

May 26-27, 2021

ITEM 194-2003-R0521

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Ecology upon Dr. Robert A. Garrott; Montana State University

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Robert A. Garrott from the Department of Ecology in the College of Letters & Science at Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for his service to the University, the Montana University System, and the people of the State of Montana.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Robert Garrott received his B.S. from University of Montana in 1976, his M.S. from Pennsylvania State University in 1980, and his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in wildlife conservation in 1990. He served for 25 years as a faculty member in MSU's Ecology Department and as the MSU Director of Fish and Wildlife Ecology and Management Program from 2002-2020.

Dr. Garrott's research focuses on understanding the abiotic and biotic ecological processes that influence mammalian populations and communities. He has worked in both terrestrial and marine ecosystems and contributed to basic science as well as applied wildlife management and conservation through collaborations with state and federal natural resource agencies. Dr. Garrott published a total of 151 peer-reviewed publications, 4 books, and 33 book chapters. He made major contributions to understanding management of elk, deer, mountain goat, bighorn sheep, and wolves in Montana and in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, exemplified by his 2013 edited book "Yellowstone's Wildlife in Transition" published by Harvard University Press. He also conducted long-term research on a National Science Foundation-funded Weddell Seal project in Antarctica. He intends to continue his research in retirement.

Dr. Garrott was dedicated to teaching undergraduate courses such as Principles of Fish and Wildlife Management and a capstone course for Fish and Wildlife Ecology and Management students that trained students in scientific thinking and writing and a broad range of critical field-oriented techniques. He advised 33 graduate students (9 Ph.D. and 24 M.S.) and 4 postdocs, leaving a legacy of highly skilled mentees employed in academia, consulting firms, non-profit organizations, and state and federal agencies such as Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks, U.S. Geological Survey, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, and Wyoming Fish and Game.

As Director of the Fish and Wildlife Ecology and Management Program, he fulfilled a diverse set of duties. He played a lead role in student recruitment and advising and served as the faculty advisor to The Wildlife Society student chapter. He coordinated curriculum revisions, cultivated scholarship donors, led review of Ecology scholarships and awards, and helped orchestrate the annual Ecology Awards BBQ for faculty, students, and donors. He also served as the departmental liaison with natural resource agencies such as MT Fish Wildlife & Parks and served on the Board of Directors of Jack Creek Preserve located near Big Sky.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer on Dr. Robert A. Garrott the rank of Professor Emeritus of Ecology at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years in the future.

ATTACHMENTS

None