



## IN MEMORIAM

### Gerry Lynch, 1941–2022

The moose management and biology world lost another pioneer on June 21, 2022 with the passing of Gerry Lynch at the age of 81. Gerry died peacefully at his home near Raleigh, North Carolina with his family at bedside, having dealt valiantly with a serious heart condition for several years. For many years, Gerry was a highly regarded regional wildlife biologist with Alberta Fish and Wildlife in Edson, Alberta. Eventually, he became the provincial moose manager based at the Edmonton headquarters where his management skills flourished. As an “early” moose manager, Gerry was progressive and innovative, designing management initiatives and developing long-term data sets that were uncommon at the time, yet are now the basis of sound moose management in Alberta and elsewhere. His exemplary efforts and leadership were recognized by his receiving the **Distinguished Moose Biologist Award** (2000) from the International *Alces* Working Group. The current cohort of moose biologists and managers in Alberta continue to marvel about Gerry’s dedication and productivity in the “early days” and the wisdom still evident in those ‘old programs’ - such good data and ideas remain valid and ageless.

Gerry was born and raised near Madison, Wisconsin. After completing his Bachelor of

Applied Science Degree in Natural Resources and Conservation at University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point (1963), Gerry completed a MS in Wildlife, Fish and Wildland Science and Management at the University of Wisconsin–Madison (1965–1967). His MS research involved aspects of skunk predation on waterfowl in Manitoba, after which his studies, research experience, and motivation set the tone for a productive and highly respected career.

Gerry was the consummate professional – a hard-working, kind, and considerate man throughout his life. Much of his work took place in the rugged and bog-filled boreal forest of the Swan Hills where he used innovative techniques to trap and track moose. He also built innovative all-terrain vehicles to aid his efforts long before ATVs became common in fieldwork. Always willing to help others, he assisted Dr. Bill Samuel in his pioneering work with winter ticks and moose.

Gerry loved outdoor recreation, was an avid hunter, and true friend of many. Often described as “the best moose hunting partner ever”, he cherished the comradery of moose hunting with friends who considered him a great “mooser”.

Beyond his professional dedication, Gerry's family and their spiritual lives were foremost in his daily thoughts and actions. He and Janet were married 59 years and raised three children. Unfortunately, yet again, the moose world loses

another early leader in the short history of moose management.

With deep admiration and respect for our friend,

Bill Samuel and Margo Pybus