IN MEMORIAM

Warren B. Ballard Jr.

Warren B. Ballard, Jr.—beloved husband of Heather A. Whitlaw and widely published author, editor, and nationally recognized professor at Texas Tech University's Department of Natural Resources Management—passed away peacefully at his Lubbock, Texas home on January 12, 2012. During Warren's long career he produced more than 200 peer-reviewed journal articles and raised over $5.9 million in grant, contract, and research funding, which supported more than 60 graduate students. “His legacy lives on in the students, faculty, and research projects he touched,” said Michael Galyean, Dean of Texas Tech's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

Warren was born on April 28, 1947 in Boston, Massachusetts. The family moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico in the early 1950s, where Warren attended St. Pius X High School. He earned a BSc. in Fish and Wildlife Management from New Mexico State University, his MSc in Environmental Biology from Kansas State University, and PhD in Wildlife Science from the University of Arizona. After completing his MSc in 1971, Warren worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and then from 1973–1990 as a wildlife biologist and research scientist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. His groundbreaking research on predator-prey relationships, wolf ecology, and ungulate populations is still widely recognized and considered foundational research. He then worked as a consultant with the National Park Service and LGL Alaska (an ecological research company) while getting his PhD. He soon became the Director of the New Brunswick Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit (1993–1996) and on June 7, 1995 married the love of his life, fellow wildlife biologist Heather Whitlaw. Warren served as Research Supervisor with the Arizona Game and Fish Department (1996–1998) before joining the Texas Tech faculty in 1998 where he achieved the rank of Full Professor in 2003, was named the Bricker Chair in Wildlife Management in 2006, and Horn Professor in 2008. “Horn Professors … represent the very best of our faculty,” said Texas Tech President Guy Bailey.
A member of more than seven professional societies, Warren Ballard served as editor of four international journals including the Wildlife Society Bulletin and ALCES from 1998–2001. He was an Associate Editor of ALCES for many years as well as Wildlife Monographs and the Wildlife Society Bulletin. The quality of Ballard's research has been recognized with 22 awards. In 1989, he was honored by his peers with the Distinguished Moose Biologist award. In 2002, he earned the Chancellor's Council Distinguished Research Award at Texas Tech as well as a special service recognition award from The Wildlife Society. Ballard was recognized as the Outstanding Researcher in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at Texas Tech—four times. He became a TWS Fellow in 2005, and has won various society awards for best professional article, monograph, and publications.

Warren's legacy in the moose world is certain. His two chapters on Population Dynamics and Predator-Prey Relationships (coauthored with Victor Van Ballenberghe) in “Ecology and Management of North American Moose” stand as seminal summary works. The moose world is indebted to Warren Ballard and the species is better off for his being—he will be missed.