



IN MEMORIAM
Dr. James Maskey (1976 – 2024)

Sadly, our friend and colleague Professor James “Jim” Maskey passed away on Feb 22, 2024 after a brief struggle with an aggressive brain tumor. Only 47 years old, Jim was a mainstay at NA Moose Conferences since a PhD student conducting novel research in moose-brainworm ecology at the University of North Dakota in the mid-2000s. An entertaining conversation was guaranteed as he and his close professional friends Jason Smith and Bill Jensen held court at moose conferences. Everyone was welcome to sit and enjoy a funny breakfast conversation and end-of-day refreshment with he and friends. Jim published in *Alces* and other journals while providing dozens of professional presentations including at NA Moose Conferences.

Although an excellent researcher, Jim’s passion was the classroom where he truly excelled. He was hired in 2009 by the University of Mary (Bismarck, North Dakota), where unsurprisingly, he created and mostly taught the Wildlife Management and Ecology Concentration in the Biology Program. Eventually elected Chair of the Biology Program, Jim was promoted to Full Professor in 2022. He was the recipient of multiple awards and grants, including a National Science

Foundation STEM grant. He brought his devotion to wildlife management into the classroom, and colleagues and students alike were beneficiaries of his great stories about moose in northwestern North Dakota. His outstanding academic and life attributes were immensely appreciated and admired at the University of Mary, as described passionately by its President and colleagues:

“He had just completed his doctorate from the University of North Dakota and was searching for a genuine community where he could teach and mentor students. And he was a great teacher and exemplar of our Benedictine values, effectively reaching the struggling student while challenging and guiding the most capable. He was a much-loved and admired teacher.... exactly the kind of colleague one hopes for. More than anything, we remember Jim as a gentle, kind and caring man who respected all life.”

Jim’s contributions within the moose world were measurable, but more importantly, his calling and positive influence on students and education were immeasurable. We remember and admire Jim fondly as a true scholar, and as a humorous, gentle, and extremely kind person.