

ENGAGE

WITH CWF



A Tip of the Hat

Congratulations to Rick Bates, CWF's executive director, who has been elected president of the Canadian Committee of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

"I'm very honoured and excited to take on this role at such an important time for conservation," Bates says, adding that we are entering a period where we need to rethink how conservation work is done. "We need to encourage and foster more creative solutions, and the Canadian Committee of the IUCN can play an important role in that."

Within the IUCN's structure, national committees provide opportunities for countries to have input on overall program priorities and policy, host workshops and conferences on national issues and encourage government policy consistent with IUCN science and analysis.

The Canadian Committee's priorities include following through on the recommendations from the IUCN's 2014 World Parks Congress in Sydney, Australia, coordinating Canadian input for the 2016 World Conservation Congress and the IUCN 2017-2020 program, and strengthening Canada's National Conservation Plan, announced in 2014.



5 QUESTIONS WITH...

Damian Foxall

Damian Foxall is a leading figure in offshore sailing circles, with nine around-the-world races under his belt. He's also CWF's manager of recreation education. Here, he gives us an update on that work—including details of a new CWF partnership with Paddle Canada.

CWF'S NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH PADDLE CANADA IS THE BIG NEWS THESE DAYS. TELL US ABOUT IT.

It's part of CWF's Education Outreach program and part of the general goal of helping Canadians connect with nature. We've built partnerships with the recreation industry across the country. The work is ongoing, and we've had some fantastic successes. We've been working with Sail Canada for the past few years. We have partnerships with industry organizations such as Association Maritime du Québec and the Atlantic Marine Trades Association.

Our new partnership with Paddle Canada is part of the process, and it's a great opportunity. They're a national organization and they represent a large number of Canadians who are paddling in all forms, whether it's stand-up, kayaking or canoeing. Our partnership is a great tool for outreach and for education.

WHAT DOES THE PARTNERSHIP ENTAIL SO FAR?

It's a great opportunity for outreach and a great opportunity for education. Paddle Canada does a lot of instruction. They run courses for instructors, and they run paddling programs for regular people and so on. As a first step, we're going to start working with their instructors

so they can start delivering some environmental and conservation messaging in their programs.

We're also looking forward to collaborating on National Paddling Week, which coincides with CWF's Rivers to Oceans Week in June. It's a natural fit and it's great from my point of view as CWF's recreation manager. You have to get out in nature to understand it and connect with it. Our partnership with Paddle Canada encourages people to get out there, to get out on the water and really appreciate our role as nature's stewards.

ARE OTHER COMPONENTS OR MATERIALS AVAILABLE TO THOSE OF US WHO MIGHT NOT BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED WITH PADDLE CANADA?

Yes. We've developed a booklet called "Best Practices on the Water." It's a handy little guide that includes some basic dos and don'ts, as well as some more thought-provoking ideas that show how we can make a difference when it comes to enjoying and protecting our marine and aquatic environments.

WHAT DO THOSE TOPICS INCLUDE?

"Best Practices on the Water" talks about issues such as what to do if you encounter injured wildlife, for example. It covers basic guidelines around minimum approach distances if you are on the ocean and in an area where you may encounter marine mammals. It talks about how to minimize the risk of introducing foreign species or organisms to aquatic systems if your travels take you through different lakes and rivers. It also covers the basics of no-trace camping and the importance of supporting conservation programs, such as adopt-a-lake programs.

There's much more. I can't cover it all here because there's limited space. But you can download a copy of the booklet at the CWF website (CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca). We'll also be distributing it at boat shows and other events.

CWF'S RIVERS TO OCEANS WEEK IS COMING UP. WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO?

We're looking forward to tying in with the Paddle Canada programming. For me personally, I'll be taking the kids out to one of our parks. We'll do some rafting and get out on the water. Rivers to Oceans Week is about getting out locally and exploring the waterways and understanding what they are about. I'm hoping to lead by example.

ISTOCK

TAKE ACTION

GET CERTIFIED—TWICE

CWF has teamed up with the Outdoor Council of Canada to provide enhanced leadership training opportunities that draw on certification programs from both organizations. CWF programs include Project WILD, Below Zero and Wild About Sports. The Outdoor Council of Canada focuses on its Field Leader programs, which train adults to lead young people in natural environments. The programs will be offered in key locations across Canada this summer and fall. Details are available at CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca.

JOIN THE CLUB

CWF has a new program—the Wild Family Nature Club—to encourage parents and children to explore nature together. Developed in collaboration with the Children and Nature Network, the program has created a quick-start manual to help you launch a local club. Visit CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca to download the manual.



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Make conservation a family affair with CWF's new "Wild Family Nature Club" program

STAY ACTIVE



MAY 30-31

If you are in Ottawa or Toronto, you can take in Walk for Wildlife events. The first takes place May 30 at Gatineau Park, near Ottawa, with guided walks, animal seminars and face painting. More walks will be held in Toronto's Rouge National Urban Park on May 30 and May 31, complete with animal seminars and live music.



JUNE 8-14

Rivers to Oceans Week. Join CWF in celebrating Canada's water assets, including oceans, lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands. Head to the CWF website to learn more about the challenges facing our water systems and the steps you can take to help protect them. CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca



JUNE 8-14

CWF partner Paddle Canada is celebrating its annual Paddle Week in conjunction with Rivers to Oceans week this year. Double your fun and make plans to get on the water. Visit PaddleWeek.ca for details. And don't forget to check out CWF's new booklet, "Best Practices on the Water." Download your copy at CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca