

The Canadian Field-Naturalist

News and Comment

Compiled by Amanda E. Martin

Upcoming Meetings and Workshops

Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology to be held 3–7 January 2026 at the Oregon Convention Center, Portland, Oregon.

Registration is currently open. More information is available at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/sicb/program/ddC9FQp/index.cfm?pgid=2708>.

The Stewardship Network Conference

The 19th Stewardship Network Conference to be held 22–23 January 2026 at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, East Lansing, Michigan. Registration

is currently open. More information is available at <https://conference.stewardshipnetwork.org/>.

Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference

The 86th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference to be held 25–28 January 2026 at the Grand Wayne Convention Center, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Registration

is currently open. More information is available at <https://www.midwestfw.org/>.

Society for Range Management Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Society for Range Management to be held 7–11 February 2026 at the Portola Hotel & Spa at Monterey Bay and Monterey Marriott, Monterey, California. The theme of the conference is:

“‘Herd ‘round the World’’: Celebrating Global Rangelands and Pastoralism’. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <https://rangelands.org/annual-meeting-2026/>.

Wetland Science Conference

The Wisconsin Wetland Association’s Wetland Science Conference to be held 24–26 February 2026 at the Ho-Chunk Hotel & Convention Center, Baraboo,

Wisconsin. More information is available at <https://conference.wisconsinwetlands.org/>.

National Native Seed Conference

The National Native Seed Conference to be held as an online meeting, 25–26 February 2026. The theme of the conference is: ‘Seeds for Change: Building

Resilient Native Seed Infrastructure’. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <https://appliedeco.org/npsc26/>.

Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society Conference

The annual conference of the Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society to be held 26 February–1 March 2026 at the Banff Park Lodge Resort Hotel & Conference Centre, Banff, Alberta. The theme of the

conference is: ‘Working Together: Science and Management’. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <https://www.actws.ca/conference/>.

Entomological Society of America, Southeastern Branch Meeting

The annual meeting of the Southeastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America to be held 8–11 March 2026 at the Omni Hilton Head Oceanfront

Resort, Hilton Head, South Carolina. The theme of the meeting is: ‘A Century of Innovations Addressing Global Challenges in a Hyperconnected World’.

Registration is currently open. More information is available at <https://www.entsoc.org/membership/branches/southeastern/meeting>.

Entomological Society of America, Eastern Branch Meeting

The annual meeting of the Eastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America to be held 14–17 March 2026 at the Saratoga Hilton, Saratoga Springs, New York. The theme of the meeting is: ‘Entomology

Storytime’. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <https://www.entsoc.org/membership/branches/eastern/meeting>.

Eastern Bird Banding Association Annual Meeting

The 103rd annual meeting of the Eastern Bird Banding Association to be held 20–22 March 2026 at the Antiochian Village, Pennsylvania. More information

is available at <https://easternbirdbanding.org/annualmeeting2026>.

Entomological Society of America, Southwestern Branch Meeting

The annual meeting of the Southwestern Branch of the Entomological Society of America to be held 29 March–1 April 2026 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Amarillo Downtown, Amarillo, Texas. Registration

is currently open. More information is available at <https://www.entsoc.org/membership/branches/southwestern/meeting>.

***The Canadian Field-Naturalist* moves to full-colour printing and continuous online posting**

Advances have been made in digital printing as a replacement for offset printing. Offset printing uses plates to transfer an image, including text, to a rubber surface onto which a sheet of paper is rolled. It is best suited for large print runs. Digital printing is similar to laser printing in that it uses toner or liquid ink to transfer the image to paper, but it is less wasteful than offset printing and is better and more cost effective for smaller print runs. Because of COVID-19 supply-chain issues, *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* (CFN) tried digital printing, with limited success; see 135(4) and 136(1). Recently Gilmore Printer Services, Ottawa, which prints CFN, upgraded their digital printer. Recent results using digital printing were equivalent to offset printing; see 138(2) and 138(3). As such, CFN has moved to digital printing. One additional advantage for digital over offset printing is that CFN can now be printed fully in colour. Previously, while the online version was in colour, there was an additional cost to print in colour for those authors wishing and able to pay for colour. This additional charge has now been eliminated. And, we no longer have to produce two versions of the journal: one full-colour for posting online and the other for printing, some of which could be in colour.

Another recent change is that manuscripts for articles and notes will be posted online as soon as they are finalized and we have received author order and copyright transfer forms. Previously we waited until all the content of an issue was ready before online posting. The continuous, online-posted, latest issue will be labelled “In Progress” when we are still adding content and it is not yet complete. Content in the “In Progress” issue will be fully citable, with a year, volume, issue, page numbers, and a DOI assigned when they are published. As always, the latest issue can be viewed at <https://www.canadianfieldnaturalist.ca/index.php/cfn/issue/view/111>.

Lastly, while content will continue to be posted online, now immediately as it is finalized, the publication date for each issue of CFN remains the mailing date of the printed copy, which occurs several weeks after a full issue is posted online and the print-galley proofs have been reviewed and any required corrections made. The publication date remains extremely important when new species are formally described and named as outlined in international codes for nomenclature of flora and fauna.

CFN PRODUCTION TEAM

In Memoriam: Gerald “Gerry” L. Mackie (20 July 1942–4 November 2025)

On the morning of the second day of the biennial hybrid Canadian Freshwater Mollusc Research Meeting (CFMRM), attendees learned of the death of Dr. Gerry Mackie the previous day. Gerry was an inaugural Co-chair of the Mollusc Species Specialist Subcommittee (SSC) of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) along with Dr. Theresa (Aniskowicz) Fowler (Sheppard and Lepitzki 2022) the year after the combined Lepidoptera/Mollusc SSC was formed in 1994. He continued as Co-chair from 1995 through 2006 and saw the creation of the separate Mollusc SSC in 2000. I had the pleasure of being a member of the SSC under the leadership of Gerry at the end of his first stint and then as a fellow Co-chair with him during his second, four-year term as Co-chair from 2011 to 2014. Many of the attendees at the meeting remembered and honoured Gerry’s tutelage on Ontario’s freshwater mussels. Others referred to his body of work he

amassed during his tenure as professor at the University of Guelph (1974–2003), or after he retired from academia and continued to work as an environmental consultant. In addition to mussels, he was an expert on the small fingernail clams and took great pleasure in digging through the wet mud (Figure 1). He was not averse to looking in leaf litter for small terrestrial gastropods (Figure 2)—a true malacologist. At least one of his numerous publications is found in *The Canadian Field Naturalist* (Metcalf-Smith et al. 1998).

A short write-up on Gerry’s malacological legacy is planned to be included in the proceedings of the CFMRM, which will be published as a Canadian Technical Report of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, as well as longer, full tributes. In the meantime, his obituary from his family can be found at <https://www.guelphtoday.com/obituaries/mackie-dr-gerald-11453641>.



FIGURE 1. Dr. Gerry Mackie (right foreground) searching through the bottom mud downstream of a small beaver dam, south of Hay River, Northwest Territories, 10 September 2013. Dr. Joe Carney is in the background looking for freshwater mussels. Photo: D.A.W. Lepitzki.



FIGURE 2. Dr. Gerry Macke (right) searching through leaf litter at Twin Falls Gorge Park, Northwest Territories, 10 September 2013. Robert Forsyth, layout person for *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, is on the left. Photo: D.A.W. Lepitzki.

Literature Cited

- Metcalf-Smith, J.L., S.K. Staton, G.L. Mackie, and N.M. Lane.** 1998. Selection of candidate species of freshwater mussels (Bivalvia: Unionidae) to be considered for national status designation by COSEWIC. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 112: 425–440. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.358445>
- Sheppard, S., and D.A.W. Lepitzki.** 2022. In memoriam: Theresa (Aniskowicz) Fowler (27 March 1948–13 May 2022). *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 136: 81–82. <https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v136i1.3029>

D.A.W. LEPITZKI
CFN Editor-in-Chief
COSEWIC member, 2009 to present