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The Probe NADCA
ISSUE 145
JULY 1994

Wildlife Damage Management: Announcing a new resource for wildlife damage managers

Robert H. Schmidt, Editor The PROBE

Advances in technology are both a blessing and a curse. These advances are a curse because they involve new equipment, additional training, and usually increased costs. On the other hand, they are a blessing because they provide opportunities for increased competitiveness, higher profit or efficiency margins, and continuing education opportunities.

More and more wildlife damage managers utilize computers in some aspect of their work. Personal computers are within the budget of a large number of wildlife damage management professionals. Computers are used for sophisticated word processing programs, desktop publishing projects, statistical analyses, spreadsheet and accounting programs, and information transfer systems and networks, among other uses. In fact, you can now take your office with you during your travels. As an example, I am writing these words while on vacation in Monterey on the Pacific Coast. I use a rather outdated Macintosh PowerBook 140 portable computer purchased three years ago. I also have a portable ink jet printer and a 2400 baud fax send-receive modem, all bundled up in a plastic, foam-lined suitcase that qualifies as a carry-on piece of luggage on a commercial aircraft.

When I finish up this article, I will fax it to co-editor Bob Timm by plugging my computer into a phone jack, dialing up his fax number, and punching in my telephone credit card number. Bob will edit my comments, send them on to **The PROBE**'s able editorial assistant Pam Tinnin for set-up, and a month from now you'll be reading the fruits of my "vacation".

During my stay in Monterey, my computer will also be active in maintaining my link to my professional world through a mechanism called electronic mail. Many of my academic and agency colleagues, as well as an increasing number of private practitioners, are enrolling or subscribing to computer networks. If your computer is hard-wired into a network system, or if you have access to a telephone line and a modem, then you probably have access to a vast computer network that conceivably extends around the world. For private operators, access is through commercial vendors such as Compuserve or America Online for a monthly fee.

There are two uses of computer networks that are of particular interest to wildlife damage managers. The first is electronic mail ("e-mail"), a simple and immediate method of sending and receiving information. You type out a message, use the correct e-mail "address", and the message is sent. The receiver can reply immediately, or send a message later at his or her leisure. You only print off a hard copy of the message if you desire it. E-mail is a convenient, simple, and easy method for communicating with your colleagues.

However, another function of electronic networks is their ability to organize and administer electronic "discussion groups." These discussion groups can take a number of forms, but a common one is one in which a message posted by one person goes to a large number of other people interested in the same general topic. The receivers can reply directly to the initial sender, or they can maintain a "discussion" by sending their response to all others on the discussion list.

The Wildlife Damage Management Working Group of The Wildlife Society has been interested in developing an electronic discussion group relating to wildlife damage. Dave Bergman and I have been discussing various means for setting it up, and an electronic discussion group that focuses in wildlife damage management is now in existence.

The discussion group is named WDAMAGE, and it is available through Internet or Bitnet networks. Dave has developed an automated "listserver." When you subscribe to the list (at no charge), your name and e-mail address are automatically added to a subscriber's list. When

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New resource for wildlife damage managers

you, or Dave, or anybody sends a message to the list, the message is sent out to all subscribers. These messages can be the results of studies, requests for information, announcements of upcoming meeting or positions available, questions regarding wildlife damage management philosophy, reactions to current events, or other items of interest to list subscribers.

Say you get a phone call about preventing beaver damage to trees in a Forest Service campground. There is a new technique you've heard about, but you can't remember the source. Send your question to the discussion list, and all subscribers will have the opportunity to comment. You want to know what other nuisance wildlife control operators charge for squirrel removal. Send your question to the discussion list, and all subscribers will have the opportunity to comment.. You want to know what others think about the USDA-Animal Damage Control Program's final environmental impact statement. Send your question to the discussion list, and all subscribers will have the opportunity to comment.

Over the next year or so, hundreds of people interested in wildlife damage management will be on the WDAMAGE network. Some of the more interesting questions and comments will probably be reprinted in **The PROBE**. Electronic discussion groups like WDAMAGE won't exclude a raccoon from an attic, but they will put at your fingertips a wealth of experience and talent. WDAMAGE[1] is a technological advantage that will no doubt pay dividends to its users.

[1]For instructions on subscribing to WDAMAGE, send an e-mail message to Dave Bergman (DBERGMAN@VM1.NODAK.EDU) or Robert Schmidt (RSCHMIDT@CC.USU.EDU). Experienced Internet users may want to get started by sending a subscription message to LISTSERV@VM1.NODAK.EDU. As your message, state ONLY: "subscribe WDAMAGE Firstname Lastname." Leave out the quotation marks, and use your name instead of "Firstname Lastname." If you have one, turn your signature block off for this message.

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Your contributions to *The Probe* are welcome. Please send news clippings, new techniques, publications, and meeting notices to *The Probe*, c/o Hopland Research & Extension Center, 4070 University Road, Hopland, CA 95449. If you prefer to FAX material, our FAX number is (707) 744-1040. The deadline for submitting material is the 15th of each month. Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of NADCA.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

August 2-4, 1994: Bird Strike Committee—USA, Ramada Hotel O'Hare, 6600 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont, Illinois. Contact: James E. Forbes, USDA/APHIS/ADC, P.O. Box 97, Albany, New York, NY 12201-0097, (518) 472-6492, FAX (518) 472-4364.

September 11-17, 1994: Fur Takers of America Trappers College Short Course, Limber Lost Camp, LaGrange, Indiana. Contact: Charles Park, 410 S. Poplar Street, LaGrange, Indiana 46761, (219) 463-2072.

September 22, 1994: NADCA Membership Meeting, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Held in conjunction with the First Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society (see below). Contact Fred Knowlton, P.O. Box 36, Cornish, UT 84308 (801) 797-2508 or FAX (801) 797-1871.

September 21-25, 1994: First Annual Conference, The Wildlife Society, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Theme: "Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship through Science and Education." Includes half-day special symposium "Wildlife Damage Management: Future Policies and Practices." Contact: (301) 897-9770.

February 10-12, 1995: NADCA Membership Meeting, Itasca, Illinois. Held in conjunction with the Wildlife Control Technology, Wildlife Damage Management Instructional Conference (see below). Contact: Scott R. Craven, 226 Russell Labs, Univ. of Wis., Madison, WI 53706, (608) 263-6325.

February 10-12, 1995: The Wildlife Damage Management Instructional Conference. Presented by Wildlife Control Technology magazine. To be held at the Nordic Hills Resort and Conference Center, Itasca, Illinois. Contact: Peggy, (708) 858-4928.

April 10-13, 1995: 12th Great Plains Wildlife Damage Control Workshop, Doubletree Hotel, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Contact Ron Masters, (405) 744-6432 or Grant Huggins, (405) 221-7277.

ADC News, Tips, Ideas , Publications . . .

Publication Available: Hunting Symposium Proceedings

Proceedings are now available from the second annual Governor's Symposium on North America's Hunting Heritage. The proceedings feature thought-provoking presentations from some of the 250 hunting and conservation group leaders who attended the symposium and include topics such as broadening public understanding of hunting, the history of hunters as conservationists, the concerns of people opposed to hunting, and rebuilding hunting and conservation coalitions.

The proceedings are essential reading and a valuable addition to any outdoorsman's library. Mark LaBarbera, Senior Vice President of the North American Hunting Club, noted, "There is so much talent and so many valuable resources among the ranks of hunters; it's time to unite them to spread the good news about hunting."

To help industry leaders, the media and the public better understand North America's hunting heritage, the North American Hunting Club and Wildlife Forever are making copies of the proceedings available to the public. To order, send $5 to cover shipping and handling. Mail to: Wildlife Forever, P.O. Box 3404, Minnetonka, MN 55343 or call (612) 936-0605.

NADCA Caps Available!

A new order of high-quality baseball caps with the NADCA logo are now available. Cap colors include light blue, dark blue, teal, maroon, khaki, and black. The logo is embroidered in bright, contrasting colors.

In your NADCA cap, you'll look as handsome as the two individuals pictured on page 7 of the August '93 PROBE!

Order caps from Wes Jones, NADCA treasurer: Rt. 1, Box 37, Shell Lake, WI 54871. Prices: $10 each, plus shipping charge of $2.50 for up to 3 hats shipped together to the same address.

Get yours now while they last!

Berryman Institute Announces the Winners of the 1994 Berryman Fellowships

The Jack H. Berryman Institute is a national organization, centered in the College of Natural Resources at Utah State University, that works to promote human-wildlife relationships and to solve human-wildlife conflicts through its research, extension, and educational programs. It awards Berryman Fellowships annually to the very best graduate students with an interest in the broad area of wildlife damage management.

The 1994 Berryman Fellowships went to Mr. Randy Farrar and Ms. Kristen La Vine. Both will be working on their M.S. degree under the tutelage of Dr. Robert Schmidt, a faculty member of the Depatment of Fisheries and Wildlife at Utah State University.

Mr. Farrar has already demonstrated his commitment to the field of wildlife damage management, with over 15 years of professional wildlife field experience and knowledge. The Awards Committee was impressed with Mr. Farrar's maturity and extraordinary commitment to education as evidenced by his willingness to leave his career behind to obtain a B.S. degree from Southeast Missouri State University. He has been initiated into the Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society and the Alpha Chi National College Honor Scholarship Society. The thesis project for his M.S. degree will focus on models of predator population dynamics.

Ms. La Vine graduated with High Honors from the University of California at Santa Barbara, where she was selected as the Outstanding Student in Environmental Studies. She was recently inducted into Sigma Xi, one of the nation's premiere scientific research societies. Ms. La Vine began her M.S. program at USU in August, 1992. The Awards Committee was impressed by Ms. La Vine's outstanding scholastic achievement and her dedication to research. Her thesis project is entitled "A positive approach to gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) management in Utah."

The editors of **The PROBE** *thank contributors to this issue: James E. Forbes and Wes Jones. We also wish to thank those who sent material that we were unable to use because of space limitations. Send your contributions to* **The PROBE**, *4070 University Road, Hopland, CA 95449.*

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NATIONAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Mail to: Wes Jones, Treasurer, Route 1 Box 37, Shell Lake, WI 54871, Phone: (715) 468-2038

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Home

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