

EPILOGUE

Patrick D. Karns

Retiring ALCES Editor

The publication of ALCES 21 marks the "coming of age" for the North American Moose Conference and Workshop. It also marks the end of my current tour as Chief Editor, which is the third conference for which I have served in this capacity. Watching the group grow and prosper through the years has provided me with a real sense of pride and joy. Kind of like old dad watching the kids grow up and go forth to do good things. I have watched us expand from humble beginnings in the early 1960's with a small group of North Americans gathered to share their knowledge of moose, summarized and a few mimeographed pages of notes, to an International family reaching around the world, with it's own refereed publication. More importantly is the sharing and caring, professionally and personally, on the part of everyone involved, which has gone a long way in bringing the family through ALCES 21. The steering committee (sometimes referred to as the "Moose Mafia"), is a loose association with an ever changing membership. It has served well to keep the group on course through the years and it will do so for as long as we continue to function. Too often groups get "organized" only to be polarized and divided by those very things designed to provide structure.

I truly regard each and every one of you as family, and wish to extend my thanks for your cooperation, support and comradeship through the years. It's been the best. They have been good years because you were there individually and collectively, as fellow professionals and family. Thank you so much for everything, and keep the faith.