

P R E F A C E

The 17th North American Moose Conference and Workshop, hosted by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Wildlife Branch was held in Thunder Bay, Ontario April 20 - 24, 1981. One hundred and sixteen delegates from 6 states, 8 provinces, the Yukon and North-west Territories and Sweden were represented.

The proceedings contain 19 of the 21 papers presented as well as a record of the workshop session, list of delegates, special award and minutes of the business meeting. Technical sessions dealt with a variety of topics related to moose. They included: 4 papers related to populations - inventory/dynamics chaired by Alan Bisset; 8 related to management chaired by Ken Morrison; 4 related to parasites and physiology chaired by Murray Lankester and 5 related to habitat chaired by John McNicol.

The workshop theme "Managing Moose in the 1980's" involved delegates from 14 jurisdictions. In addition, biologists from Norway and New Brunswick provided written data incorporated into a seven category check list.

The evening of April 21 featured 5 informal audio-visual presentations chaired by Craig Greenwood and Mike Wilton. Those who participated included: Warren Ballard, Rolf Peterson, John Folinsbee, Ed Addison and Rick Page.

Murray Lankester and Dave Euler chaired the after banquet festivities on April 22nd. Several "awards" were presented to worthy

recipients. In addition, the title "Distinguished Moose Biologist" was bestowed on both founding 'fathers' of the North American Moose Conference and Workshop. The first recipients of this award, Pat Karns from Minnesota and Al Elsey from Ontario, were honoured in recognition for outstanding contributions to the field of moose management.

Ontario is proud of its continuing participation in the North American Moose Conference and Workshop. Delegates from this Province have been actively involved since the initial meeting held in St. Paul, Minnesota on March 7, 1963. We have had the privilege of hosting the 8th and 17th conference and workshop.

Ontario, following the lead of Alaska, published the proceedings of both the 8th and 9th workshop held in Thunder Bay and Quebec City. Ray Addison, then of our research branch, was instrumental in establishing the present format. Minnesota, Manitoba, Newfoundland and Alberta picked up the challenge and produced issues number 10 through 13 inclusive. Proceedings #14 through 17 have been published by Lakehead University under the guidance of Harold Cumming and his able editorial committee. Finally we are proud to have re-initiated a structured workshop forum recorded in these proceedings.

Many individuals helped to make this conference and workshop a success. Special thanks go to Lang Chamberlin, John McNicol and Rick Gollat who handled registration and were responsible for many of the details which help a meeting of this type run smoothly. Thanks are due to the chairman who so ably handled the technical sessions, those who 'volunteered' for the workshop, evening session

chairmen and those who handled the after banquet festivities. Recognition also to the Ontario Wildlife Branch particularly Ray Stefanski and Doug Hagen for financial and moral support. And, of course, a special thanks to all the delegates for their participation in the conference and workshop especially to those who presented papers.

(H.R.) Tim Timmermann
1981 Chairman