

# Wildlife Alumni Newsletter

OCTOBER 2008

## New Award: “Award for Professional Excellence”

The University of Maine’s Forestry and Wildlife Alumni Association and the Department of Wildlife Ecology have traditionally presented one Wildlife Alumni award per year, the **Distinguished Wildlife Alumnus/a**. This award has been given for extraordinary, long-term contributions to the wildlife profession and wildlife conservation. Persons receiving this award usually speak at the spring forestry/wildlife dinner and honorees’ names are engraved on a plaque that resides in Nutting Hall. This award dates back to 1978.

However, the numbers of individuals deserving of recognition far exceed those we can honor as Distinguished Wildlife Alumnus/a. Given that the Wildlife Program at the University of Maine has been in existence since 1936 (with the formation of the Maine Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, and that

many accomplished professionals from this program are not receiving the recognition they deserve, the Faculty have decided to initiate a second award, an **Award of Professional Excellence**.

The Award of Professional Excellence is given by the Faculty of Wildlife Ecology to recognize years of service to the profession by our former students (graduate or undergraduate). UMaine’s Wildlife Program realizes that significant numbers of students graduating from this Program have served their profession with outstanding and long-term contributions to the wildlife profession, including aquatic sciences, conservation biology, fisheries, wildlife ecology, and natural resource management. By doing so, they have honored themselves and our program, and we wish to recognize their contributions.



Students participating in Wildlife Ecology Lab field trip this fall. Student numbers are increasing; with 29 first-year Wildlife Ecology students this fall.

## Call for Nominations

The Department of Wildlife Ecology is soliciting nominations of alumni for consideration for an **Award of Professional Excellence**.

Although our faculty attempt to keep up with the careers of our alumni, we know we are not hearing about many people who have made significant contributions to our profession. We are asking you to nominate someone for this award (do not forget yourself!).

The Wildlife Alumnus Committee, consisting of graduates of the UMaine’s Wildlife Program (including some for-

mer recipients of the Distinguished Wildlife Alumnus/a Award) and faculty, will review a list of graduates and recommend a set of candidates to receive the Award of Professional Excellence. Recommendations will be based on outstanding and long-term contributions to the wildlife profession, including aquatic sciences, conservation biology, fisheries, wildlife ecology, and natural resource management.

Please send your nominations to [gilbert@maine.edu](mailto:gilbert@maine.edu).

<http://www.wle.umaine.edu/index.htm>



**Undergraduate Jeff Dacey banding puffins on Petit Manan Island as part of a Summer Job.**

***“It seems I encounter Maine graduates nearly everywhere I go in my professional travels and the Department has turned out way more than its share of leaders in the wildlife profession.”***

**— Dale May**

## Distinguished Wildlife Alumnus/a Awards

- 2008 - Alan E. Hutchenson (1969), B.S.; (1980), M.S.
- 2007 - Pralad Yonzon (1989), Ph.D.
- 2006 - William B. Krohn (1969), M.S.
- 2005 - Paul R. Nickerson (1966), B.S.
- 2004 - John T. Major (1979), M.S., (1983) Ph.D.
- 2003 - David E. Capen (1972), M.S.
- 2002 - Harry E. Hodgdon (1968), B.S.
- 2001 - Lee E. Perry (1967), B.S.
- 2000 - Malcolm L. Hunter (1974), B.S.
- 1999 - Gary C. White (1972), M.S.
- 1998 - Gary G. Donovan (1968), B.S.
- 1997 - G. Bruce Wiersma (1964), B.S.
- 1996 - Matthew Scott (1962), B.S.
- 1994 - Frederick C. Dean (1950), M.S.
- 1993 - Richard B. Anderson (1957), B.S.
- 1992 - Susan D. Haseltine (1971), B.S.
- 1991 - Eric G. Bolen (1959), B.S.
- 1990 - Richard N. Smith (1959), B.S.
- 1989 - Arthur Davis (1947), B.S.
- 1988 - Edward L. Kozicky (1941), B.S.
- 1987 - James D. Rearden (1950), M.S.
- 1986 - Milton Friend (1958), B.S.
- 1985 - William L. Robinson (1959), M.S.
- 1984 - Malcolm W. Coulter (1948), M.S.
- 1983 - Clarence E. Faulkner (1949), B.S.
- 1982 - James M. Shepard (1949), B.S.
- 1981 - Russell T. Norris (1938), B.S.
- 1980 - Robert B. Weeden (1955), M.S.
- 1979 - F. Victor Schmidt (1942), B.S.
- 1978 - Merwin A. Marston (1939), M.S.

## Recipients of the Award for Professional Excellence

- 2008 - Thomas J. Allen (1970), M.S.
- 2008 - John C. Baird; (1966) M.S.
- 2008 - Guy A. Baldassare (1975), B.S.
- 2008 - Lawrence S. Barden (1996), M.S.
- 2008 - Edward T. Baum (1967), B.S.
- 2008 - Peter M. Bourque (1964), B.S.
- 2008 - Alan G. Clark (1973), B.S.
- 2008 - Herbert C. Frost (1994), Ph.D.
- 2008 - James P. Gibbs (1986), B.S.
- 2008 - Leslie L. Glasgow (1948), M.S.
- 2008 - Daniel J. Harrison (1983), M.S., (1986); Ph.D.
- 2008 - John A. Livaitis (1984), Ph.D.
- 2008 - Dale W. May; (1981), M.S.
- 2008 - Audrey J. Magoun (1967), B.S.
- 2008 - Mark A. McCollough (1981), M.S., (1986,); Ph.D.
- 2008 - Deborah S. Palman (1977), M.S.
- 2008 - Sarah S. Stockwell (1985), M.S., (1994), Ph.D.
- 2008 - Michael W. Tome (1981), M.S.
- 2008 - Patrick Valkenburg (1972), B.S.

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Plus all recipients of the Distinguished Wildlife Alumnus/a Award.

# Freshwater Fisheries Initiative is Expanding Education and Research Opportunities

The Department of Wildlife Ecology and the schools of Marine Science and Biology and Ecology are cooperating to offer an undergraduate minor in Fisheries with an emphasis on freshwater and anadromous species.

Wildlife Ecology now has an Assistant Professor of Freshwater Fisheries Biology, Dr. Stephen Coghlan. Steve has initiated both field and laboratory studies with brook trout, Atlantic salmon, and small-mouth bass, among other species.

Dr. Joseph Zydlewski, Assistant Unit Leader for Fisheries, is also part of the faculty of Wildlife Ecology. He has initiated a variety of fisheries studies that focus on seasonal and migratory movements.

Many of the research projects are in cooperation with faculty in the schools of Biology and Ecology and Marine Science. As a result of this initiative, more opportunities for field experience are available to undergraduate students, and more graduate students with interests in fisheries are attending UM.



Graduate and Undergraduate Students are participating in research on Penobscot River's Atlantic and Short-nosed Sturgeon.



Wildlife students still learn about American Woodcock; including mist-netting during Summer Camp.

## Undergraduate Studying Moose Ticks

Katie Andrle, an undergraduate senior, is working with Lee Kantar, the moose and deer biologist at the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife on a research project designed to understand the effects of winter ticks on moose in Maine. She and other undergraduate students in the department will be sampling ticks on moose that come into tagging stations in Eustis and Greenville, Maine.

The complex dynamics of weather, winter tick survival, and moose mortality are poorly understood in Maine and Katie will examine these relationships

to help develop predictive models of moose winter mortality due to tick loads. She also plans to work with Lee Kantar to develop a long-term monitoring protocol for tick loads on moose. Winter tick survival increases with warmer fall temperatures and milder winters and their hypothesis is that with climate change, we may see an increase in tick numbers, and subsequently moose mortality.

Katie was recently awarded the New England Outdoor Writer's Association Scholarship.



A member of the University of Maine System

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**Some of the Seniors in Wildlife Ecology, May 2008.**

**Nineteen students received their diplomas last year.**

# Malcolm W. Coulter

Dr. Malcolm W. Coulter, Professor Emeritus of Wildlife, died on August 2, 2008, at his home in Edgington, Maine. Mal began his career at the University of Maine in 1948 as the Assistant Leader of the Maine Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit and Instructor in wildlife management. While in these positions he worked on a Ph.D. at Syracuse University, finishing in 1966. In 1968, he became the Associate Director of UM's newly formed School of Forest Resources, having the lead responsibility for the wildlife program. He served as the first Chair of the Department of Wildlife when it was created a few years later.

Mal earned a B.S. degree from the University of Connecticut (1942) and immediately started graduate work at the University of Maine. In 1942 he entered the U.S. Army (88<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division), serving in both Africa and Italy and was awarded a Bronze Star in 1944. Mal completed his M.S. degree in Wildlife Conservation in 1948. Mal's professional career spanned 34 years, during which he conducted research on a variety of species in many of Maine's habitats. He is most noted for his work on fishers, martens, snapping turtles, black ducks, and other waterfowl.

Mal served as President of the Maine Chapter of the Atlantic Salmon Federation and President of the Penobscot Salmon Club. He was named to the roll

of honor in the Atlantic Salmon Federation, was named a trustee for the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, and was appointed a member of the Advisory Board to Baxter State Park. In 1974, the Governor appointed him to Maine's Land Use Regulation Commission. Dr. Coulter received many honors, including the John Pearce Award from the TWS Northeast Section (1978) for his outstanding professional contributions. In 1985, he received the Award of Professional Achievement by the Maine Chapter of TWS for his dedication to wildlife conservation. Our Wildlife Alumni selected him for the University of Maine Distinguished Wildlife Alumnus Award (1984) and the Award of Professional Excellence (2008).

Mal was a natural teacher and especially enjoyed leading small groups of wildlife students on field trips to directly experience the many lessons nature has to offer. He regularly taught courses in wildlife ecology and supervised numerous graduate and undergraduate students. Malcolm is survived by his beloved wife Dorothy, a brother and a sister, two sons, three daughters, nine grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. Donations in Malcolm's memory may be made to the Malcolm W. Coulter Wildlife Alumni Scholarship, Department of Wildlife Ecology, 5755 Nutting Hall, University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469-5755.