



## About Our Cover

The moose (*Alces alces*) is the largest living member of the deer family. Bulls of the Tundra or Alaskan subspecies (*A. a. gigas*) are the largest (up to 1800 lbs), while the cows of the Shiras or Yellowstone moose (*A. a. shirasi*), such as the one pictured here, are the smallest (averaging 600–700 lbs) of the four North American subspecies. Moose have a circumpolar distribution from Alaska to Newfoundland in North America and throughout northern Eurasia from Norway to Manchuria. The name *moose* is derived from the Algonquian word *moos*, which means “he strips or bites off” or “twig biter” – making reference to the fact that bark and twigs make up a large portion of the moose diet. Moose consume up to 50 lbs of plant matter per day, often removing much of the above-ground biomass from individual shrubs and trees on which they browse. This “pruning” reduces the plant’s number of growing points and results in more root resources being allocated to fewer shoots – which leads the plant to produce what is known as *compensatory growth*. Until root:shoot balance is reestablished, plants undergoing compensatory growth are often characterized by large shoots, delayed leaf senescence, and a lack of flower and fruit production that can make them difficult to identify. Challenges faced by both biology teachers and their students and solutions to identifying plants undergoing compensatory growth as a result of moose browsing or other damage are the topic of an article in this issue of *ABT*. Roy Rea, a biology instructor at the University of Northern British Columbia in Prince George, BC, Canada, snapped this photo in Grand Teton National Park, near Jackson Hole, Wyoming, on 18 June 2009 with a Canon 5D using a Canon 300-mm f/2.8 lens.

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