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The Probe, Issue 216 – May/June 2001

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NADCA's Future Mission

Mike Conover, NADCA President

Several of my colleagues have informed me that the Wildlife Damage Management Working Group of The Wildlife Society is so similar to NADCA that there is no longer a role for NADCA and that it should disband. Although I strongly disagree with this idea, this debate provides an excellent opportunity for NADCA to evaluate its current role and where it wants to head in the future. In this article, I want to express my opinion about the role and future mission of NADCA. I have also asked other NADCA officers to share their ideas on this topic. I'm hoping that these articles will spur NADCA members to write down their ideas and to send them in to *THE PROBE* for publication in the next issue.

In my opinion, NADCA has two primary missions. The first is to foster communication within the wildlife damage management profession. We do so primarily through our newsletter, *THE PROBE*, which is used to communicate, provide information and report news about the profession and any developments which might influence how we operate. *THE PROBE* also provides an avenue for any NADCA member to communicate with his/her peers.

The second mission of NADCA is to serve as "the voice" of professionals in wildlife damage management. NADCA can take positions on local or national issues of interest and importance to the profession. To make its voice heard, NADCA should respond to requests for position statements quickly. One possible way to accomplish this would be to take advantage of e-mail. We could set up a procedure so that any member of NADCA could ask the organization to take a stand on any issue of importance to them.

A request would be sent to the president of NADCA, who would work with the person making the request to draft it in the form of a resolution. This draft resolution would be e-mailed to all NADCA officers, who would be asked to approve the resolution. If more than 50 percent of the officers voted to approve the resolution, the president of NADCA would e-mail the resolution to all NADCA members with an e-mail addresses. If 50 percent of the membership voting via e-mail

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NADCA's Future: Comments from a Regional Director

*John Baroch, NADCA Southwest
Regional Director*

I agree with Mike Conover that the primary role of NADCA is to serve as a voice for wildlife damage professionals. This was the historic mission for the association and today there is more need than ever for professionals in this field to communicate and to interject science-based perspectives into the public debate of how to manage human-wildlife conflicts. This mission is distinct from that of the Wildlife Damage Management Working Group of the Wildlife Society and the Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators Association.

In addition to serving as an outlet for the viewpoint of wildlife damage professionals, I think there is an opportunity for the NADCA to function as a conduit for information exchange between researchers, NWCO's, academia, regulators, and various interest groups concerned with animal damage management, from agricultural commodity groups to product registrants and animal welfare interests. Past President Robert Schmidt actually suggested this concept in issue 207 of *THE PROBE*.

I think the NADCA is in a unique position to fulfill such a role precisely because we have an overlapping membership with the more specialized organizations. For example, the NADCA can serve as a pathway for the NWCO's to communicate their needs and problems to the research and regulatory community. In turn the researchers and regulators can have a rapid, informal outlet for their findings and positions.

To facilitate and highlight these functions, *THE PROBE* could develop regular features such as a Regulatory Review column, a NWCO column, a Research Update column, or an Animal Welfare column. Another focal area might be educational resources, including continuing education opportunities for professionals and resources for educators. I think we all agree there is a vital need to present more balanced views of

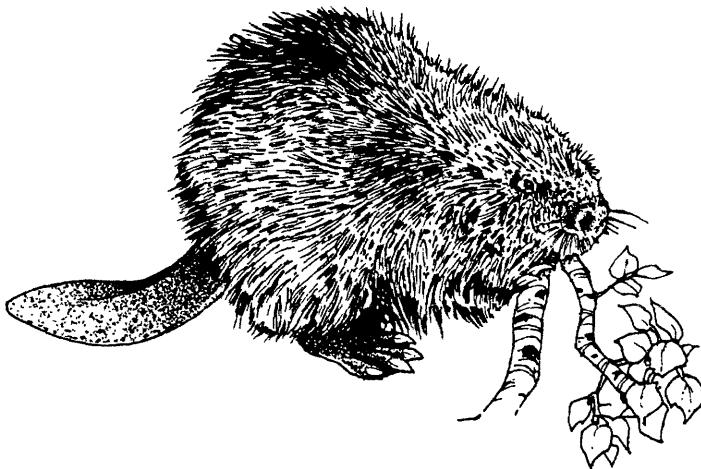
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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

August 27-30, 2001 - Bird Strike 2001, The Westin Calgary, Calgary Alberta, Canada. Deadlines: April 13, Presenter Proposals; June 1, Early Bird Registration. For information contact Bruce MacKinnon, e-mail mackinb@tc.gc.ca, phone 613-990-0515, fax 613-990-0508

September 9-14, 2001 - 3rd European Vertebrate Management Conference, Kibbutz Ma'ale Hachamisha, Israel. Contact ORTRA LTD at e-mail vert@otra.co.il, phone 972-3-6364444, fax 972-3-6384455

September 16-21, 2001: 3rd International Congress of Vector Ecology, Winterthur Conference Center, Barcelona, Spain. The program will include papers, symposia, workshops, and poster sessions on vector ecology and control. For further information visit the Congress web page at <http://www.sove2001.org>



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Your contributions of articles to *The Probe* are welcome and encouraged. The deadline for submitting materials is the 15th of the month prior to publication. Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of NADCA.

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NADCA's Future Mission

approved the resolution, it would be adopted by NADCA.

The approved resolution would be forwarded both to our membership and to the appropriate parties (stakeholders) involved in the issue or conflict. By requiring the approval of both NADCA officers and members, we could help ensure that the resolution does, in fact, represent the views of NADCA. With an e-mail-approval process, NADCA could have an resolution approved and ready for distribution within a few weeks of the initial request; this rapid response will be important for many issues.

So why should people wish to join NADCA? I would answer by stating that NADCA membership should appeal to those individuals who want to be informed about the events that are shaping their lives and profession, who want to be able to share their own ideas and thoughts with their peers, who want to be able to ask NADCA to support their views, and who want a voice in how NADCA will respond to issues and questions.

What do you think? I hope that you will take the opportunity to send your ideas and comments about the future of NADCA to *THE PROBE* for publication.



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NADCA's Future: A Regional Director's Outlook

wildlife-human conflicts to young people, and there are people in agriculture and wildlife management developing educational materials for this purpose.

Obviously we would need to enlist an associate editor or perhaps a small group to take responsibility for each of these features. I am sure we have members plugged in to each of these areas who could contribute. If we were to use this type of format, a quarterly publication schedule might be best.

THE PROBE is the most visible asset of the NADCA. I think our best prospect for raising the profile of the association and serving as a valuable resource to our membership is to beef up the newsletter to fulfill a networking and educational role. To do that is just exploiting the expertise we already have in our membership.

Wildlife Damage Management in the News

New Interagency Program Exposes Bear Facts

A 1996 attack by a black bear on a 16-year old Arizona girl at a U.S. Forest Service campground has greatly changed the way western state and federal agencies approach public bear-awareness programs, according to the Wildlife Management Institute.

The change was prompted primarily because of a \$15 million dollar lawsuit by Anna Knochel and her parents against the State of Arizona (Arizona Game and Fish Department) and the Forest Service. Anna suffered severe injuries on her right leg and scalp during the black bear attack in her tent at a 4-H campout in the Santa Catalina mountains on July 25, 1996. Anna has since recovered.

On May 4, 1999, the State of Arizona settled out of court with the Knochels for \$2.5 million. Lawyers for the Knochel family argued that the Arizona Game and Fish Department should have realized that the bear that mauled Anna was dangerous. They charged that the agency should have put it to death or moved it far away, because, according to records, that same bear had attacked a Brownie Girl Scout and inflicted minor injuries. Arizona Game and Fish authorities trapped the bear after the Brownie incident and move it nine miles away. Within two days, the bear returned to the campground and attacked Ms. Knochel.

The plaintiff's lawsuit against the Forest Service cited that agency for failure to enforce rules and regulations adequately concerning food and garbage handling, failure to notify Arizona Game and Fish when an aggressive and dangerous bear was in the area, and failure to close campgrounds and adequately warn campers when it had knowledge of the dangerous bear. This lawsuit also has been settled out of court.

Fallout from this incident and litigation has prompted the Southwest Region (Region 3) of the Forest Service and the states of Arizona and New Mexico to develop a new "Be Bear Aware" program. Goals of the program are to improve: (1) bear awareness; (2) interagency communication concerning black bear management, with emphasis on problem bears; (3) bear- safety tools at campgrounds and recreation areas (e.g. bear-proof garbage storage, information and education materials); (4) education on safety in bear country; and (5) monitoring, evaluation, and continual upgrading of bear management in Arizona and New Mexico.

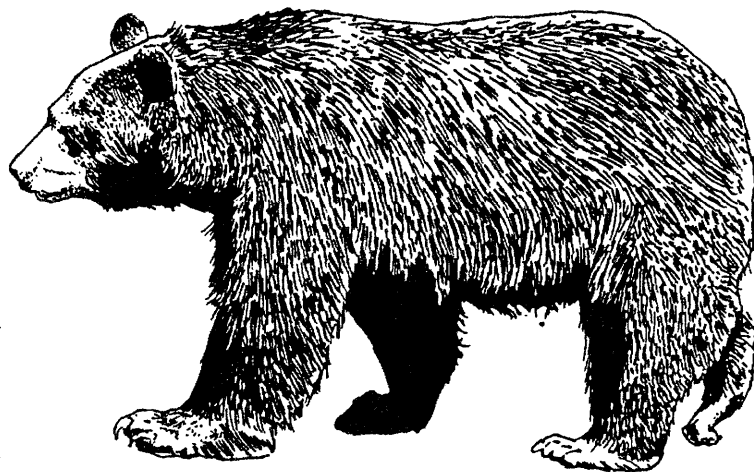
To accomplish these goals, a "Bear Aware Team" has produced a variety of promotional and educational products including brochures, posters, signs, and bumper stickers. These educational materials are being distributed widely to state and federal offices, recreational areas, and the public. In addition, Arizona and New Mexico have signed a Memo-

randum of Understanding with the Forest Service that helps clarify how the agencies will cooperate on bear awareness issues. All state and federal agencies are being encouraged to be more diligent in their "bear awareness" campaigns.

The Bear Aware Team is responding to numerous inquiries about the program from other states. The program also has joined hands with the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee and the Center for Wildlife Information to expand informational programs for public awareness on ways that people can avoid conflicts with bears and other wildlife. Retired U.S. Army General H. Norman Schwarzkopf is the national spokesman for the Grizzly Bear Conservation, Education and Wildlife Stewardship Campaign, and is lending support to the "Be Bear Aware" effort.

Additional information about the Be Bear Aware program can be obtained from Bill Dunn, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish at 505-827-9927. And Pat O'Brien, Arizona

— from *Wildlife Management Institute, Outdoor News Bulletin, Vol. 55, No. 4, April 13, 2001*



Jailed Bears Put to Work

Some of Montana's most notorious grizzly bears, incarcerated for defeating "bear-proof" garbage containers are being put on work duty instead of death row. The Grizzly Discovery Center, in West Yellowstone, houses these problem bears and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is putting them to work.

The highly skilled bears provide the ultimate test of, supposedly, bear-proof garbage container designs. Potential container designs are stocked with fish inside and the outside is covered with fish odor. The containers are then ex-

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Ever Wonder?

How do animals that never or rarely drink water maintain water balance, especially those animals living in arid environments?

Maintaining physiological water balance or balancing the gain and loss of water in an animal's body is essential to support the life of an animal. Water is gained by drinking pre-formed water (free water), or by the ingestion of plant or animal material containing pre-formed water, such as succulents and other moist food, and by the oxidation of hydrogen containing molecules during the metabolism of food (metabolic water). The oxidation of 1 gram of carbohydrate forms 0.556 grams of water; 1 gram of fat forms 1.071 grams of water; and 1 gram of protein forms 0.396 grams of water. Even very dry seeds and other dry plant material contain organic molecules that can be oxidized to produce water.

Water is lost to the animal through respiration (evaporation from the lungs), evaporation from the skin and from water lost in urine and feces.

In arid environments sources of free water can be few and far apart, if they exist at all, and long periods of time between

rainfalls are common. Animals in these environments must rely heavily on pre-formed water in their food, the formation of metabolic water, and minimizing water loss to maintain water balance. Pre-formed water can be found in many desert plants, most notably in a variety of cacti species that can be composed of as much as 90% water. Keeping as cool as possible minimizes water lost by dissipating heat through evaporation. Keeping cool for larger animals, such as carnivores, ungulates, and humans, may be limited to just seeking shade and being nocturnal or crepuscular. Smaller mammals such as burrowing rodents can find significantly cooler temperatures in underground burrows. Additionally water loss can be reduced by producing highly concentrated urine and dry feces.

Three rodents commonly found in American deserts provide examples of survival on little or no free water in arid environments. The packrat (*Neotoma* spp.) can survive indefinitely without free water but requires large amounts of foods that are high in pre-formed water, primarily cactus. Another rodent that requires moist food, and can survive on less of it and is more tolerant of dehydration is the round-tailed ground squirrel (*Spermophilus tereticaudus*). This ground squirrel can go into a state of aestivation, deep in its burrow systems, during the hottest part of the summer. Aestivation is a state of inactivity or torpor. During aestivation the animal's temperature drops, heart and respiration rates decrease, and metabolism slows. The animal then can survive on stored energy reserves and maintain water balance.

Of all the mammalian species found in North American deserts, the kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys* spp.) is probably the most adept at maintaining water balance. Kangaroo rats feed almost exclusively on dry seeds and other dry plant material, even when more succulent foods are available, and can survive indefinitely without any free water. To begin with, they are strictly nocturnal and remain in the cooler depths of their burrows during the day. This essentially eliminates the loss of water for heat regulation. Because of the lower temperature deep in the burrow, the air expired during respiration is cooler and evaporation loss is lower. Even animals that lack sweat glands lose some water through evaporation from the skin (insensible perspiration). However, this means of water loss apparently does not occur in kangaroo rats. Very little water is lost in the urine. Kangaroo rat urine is highly concentrated — estimated to be twice as salty as sea water. And finally, because this rat utilizes food so efficiently, the amount of feces formed from a given amount of food is very low and the fecal water loss minimized. The fecal water loss in a kangaroo rat has been estimated to be less than 1/5 of the corresponding water loss in a Norway rat.

— The Editor

Reference: Schmidt-Nielsen, *Desert Animals, Physiological Problems of Heat and Water*, 1979, Dover Publications Inc., New York, NY.

Proceedings Available: Predator Control

The *Proceedings* of the recent symposium "The Role of Predator Control as a Tool in Game Management" is available for purchase. This 185-page *Proceedings* resulted from a 2-day meeting held in April 2001 in Kerrville, Texas that was sponsored by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and Agricultural Experiment Station, the Sheep & Goat Predator Management Board, the Texas Wildlife Damage Management Service, and USDA-Wildlife Services. Dale Rollins, TAMU Extension Wildlife Specialist, coordinated the event, which drew more than 200 participants.

Contained in the *Proceedings* are texts or summaries of some 25 presentations given at the symposium by researchers, wildlife managers, predator control practitioners, and others. Topics include: impacts of predation on deer and on upland game birds; biology and management of both large mammalian predators (mountain lions, coyotes) and mesopredators (skunks, raccoons, foxes, etc.); and case studies of predator management efforts in the various subregions of Texas. Tim Ginnett and Scott Henke edited the *Proceedings*.

To obtain a copy, send a check for \$19 payable to TAEX to: Publications - Distribution & Supply, PO Box 1209, Bryan, TX 77806, or phone (409) 845-6573 and pay by MasterCard or VISA. Please specify the title of the publication you are ordering.

— from Bob Timm

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Wildlife Damage Management in the News

posed to the notorious, container-cracking bears and the fate of the container design is determined.

Without this program, the bears would have been killed for their bad habits. This is, however, not a work-release program.

— excerpted from an Associated Press article

Burrowing Rodents Cost City \$450K

A Pima County Superior Court jury recently ruled against the City of Tucson, Arizona and awarded \$450,000 to a 26-year-old woman who injured her ankle in 1995 when she tripped in a depression in the ground at a city park. The depression allegedly was caused by a burrowing rodent.

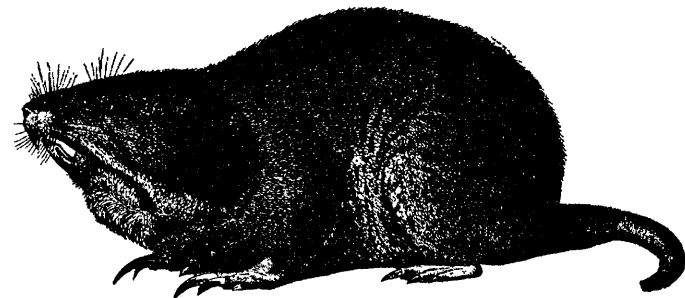
As a result of tripping into the grass-covered depression about 5 inches deep and 10 inches in diameter, the plaintiff suffered a severe ankle sprain and torn ligaments. She subsequently underwent three surgeries.

After paying \$70,000 to cover injury related claims in 1994, the City of Tucson increased efforts to control ground squirrels and other burrowing rodents. Control measures used included using poison-laced bubble gum intended to choke the rodents. When this option didn't work and city officials determined that they could not use poisons without endangering children, this method was scrapped. Other methods employed included filling in the holes, flooding the burrow systems and fumigating burrows with carbon monoxide. Signs warning of the hazard were also posted.

In 1998 the case went before an arbitrator who awarded the plaintiff nearly \$31,700 in damages. However, the city appealed that ruling and the appeal was upheld. But an Arizona Court of Appeals panel overruled that decision. It ruled that because the plaintiff was on her way to work in a booth set up at the park, she was not in the park for recreational purposes. Therefore, the city was not shielded by the Recreational Use Immunity Act.

The case went to trial in April 2001 and the jury returned with a \$450,000 award.

— excerpted from *The Arizona Daily Star*, April 19, 2001



NADCA's Future: Editor's Comments

As we examine NADCA's role in the wildlife damage management profession and its relationship to other national organizations, we need to consider both The Wildlife Society Wildlife Damage Working Group (WG) and Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators Association (NWCOA). Regardless of the similarities/differences, and overlapping memberships, I believe these are three organizations with similar interests but distinct roles.

In addition to all the commonalities of these organizations, I see the WG's focus on research, academia, and the societal dimensions of wildlife damage management; NWCOA as focused on the NWCO business in urban/suburban or structural environments; and NADCA serving as a primary source of information for wildlife damage management practitioners, associated industries, academia, regulatory agencies, and indirectly, the general public.

THE PROBE is NADCA's principal communication tool and it could be re-formatted to be a more effective tool. John Baroch's ideas for *THE PROBE* are worthy of serious consideration (See NADCA'S FUTURE: Comments from a Regional Director in this issue). However, we would need a co-editor if or individuals willing to take responsibility for the various features he suggests.

I see an important role for NADCA and I would like to see that role more clearly defined by the membership and ultimately outlined in a formal mission statement.

— Larry Sullivan, Editor, *THE PROBE*

NADCA's Future: Members' Comments

I want to reiterate Mike Conover's invitation to NADCA's members to express their thoughts on NADCA's future for publication in *THE PROBE*.

Members' comments should be sent to the editor at the address listed in the masthead of each issue. Submissions can be sent as Word or Word Perfect files or ASCII Text files as e-mail attachments or on disks. Less desirable, but acceptable, hard-copy text can be sent via fax or snail mail.

— The Editor.



The Editor thanks contributors to this issue: John Baroch, Mike Conover, and Bob Timm.

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NATIONAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Mail to: Arthur E. Smith, Certified Wildlife Biologist, Game Harvest Surveys Coordinator, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks, 523 E. Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501

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