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INTERACTIONS: Newsletter of The Wildlife Society Wildlife Damage Management Working Group, Interactions: Volume 15 Issue 4 Fall 2009

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Newsletter of The Wildlife Society
Wildlife Damage Management Working Group

Volume 15 Issue 4

Fall 2009

INTERACTIONS

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Human-Wildlife Conflict* Journal to become *Human-Wildlife Interactions

Special points of interest:

- New name for HWC Journal
- Become more than just a member of the WDMWG
- New deer capture video
- Upcoming VPC, and Feral Swine conferences

Visit us on the web at:
http://Wildlifedamagegroup.unl.edu

LETTERS FROM GARY

GET INVOLVED WITH THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE WDMWG

Monterey was a beautiful venue for The Wildlife Society 16th Annual Conference. The Wildlife Damage Management Working Group had a breakfast meeting on Monday September 21 with approximately 30 people attending. We discussed a number of items in the 90-minute meeting. Nicki will be getting the minutes together to give you the details of the meeting. Our 13th Conference made money and plans are under way for the next meeting in 2011. The 13th Annual Conference was successful because there were numerous people that gave their time and energy to working on the Committees that were responsible for each element of the conference. Committee work is critical to our Working Group. The Charter lists five Standing Committees.

STANDING COMMITTEES – The following standing committees shall be appointed and shall have the following duties:

- Clause A. NOMINATING AND ELECTIONS – See Article IV, Section 1.
- Clause B. MEMBERSHIP – This committee shall work to promote mem-

Continued on pg. 2

TAKE ACTION TO INFLUENCE WILDLIFE POLICY

Comprehensive science-based legislation is critical to safeguarding our nation's wildlife and habitats. TWS' Government Affairs Program works on behalf of its members to give a voice to the views of wildlife professionals in the legislative and policy processes. But we can't do it without you!

To ensure a bright future for wildlife, it is key that management and conservation policy and legislation is based on science generated by wildlife professionals, such as members of The Wildlife Society! We have three great tools to help you get involved in wildlife policy, either at the federal or local level:

1) Check out the Government Affairs Toolkit available on TWS' website. It will give you an overview of the Government Affairs program, how you can write a letter to Congress, and other useful policy information.

2) See the more recent edition of *The Wildlifer*, TWS' monthly e-newsletter, to 'Take Action' on issues ranging from climate legislation to migratory bird conservation.

3) Check your inbox for *Wildlife Policy News*, which comes out every other month, to stay up-to-date on the latest policy initiatives.

We appreciate all of your efforts. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Laura Bies, Director of Government Affairs, at laura@wildlife.org.

Article by Mary Kazantseva and Angela Whitney

Conference Announcement

2010 Wild Pig Conference

For the 2010
Wild Pig Conference
April 11-13th, 2010
www.WildPigConference.com

Damage caused by wild pigs is one of the greatest concerns to wildlife biologists and managers today. Wild pigs have the potential to cause ecological and economical destruction far surpassing any other invasive exotic vertebrate. The adaptive and prolific nature of these animals along with their capabilities for widespread devastation places their management as one of the top priorities for wildlife scientists. The International Wild Pig Conference is the only forum in the world that provides federal, state, and private stakeholders a venue to discuss biological, financial, and social implications specific to wild pig subsistence in our ecosystems. The conference will assemble experienced managers as well as those new to the wild pig industry in a professional, educational atmosphere.

Please visit the website links to find out how to participate in the 2010 International Wild Pig Conference! If you would like to help sponsor the event or need more information, please contact us at (662) 325-1000. We look forward to seeing you in Pensalcola!

WDMWG Committees (Cont. from Pg. 1)

bership in the Working Group to all members of the Society and other wildlife professionals interested in wildlife damage management.

- Clause C. ANNUAL MEETING TECHNICAL SESSION – When desired by the Executive Board, this committee shall be appointed to work with the Society's Annual Meeting Program Committee to develop a technical session, workshop or other activity in the area of wildlife damage management for the Society's Annual Meeting.
- Clause D. COMMUNICATIONS – This committee shall facilitate communication among the Working Group's membership through a newsletter, meeting announcements, computer billboards, or electronic mail, and other means. This committee also may provide information to journalists, government officials, other organizations, and the general public in the area of wildlife damage management, in general, and the Working Group's activities, in particular. Position and policy statements shall be subject to guidelines in Article VIII, Section 1.
- Clause E. AUDIT – This committee shall review the financial records and support documents maintained by the Secretary-treasurer at least annually to ensure that the Working Group's funds are being managed in a fiscally responsible manner and to make recommendations for procedural changes to the Executive Board, where appropriate.

WDMWG Chair—Gary San Julian

These committees have not been functional during the last year and we are working to reestablish them. Several individuals have volunteered to work on these committees, but we need more help. When the planning process ramps up for our next conference, Kurt will need volunteers to help with the numerous committees that are required to make a successful conference. The workload is usually not very heavy and is done for the most part by conference call and email. It is more intense for some of the Conference committees, but the work is rewarding and benefits are great. I am urging you to become more involved with one of these standing committees and be more active in the largest working group in the Society.

Please send me an email if you would like to serve on one of these committees. When elections come up later in the year, nominate individuals you believe will do a good job. If you are nominated, run for the position. The members of our Working Group are outstanding professionals and it is fun to work with you.

Article by Gary San Julian, Chair WDMWG

Conference Announcement

24th Vertebrate Pest Conference

INVITATION TO ATTEND

You are cordially invited to attend and participate in the Twenty-Fourth Vertebrate Pest Conference. This Conference is an educational event for discussing and exchanging information on human-wildlife conflicts. The Conference will be held February 22-25, 2010 at the Holiday Inn Sacramento–Capitol Plaza. The hotel is located within easy walking distance to historic Old Sacramento, which includes tourist attractions, excellent dining, and captures the historic atmosphere of California's Gold Rush era. The hotel is adjacent to the Sacramento Capitol Mall and many historic state buildings, including the State Capitol. It is only 10 miles from Sacramento International Airport. More information about the hotel can be found at: http://holidayinn.sacramento.ichotelsgroup.com

The Vertebrate Pest Conference, which is held every two years, is the largest and most recognized Conference of its kind. Participants and attendees include leading authorities on vertebrate pest management from the United States, Canada, and throughout the world. All papers are presented in English.

This announcement is intended to alert you to the next Conference and encourage you to participate. Set aside these dates on your calendar and make plans to attend. A preliminary program for the Conference will be available to you in November 2009. If you are not on the mailing list for this Conference, contact Terry Salmon at (858) 694-2864 or email: <tpsalmon@ucdavis.edu>. For additional information on the Conference as it develops, refer to the VPC web site: **http://www.vpconference.org**

The pre-registration fee for the three-day self-supporting Conference is $275, which includes a copy of the Proceedings to be published following the Conference. Student pre-registration is only $25, while retirees can pre-register for $100. The optional Feb. 22 all-day field trip fee is $50, which includes lunch. The last day for pre-registration is January 22.

.CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Simultaneous (concurrent) sessions will be held at the Conference to maximize information exchange to satisfy all interests in vertebrate pest management (i.e., birds, rodents, predators, etc.). Presentations range from practical management to more technical papers concerning research or new technology.

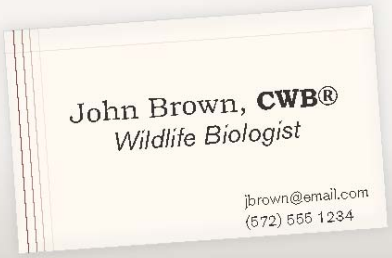
Human-Wildlife Conflicts Journal to Become *Human-Wildlife Interactions*

The Jack Berryman Institute has decided to change the name of its peer-reviewed journal from ***Human–Wildlife Conflicts*** to ***Human–Wildlife Interactions*** to better reflect the journal's expanded mission of publishing papers dealing with the management of wildlife. This change will occur beginning with the volume four, number 1, spring 2010 issue.

"If you have written an applied article on the management of wildlife or human–wildlife conflicts, please consider publishing it in ***Human–Wildlife Interactions***," said Michael Conover, editor.

The journal has over 2,000 subscribers and is available as an open-access journal on the Berryman Institute website, *www.Berryman Institute.org*. A Guideline for Authors also is available on the website. For more information, or to subscribe, please contact the journal's managing editor, Philip Parisi, via e-mail at *hwi@aggiemail.usu.edu*.

Attention Certified and Associate Wildlife Biologists:
Flaunt your acronyms!



You worked hard to earn your AWB® and CWB®, so add them to your business card and emails **and stand out from the crowd**.

TWS membership is now required for certifications to remain valid, so be sure to join or renew at wildlife.org

Notes from the Field

Catching the Skunk is the easy part....

This was a story that was e-mailed to me a few months back. Just like the author, I have heard this factoid about skunk catching as well. I have reprinted the story here for your education/ amusement. Unfortunately, there were no photos (I did ask).

The names have been altered to protect the innocent...*joe*

I have heard the story several times about Jeff hearing an old wives tale that if you pick a skunk up by the tail, it can't spray. According to Jeff, and corroborated by John, Jeff tested this one time and drove down main street in Mercer holding the skunk outside the window of a vehicle to find John and prove it to him. He said it didn't spray.

Corel Photo: Used with Permission

Yesterday afternoon, I was intrigued when I got a call from the Sheriff's Department that someone had reported a skunk with its head stuck in a yogurt container in Ashland. The skunk was in dire need of assistance. Normally, I might blow this off, but after talking with the caller, I realized how bad they felt for the skunk. I also saw this as a chance to test Jeff's claim. After all, you can't prove anything unless you do it twice. So, I conned my daughter into helping.

When we pulled up to the address, the whole neighborhood was standing on the sidewalk watching the skunk which had now made its way onto Prentice Avenue. Its head was shoved all the way into a Yoplait strawberry yogurt container. It was trying desperately to get it off, but it was locked on. When I walked up, people of course asked what I was going to do. I told them I was going to test a theory that if you picked a skunk up by the tail, it wouldn't spray. I said I hadn't ever tried it before, so I didn't know how it would turn out. The conversation amongst the crowd reached a crescendo. I walked over to the skunk and calmed it down a little by talking to it, then put my hand over its tail waiting to make a quick grab. When the moment was right, I grabbed the tail. The skunk immediately changed its posture as if to cock the gun, but I had it in the air before it could pull the trigger. Once suspended, you could see that the glands were quite full, and the skunk was plenty agitated to defend itself. No spray. As the crowd scrambled off the sidewalk, I passed by carrying the skunk towards my truck where my daughter waited at the wheel. The crowd clamored a little more, and one person working in his back yard yelled around the corner, "What the hell are you going to do with that?". I told him I was going to let it go. "Not here you're not." As I climbed into the passenger side of my truck, my daughter looked at me with fear. I held the skunk out the door, and told her to drive to the woods at the end of the street. We passed several pedestrians during the five block trek, and while I could not hear them, I could see their lips moving loudly, as their heads followed us. When we reached our destination, I tried to pull the container off the skunk's head but it wouldn't budge. That made the animal very frantic, but still no spray. I had thought ahead to bring a tin snips to cut the container off if necessary, but the skunk would not calm down to allow me to get the snips between it's neck and the container. I asked Ashley to help, but she refused, so I grabbed the yogurt container and sort of squeezed the skunk's head out. Once free, it again increased its activity level, but still no spray. I tossed it into the tall grass at the edge of the woods, and away the skunk ran. Still no spray.

Thanks Jeff and John, for telling at least one story with some truth to it!

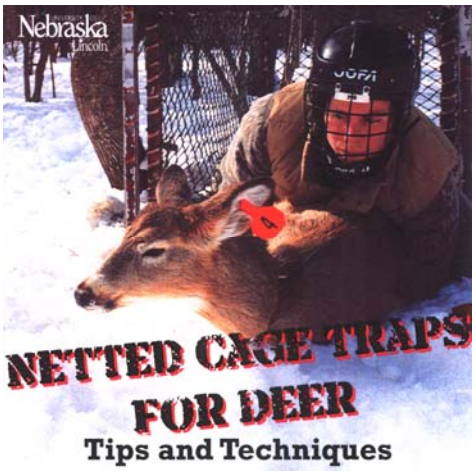
Follow-up note - A similar story was broadcast on Fox News a couple of months later. Check it out on the following link.

http://video.foxnews.com/10696752/stuck-skunk/?category_id=b89df4e0a7625634ab332fac72117598592626ef

Story submitted by T. Nass, Wisconsin DNR

New Video

Netted Cage Traps for Deer: Tips and Techniques



Greg Clements of The School of Natural Resources (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) has produced an instructional video on trapping deer. Researchers and Pest Management Professionals (PMP) will learn how to cage-trap deer like the experts at UNL. Topics include, trap uses, trap design, checking traps, and handling deer in the trap. With the rise of conflicts between human and white-tailed deer, PMPs should consider learning how to capture deer with traps. Video was taken in HD and runs for 40 minutes. Get your copy at http://nebraskamaps.unl.edu/

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Wildlife Damage Management Working Group

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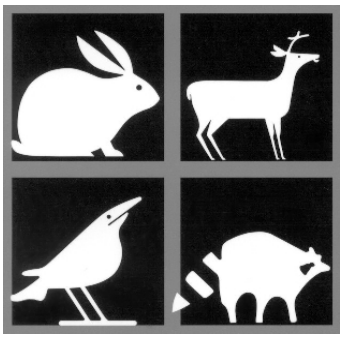

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The Wildlife Society
Wildlife Damage Management Working Group

Our Mission:

The mission of the Wildlife Damage Management Working Group is to promote better understanding of the challenges of managing human-wildlife conflicts and to provide a forum for TWS members to advance their skills and knowledge of wildlife damage management practices.

Our Goals:

- Enhance understanding within the profession and various stakeholder groups of the need for responsible wildlife damage management activities.
- Facilitate information transfer to wildlife management professionals and various publics.
- Serve as a professional catalyst, clearinghouse, and conduit for wildlife damage management information.
- Assist TWS Council and resource management agencies with wildlife damage management policy formulation, analysis, and decision making.
- Promote development of new technologies and maintenance of existing cost-effective management tools.

Upcoming Meetings, Conferences, and Events

February 2010
You are cordially invited to attend and participate in the Twenty-Fourth Vertebrate Pest Conference. This Conference is an educational event for discussing and exchanging information on human-wildlife conflicts. The Conference will be held February 22-25, 2010 at the Holiday Inn Sacramento–Capitol Plaza.

March 2010
The deadline for submitting papers to the 2010 Wild Pig Conference is March 1, 2010. Both oral presentations and posters are being sought for the conference from state agencies to discuss problems, issues, successes, and current management as well as traditional feral swine research and management papers. Details for paper and poster submission can be found at www.WildPigConference.com.

April 2010
The next Wild Pig Conference will be sponsored by the Jack H. Berryman Institute and will be held in Pensacola, Florida on April 11-14, 2010. For more information be sure to keep an eye on this publication and the conference website (www.WildPigConference.com) for more information on submitting papers and attending the meeting.

October 2010
Begin making your plans now for the 2010 Annual TWS Meeting in Snowbird, Utah. The conference this year will be from October 3-7, 2010. Be sure to check back with the TWS website (www.wildlife.org) for details.

Congratulations to New Board Members

Congratulations to our new board members Scott Barras, David Drake, and Jay Boulanger and a big thanks to the service over the past two years for outgoing board members Ben West, Brett Dunlap, and Scott Craven.