

News and Comment

Northeast Natural History Conference 2012

The 12th Northeast Natural History Conference (NENHC) hosted by The Association of Northeastern Biologists to be held 15-19 April 2012 at the OnCenter Convention Center in Syracuse, New York. This is a 3 day conference which promises to be the largest forum for researchers, natural resource managers, students, and naturalists to present current information on the varied

aspects of applied field biology (freshwater, marine, and terrestrial) and natural history for the Northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. Registration is currently open. Deadline for abstract submissions is February 15, 2012 and early registration deadline is March 1, 2012. More information is available at www.eaglehill.us/NENHC_2012/NENHC2012.

American Society of Mammalogists Annual Meeting 2012

The 92nd annual meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists to be held 22-26 June 2012 at the Peppermill Resort, Spa & Casino in Reno, Nevada. Registration is currently open. Deadlines for abstract submis-

sions is April 15th, 2012 and registration is June 15th, 2012 (after this date, a \$50 fee will apply). More information is available at www.mammalsociety.org.

Northeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Annual Meeting 2012

The 13th annual meeting of the Northeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (NEPARC) to be held 24-26 July 2012 at the Highland Center Lodge in Crawford Notch, New Hampshire. Deadline for sub-

mission of abstracts for oral presentations is February 10, 2012 and for poster abstracts, June 15, 2012. More information is available at www.northeastparc.org.

World Congress of Herpetology 7

The 7th World Congress of Herpetology (WCH) to be held 8-14 August 2012 at the University of British Columbia and the University of Victoria, in Vancouver, British Columbia. Registration is currently open. Dead-

line for submission of abstracts and early registrations is February 29, 2012. More information is available at www.worldcongressofherpetology.org.

North American Ornithological Conference 2012

The 5th North American Ornithological Conference (NAOC-V) to be held 14-18 August, 2012 at the University of British Columbia campus in Vancouver, British Columbia. Deadline for regular abstract sub-

missions is February 29, 2012 and early registration is May 15 2012. More information is available at www.naoc-v2012.com.

Dr. J (John) Wilson Eedy 1944–2003

Dr. J. Wilson Eedy, a scientist and humanitarian, died suddenly in Nigeria on June 23rd, 2003. J. Wilson Eedy was born in Stratford, Ontario September 30th 1944. He married Edith in 1967 and had a son and a daughter.

Wilson's professional career followed a path, which in hindsight reflected his evolution as a humanitarian. He received his B.Sc. from the University of Western Ontario in Zoology in 1967, followed by an M.Sc. under Dr. Ogilvie in 1969 (his thesis was entitled "The factors affecting the thermal preferences of house mice

and Mongolian gerbils"). He received a doctorate in 1973 from Carleton University (his thesis subject was "Seasonal and geographic variations in the thermoregulatory behaviour of two species of *Peromyscus*") under Dr. Don Smith. Dr. Eedy joined NRC for one year as a post doctoral fellow working with the Water Subcommittee and Arctic Panel, National Research Council of Canada, Ottawa and authored a report on the "Environmental cause and effect phenomena relating to technical development in the Canadian Arctic."

Much of his later work involved travels in the Canadian Arctic.

He joined Beak Consultants Limited in October 1973, where he was one of the nine principals, and became a major contributor to many Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) for large industrial projects. Many of these projects were in the north, including the Mackenzie Valley pipeline, the Dempster Highway, and many proposed mines and hydroelectric schemes.

Wilson's role initially was the terrestrial wildlife and wildlife habitat. This quickly became fused with the botanical assessments. At the same time, the issues associated with the socioeconomic impacts of development began to be included in assessments. This was a new area of investigation and Wilson developed a strong interest and expertise. He enjoyed the process of meeting with people and sharing his expertise. As much of his work was in the north, Wilson had a great deal of contact with First Nation's people. In a sense, Wilson was a pioneer in applying environmental science to mega-projects within the new environmental assessment legislation. When Geographic Information Systems (GIS) emerged as a tool, Wilson saw the value it could bring, and subsequently how it could help developing countries build a framework for the future. This meant Wilson could examine the broad scale issues and translate them into terms that would benefit individuals.

Wilson was appointed book review editor of the *Canadian Field-Naturalist* on 12 July 1975 and served until his untimely death on the 23 June 2003. As well as editing all reviews, he prepared a list of new titles for virtually every issue covering zoology, botany, environment and miscellaneous. In the 1980s he added a category "young naturalists" to the new titles section, and produced annual book-review editor's report. Wilson also spent many years on the Ecological and Environmental Advisory Committee (EEAC) for the Regional Municipality of Halton.

Wilson was very hard working and immensely productive, and could be relied on to get the job done on time. He would churn out well-written reports three times faster than his colleagues. Wilson had a terrific

sense for new projects and business prospects – an ideal combination in a consultant. He applied this intensity to other areas of his life too. He relished finding out about other people's cultures. Without restraint he would try local foods, a perilous venture for one in his condition and something that would exasperate his colleagues.

Not surprisingly, when Wilson had the opportunity to combine his many talents to help a developing nation, he took it. In 1995, along with Drs. Greg Wickware and Festus Akindunni, he joined with some Nigerians to create a geomatics company that would employ Nigerians, working for Nigerians to better life in Nigeria. He was intrigued by Nigeria and it became his second home; a place he literally adopted. He often wore the flamboyant traditional costume. He saw a way that he could make a real difference for the people of Nigeria, but this was not without personal risk.

Wilson had been diagnosed as diabetic at 11 years old. This disease is unfortunate for someone who has chosen to wander the remote places of our planet. There was always a danger Wilson would be far out on the tundra or deep in the jungle when he needed help. Despite this risk, he persisted with his objectives in Canada and Nigeria. Indeed Nigeria was not the best place to follow the food and exercise regime required to keep this condition under control. He became ill on several occasions, but passionately continued to work in Nigeria for four to six months every year. Sadly, this strain eventually took its toll.

Wilson's work went beyond his founding of Geomatics Nigeria and building a skilled team of local people. He was involved in a variety of projects, including a GIS Space Agency conference, many forestry and park planning projects, and the African Healthcare Telematics Conference in 2000, which was in response to the HIV/AIDS problem pervading Africa. He and his wife personally supported a family with eight children, all of whom received post-secondary education.

This dynamic man will be missed by his many friends around the world.

ROY JOHN

Errata *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* 125(1): 53

In "Some Observations on the Pollination of Round-Leaf Orchid, *Galearis (Amerorchis) rotundifolia*, Near Jasper, Alberta", in the acknowledgements on page 53, last line "Ms. Joyce Reddoch" should be "Dr. Joyce Reddoch" and "Dr. Allen Reddoch" should be "Dr. Allan Reddoch".