

53RD NORTH AMERICAN MOOSE CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP
CARRABASSETT VALLEY (SUGARLOAF), MAINE
JUNE 10-14TH, 2019

The 53rd North American Moose Conference and Workshop was held in Carrabassett Valley, Maine at the Sugarloaf Resort on June 10-14th, 2019. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (conference organizer Lee Kantar) hosted this annual gathering of biologists, managers, researchers, students and stakeholders who gather to present information on moose research and management. The Conference and...

The theme “The Research and Management Nexus: Integration and Synergy” represents both the power of harnessing research and management as well as a reminder of the importance of understanding and effectively melding these two aspects of wildlife biology. Moose management relies on understanding population dynamics, habitat relationships, impacts of disease and a host of other complicating elements. Research dedicated to quantifying and elucidating these complexities is vital to the manager who must provide empirical evidence and the “best available” data to make informed decisions on behalf of the public interest. Managers often find themselves challenged by perceptions and observations that, without evidence to the contrary, weakens their credibility and ability to adapt to short and long-term changes. Researchers must also consider the needs of the manager, the social-political pressures and demands that complicate management decisions. Research projects that address the needs of managers as well as regional phenomena serve to strengthen **area** knowledge while bolstering the collective wisdom of agencies responsible for managing moose. Managers gain immensely from regional research and researchers gain as well from understanding the pitfalls and benefits that managers face in the absence/presence of current information.

Maine hosted over 92 delegates (plus family members) and MDIFW staff. This included tribal representation, many Canadian provinces and a wide representation of delegates from across moose range in the US.

In lieu of a traditional workshop, the conference hosted an evening Q & A for the public with renowned moose biologists from across North America. An expert panel presentation and interactive discussion of Chronic Wasting Disease highlighted the current status, knowledge, and developments of this wide-ranging, troublesome, and minimally understood disease.

Papers were organized into 8 sessions: “Unique Perspectives in Provincial Moose Management”, “Management Approaches”, “Habitat”, “Techniques”, “Harvest and Predation”, “Diseases”, “Winter Ticks” and “Management Issues” with informative posters also available to participants throughout the meeting. Dr. Roy Rea, the 2018 recipient of the Distinguished Moose Biologist Award, provided the traditional DMB presentation - “Use of the Montréal Process for Constructing Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Moose”.

Participants chose from one of four field trip options that included a drive to the top of Quill Hill for a discussion on wind power and impacts to wildlife; a high elevation hike up Bigelow Mountain in the public reserve lands; a scenic road trip to look at mitigation strategies to minimize moose-vehicle collisions; and a hike into the Mt. Abraham area to discuss high elevation moose habitat and moose hunting.

The annual business meeting occurred at the end of the week with review of publication items and finances of the journal *ALCES*, discussion of future meetings, and other moose issues.

The annual banquet featured amazing views of the Bigelow Mountain range, music by Vermont’s only Davey Davis, and the silent and not-so-silent auctions were successful in providing important funding for future travel awards. Recipients of travel awards and the many folks on the local committee were duly recognized followed by presentation of the 2019 Distinguished Moose Biologist Award to Lee Kantar, State Moose Biologist for the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Delegates were provided with canvas gift bags featuring the 53rd North American Moose Conference logo holding logo t-shirts and hats, logo insulated mug, and a bronze moose head magnet created and made in Maine by Dave Hentosh of Smoldering Lake Outfitters.

HOST: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

LOCATION: Carrabassett Valley, Maine

DATE: June 10-14th, 2019

CHAIR: Lee Kantar, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

NUMBER OF DELEGATES/PARTICIPANTS: 92+