



TWS MANITOBA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Chapter Business

President's Corner

Hello to our wonderful members!

Autumn has begun and the weather is beautiful so far! We have some very exciting events for our members coming up and we look forward to getting together with our TWS community in a safe space within the next couple of months! TWS-MB is actively developing our long-term action plan focused on incorporating Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) in our Chapter. Wildlife and habitat conservation are what fuels our community, but we must work together in a welcoming and supportive environment for all people. We would love to hear from you if you are interested in being involved, have ideas or want to share your own experience. We will have some changes to our annual events this year to ensure the safety of our members, but the Executive is working to find creative ways to offer our members the same quality events that we have every year!

Happy fall to you all and I hope to see your faces again soon!

Justine Josephson-Laidlaw, President

<u>Chapter Business</u>	
President's Corner	1
Past President's	2
Message	
Treasurer's Report	3
Membership Report	3
U of W Student Chapter Update	3
Western Region Update	4
<u>Events and Awards</u>	
COVID-19 Update	5
Upcoming Events	5
Award Winners	8
Field Update	9
Upcoming Awards	10
<u>Other News</u>	
Merchandise	12
Featured Members	13
Nature Companion	20

A message from our Past President

A Professor, a Mentor, an Inspiration

How Dr. Rick Baydack and TWS shaped the person and professional I am today.

Before ever entering the University of Manitoba I was given a small piece of advice from an instructor from my old college; find Dr. Baydack and let him help you through your academic journey. At the time I simply accepted the advice without putting it into action. It was that winter when I finally met Dr. Baydack for the first time at the TWS Manitoba winter get-away, he was enthusiastic about everything, he greeted everyone as if they were old friends, he encouraged everyone to do their best, most of all he was humble in his delivery and he was open to discuss anything. Knowing what I know now, Rick is everything that TWS stands for.

It was shortly after that meeting that I found myself in Rick's office discussing an honours thesis idea for the following year. The encouragement was infectious and stimulating to say the least. I found myself attending more TWS events such as the fall mixer to network with possible future employers in the wildlife community. I completed my honours thesis with Rick as my advisor and was encouraged to keep going! Rick and I saddled up again, this time working on a Master's project. Somewhere during that time, I remember discussing with Rick my desire to give back to the academic community, which is why I have now turned my focus to encouraging and educating young wildlifers, just as Rick and TWS did for me. I find myself emulating my mentor where I can only hope to be as encouraging and helpful as Rick always is.

Thank you Rick, without your help and guidance through TWS and academia I would surely not be where I am today. Congratulations on receiving the Wildlife Society's Excellence in Wildlife Education Award – you truly have earned it.

Michel (Mitch) Leclaire
TWS MB Chapter Past-President

Treasurer's Report

The Chapter is doing well financially. We currently have a total of \$9,344.73 in our bank accounts with \$5,241.29 being the total available to us, as we have some of our funds in a GIC account, as well as two business investor accounts. I hope everyone is getting outside and enjoying the beautiful fall weather!

-Alyssa Reimer

Membership Report

The Manitoba Chapter of The Wildlife Society currently has 113 members. Of which, 17 of our members are Honorary Members and since the spring we have 5 new members.

Thanks to all of our wonderful members for your involvement and continued support in the Chapter. We couldn't do it without you!

All the best,
-Emily Thoroski

University of Winnipeg Student Chapter Update

University of Winnipeg's TWS chapter welcomes you all back to another academic fall season- whether that be virtual or in the field! While many departments of The Wildlife Society went silent over 5 months of quarantine, we've looked forward to announcing that our board has another calendar of events and opportunities in store for this year.

In cooperation with ongoing health guidelines, our chapter has arranged a series of citizen science projects that welcomes participants to play their part while staying safe. Most notable of these is a multi-year study into bird window collisions across Winnipeg with use of the iNaturalist app. As always, we encourage you all to keep watch of our social media for further details on how to get involved.

Meanwhile, our club members have continued UoW's own Cougar Project with individuals volunteering to deploy camera traps on their own time. In addition to this, board member Ethan Friesen has begun talks with the city government concerning a future collaboration on studying pond biodiversity between Winnipeg and TWS.

All of this said, the year has only just begun for many of us, and guest speakers as well as new projects may come into play as winter sets in.

Ethan Friesen, UofW Chapter of TWS Board Member

Western Region Update

I hope the summer field season was good for all of you and that you were able to get outside for work and enjoyment! As winter approaches, I've been realizing that there is a silver lining for those of us in rural and remote areas during this pandemic. Everything has become virtual in the last little while and even though we yearn for real human contact sometimes there are opportunities to connect in new ways. The TWS conference was virtual this year and I've discovered that there is a world of online conferences that are now widely available. I listed some webinars that I've heard about in the last newsletter but here are some exciting conferences to attend virtually this fall and winter!

ArcticNet- December 7-10, 2020 <https://arcticnetmeetings.ca/ac2020/>

PCAP Native Prairie Restoration Workshop Feb 1-5, 2021- <https://www.pcap-sk.org/upcoming-events/nprrw2021>

The Canadian Herpetological Society had a virtual conference in September but will be continuing to hold other virtual workshops in fall for members. <http://www.canadianherpetology.ca/conf/>

Also check out their keynote session here! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tDPGJEzfRY4>

<http://annualmeeting2021.rangelands.org/>

-Allison

COVID-19 Update

Did Covid-19 impact your summer field activities? You are not alone, our executive member Alyssa Reimer shares about her summer fieldwork and how it looked different this year.

“I was lucky enough to be able to work in the field this summer, but everything was a little different because of COVID-19. Usually there would be a field house that everyone would stay at for the summer, but this was not possible. My coworkers and I had to travel to various sites in our own vehicles. We also had to make sure that we were always social distancing. We got to do some bird banding, as long as we followed strict rules to keep everyone safe and healthy. “

-Alyssa

Upcoming/ Virtual Events

Virtual R Workshop

We are once again hosting a R workshop led by the great Steffi LaZerte.

This time the workshop will be virtual! Dr. LaZerte will be guiding participants through R basics and how to create informative and beautiful figures. Beginner or intermediate, this workshop will be helpful for various skill levels!

November 19, 2020

6:30-9:00 pm

This event is free to members, and is a **members only** event.

Watch for a dedicated email from TWS-MB on how to register.

Certification Webinar

Our certification webinar is now online for all to view. This webinar is a video of a Wildlife Biologist Certification Workshop that was hosted by the Manitoba Chapter of The Wildlife Society in September of 2018 at the University of Manitoba. The video contains useful information if you are wanting to apply to be an Associate Wildlife Biologist or a Certified Wildlife Biologist through The Wildlife Society. The table of contents can be found below on what topics are discussed throughout the video.

Enjoy!

Table of Contents

0:16 - Welcome & Introductions (Justine Josephson-Laidlaw)

3:00 - Introduction to The Wildlife Society (Dr. Rick Baydack) CWB

15:10 - TWS Wildlife Biologist Certification Program (Don Barnes) CWB

47:46 - Discusses his experience being a CWB (Jonathan Wiens) CWB

59:55 - Discusses her experience being a CWB (Melanie Dubois) CWB

1:08:04 - How to manage courses & application @ University of Manitoba (Dr. Rick Baydack) 1:28:42 - Panel Discussion (Q & A Session)

Here is the link to the video:

https://youtu.be/0F_J1SijKEw



Poster Competition

TWS-MB has a very exciting **members only** virtual event for this fall with **cash prizes**. We are hosting a virtual poster competition. This competition allows our members to showcase their research and possibly win some cash and merchandise in the process!

THE MANITOBA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

VIRTUAL POSTER PRESENTATION AND STUDENT COMPETITION

CATEGORIES FOR SUBMISSION

- HABITAT
- SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS
- WILDLIFE AND INSECTS

\$75 AND ONE MERCH ITEM AWARDED TO CATEGORY WINNERS



DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION
OCTOBER 23, 2020
WINNERS ANNOUNCED
NOVEMBER 2, 2020

FREE FOR TWS-MB MEMBERS
\$20 FOR NON-MEMBERS

For more info and to register, email
twsm.mb.chapter@gmail.com

**ALL POSTERS WILL BE DISPLAYED
ON THE TWS-MB WEBSITE!**

TWS Executive are working hard to create virtual events given the ever-changing Covid situation — please stay tuned. Email us at tws.manitoba.chapter@gmail.com if you have any events you would like to see!

Congratulations to the Award Winners

Emma Ausen- Student Travel Award

One of our past executive members, Emma Ausen won the Student Travel award and describes how this award has helped her present her research below!

The TWS international conference is coming up for me next week. I was awarded the Manitoba Chapter student travel award in order to present my talk on beluga habitat in the western Hudson Bay. In a lot of ways, I'm feeling the same way I would about a virtual conference, excited and nervous, except that all the hard work is over. Presentations needed to be recorded and submitted ahead of time. This means that researchers from around the world can see what it's like in your own home (or apartment). I also get to notice exactly how much I move my head when I talk when reviewing my presentation. This conference solves some of the frustrations of in person ones- less fossil fuels being used, the need to decide between two interesting talks that occur at the same time. I also hope to take full advantage of office hours that presenters have available to network with others in the wildlife field. I'm very happy to be able to participate, and grateful to the Manitoba chapter for their support.

-Emma Ausen

What's going on in the field?

Delta Waterfowl Mentored Hunt

The annual Delta Waterfowl mentored hunt took place from September 17-18. This event looked a little different this year due to physical distancing protocols but turned out to be a great event once again. This mentored hunt is a great opportunity for new hunters to learn new skills from a skilled hunter. Thank you to Delta Waterfowl for hosting this successful event for Manitoba Wildlifers.



TWS-MB executive member Alyssa Reimer (left) and fellow wildlifer Meg Robinson (right) on the mentored hunt. Photo taken by Emily Thoroski.

Upcoming Awards

Early Career Professional Development 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.

ELIGIBILITY

All applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Manitoba Resident
- Current member of The Wildlife Society Manitoba Chapter in good standing
- Early Career Professional is defined as one who has graduated from a post-secondary institution but not yet obtained 5 years of professional level wildlife experience
- Successful candidates must submit a report to the Chapter newsletter or speak to members at a Chapter event (fall mixer, winter getaway, or AGM)

Applications due: October 21, 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 awards up to \$250 (dependent on fees associated with selected event) to help students attend any wildlife related conference/seminar.



Check out our website for more information on awards!

Stay connected with our social media pages, we will be running photo 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

We would like to shed a spotlight on 3 of our TWS-MB members who have been internationally recognized by TWS. All 3 of these members have been part of the TWS-MB executive at some point during their wildlife career. The first member is Rick Baydack, Rick helped create the University of Manitoba's wildlife program, where he brings an individualized approach to teaching. His work has earned him the 2020 Excellence in Wildlife Education Award. The next member is Erin McCance, who was recently inducted as a Fellow of TWS. The third members is our very own secretary Emily Thoroski, a University of Manitoba grad student who won the Conservation Award for her work creating the video "Why do Wildlife Matter?". For this feature on our three TWS members, we interviewed all three members with the same questions and are displaying their answers side by side. Enjoy below!

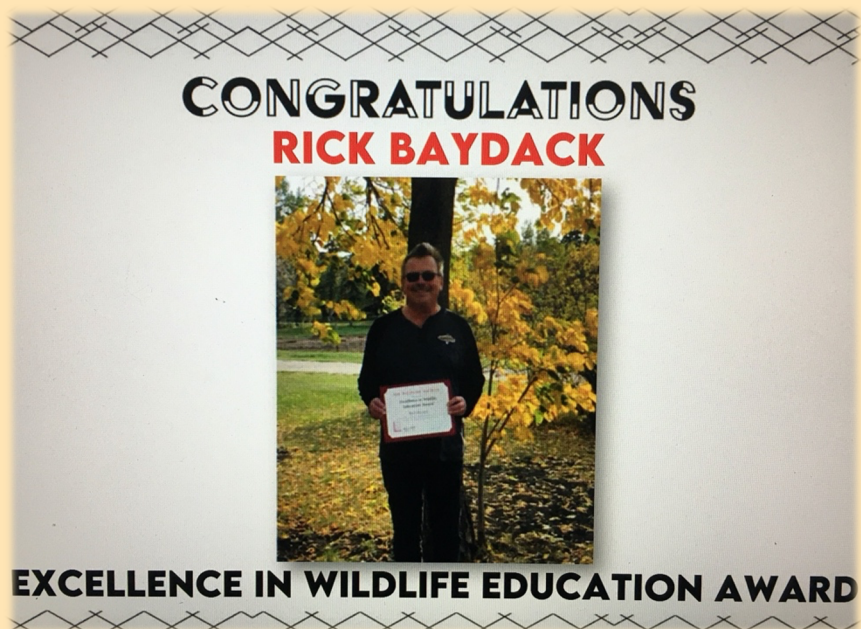
Name and occupation

Dr. Rick Baydack, Professor of Environmental Science and Studies University of Manitoba
Erin McCance, Wildlife Ecologist/Project Manager Ecologic Environmental; Executive Director, the Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society; Sessional Instructor, University of Manitoba
Emily Thoroski, Master of Environment Student (University of Manitoba), Musician

1) What started you on your path to wildlife management?

Rick

My family was extremely interested in the outdoors and was lucky to have a family cottage at Falcon Lake. My parents and two older brothers were regularly active in hunting and fishing and I simply 'joined in'. These are memories that span as far back as I can remember – many great experiences that are still etched in my mind from those days.



Erin

Exposure to nature at an early age by many family members, namely my grandfather. Those early experiences became significant and powerful memories. Those positive recollections, in combination with my curiosity of the natural world, drew me to the profession.

Emily

I grew up interested and excited about animals. While visiting the Assiniboine Park Zoo when I was younger, my parents had a hard time getting me to move along from the brown bear exhibit which was near the entrance of the zoo. I could stay there watching the bears for hours. My parents never let me stay of course as we had to keep moving to see the other animals, but I knew I felt a connection to those bears. My love for animals grew stronger as time went by, throughout the years I've witnessed many issues affecting wildlife conservation and have dedicated my existence to helping to create a more sustainable planet. I also love learning and helping others, so wildlife conservation is the field for me!

2) Why did you join The Wildlife Society (TWS)?

Rick

I joined TWS at the Chapter level soon after its creation in Manitoba. However, it was while I attended Colorado State University (CSU), pursuing my PhD, that I realized how important TWS was for an aspiring wildlife professional. All students in the CSU wildlife program were more or less expected to become members at all levels of TWS – and not only be a member but become an ACTIVE member in the organization. As I was leaving CSU after obtaining my PhD, my lead advisor (Dale Hein, major Professor) left me with the following advice that I continue to pass along to my students: “Now remember, Baydack, that you need to remain active with your professional organization (TWS), otherwise you will become obsolete in about 6 months!” Best advice I ever received. TWS has opened so many doors on my career path. Moreover, my continued participation has allowed me to build lifetime friendships with colleagues all over the world – a true benefit that cannot be replaced.

Erin

I joined TWS initially to be a part of a community, I believed in the mission of the society, to network, and to learn from my peers. Best move I ever made professionally; the community and society have delivered!

Emily

I joined TWS because of a great mentoring session with Dr. Rick Baydack. I was a second-year student at the University of Manitoba, and he handed me a TWS information pamphlet. He said to me, "look into this organization and consider becoming a member as it will help you make connections within the wildlife field." Since that day, January 2016, I have been a proud member of all three levels of TWS: the International Parent Society, the Canadian Section, and the Manitoba Chapter. I have held the role of Treasurer within the MB Chapter Executive and am the current Secretary of the Chapter. I have attended four TWS conferences (two in Canada, two in the USA), and I have presented my research at two conferences and have recently been awarded with the Conservation Education Award through The Wildlife Society. I have made

connections with over 100 amazing wildlife biologists across the world, I stay in touch with many of them and honour our friendships.

You could say that Dr. Baydack may have been right in his advice for me to join and get involved in The Wildlife Society. I would not be where I am today without it. By the way, I still have the original pamphlet.

3) what degrees do you hold, and from where?

Rick

Honours Bachelor of Science (Zoology) and Master of Natural Resources Management degrees from the University of Manitoba, and a Ph.D. in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University.

Erin

I have three homegrown degrees: BSc., M. Env, Ph.D. – University of Manitoba

Emily

I have a Bachelor of Environmental Science Honours Coop Degree with a Minor in Biological Sciences from the University of Manitoba. I am currently working on a Master of Environment degree at the UofM.

4) What professional designations are important to pursue?

Rick

Whatever extra letters you want to add to your name, and I be said it before, and I'll continue to say it: you need to become an active member at all levels with TWS. Take advantage of this internationally acclaimed society; it is *the* professional organization of wildlife professionals!

Erin

Professional biologist designation such as Certified Wildlife Biologist (CWB®). The Environmental Professional (EP), through EcoCanada, is also valuable. Depending on the specificity of your career path, additional certifications are valuable such as capture and handling, chemical immobilization, wilderness first aid, boating safety – lots of choice out there if you are willing to put in the professional development.

Emily

It is important to get the professional designations that are relevant to your career choice and align with your passions. Within the field of wildlife management, I think it's important to pursue an academic degree or multiple degrees in the environmental / natural resources disciplines. I also think it is important to become a CWB®, as this designation will identify to colleagues and employers that you have achieved a particular standard of excellence in the wildlife field.

5) Tell us how the Covid-19 crisis has had an impact on wildlife management?

Rick

Covid has restricted a great deal of wildlife research and management activities. Field work in particular has been contained or postponed, meaning long-term datasets will now have some gaps. Closure of international borders has hampered cooperative partnership arrangements and plans for future activities. In-Person Conferences (at which networking and socializing are critical to the profession) have been held in the digital-virtual world – not the same impact in my view. Plus, let's not forget that many (urban and rural) communities have been impacted due to lack of visitors and/or closures of businesses.



Erin

Wildlife and habitat management are often under-funded. The economic impact of Covid-19 is significant. There will be less money to go around which may exacerbate under-funded management, with programming becoming even more strapped for resources. Very qualified biologists, ecologists, managers, among others, are without work; unable to find jobs. Hopefully, this talent is not lost to other disciplines. Wildlife and ecology are also adapting to changing human behavior and modification to human movement patterns.

Emily

It seems that the pandemic has created many opportunities for biologists to study wildlife in a manner that they have never before thought of. As the human population changed their activities (especially with the ultra-quiet lockdown phase in the Spring), wildlife altered their behaviour, creating new questions and studies for wildlife biologists across the planet. During this pandemic, scientists and wildlife managers need to remain positive; wildlife conservation and management needs to continue moving forward. Science must lead and be involved in the decisions for the sustainable future of wildlife.

6) To you, how is wildlife management and sustainability related?

Rick

Wildlife management and sustainability are one in the same – the classic concept of using wildlife resources today, but not in a way that impacts the ability of future generations to use those resources. *All* of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDGs) can be interpreted to have a connection to wildlife and their (sustainable) management.

Erin

One is not achieved without the other. Wildlife, similar to human beings, are a part of the ecological system. Removal of one species or guild results in a domino effect of inter-related changes. Sustainability is defined as the ability to maintain current conditions without a depletion of natural resources. Wildlife are a natural resource that enhance ecological integrity, with responsible conservation and effective management of those resources lending itself to a beneficial increase in overall sustainability.

Emily

Wildlife management and sustainability go hand in hand. I think that's why so many undergraduate students at the University of Manitoba have such a hard time choosing their focus areas within their degree program! They are given many choices with one of the choices being Wildlife Management and one being Sustainability. I am one of the students that had a hard time choosing as in my mind they are the same. If you do not have wildlife management, you will not have a sustainable world. I ended up choosing wildlife management but much of my work and research involves sustainability. I want to align with all students no matter what faculty, department or focus area they chose. We will be stronger if we all work together.

7) What is the biggest trend for the future of wildlife management?

Rick

Short-term: trying to maintain wildlife management activities in the face of Covid. Longer-term: ensuring that early career wildlife professionals can be mentored (especially in the field) by the older generation of wildlifers who will soon retire.

Erin

Human dimensions (as an integrating concept) continues to gain momentum. There is recognition that we need to understand one another; that the more we understand diverse perspectives, there is an increasingly likelihood that we will be successful in our management programs. Urban wildlife management is also a growing area of the field of study. As we continue to have urbanization bleed out across landscapes, inevitably we are challenged to manage urban wildlife, human-wildlife conflict, and species co-existence principles.

Emily

Wildlife species are declining at a fast rate. A lot of hard work will need to take place in order for many species to have a chance to continue to exist on our rapidly changing planet. From what I am seeing, a major trend going on within the wildlife management is the use of scientists using social media to stay in touch with biologists and to educate the public on their research. Scientists will have to take an interdisciplinary approach at managing wildlife and work with

many stakeholders to create a sustainable future. I think the role of social media within the wildlife management field will be critical moving forward.

8) Tell us one message you want to leave with the TWS-MB community?

Rick

Anyone interested in wildlife has an obligation to join and contribute to this professional organization – The Wildlife Society. Each person’s commitment and dedication to the Mission of TWS is paramount in attaining a society that understands and appreciates the importance of wildlife in the future – your personal future, as well as the planet’s.

Erin

We are stronger together! Professional organizations, such as The Wildlife Society, allow us to collaborate, learn from one another, lean on each other during difficult times, motivate each other toward our common goals, and give back to our community and the wildlife that we all love so much.

Emily

Follow your passions and work hard to create the future that the generations to come deserve.

To find out more about Rick, Erin, and Emily, visit them on LinkedIn and find them at the new professional group – The Wildlife Society – Manitoba Chapter (TWS-MB)

Update on Emily's Current Research

Emily is currently pursuing her Master of Environment Degree at the University of Manitoba. Her research is investigating human perceptions on wildlife conservation and is looking at how music and video can play a role in educating and promoting conservation. Emily's latest project was a collaboration project along with Volunteer Manitoba to help celebrate Manitoba's 150th Anniversary. She interviewed wildlife biologists that study Manitoba wildlife species and used their responses to write a song called 'Manitoba, Everything I Need'. Emily created a fundraiser to help raise money and celebrate Manitoba wildlife within the province. You can view the links to the song and fundraiser below!

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

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/pages/manitoba-everything-i-need-fundraiser-for-manitoba/>

Emily received the Conservation Education Award from The Wildlife Society for her work within her Honours Thesis project where she created the film "Why Do Wildlife Matter?" and a song called "We Decide." "It is an honour for me to be receiving the Conservation Education Award this year! I am beyond words excited to be sharing and celebrating this accomplishment with my mentors, family, and friends" Emily said.



One more fun thing before you go...

EcoFriendly Sask, a brother and sister duo based in Saskatoon, has just released **Nature Companion** (<https://www.naturecompanion.ca/>), a **free** app/website introducing many of the plants and animals found in Canada's four western provinces. In just one app, you'll find basic information about over 300 common plants, trees, birds, animals, insects, reptiles, and amphibians. It's available on or offline and is very user-friendly.

Nature Companion is designed as an introductory guide to a whole range of creatures found across western Canada. Our goal is to get curious observers, children, and newcomers to an area hooked on nature – if it leads them to buy a bird guide or join a nature society, we will consider ourselves hugely successful! Nature Companion provides short, easy-to-understand descriptions and colourful photographs along with a *Did you know?* section with interesting, unexpected details about each species. It's free with no ads or sign up and can be installed on your phone or tablet directly from the Nature Companion website (<https://www.naturecompanion.ca/>). Check the *Help* (the ? in the top right corner) for assistance in installing the app.

