is enrolled full-time at a Manitoba post-secondary academic institution at the time of submitting their presentation for the conference;
- (2) is a member of The Wildlife Society – Manitoba Chapter Inc. at the time of application;
- (3) is conducting research or has proposed to conduct research on wildlife, fisheries, and/or related habitats;
- (4) has not received a Chapter student travel award or Annual Conference Travel Award support within the last 12 months;
- (5) is presenting original research of an accepted paper or poster at the Conference; Applications are due July 15



Early Career Professional Grant

The Wildlife Society Manitoba Chapter will award up to \$500 annually in Early Career Professional Development Travel Grants to provide financial assistance to an individual to attend a conference, meeting, training, or gain valuable field experience. This program provides an opportunity for continued professional development to our Chapter Members by assisting those members who otherwise might not have the chance to attend resource related provincial or national meetings, workshops or symposia. These funds can be used towards travel, lodging, and/or registration.

Deadline October 1, 2020.

Student Travel Award

TWS Manitoba (TWS-MB) has made funds available to encourage student professional development at conference/seminars. Each calendar year, the Chapter offers two - \$250.00 travel awards to help students attend any wildlife related conference/seminar. Award competitions are held in March and October of each year.

Check out our website for more information on awards!

Stay connected with our social media pages, we will be running picture contests and organizing fun ways to interact through social media. Stay tuned!

Twitter: @TWS_MB

Facebook: The Wildlife Society Manitoba Chapter

Instagram: @wildlifesocietymb

TWS-MB Merchandise



Baseball Tee



Ball cap



Hoodie



Travel Mug

Email us at: tws.manitoba.chapter@gmail.com for clothing

Professional- Dr. Erin McCance

The Wildlife Society did a Feature Friday on Dr. Erin McCance, one of our past presidents on their Facebook page. Dr. Erin McCance has been involved with TWS since 2007 and has served many executive positions. Dr. McCance has been awarded a TWS Fellow Award for 2020 to serve as an ambassador of TWS—Congrats Dr. McCance! Dr. McCance is also a mentor to many young wildlife professionals and students in Manitoba and is an integral part of our TWS team. Thank you for all your hard work as a wildlife professional!

Check out

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/thewildlifesociety/posts/>
to see the full post and learn more about Dr. McCance!



Photo by of Erin McCance

Student- Emily Thoroski

The Wildlife Society posted an article on their website about Emily Thoroski, a current TWS-MB executive member and her research on asking “Why does wildlife matter”. Emily created a short film interviewing wildlife professionals and students from North America on why wildlife matters, and created a 27 minute thesis video. Emily’s research is so forward thinking and uses social media and technology to help educate others about wildlife conservation. The article by The Wildlife Society also features a video of Emily performing the song she wrote called “We Decide”, that combines music and lyrics to spread awareness about environmental conservation. Way to go Emily! Read the full article to learn all about her awesome research!

Check out the article at

https://wildlife.org/tws-members-video-explores-why-wildlife-matters/?fbclid=IwAR3QIMCmsjXg3FNVk-pqL_NDhI2gAwGhvzCUExcGggEDxcPtN280uyqTMc0

And links to Emily’s videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LC9FxEOw49Y>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NsUn846G5c0>

Emily’s Environmental Instagram page:
[@the_environmental_musician](#)



Online Resources

Free online Wetlands 101: Introduction to Boreal Wetlands course for the month of June. Offered by Ducks Unlimited. Register at

<https://boreal.ducks.ca/solutions/wetland-stewardship-training/>

Eco Canada Upcoming Webinars

<https://www.eco.ca/new/upcoming-events/>

Lunch and Learn Webinars offered by Alberta TWS!

<https://www.actws.ca/event/webinar-sharing-the-landscape-ecology-of-human-infrastructure/>

Job Opportunities

Environmental Coordinator- Manitoba Infrastructure

<https://jobsearch.gov.mb.ca/jow/advancedResult.action?ID=61223>

Conservation Intern- Nature Conservancy of Canada, Brandon and Winnipeg, MB

https://workforcenow.adp.com/mascsr/default/mdf/recruitment/recruitment.html?cid=b0f3dbb9-c0c3-450e-b942-8ef0c3d60ac5&cclId=2629397164_5351&type=MP&lang=en_CA

The Manitoba Government announced an online website to match students with summer jobs. The link is <https://studentjobsmb.ca/login>

We want to hear from you!

Send us your ideas for physical distancing events or online events, jobs or other events for us to advertise to our members!

Email us at tws.manitoba.chapter@gmail.com