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1 message

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CARMA Who's Who :: Dorothy Cooley

An unauthorized biography by Doug Urquhart with additions by Erica Heuer


Coming Events

International Polar Year Oslo Science Conference

Oslo, Norway
June 8-10, 2010

Why: "The IPY Oslo Science Conference will demonstrate, strengthen, and extend the International Polar Year's accomplishments in science and outreach".
Website: <http://www.ipy-osc.no/>

CARMA Participation:

Susan Kutz et al
Integrated scientific and

Dorothy Cooley has a stand-out reputation amongst her peers as an impeccable scientist and your go-to-gal if ever there's anything you need ... because among other things, she is almost superhumanly organized.

Better known as "Sam" in her hometown of Teslin (Yukon, Canada), she is well respected throughout the caribou community by everyone ... from First Nations staff, hunters and elders, to territorial and federal biologists, bureaucrats and conservation officers. At various times during planning meetings the phrase, "oh I wish I was as organized as Dorothy!", will be heard.

Dorothy attended the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. "I had no grand plan," she said. "Just knew I wanted to work with wildlife, so went to school and graduated at the time the regional biologist program was starting up. I was lucky."

community-based tools and strategies for understanding infectious disease in arctic wildlife

Susan Kutz et al
Caribou health and Climate Change: a snapshot in time for infectious diseases

Andy Dobson et al
A tale of two parasites: Modeling dynamics of parasitic diseases in caribou and reindeer

Robert White et al
Modeling Energy and Protein Costs of Parasites in Caribou and Reindeer

Robert White et al
Involvement of the CARMA (CircumArctic Rangifer Monitoring and Assessment) Network in analysis, synthesis and management of Arctic caribou and reindeer populations

Gary Kofinas et al
Responses to Change in Caribou/Wild Reindeer Abundance: An Assessment of Human-Rangifer System Resilience from Regional Comparisons

Ryan Brook et al
Tools and Collaborative Approaches to Bridging the Communication Gap between Northern Communities and Scientists about Caribou Anatomy and Health

**13th North American Caribou Workshop
Winnipeg, Manitoba
October 25-28, 2010**

Why: The workshop

She was the first Regional Biologist appointed by the Yukon Government, which was leery of positioning a foot soldier so far from headquarters. More than a decade later, the wisdom of that move has borne the test of time.

Dorothy moved to Dawson City (Yukon) for her job, which covers the whole northern region. "There are five regions in the Yukon. Just so happens that a big part of the job in this region are the Porcupine Caribou."

Which is indeed lucky as Dorothy loves working with the caribou.

"Working with the caribou is what excites me most about the job. The actual contact with them when we go out to radio-collar, and the sense that I'm working to help them. Our work is important because it gives us better knowledge of what areas are important to the caribou, how the population is doing, how to make decisions so the things humans do don't have an adverse effect on the caribou."

Currently there are 120 collared caribou out on the tundra, and Dorothy's information from those collars is available at www.taiga.net/satellite/index.html.

Dorothy has worked steadfastly with hunters on 'body condition' studies for many years and is as comfortable with traditional knowledge as she is with hard science. Many a 'consultation bureaucrat' could learn from Dorothy's frequent commutes to community meetings for which there is no equal in terms of credibility and respect. As a member of the Porcupine Caribou Harvest Management community team (the three caballeras: Dorothy, Marsha Branigan and Deana Lemke) she participated in one of the most professional and thorough community engagement ever undertaken in this part of the north.

Dorothy also runs the hunter check stations at the north and south ends of the Dempster Highway and is heavily involved in hunter education.

"As well, we provide a lot of technical support to the Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB), and help other agencies whenever they need it."

Big News is the Harvest Management Plan process being started by the PCMB – we're working with the Board as one of eight parties to harmonize how we're going to manage harvest of the herd.

Dorothy is also dedicated to what has become the Porcupine Caribou Holy Grail: a new population estimate for the herd, to bolster the recently endorsed Harvest Management Plan.

"We haven't counted the herd since 2001 despite 7 attempts but based on the annual monitoring everyone does, we think the herd has continued to decline, which is worrisome. So we will try a new method that counts the caribou on the calving grounds instead of the post-calving aggregations. The Alaskans still plan to do the post-calving aggregation count, so we might even have two counts this year to compare, which would be great."



And what does Dorothy do in her spare time?

theme, Sustaining Caribou and their Landscapes – Knowledge to Action, provides the opportunity to share both scientific and traditional knowledge for sustaining caribou populations. Website: <http://www.nacw2010.ca/>

CARMA Participation:

CARMA is organizing at least one session with the goal of highlighting progress on our Synthesis Volume. Although not finalized, we are considering presentations the 6 main synthesis chapters:

Brad Griffith – Habitat
 Bob White – Body condition and health
 Anne Gunn – Population dynamics
 Susan Kutz – Monitoring
 Gary Kofinas – Managing abundance
 Don Russell – Impacts global change

Past Events Attended

State of the Arctic Conference
Miami, Florida
March 16-19, 2010

Why: “The main goal of the conference is to review our understanding of the arctic system in a time of rapid environmental change.”
 Website: <http://soa.arcus.org/about>

CARMA Participation:

Brad Griffith et al



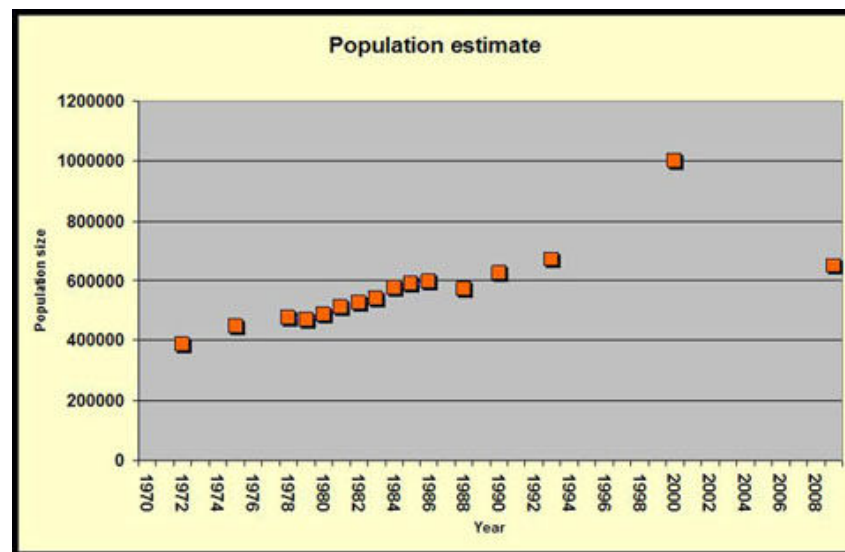
“I work, that about covers it. Married with dogs. A bit of a homebody. I love to be a homebody, sewing and doing things at home. I’ve lived in Dawson for 18 years. It’s a wonderful region to live in.”

Dorothy's commitment to the spirit and intent of Land Claim Settlements is an inspiration to all who have worked with her and particularly the summer students she takes on as part of the PCMB scholarship program. She has been a member of CARMA since its inception.

If you see her flash by in a cloud of dust on the Dempster Highway, honk.

Feature Herd :: Taimyr – A Lesson in Harvest Management

By Leonid Kolpashikov and Don Russell



The Taimyr wild reindeer herd was at the turn of this century the largest wild reindeer or caribou herd in the world. Estimated at 1,000,000 animals in 2000, the herd increased from about 400,000 in the early 1970's. Like other herds across the globe, numbers dramatically increased from the 1970's for the next 30 years. Unlike other herds, especially in North America, the State initiated a very aggressive commercial harvest of this herd in 1970 to create a strong local economy and to limit population growth. Thus high harvests were recorded over the next 20 years with the highest recorded harvest of over 100,000 animals in 1990. By 1990 there were signs the range was impacting herd productivity; average female body weights started to decline and annual pregnancy rates declined. However also in 1990 the Soviet Union collapsed and state subsidies for commercial harvests were removed. It was no longer profitable to harvest reindeer commercially so annual harvest rates declined dramatically. Even though indications were that the herd was nutritionally compromised, the herd, with very low harvest, continued to increase until peaking in 2000. A number of factors are now contributing to the present decline (estimated at 650,000 in 2009) with

Heterogeneity in Habitat Trends Among Circumpolar Caribou and Reindeer Herds

Don Russell et al
Modeling the Abundance of Rangifer: The Frame Size Model

Don Russell et al
What Drives Caribou Cycles?

Craig Nicolson et al
Modeling for Decision-Support: Identifying Thresholds and Reducing Uncertainty in the Harvest Management of Barren Ground Caribou

Gary Kofinas et al
Towards Adaptive Co-Management of Human-Caribou Systems: Lessons from Regional Comparisons and International Cooperation

Leonid Kolpashikov et al
Three Periods of Taimyr Management: Low, Subsidized, and Open Access Harvesting

Steering Committee Update

This is it ... 2011 is the last year of IPY funding. After over five years of going steady, CARMA is getting back into the dating scene. Good news is ... we look, feel and work better than ever. If you know anyone who's looking for a scintillating network to fund, slip them our info, or let us know.

Communications on the upswing? We're surely

uncontrolled poaching, range deterioration, increased incidence of disease and parasites as some of the leading factors.

Feature Project :: Rangifer Anatomy Project

Ryan Brook calls his Rangifer Anatomy Project a work in progress.

What he means is the project has been "on the land" with scientists, First Nations people and photographers for just over a year – as they hunt, dissect, photograph, and compare scientific and First Nation knowledge and terminology – and now they are on the verge of getting their first book out.



The complementary skills of the anatomists, parasitologists, biologists, social scientists, and communication experts on the team helps ensure the process of developing these resources is effective.

"We've done dissections in the lab – conventional scientific dissections to get very high resolution photos. We've done community hunts in Nunavut and NWT, and dissections with hunters and youth to learn their traditional knowledge. And we've done detailed dissections and photos specifically around parasites and abnormalities – combining science and traditional knowledge to establish a common understanding of what is safe for people, how they are affected by a parasite or abnormality ... should they eat the meat."

It is a project he has reason to hope will have a positive impact on caribou health, sustainability, and how people use caribou. Why? Because even as it collects data it is creating an exchange of science and traditional knowledge, an exchange of "languages" and a common understanding of terminology and descriptions of anatomy, parasites, etc. The differences in language and understanding of First Nations, other users, and scientists has historically made it difficult to establish and share, what is normal, what parts of the caribou are valued, what are used, how those parts are used – for food, medicine, clothing, research.

"The whole thing – the hunts, the workshops – have been a process to share information and get people talking."

And it will all result in a suite of print and interactive tools to help users

going to try. The CARMA Steering Committee is producing a snazzy brochure, so if you're heading to an event, contact us at askcarma@gmail.com and we'll send you some to take to your event, or the PDF so you can print some with someone else's money.

Newsletter Call for Content

Here in an invisible corner of CARMA we have aspirations to send an e-newsletter four times a year! Even more ambitious, we'd like it to be relevant and interesting to you, the CARMA members, and readable enough for you to send to others – from lay people to scientists – with an interest in what CARMA is doing.

So please send us your latest greatest news, updates, links to articles and publishings about you and your work, plus posters and photos.

Keep us in the loop so we can spread it around.

Send us suggestions for stories.

Our next e-newsletter will be out in August. So send suggestions, links and help, long before then.

Thanks.

Happy Spring.

communicate with each other.

The book on the verge of being published is specifically for Nunavut youth – combining the traditional knowledge of caribou, names of all parts, how they were used traditionally, and if and how they are still used now. It is being published in English and Inuktitut and is not trying to be the definitive source of traditional knowledge, but rather a resource for learning, science and discussion of traditional knowledge.

The plan is for this youth-oriented book to be developed for other regions too – like the Dene regions, with a Dene focus and in their languages.

Beyond that, a more advanced book with a higher level of knowledge, both traditional and science, is in the works, as well as a DVD where you can do a virtual dissection of caribou.

“We have the software,” says Ryan. “We have the images. It would be similar to Wikipedia, so individuals can continue to add content, elders could be involved, and students in Alaska or Russia could add content in their own language.”



Some of the information and images have already been put to use. Large format posters for community interactions (youth/elder) workshops have made meetings very exciting, says Ryan.

“A liver or spleen is hard to describe, so to work with images has changed our interactions and enlivened our discussions, people are getting excited and communication is much clearer. Every community in Nunavut is producing a copy of the posters, one with caribou with fur on, one with fur removed and muscles visible, one with muscles pulled back and viewing the internal organs, and now we're working on a skeleton for a poster with just the bones. “

fur removed and muscles visible, one with muscles pulled back and viewing the internal organs, and now we're working on a skeleton for a poster with just the bones. “

Multimedia DVD, posters, images, video, sound files – anatomy is a big part of Rangifer Anatomy Program, but so is respect for caribou. How do you kill a caribou and how do you use the parts in a respectful way?

“A huge part of all this work has evolved into using all of the caribou and not wasting anything – and taking only what you need.”

Team members are: Dr. Susan Kutz, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Calgary; Dr. Christoph Muelling, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Calgary; Dr. Jason Anderson, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Calgary; Dr. Peter Flood, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan; Sharina

Cartoon Caption Contest

Cartoon by Doug Urquhart

Ho hum ... we know you get published all the time. But here's your chance to get published for something different! Surprise and delight yourself and your friends. Dust off your funny bone and send us your best caption for the cartoon to the right.

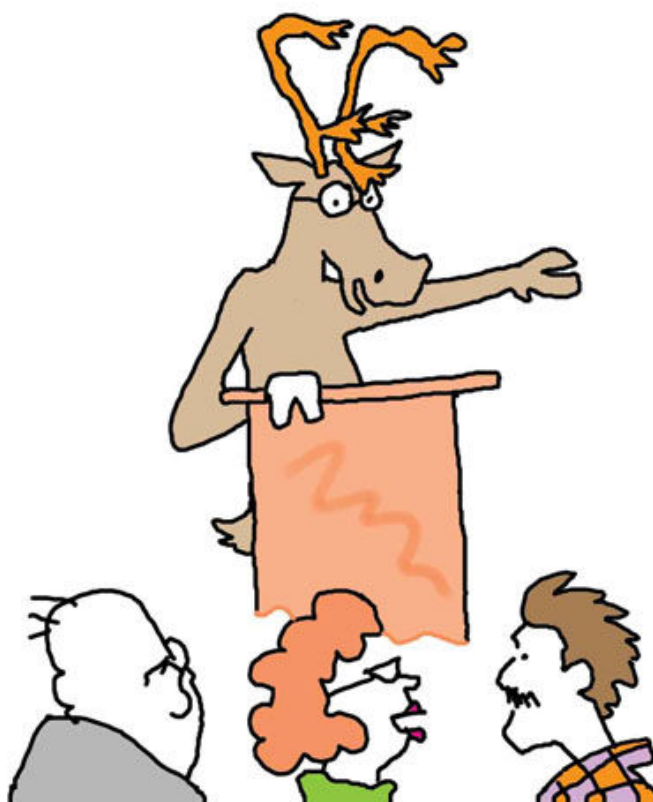
Email your caption to:
askcarma@gmail.com

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Dodsworth, Acting Manager of Communications, Nunavut Department of Environment; Pascale Baillargeon, Science Consulting Educator, Developing High School Curriculum for Nunavut; Neil Christopher, InHabit Media and Nunavut Bilingual Education Society.

Ryan is an assistant professor at the Indigenous Land Management Institute, part of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon.

The Rangifer Anatomy Project is a collaboration between the University of Calgary and the University of Saskatchewan. Other collaborators are Government of Nunavut, Government of Northwest Territories, CARMA, NSERC, the Nasivik Centre for Inuit Health and Changing Environments, Nunavut Bilingual Education Society.



Four early submissions to get you thinking:

"No data, just pers. comm., pers. comm., pers. comm.!"

"And now let me cover the benefits of being a vegetarian."

"Here is our first speaker on the topic of wolf control in the Yukon."

"He's a good speaker, but I can smell his lichen breath from here."

below.



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