



IN MEMORIAM
Dr. William C. (Bill) Gasaway
October 1943 – July 1998

Dr. William C. (Bill) Gasaway died on July 15, 1998 in Stockton, California of cancer. Bill was born in Detroit, Michigan in October, 1943. He received his Bachelor of Science degree, with honors, from Michigan State University in 1965. In 1974, he received a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Institute of Arctic Biology. He served in the U.S. Army from 1967 to 1969.

Bill was a research biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, from 1972

until his retirement in 1990. He provided leadership in establishing cooperative research projects between the Department and the University of Alaska. He pioneered the development of scientific methods for estimating moose population size and composition. This technique is currently utilized across North America and has been adapted to many other species. Bill's research on moose habitat utilization led to significant changes in wildlife management policy in Alaska. Bill led a program for more than a decade on progressive and adaptive re-



search on predator/prey ecosystems in interior Alaska that provided prescriptions for conditions and techniques for management of ungulates and large predator populations in Alaska. This research pioneered the current understanding of the importance of predation on the regulation of big game populations.

Dr. Gasaway shared his many research findings with the scientific community in publications and at conferences that enhanced the stature of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as a leader in scientific management of wildlife in North America. His singular focus, dedication, tireless efforts and continued pursuit of individual and collective excellence resulted in meritorious recognition of him by the wildlife profession. His publication entitled "The role of predation in limiting moose to low densities in Alaska and Yukon and implications for conservation" was named the outstanding monograph of 1992 by The Wildlife Society. He received the Distinguished Moose Biologist Award from his peers at the North American Moose Conference in 1987. In 1998, the 20th Alaska Legislature and the Alaska Chapter of the Wildlife Society formally acknowledged Bill's many contributions to wildlife management.

Upon retirement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Bill actively collaborated in research on several species at Etosha National Park in Namibia, Africa. It was a dream of his to continue his research efforts in Africa where he became enamoured with the challenges resulting from his many previous trips pursuing large mammals. Bill truly had a love affair with Africa.

Bill was an avid hunter, fisher, and pilot. His interest in the natural world was a driving force in his activities and stimulated him to apply his knowledge to the promotion of wise use of our resources. He served as a mentor and teacher to many wildlife biologists and students and shared his vision of scientific wildlife management to benefit wildlife users.

He was an active participant in the annual North American Moose Conferences and published in its proceedings and later in its journal *Alces*. His contributions helped sustain the group in the early years. Wildlife managers and moose biologists in particular will sorely miss Bill's presence and his potential unfulfilled contributions.

Al Franzmann