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October 1997

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Leslie, S. M.; Scanlon, P. F.; and Clarke, O. T., "Potential Demand for Programs on Nuisance Wildlife Among Wildlife-Related Program Offerings to Urban/Suburban Organizations (Poster Abstract)" (1997). *8 - Eighth Eastern Wildlife Damage Management Conference (1997)*. 18.

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POTENTIAL DEMAND FOR PROGRAMS ON NUISANCE WILDLIFE AMONG WILDLIFE-RELATED PROGRAM OFFERINGS TO URBAN/SUBURBAN ORGANIZATIONS (Poster Abstract)

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Abstract: Program planners of 114 organizations in the Roanoke Valley area of Virginia responded to the likelihood of their scheduling programs on wildlife-related topics. Among the topics offered was “Controlling Wildlife Pests and/or Their Damage.” Responses were organized by type of organization (civic club, neighborhood organization, educational/PTA organization, environmental/hobby organization, garden/plant club) and whether they were “highly likely” (HL), “somewhat likely” (SL), “not likely” (NL), or “not sure” (NS) they would schedule such a program. Results on likelihood of scheduling were as follows: 31 civic clubs (1 HL, 4 SL, 33NL, 4 NS); 26 neighborhood organizations (5 HL, 7 SL, 5 NL, 9 NS); 26 educational/PTA organizations (3HL, 7 SL, 14 NL, 2 NS); 10 environmental organizations (1 HL, 2 SL, 7 NL, 0 NS); and 21 garden clubs (2 HL, 6 SL, 11 NL, 2 NS). Overall, 114 respondents provided 12 HL, 26 SL, 59 NL, and 17 NS responses. Among the 114 respondents, only 8 rated the topic among their “top 3” most desired topics. In the overall survey, wildlife-related topics were not more acceptable than environmental program topics and, within the wildlife program topics, a program on “Controlling Wildlife Pests and/or Their Damage” was not likely to be scheduled by more than half the programs chairs. As only one-third of respondents indicated any likelihood of scheduling a program on “Controlling Wildlife Pests and/or Their Damage,” a challenge in developing proactive programs on wildlife pest management for urban/suburban club audiences seems very clear.

Proc. East. Wildl. Damage Manage. Conf. 8:204
