



Moose News

Quarterly Newsletter
for Club Bruce Members

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 SPRING 2014

*YOU'RE HELPING TO SAVE OUR
MINNESOTA MOOSE!

- *ANIMAL TRACKS! *EXCITING PROGRAMS!
- *COLOR A MOOSE AND DRAW HIS HABITAT!



Greetings Club Bruce Members!

Happy Spring, and welcome to our first "Moose News" newsletter! :D

We hope everyone is excited for 2014! Here at the North Star Museum we are busy planning our year: Merit Badge Workshops, Pinewood Derby, Overnight at the Museum, and more!

So settle in for some interesting moose facts, nature fun and more!



The Moose – scientific name *Alces alces* – has been a part of the Minnesota wilderness for thousands of years. The largest member of the deer family, the moose stands about 2 meters at their shoulder and weighs about 950 – 1,000 pounds.

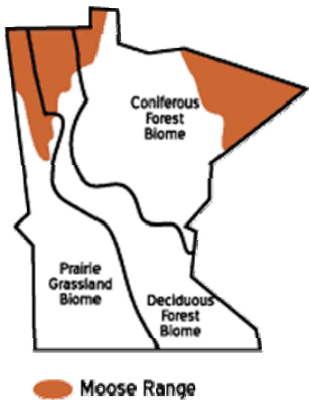
Algonquin for 'twig eater,' these gentle giants are usually very peaceful and shy of humans. These amazing animals have become a symbol of the 'wild Minnesota northland.' Alas, the population of our Minnesota Moose has been dramatically dropping and our friends at the Minnesota DNR are very concerned!



A special team with the Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources has been diligently seeking answers to this mysterious decline. Using radio collars and GPS telemetry the researchers can locate a moose that is down. The subsequent information they retrieve helps them to understand why the moose population is dropping, and helps them to formulate a solution, so we can save our Minnesota moose! The North Star Museum is proud to be a part of this important research! The DNR and the North Star Museum want to thank YOU, too! **As a Club Bruce member you are helping to save the Minnesota Moose!**



DNR Moose Researcher, Margaret Dexter, visited the North Star Museum in October and brought all kinds of data, specimens and photos! It was awesome! Margaret said she loves moose and all the wonderful wildlife we have so abundantly in Minnesota! She and her team are doing everything they can to preserve our moose and other wild-



life, as well as our habitat and environment.



Margaret Dexter of the Minnesota DNR loves sharing her knowledge on Minnesota wildlife and habitat management!



So what's killing our moose?

Evidence and research is still be collected, but from what we can tell, there are a number of things working against our Minnesota Moose:

- Liver flukes*
- brain worm*
- West Nile Virus*
- winter tick*
- Lyme's disease*
- EEE (Eastern Equine Encephalitis)*

These are just a few of the diseases that have shown up on the remains of moose that have been recovered. Also, average temperatures have been rising in Minnesota over the past several years. The relationship between higher temperatures and moose survival isn't yet clear, but some researchers think that moose become physically stressed by the effort to keep cool.



Margaret and Shirley demonstrate how the GPS tracking collars work on moose.

Fun Moose Facts

- *Moose can run up to 35 MPH
- *They can swim up to 10 miles without stopping and can swim within days of birth
- *Moose can store up to 100 pounds of food in their stomach
- *Moose have terrible eyesight but wonderful hearing and sense of smell
- *They are vegetarian and eat all kinds of water plants, as well as maple, cherry and aspen trees.
- *The moose's main threats come from wolves, bear and humans.
- *The moose gets its humped appearance from its deep and incredibly muscled shoulders
- *Moose fur/hairs are hollow, providing warmth in winter and buoyancy in the water.





On May 12, the DNR Moose Research Team will be here at the museum to present at our "Pause That Refreshes" noon speaker event! Be sure to tell your folks! This is a great chance to speak with the researchers and ask them questions about their work. See recovered moose antlers, maps and photos and more! Contact Shirley at sdelatorre@nssm.org for more info and to RSVP!

Quick Q & A Review

1. What is the scientific name for the moose in Minnesota?
BONUS: what does that name mean?
2. What is the department of government that is trying to save the moose?
3. How fast can a moose run?
4. Moose have awesome eye sight. TRUE or FALSE
5. Do moose like to eat cheese-burgers?
6. Name 3 diseases that are plaguing our Minnesota moose
7. Essay question: why do YOU think it's important to save our moose?

Put Answers Here

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____
4. _____

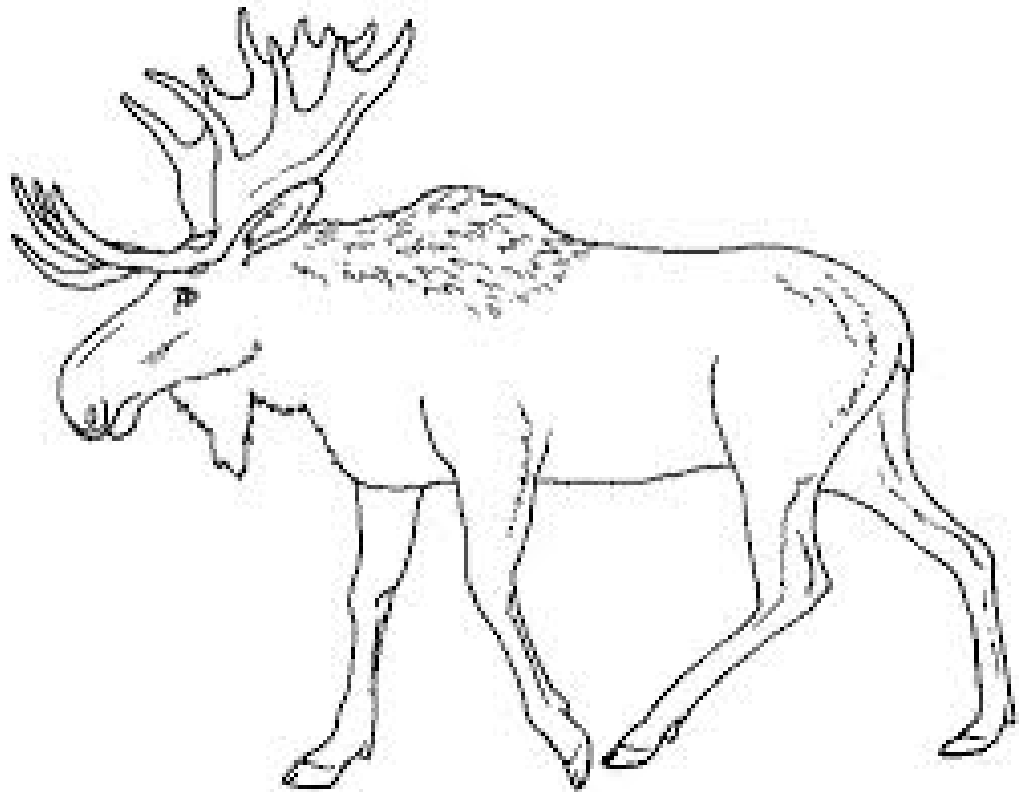
5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

Color your moose!

Draw a background too!



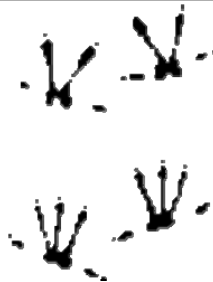
WALK ON THE WILD SIDE - ANIMAL TRACKS!

How many can YOU identify?

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.



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of Boy Scouting
and Girl Scouting**

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We're on the web

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Answers:
1. Weasel
2. Mouse
3. Moose
4. River Otter
5. Opossum
6. Grey Squirrel
7. Bobcat
8. Moose
9. Skunk