University of Nebraska - Lincoln
DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Proceedings of the Eighteenth Vertebrate Pest Conference (1998)

Vertebrate Pest Conference Proceedings collection

1-1-1998

OPENING REMARKS—EIGHTEENTH VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE

Rex O. Baker
California State Polytechnic University - Pomona

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/vpc18

Baker, Rex O., "OPENING REMARKS—EIGHTEENTH VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE" (1998). *Proceedings of the Eighteenth Vertebrate Pest Conference (1998)*. Paper 28.
http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/vpc18/28

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Vertebrate Pest Conference Proceedings collection at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Proceedings of the Eighteenth Vertebrate Pest Conference (1998) by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

OPENING REMARKS—EIGHTEENTH VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE

REX O. BAKER, Horticulture/Plant & Soil Science Department, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, California 91768.

Proc. 18th Vertebr. Pest Conf. (R.O. Baker & A.C. Crabb, Eds.) Published at Univ. of Calif., Davis. 1998.

On behalf of the Vertebrate Pest Council, welcome to the Eighteenth Vertebrate Pest Conference. For 36 years, the Council has been presenting these conferences for the purpose of advancing knowledge in the field of vertebrate pest management. The conference proceedings are utilized extensively throughout the world as a source of information regarding vertebrate pest biology, behavior, ecology, and integrated pest management technology.

Never before has the vertebrate pest management field been under as much pressure to change from using traditional control methods of trapping and toxicants, to what are viewed as more humane and environmentally friendly methods. Unfortunately, the general public is being led to believe that very cruel pest management methods are utilized and that even some pest animals are cuddly creatures that have the same rights as humans. Agreed, vertebrate pests should be treated humanely, but treated as if they belong everywhere even when causing damage to man, his livestock, pets, endangered species, and the environment? Citizens are ill informed of how cruel nature is in the struggle for survival, or how advanced the animal damage management field is in the use of integrated pest management methods and the use of humane control techniques.

One of our primary objectives as vertebrate pest managers must be to change our image through public education and our appearance, while continuing to learn more about new integrated pest management methods. "I challenge you to maintain a more professional image for your entire organization." Your dress, equipment, manner of solving vertebrate pest problems, and, yes, your customer and public relations must always be a high priority.

I am sure the program Paul Gorenzel and Desley Whisson have arranged will help us in meeting society's challenges towards developing better integrated vertebrate pest management programs and improving our image. I would like to thank and recognize the following conference committee chairs, council members, and volunteers for the extensive work they have done in putting on this conference: Paul Gorenzel and Desley Whisson, Program Chairs; Sydni Gillette, Registration; Charles Crabb and Gerry Miller, Arrangements Co-Chairs; Charles Crabb, also Proceedings Editor; Minoo Madon, Field Trip Chair; Gregory Giusti, Chair, and Robert Timm, Assistant Chair, Commercial Displays; Terry Salmon, Chair-Elect and Continuing Education Chair; and Gary Simmons, Publicity Chair.

One of the most valuable experiences enjoyed at the conference is the opportunity to meet and chat with fellow associates, many of whom are leading experts in the vertebrate pest management field. A tremendous exchange of information takes place in the commercial display room and at the evening socials. Take good advantage of these opportunities, and do not be shy.

A big thanks also to the speakers and session chairs—many have traveled long distances and all have put a lot of long hours into their presentations.

One of the most active foreign speakers in the past was Peter Nelson of New Zealand. Unfortunately, Peter passed away in January. His valuable knowledge, warm open heart, and great sense of humor will be missed. He will always be in our fond memories.

The National Animal Damage Control Association (NADCA) will be meeting during the conference. The NADCA newsletter is another great resource for technical information. If you are not a member yet, join!

Please complete the evaluation survey so that future conferences can be improved, and so that you can enjoy Wednesday night's commercial forum and hosted buffet.

Enjoy the conference!