2008


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NEW BOARD MEMBERS SELECTED

And the results are ….

The ballot for the 2007 election of Board Members of the Wildlife Damage Management Working Group of TWS was distributed in November with a due date of December 10. Sixty-one ballots were cast. Scott Craven, Brett Dunlap, and Ben West were selected as Board Members. Brief biographies of these individuals follow.

The Working Group sincerely thanks all of the candidates (Wendy Arjo, Brett Dunlap, Scott Craven, Nikki Frey, Susan Jojola, and Ben West) who ran for positions. The interest in the Working Group as shown by the rate (and acceptance) of nominations made my job easy.

A special thank you, also, to departing Board Members for their service to the Working Group. They are Wendy Arjo, David Bergman, and Susan Jojola.

You can learn more about the new board members on page 3 of this issue of Interactions.

FEEL LIKE YOU’VE BEEN THERE BEFORE?

LETTERS FROM ART

Ever felt like you’re repeating yourself about something you already did or experiencing something you’ve done before? I’m sure everyone has feelings of déjà vu, but I’m talking about feeling you’ve done the exact same thing your doing right now, but it was last year or several years ago. I almost just went through that with my job. No it wasn’t answering the same question again – I do that all of the time. When I’m “on” I usually even give close to the same answer that I gave the last time!! This time it was with a species we’ve not had much to do with in South Dakota, the river otter.

I do not know when river otters were officially declared gone in the state, but in the late 1980’s several sightings were noted in central and southwestern South Dakota. In 1998 and 2000 the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe reintroduced a total of 34 otters into the Big Sioux River. At about the same time otters likely immigrating from Minnesota were also being spotted. Game staff decided against any trap and translocate efforts either from other states into South Dakota or move otters within the state.

The reasons behind the lack of efforts by staff to “manually” expand the otter’s incursion into the state were mainly two-fold: 1) we had tried similar attempts with American marten earlier, with promises to state trapping organizations, that within a short amount of time there would be a harvestable population, and 2) we had seen how quickly otters re-colonized wide areas in other states. Well, a marten population did take hold but never took off so after almost 20 years martens still cannot be trapped, and we were left trying to explain to the state trappers how we could have missed the target so badly. Perhaps being a little gun-shy, we also did not

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Letters from Art (Continued from page 1)

WDMWG President - Art Smith

many years ago. With the careful management and appropriate protective restrictions, lions eventually rebounded and populated the Black Hills with a very vibrant population. Game staff kept track of the lion population’s growth, and before long, lions were removed from protection and a game season was established.

But the steps to move lions into a game season occurred only once their suitable range in the Black Hills was full.

Well, apparently with otters we’ve skipped a step. Remember at the start of this rambling I said I almost felt like I was repeating myself? With mountain lions, as the population increased, and as their range started filling up, only then did depredation complaints start coming in. Slowly at first, but eventually picking up speed. Otters, on the other hand, seem to do things differently. The potential otter habitat in South Dakota is nowhere near full with what seems like relatively few otters as information on their whereabouts is largely limited to a few accidental catches by trappers each year. However, last week I heard something I thought I’d still have at least another decade to get – I received my first river otter depredation complaint!

I guess when all things are considered, I’d rather have an unexpected lion complaint than one for an otter. And so starts my depredation career with otters. I wonder what it will be like when they do fill their range with respectable numbers!

New Publications:
HWC Volume 2-1 Now Available

Volume 2-1 of Human-Wildlife Conflicts has hit mailboxes everywhere. This issue contained peer-reviewed manuscripts on wildlife damage management, commentary, editorials, book reviews, and obituaries, with a special focus wildlife-vehicle collisions.

For those of you who did not receive a copy of this publication, you can submit your request for a free copy to the Managing Editor, Phil Parisi, at hwc@cc.usu.edu. Authors who are interested in submitting manuscripts should contact Phil at the above email for information and a Guide to Authors or they can find the same information by visiting www.BerrymanInstitute.org. (include your name and mailing address). An online version of the journal can also be found at the Berryman Institute website at www.berrymaninstitute.org.

Call for Posters:
23rd Vertebrate Pest Conference

A special Poster Session is planned in conjunction with the Conference. Posters will be displayed from Tuesday afternoon March 18 through Thursday morning March 20. Posters can present either practical or technical aspects of managing wildlife-human conflicts, or they can summarize research findings related to wildlife damage management or work currently in progress.

Abstracts describing proposed posters should be submitted via email to Program Chairperson: Kathleen Fagerstone at Kathleen.A.Fagerstone@aphis.usda.gov

Deadline 15 February 2008

Format your abstract as a single paragraph (300 words maximum) preceded by the title, authors’ names and affiliations. Following the abstract, identify the contact person by name, mailing address, telephone number, and email. Use 1-inch margins all around, 12-point Times New Roman font, and justify text to the left margin.

As noted under the Conference Registration webpage (www.vpconference.org/Registration08.htm), full-time students (undergraduate or graduate) who submit abstracts for posters that are accepted for inclusion can apply for a travel grant of up to $500 to defray costs of their participation.
I am currently a Professor, Extension Wildlife Specialist, and Associate Chair in the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Wildlife damage management has been a key component of my extension, teaching, and research activity since I joined the faculty in 1979. I still view wildlife damage management as a "growth industry" within the broader wildlife profession and I urge students to learn more about it and consider it as a possible career path.

I have served one term as Chair of the Wildlife Damage Management Working Group (although a long time ago), and therefore also served as chair-elect and past-chair and I was one of the original Wildlife Damage Management Working Group members. I was involved with the National Animal Damage Control Association before its demise and with nuisance wildlife control operator training and certification issues in the early stages and evolution of that industry.

At the Wildlife Society level, I served as president of the North Central Section and the Wisconsin Chapter, as long time faculty advisor for the UW-Madison Student chapter, along with service involving numerous committees, position statements, and as co-host of the 2005 national conference. I have a bit of service left in me and can think of no better place to use it than with the Wildlife Damage Working Group.

Ben West

Ben C. West is an Associate Professor in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries at Mississippi State University. Ben’s primary responsibility is that as the National Outreach Coordinator for The Berryman Institute at Mississippi State and Utah State Universities. In addition, Ben also serves as the Wildlife and Fisheries Extension Coordinator at Mississippi State and teaches a class or two each year at MSU.

Ben’s educational background includes a B.S. in natural resources management at the University of Tennessee-Martin, an M.S. in wildlife from Virginia Tech, and a Ph.D. in wildlife from Utah State University. Ben’s professional interests include wildlife damage management, communication, and leadership in the natural resources arena.

Ben has been an active member of The Wildlife Society, having served as Associate Editor for the Wildlife Society Bulletin, President for the Mississippi Chapter of The Wildlife Society, and Advisor for the Student Chapter at Mississippi State University. Apart from spending time with his family, Ben’s spare time is filled by reading, woodworking, cooking, and college football.

Brett Dunlap

Brett Dunlap is a Certified Wildlife Biologist and the State Director for Tennessee and Kentucky in the USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services program. Brett has served in his current position for the past 6 years. Prior to coming to Tennessee, Brett served as the Assistant State Director for the California WS program (1999-2001); District Supervisor in the Moses Lake District of the Washington WS program (1996-1999); Assistant District Supervisor of the College Station District of the Texas WS program (1994-1996); and as a Wildlife Specialist of the College Station District of the Texas WS program (1989-1994).

Brett has a B.S. in Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University, and a M.A. in Biology from Sam Houston State University. Brett has been a member of TWS since 1989. He is a member of the Wildlife Damage Working Group and the Wildlife Disease Working Group, as well as member of the Southeast Section, and the Tennessee and Kentucky state chapters.

Brett’s professional duties and interests focus on wildlife damage management, wildlife disease issues, and extension/outreach programs regarding wildlife. Brett also serves as an adjunct professor for the University of Tennessee at Martin, where he has taught a wildlife damage management course for the past 4 years. Brett’s free time is mostly spent with his wife and 3 children.
Calls From the Field

If you have interesting and truly unbelievable stories about experiences with the public, let us know. We will have a contest each quarter for the most interesting stories. Winners will receive a free subscription to Interactions.

Mountain lion in back yard...not quite
A Wildlife Biologist with the California Department of Fish and Game received a call from a Carmel Valley, California, resident about a mountain lion in someone’s back yard. They described the animal as at least 4 feet in length. They were concerned for the safety of the people and pets in the community. They were even kind enough to send over a photo of the lion. Dang, looks like we’ve had mountain lions in our backyard as well and I never realized it.....now where did I put that phone number for the Wildlife Conflicts Hotline?

The nerve of these animals...
While working in Las Vegas, I received a call from a resident who what having a crisis with a bobcat in her backyard. My first thought was cool, a bobcat in Las Vegas. She, on the other hand, did not see it in the same light. I asked if the animal was bothering her pets or causing some type of damage, but it just happen to walk across her yard. She went on to inform me that in Boston, where she was from, this would never happen. I just wish all our wildlife were as orderly as in Boston.

Will evolution never cease...
A couple of months back the Indiana Wildlife Conflicts received a call about a strange looking animal. The call sounded like a bad joke: A squirrel, a rabbit, and a deer walk into a bar.... Anyway, the caller described an animal that resembled a cross between those three animals. Our initial reaction was that the caller must have misplaced their glasses. We asked if they had a photo and it turns out they did. It was an Argentinean hare that was probably an escaped pet. Unfortunately, this was not the first instance of these guys in Indiana. Several years ago, the DNR received a similar call and received the same type of photo. I guess wildlife biologists involved with invasive species can feel secure in their job.

23rd Vertebrate Pest Conference
San Diego California

The 23rd Vertebrate Pest Conference will be held Monday through March 17 through 20, 2008, at the Westin Hotel at Emerald Plaza, San Diego, California. The Conference features three days of selected speakers covering all aspects of vertebrate pest management and control.

The Conference makes significant contributions toward understanding and resolving undesirable wildlife-human interactions and wildlife damage problems, promoting better management methodology, and minimizing adverse environmental and ecological effects. Vertebrate pest management is applied ecology with the primary goals of improving agricultural production, public health, and conservation of natural and human-made resources. The Conference is a forum for sharing knowledge and experiences among researchers, administrators, extension personnel, and practitioners in vertebrate pest management and wildlife damage problems. Participants vary in professional background, but all have one common interest – wildlife-human conflicts.

The Conference has a block of hotel rooms at the Westin Hotel in San Diego reserved for those attending. To be assured of accommodations, reservations should be made early. A Conference rate of $149 single/double is available on a first-come basis until February 15. After that date, the Conference rate will no longer be available.

For additional information or to make reservations, call the Westin Hotel at (888) 627-9033 and mention the “Vertebrate Pest Conference”. Reservations can also be made on-line at: 

For more information on the conference or for registration details, visit the VPC website at: http://www.vpconference.org/

Important Dates
Student Pre-registration: 1 February 2008
Poster submissions: 15 February 2008
Hotel reservations: 15 February 2008
Conference Registration – Pre-registration: 29 February 2008
Registration cancellation (for refund of fees): 29 February 2008
2008 National Conference on Feral Hogs

Typically, the National Conference on Feral Hogs is held in the southern tier of states, where feral hogs are entrenched. This year’s conference location reflects the spread of feral hogs northward. States such as Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois and even as far north as Michigan are seeing the appearance and spread of feral hogs. By bringing the 2008 conference to Missouri, we aim to "bar the gate" on the further spread of feral hogs. To this end, the conference gives those coping with new invasions the chance to learn from Southern managers’ and researchers’ experience.

Feral Hogs Hurt Public and Private Land

Wherever they occur, feral hogs pose a serious concern to natural resource management agencies and livestock farmers. Feral hog rooting and feeding behavior contribute to soil erosion, reduce water quality and result in direct competition with native wildlife for food and cover. Feral hogs can destroy sensitive natural areas, such as glades, fens and springs, habitats commonly found on state and federal land holdings. The potential spread of disease is also a major concern for the pork and cattle industries. Whether you manage public or private land, you’ll come away from this year’s conference with more effective tools for controlling feral hog damage.

Conference Location

The conference will be held in St. Louis, Missouri at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in the downtown area. To reserve rooms, call 1-800-925-1395 and mention the Feral Hog Conference. Room rates are $103 for a single king bed or two double beds. To guarantee the rate and room, make your reservation by March 24, 2008. If you will be arriving from Lambert-St. Louis International Airport, please arrange for a shuttle to the hotel when you make your reservation. The shuttle service is $16 one way.

Air Travel/Transportation

For those arriving by plane, you will be flying into the Lambert-St. Louis International Airport. The airport is located only about 20 minutes driving time to the Crowne Plaza Hotel. A shuttle service is available for $16 one way.

Registration

Register online or use the mail in form on page 7

Call for Papers:

2008 National Conference on Feral Hogs

Conference Theme

In an effort to "bar the gate" on the spread of feral hogs, the focus of this year's conference is on control. To this end, here are some of the questions we hope conferees will address: What are the ecological and economic impacts of encroaching hog populations? What are the best ways to control and stop the spread of feral hogs? How should agencies respond? We also welcome papers and presentations on other feral hog topics and current or past research projects.

Oral Presentations

You are invited to submit abstracts for oral paper sessions. Presentations will be scheduled for 20 minutes, including some time for question and answer. Presentations need not be limited to research results. They can also cover best and proven trapping/control techniques, best approach to agency response and any successful experiences concerning the eradication of feral hogs.

Poster Presentations

You are also invited to submit abstracts for poster presentations, which are effective ways to summarize completed or ongoing studies, management experiences or programs of work. Posters will be displayed in a prominent location during the length of the conference. Each poster should be contained on a 4-foot-by-4-foot sheet of 1/2-inch foam poster board.

Abstracts

The abstract you submit will be used in the printed abstract booklet, which will be available at the workshop. The abstract submission deadline for oral and poster presentations is March 15, 2008. Using Microsoft Word software, please submit your abstract electronically to the e-mail address below or on a CD with a hard copy.

Do not fax abstracts. Authors will be notified no later than March 25, 2008, about the selection of their presentation. Use the format outlined in our website (http://mdc.mo.gov/landown/hog_conf/) to submit your work.

To send an abstract or for more information please contact:
Rex Martensen
Missouri Dept. of Conservation
PO Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102
573-751-4115
rex.martensen@mdc.mo.gov

or
Bill Heatherly
Missouri Dept. of Conservation
573-751-4115
bill.heatherly@mdc.mo.gov

More information about the conference can be found at: http://mdc.mo.gov/landown/hog_conf/.
2008 National Conference On Feral Hogs
April 13-15
Crowne Plaza Hotel—St. Louis, Missouri

Hosted by Missouri Department of Conservation

Conference Registration Form (mail in only)
Make lodging arrangements with Crowne Plaza Hotel directly.
Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/16623 for contact information.

Attendee Information
Name ____________________________ Agency ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City, State, Zip ____________________________
Work Phone ____________________________ Fax Number ____________________________
E-mail Address ____________________________

THERE WILL BE NO REFUND OF REGISTRATION FEES

Conference Registration
Early Conference Registration _______ $200
Late Conference Registration — AFTER April 1, 2008 _______ $250

The following events are included as part of your registration. Please indicate events you will attend:

____ Welcome Reception, Sunday Night, April 13, 2008
____ Banquet, Tuesday Night, April 15, 2008

Spouse/Guest Event Fees
Please indicate which events guest/spouse will attend:

____ $25.00 Welcome Reception, Sunday Night, April 13, 2008
____ $50.00 Banquet, Tuesday Night, April 15, 2008

Spouses Name ____________________________

Payment Information
Attendee Registration(s) $ _____
Spouse/Guest Fees $ _____
Total Remittance $ _____

Registration by Mail to:
MCHF
P.O. Box 366
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Enclosed check or money order payable to MCHF-FHC

Conference Registration/General Information contacts:
Rex Martensen 573-522-4115, ext. 3147  Rex.Martensen@mdc.mo.gov
Sue Hirschman 573-522-4115, ext. 3251  Sue.Hirschman@mdc.mo.gov
**Call for Papers:**

**Habitat and the Predation Process**

A Special Symposium at the 2008 TWS Meeting

TWS’ Wildlife Damage Management Working Group wants to propose and sponsor a special symposium at the next TWS meeting on the relationship between habitat and predation. Papers will be published in the peer-reviewed journal *Human–Wildlife Conflicts*. If you would like to present a paper at this symposium, please email an abstract of your paper to Dr. Michael Conover at Conover@cc.usu.edu. The rational for the symposium is provided below.

**Need:** Predation is likely to be a perpetual management concern for wildlife professionals because anthropogenic factors force both prey and predator to coexist within shrinking habitats. Managing predation is also complicated because society values all fauna. Therefore, striking a balance between predator and prey is likely to become more difficult as human populations increase and become more diverse while continuing to demand goods and services from limited natural resources. Although much research is available concerning the efficacy of predator population management (i.e., predator control), there has been comparatively little research into the effects of habitat on the predation process. However, research exists in this area, and habitat management that explicitly contains elements for managing predation may reduce predation pressure on some species. Minimally, an understanding of habitat effects on the predation will prove useful as a tool for identifying when other forms of predator management may be warranted. We propose a half-day symposium devoted to presentations dealing with predator-prey-habitat relationships. Particular emphasis will be placed on providing presentations that offer insight into how habitat influences the predation process and that provide suggestions regarding habitat management approaches that may prove useful for managing predation on select prey species.

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**Human-Wildlife Conflict In The News**

**Wildlife vs. Pets**

Pets across the country had a tough time with wildlife species ranging from alligators, to coyotes, to cougars during December and January.

- Coyote launches vicious attack on dog
  McAlester News-Capital, Oklahoma

- Alligator attack leaves one dog missing
  Associated Press, Florida
  [http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,322491,00.html](http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,322491,00.html)

- Dog recovering from attack by cougar
  The Bellingham Herald, Lummi Reservation

- Coyotes attack dog in Carol Stream
  Daily Herald, Illinois

- Local coyote attack injures pet dog
  Press Republican, New York

**Feral Swine**

*Wildlife Control: North Dakota targets feral pigs*

Grand Forks Herald, North Dakota

*Man’s yard must be a tasty entrée to wild hogs*

My Clay Sun, Florida
[http://www.jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/011908/nec_237644541.shtml](http://www.jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/011908/nec_237644541.shtml)

*Kill feral hogs*

Sauk Prairie Eagle, Wisconsin

**Livestock Predation**

*With predator populations rising, more calls for control: western states grapple with how to address an increasing threat to livestock from wolves and big cats.*

Christian Science Monitor, Oregon
[http://www.csmonitor.com/2008/0118/p02s01-usgn.html](http://www.csmonitor.com/2008/0118/p02s01-usgn.html)

For more stories about human-wildlife conflicts – visit the Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management [http://icwdm.org/](http://icwdm.org/)
RECENT WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT RESEARCH

This section will highlight current research in our field each quarter. Articles are located by conducting a search of periodical databases which contain possible relevant content. If you have an wildlife damage management related article that has been accepted for publication and want to ensure that your peers are aware of its publication, please send a copy of the article to the editor at joe.n.caudell@aphis.usda.gov. Nothing is inferred by an articles exclusion or inclusion in this column. Articles that appear in Human-Wildlife Conflicts do not appear in this column because the entire journal is available on open-access (see below). Many of these articles can be found on-line at the APHIS USDA Wildlife Services National Wildlife Research Center web site (http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wsa/nwrc/is/publications.html).


Woodpeckers may cause an average of $300 (United States currency) in damage to affected houses, resulting in millions of dollars of property damage annually in the United States. However, there is no known, practical, consistently effective technique to prevent woodpecker damage. We tested the effectiveness of 6 woodpecker control techniques available commercially, used anecdotally by homeowners, and recommended by wildlife specialists in different Cooperative Extension publications. These deterrents included Prowler Owls, Irri-TapeTM, the Bird Pro Sound System, Scare-Eves (all manufactured by Bird-X, Inc., Chicago, IL), suet feeders, and root boxes. Although none of the deterrents that we tested was completely successful in keeping woodpeckers from creating new holes in house siding, homes where Irri-Tape was installed exhibited the greatest reduction in woodpecker damage. Avoiding earth-tone stain and paint colors as brightly painted houses (white, light blue, pastels) were less likely to attract woodpeckers.


Signorile, A. L., and J. Evans. 2007. Damage caused by the American grey squirrel (Sciurus carolinensis) to agricultural crops, poplar plantations and semi-natural woodland in Piedmont, Italy. Forestry 80: 89-98.


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
Posters can still be submitted to the upcoming Vertebrate Pest Conference. See detail in this issue.

March
The 23rd Vertebrate Pest Conference is scheduled to be held March 17-20, 2008 in San Diego, CA, at the Westin San Diego at Emerald Plaza. More information will follow in subsequent issues.

April
A National Conference on Feral Hogs will be held in St. Louis, Missouri on April 13-16, 2008. Details about the meeting can be found in this issue of Interactions.

November