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The Probe: Newsletter of the National Animal Damage Control Association

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# The Probe, Issue 186 - March 1998

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The Probe NADCA
ISSUE 186
MARCH 1998

# NWCO Trade Assn. Proposed

*Editor's Note: A proposal to establish a national NWCO trade association was distributed and discussed at the recent W.C.T. Seminar held in Bridgeport, New Jersey. The following information concerning this proposal, authored by Tim Julien, has been excerpted from WCT Magazine's web site.*

*Purpose:*
The purpose of this national association is to represent the commercial nuisance wildlife control operator and others engaged in the business of nuisance wildlife management.

The organization will be the voice of the operator on issues of national importance and of concern to the commercial operator.

*Background:*
The industry of nuisance wildlife control is relatively new and is receiving much attention by state and national policy-makers. The public is demanding accountability for the actions of the individuals engaged in the business of nuisance wildlife control. All state fish and wildlife

*Continued on page 5, col. 1*

# NADCA Board Acts on NWCO Conerns

During the January 23 Conference Call of NADCA's Officers and Board, two actions were taken regarding NADCA's role in supporting nuisance wildlife control operators (NWCOs) within our membership.

The NADCA leadership has established a NWCO Committee, with Mike Dwyer designated to be the committee's chairperson and liaison to the Officers and Board. Other members of the Committee include Rich Daniotti, Jerry Pickel, Tim Julien, and Robert Schmidt. Other NADCA members interested in serving on this Committee are encouraged to contact Mike Dwyer.

As its first task, the Committee is currently reviewing NADCA's draft NWCO certification guidelines. These guidelines (included as an insert in this edition of The Probe) were developed over the past year by a NADCA committee chaired by Clarence ("Ki") Faulkner. The current draft, designated version 3.0, has been reviewed by the following individuals, whose comments and suggestions were received: Lynn Braband, James

*Continued on page 6, col. 1*

# NWCO Concerns Heard

*Jerry L. Pickel, NADCA Director, Northeastern Region (7)*

I chaired a meeting of those attending the recent WCT Seminar in New Jersey, for the purpose of allowing participants to talk about NADCA's role in the nuisance industry and express any concerns they might have.

The few people who attended were receptive to the direction in which NADCA is proceeding with Mike Dwyer as a chairperson of the NWCO Committee, but the majority of the people who where present felt that NADCA was a day late and a dollar short in addressing their needs. Therefore the national association was formed. These same people would still like to work with NADCA, but in the form of certification and other professional aspects. The national organization was formed to address trade issues more than anything else.

A recommendation was made from the people who read the articles in **The Probe** that articles such as the abstracts from the TWS Annual Meeting look like a lot of fill material with no substance. They (NWCO's) ask if articles from Wildlife Society Bulletin could be reworked in laymens terms and published in **The Probe.**

*Continued on page 7, col. 1*

# One View of W.C.T. Seminar

*Robert Schmidt, Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife, Utah State University*

For a variety of reasons, NADCA has not or cannot fulfill all of the needs of the expanding nuisance wildlife control industry. This is not too surprising, since one organization cannot be all things to all people. The Wildlife Society seemed unable to adapt to the emerging concerns in conservation biology, and this led to the development of the Society for Conservation Biology.

Why do NWCOs feel that NADCA is not meeting their needs? Here is what I heard:

1. NADCA is not responsive to NWCO concerns.
2. NADCA cannot react in a timely fashion to NWCO issues (the Connecticut wildlife euthanasia bill is a recent example).
3. NADCA leadership is made up of individuals who, for the most part, have a very limited understanding of the business of urban nuisance wildlife management.
4. NADCA's publications and meetings are of limited use to NWCOs.
5. NADCA's attempts to assist with NWCO certification are flawed or misguided.

*Continued on page 6, col. 1*

# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 19-24, 1998: 11th International Conference on Bear Research and Management, Park Vista Hotel, Gatlinburg, Tennessee.** Contact: Michael R. Pelton, Univ. of TN, Dept. of Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries, P.O. Box 1071, Knoxville, TN 37901, (423) 974-7126, FAX (423) 974-4714, e-mail: <pelton@utkux.utcc.utk.edu>

**May 3-8, 1998: 11th Australian Vertebrate Pest Conference, Lord Forrest Hotel, Bunbury, Western Australia.** Particularly relevant to those involved in research, extension, management, and administration of vertebrate pests in Australia and New Zealand. Bunbury is located 2 hours south of Perth. Contact: Promaco Conventions Pty Ltd., PO Box 890, Canning Bridge, Western Australia 6153, telephone 08 9364 8311, or e-mail: <promaco@promaco.com.au>, or visit http://www.promaco.com.au.

**May 17-20, 1998: 1st National Extension Natural Resources Conference, Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge, Deerwood, Minnesota.** Aimed at natural resource educators focused on environmental education, fisheries, forest products, forestry, range, recreation, water, and wildlife. Contact: Larry Biles, National Program Leader - Forestry Management, USDA-CREES, Washington DC, at (202) 401-4926, or e-mail <lbiles@reeusda.gov>

**June 16-18, 1998: 8th Annual Meeting, Bird Strike Committee USA, Holiday Inn Lakeside / Burke Lakefront Airport, Cleveland, Ohio.** Of particular interest to military and civilian personnel responsible for airfield operations, land-use planners, researchers, FAA inspectors, engineers, pilots, and aviation industry representatives. The meeting will emphasize hands-on demonstrations and activities, and will include papers and posters on topics such as wildlife control techniques, new technologies, land-use issues, engineering standards, and habitat management. Pre-registration $60 before May 1, $75 afterward. For hotel reservations at room rate of $89, call (216) 241-5100 and mention BSC-USA. For conference registration, contact Betsy Marshall, USDA-APHIS-WS, Sandusky, OH at (419) 625-0242, fax (419) 625-8465, or email: <nwrcsandusky@lrbcg.com>

**Oct. 5-9, 1998: International Conference on Rodent Biology and Management, Bejing, China.** Organized by Instit. of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Science, and CSIRO Div'n. of Wildlife and Ecology, Australia. For additional information and mailings, contact: Zhibin Zhang, Secretary General, Int'l. Conference, 19 Zhongguancun Road, Haidian District, Beijing 100080, P.R. China, or e-mail: <zhangzb@panda.ioz.ac.cn.>

## Back Issues of The Probe

We occasionally get requests for "back issues" of **The Probe** from new members, or from those who've misplaced their original copies.

Such requests should be sent to Bob Timm (**Probe** Editor), or to Scott Hygnstrom (printing and distribution coordinator, whose return address appears on each issue). A limited quantity of each issue is maintained on hand, and reasonable requests for back issues can be honored.

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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.

## Moving? Let Grant Know!

Are you moving or changing your office address? If so, please inform our NADCA Treasurer, Grant Huggins. Grant generates an updated mailing list for each issue of The Probe, adding new members and removing those whose membership has expired (Reminder: Check your mailing address to make sure you're paid up!!!). Because **The Probe** is bulk-mailed from the University of Nebraska, it won't be forwarded to your new address by the Post Office. So don't miss an issue—let Grant know if you're planning a move. His address is on the Membership Renewal / Application form on each issue.

## Postdoc / Postgraduate Position Available

A one-year position as Postdoctoral Fellow is available from the Berryman Institute of Wildlife Damage Management at Utah State University. To begin in spring or summer 1998, the position will assess the impact of hunting and trapping on wildlife damage. Minimum qualifications: M.S. in wildlife management or a related field. Preference will be given to candidates with a recent Ph.D. degree or someone seeking a sabbatical position. The salary is $23,000 plus benefits. Send an application and list of references to: Dr. Michael Conover, Director, Jack Berryman Institute, Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife, Utah State University, Logan UT 84322-5210.

# Proceedings Available

Proceedings currently available from the recent wildlife damage conferences, including prices and addresses for sending orders, are as follows:

### Eastern Wildlife Damage Control Conference

8th Eastern (1997) - In Press (expected in mid to late 1998; contact Jim Parkhurst at Virginia Tech, phone (540) 231-9283, or email <jparkhur@vt.edu>)

7th Eastern (1995) - $20 includes postage (mail to Kelly Duffield, Extension Forestry, Box 8003, NCSU, Raleigh NC 27695-8003, check payable to "NCSU")

6th Eastern (1993, 210 pp.) - $20 includes postage (mail to Kelly Duffield, Extension Forestry, Box 8003, NCSU, Raleigh NC 27695-8003, check payable to "NCSU")

5th Eastern (1991, 225 pp.) - $10 includes postage (mail to Deanne Owens, Cornell Coop. Extension, Dept. of Nat. Resources, Ithaca NY 14853-2814, check payable to "Cornell Coop. Extension-Wildlife Damage")

### Great Plains Wildlife Damage Control Workshop

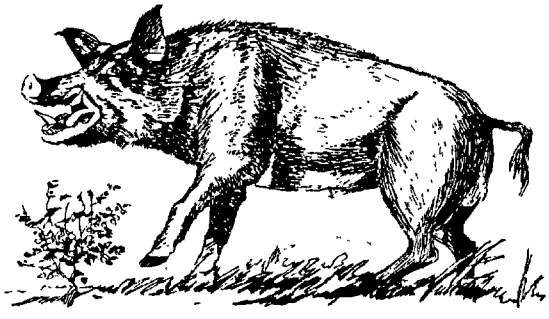
13th Gt. Plains (1997, 197 pp.) - $15 includes postage (mail to Charles Lee, Extension Wildlife, Rm. 127 Call Hall, KSU, Manhattan KS 66506, check payable to "Extension Wildlife")

12th Gt. Plains (1995, 135 pp.) - $15 includes postage (mail to Wildlife Specialist, Dept. of Forestry, 008 Ag Hall, Oklahoma St. University, Stillwater, OK 74078, check payable to "OSU Wildlife Extension")

### Vertebrate Pest Conference

17th VPC (1996, 264 pp.) - $25*
16th VPC (1994, 360 pp.) - $25*
15th VPC (1992, 415 pp.) - $15*
14th VPC (1990, 372 pp.) - $ 5*
13th VPC (1988, 326 pp.) - $ 2*

* (add $4 shipping and handling for 1-2 copies, plus $2 for each additional copy; CA residents add 7.25% sales tax; mail to T. P. Salmon, Bus. Mgr., DANR - North Region, Univ. of California, One Shields Ave., Davis CA 95616-8575, check payable to "Vertebrate Pest Conference")



# State NWCO Organizations Grow

The recent growth of state organizations of nuisance wildlife control operators continues with a recent organizational meeting of New Jersey practitioners. At the recent W.C.T. Seminar held in Bridgeport NJ, there was an evening meeting of nuisance operators interested in the formation of a state association. NADCA Northeast Region director Jerry Pickel reports that the meeting came off extremely well, with a follow-up meeting to be held about March 21st at Rutgers University. Interested individuals can contact: Kirk LaPierre, 71 Sylvan St., Rutherford, N.J. 07070, phone 201-993-9700, or e-mail <saveranimal@prodigy.net>.

Other active state or regional nuisance wildlife associations, and their contact person, are as follows:

**Connecticut Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators Assoc.** (an affiliate of NADCA) Contact: Paul Magnotta, Secretary, 12 R Little Lane, Durham CT 06422, phone 203-449-9940

**Indiana Animal Damage Control Assoc.**
Contact: Tim Julien, President, 1832 N. Bazil Ave., Indianapolis IN 44219, phone 317-895-9069.

**Massachusetts Assoc. of Problem Animal Controllers**
Contact: Stephen Vantassel, 340 Cooley St., Springfield MA 01128, phone 413-783-4462 evenings

**Michigan Animal Damage Control Assoc.**
Contact: Kevin Syperda, 17504 Briggs Rd., Pierson MI 49339, phone 616-636-5594

**New York State Urban Wildlife Management Assoc.**
Contact: Susan Greene, 71 Station Road, Spencer NY 14883

**Northeast Assoc. of Wildlife Damage Biologists** (includes the 13 northeastern states plus 7 eastern Canadian provinces)
Contact: Dennis Slate, President, Box 296, Peverley Road, Tilton NH 03276, phone 603-225-1416

**Tennessee State Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators Assoc.**
Contact: Mike Cable, Rt 1 Box 389, Cripple Creek Rd., Watauga TN 37694, phone 423-543-5197 evenings

**Washington State Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators Assoc.**
Contact: Don Goetschius, president, 2507 NE 102nd St., Vancouver WA 98686, phone 360-573-7130 evenings

**Nuisance Wildlife Operators Assoc. of Nova Scotia**
Contact: Mike Larade, President, Site 30, RR #6, Box 72, Armdale, Nova Scotia, Canada B3L 4P4, phone 902-497-2582.

# Video Review by Stephen Vantassel, NWCO Correspondent

*Bird Barrier's Product Installation Video Tape Series.*
*Video #1 "How to Install Ledge Products" 105 minutes; Video #2 "How to Install StealthNet" 75 minutes.*
*Hosted by Cameron Riddell, President of Bird Barrier. 1997.*

Bird control is one area that many private animal damage controllers have not aggressively sought to incorporate into their business. One reason for overlooking this lucrative and much needed animal control service is lack of quality training. Although Bird Barrier does offer a two day training course in various cities, they fill up quickly. To fill this gap, Bird Barrier has produced two videos on installing bird barrier products.

Both videos begin with a general overview of the support services Bird Barrier provides its clients. It is obvious that Bird Barrier intends to show the viewer its reliability, experience, and willingness to help you solve any bird control problem. The support services include a catalog, as well as a web site <http://www.birdbarrier.com>, brochures to help you sell the job, site consultation, training seminars, and toll free technical assistance. It is no surprise the benefits of Bird Barrier products are also extolled. Whereas most adc video producers don't hawk their own products, Bird Barrier does. It is pointed out that bird barrier products are non-lethal, non-chemical, humane, long lasting, unobtrusive (i.e. blend with architecture) and cost effective. The video also stresses that bird droppings carry a number of diseases harmful to man.

Both videos are hosted by Cameron Riddell, the president of Bird Barrier. He brings not only extensive experience but acting ability as well. He introduces each product carefully and slowly so you will have no doubts as to the advantages of each one. The tapes follow the same pattern, a basic product description, discussion of why the product works, and instruction on determining the amount of the product needed for each job. Mr. Riddell then shows you a basic installation demonstration. It is here that he explains how to use the adhesives, screws, and other attachment devices. He also explains various mistakes you should avoid. The last part of explaining the product is an actual on-site installation. Both videos conclude with general information on site evaluation and cost estimating. Essentially, this is just to introduce you to their site evaluation sheet, which helps you walk through each aspect of the job so you can properly price it. Bird Barrier technicians are available to help walk you through the estimating process.

The first video, "Ledge Products", covers bird coil, bird wire, bird point, bird shock, and Daddi Long Legs™. Mr. Riddell is very careful to cover all the bases. He relates which product should be applied to various circumstances. If you are fearful of installing ledge products because you don't know how you should anchor them, fear no more. This video will not only tell you how but it will show you how.

The second video, "Installing Netting", follows the same pattern of clarity as the first. Mr. Cameron provides a detailed studio demonstration on the general principles of bird netting installation. Various anchoring devices are explained and installed. You will have confidence when installing bird netting on various substrates after viewing this tape.

Mr. Cameron also provides two different field demonstrations which are situations you will generally encounter. My only warning is don't think that this video will make you an expert net installer. It will help you a great deal, but net installation involves more instruction than a video can provide. My advice is to start with some small netting jobs to give you some hands-on experience before tackling the big jobs. This isn't a criticism of the video because video can't really teach the art aspect of net jobs.

Both videos were professionally produced. Images and audio are clear and understandable. The editing, dialogue and demonstrations are of the highest quality. I am confident that bird barrier spent some real money on the production. I have to give these videos an "A+" grade. They were simply outstanding and well worth the price. They will not only make you money, but they will also save you and your customer a great deal of heartache and grief from poor installation.

One fact you should be made aware of is that Bird Barrier products concentrate on repelling larger birds, such as pigeons and gulls. If the majority of your work centers around starlings and house sparrows, then I would suggest only purchasing the netting video. The last time I spoke with Bird Barrier, they hadn't developed ledge products to repel these smaller birds. I hope they do soon.

You can obtain copies of these videos by calling Bird Barrier at 800-888-4VWR. Cost for each video is $29.95 each plus shipping or $39.90 for both. Bird Barrier is headquartered at 1312 Kingsdale Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278. If you need technical assistance you can call 800-503-5444 (West Coast) or 800-NO-BIRDS (East Coast).

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*The Editor thanks the following contributors to this issue: Tim Julien, Jerry L. Pickel, Mike Conover, Robert H. Schmidt, and Stephen Vantassel. Send your contributions to* **The PROBE**, *4070 University Road, Hopland, CA 95449.*

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# NWCO Trade Association Proposed

agencies are reviewing their policies and recommending changes. Many states are drawing from fur taking rules and pest control rules and trying to apply these principles to nuisance wildlife control. For the most part, they have no other organized groups from which to seek advice. In the few states with professional NWCO associations, NWCOs have had great success in being heard. In other states, national organizations like the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) are enjoying strong clout and imposing their opinion over the voice of the individual operator. Professionalism of the operator is being questioned nationwide with nobody to defend it. This is largely due to lack of organization and lack of consistencies within the industry.

The industry is growing at a fast pace and their is no common ground to help operators grow professionally. There has been no national professional association of operators for government administrators to turn to for advice. The professionalism is out there. The expertise is out there. The scientific knowledge is out there. Everything needed to establish a respected, professional, ethical industry is there among the ranks of NWCOs. It is time to put it all together and stand united as a national organization to work on the issues and have our industry recognized as a strong, ethical and PROFESSIONAL industry.

This is not a new idea and it is not the first time an association has been formed for these purposes. The need was addressed in the early 1990s, and an association was formed called the Urban Wildlife Management Association, which later merged with NADCA in the hopes that one association would be able to address the needs of both the private operators and government animal damage control agencies and operators. NADCA is made up of many professionals, including field and research biologists. I find it includes a great pool of knowledge and academic greatness. The one thing that has been lacking is a strong knowledge of the working-level NWCO and the issues the NWCOs face day to day. It is very hard to understand the effects of rules and regulations without being restricted by them. NADCA has recently formed a working committee to address NWCO concerns. NADCA has done a great job, however it has been limited by a volunteer staff with limited resources and a structure that does not allow for timely addressing of national issues quickly at the working level. NADCA has other issues on its agenda and does not have the time or resources to fully address the concerns of the private commercial operator. It will take a network of national, state and local NWCOs to get involved and put in a lot of hard work, energy and funds to get the things done. NADCA should be a part of the process and could be a great check and balance for the equation. The NADCA NWCO Committee could be a good working partner for national issues, providing a second look at issues. This association could also provide the same for NADCA's Committee. We need to work together and in harmony to achieve the best result. After talking with operators across the nation I have compiled a list of national issues:

*Concerns Expressed Nationally:*

1. Professional newsletter to update the profession on national issues.
2. Identification in the form of uniform patches, membership cards, etc..
3. National certification that would require high standards to achieve.
4. National training course that could be adapted to any state's need and presented at state level to NWCOs. Training would have a core of common needs and tailored to each state as needed.
5. Insurance coverage by national carriers to meet the needs of the smallest to the largest operator. Find insurance companies that are willing to write a policy that meet the needs of the operator and not charge a unrealistic premium because of ignorance.
6. Changes in chemical applicators permits to better fit the NWCO industry. To allow the use of chemicals on vertebrates through a condensed limited applicators permit.
7. Promote changes in regulations to allow the use of chemical immobilization drugs and euthanization chemicals without the need for "second hand backdoor type sneaking around." Create national standards for the practical euthanizing of wildlife.
8. Network for sharing information nationwide and with quick response to immediate needs.

These issues listed above are just a few quickly noted from around the country that are common to all. Look over the list, think of the things a national organization could provide your business and take a few minutes to add your comments.

*Specifics of Formation*

It is proposed that a NATIONAL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION be formed as a not for profit organization under 501 (C)(3) Internal Revenue Code. It would have a Board of Directors consisting of CEO,President , Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Communications Administrator, and one Director from each State Association. Committee Chairpersons - one for each committee deemed appropriate (all directors would be asked to chair or serve on a specific committee). If each state had a representative on the Board, there would be 55 persons on the Board. This Board would vote and conduct business as the representative body of all members. A CEO or Business Manager could be hired to work for the association and be tasked by the Board to perform information gathering and conduct day-to-day business of the association.

A timeline of events looking toward formation of this Association is proposed as follows:

- *Decision to form the Association: Feb. 8, 1998*
- *Establish points of contact in as many states as possible: by Mar. 30, 1998*
- *Distribute proposed formal organizational statement (Constitution, By Laws, nominations for officers, etc.): by Apr. 15, 1998*
- *Vote on organization and distribute ballots for election of officers: by May 30, 1998*
- *Election of Officers, Set priorities and get to work as a National Association: by Jun. 30, 1998.*

Written comments can be sent to: NWCO Association, c/o Tim Julien, A & T Wildlife Management Services, 1832 N. Bazil Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46219 (or email: <tjulien@iquest.net>).

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# NADCA Board Acts on NWCO Conerns

Burns, Donald Caccamise, Kevin Clark, Mike Conover, Richard Daniotti, James Forbes, Alan Foster, Tim Julien, and Jim Miller. NADCA members are encouraged to send their comments on the enclosed DRAFT version to Mike Dwyer (mailing address: c/o 870 West Third Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43212; phone 614-486-1139, fax 486-4840, or email: <MDCritter@AOL.COM>).

Future planned efforts of the Committee include working with the independent NWCO trade association to develop NWCO accreditation above minimum licensing standards. Another of the new Committee's charges is to consider the proposed changes suggested by Robert Schmidt in his "Open Letter" (see **Probe** #176, May 1997). Some of the changes in NADCA structure, it was noted, would require a formal revision of the organization's By-Laws. Notes Dwyer, "NADCA presents a wonderful opportunity for those NWCOs who want to get involved and contribute to the professional development and improved professional image of their industry. And it is precisely because NADCA is not a trade association representing just the narrow interests of commercial operators that NADCA is best suited for the development and effective impartial promotion of professional issues..." NWCO members of NADCA are encouraged to address their concerns to the NADCA/NWCO Committee so that NADCA may better serve them.

In another action, the Officers and Board again considered the suggestion that **The Probe** might be merged with *Wildlife Control Technology (W.C.T.) Magazine*. This topic had been raised in Robert Schmidt's "Open Letter" and had been previously discussed by the NADCA leadership on several occasions. Additionally, **Probe** Editor Bob Timm had engaged the *W.C.T. Magazine's* editor and publisher in preliminary discussions about production logistics, costs, and the benefits or detriments of such an arrangement. Following additional discussion, the Officers and Board voted unanimously not to pursue this idea further.

The Officers and Board recognize that nuisance wildlife operators now comprise a majority of all NADCA members, and that NADCA has an important role to play in fostering communication and education among its members representing all facets of wildlife damage management. Toward this end, the NADCA leadership hopes that the newly-established NWCO Committee will actively take up issues of importance to those in the private nuisance wildlife business, and will make recommendations to the NADCA Officers and Board. **Probe** Editor Bob Timm notes, "It would be great to have more articles in **The Probe** that specifically address issues and topics of interest to nuisance wildlife operators. If any NADCA member wishes to submit such articles, they'll be most welcome... as are any and all contributions from our membership. We'll try to fit them into the next newsletter. The newsletter is for, and by, all of us, so it's content is truly a representation of the actions, concerns, and thoughts of our entire membership."

*Continued from page 1, col. 2*

# One View of W.C.T. Seminar

6. NADCA has too many academics and federal employees.
7. State NWCOs that have affiliated with NADCA have been disappointed with the relationship.

There was a meeting on Friday, February 6, in Bridgeport, New Jersey, in conjunction with the W.C.T. (Wildlife Control Technology) Seminar to explore the development of a National NWCO Association. There were approximately 50 people in attendance. Although he was unable to attend, Indiana NWCO Tim Julien had written a proposal for the development of a national organization, and this proposal was distributed to the attendees. The purpose of a national association would be "... to represent the commercial Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator and others engaged in the business of Nuisance Wildlife Management. The organization will be the voice of the operator on issues of national importance and of concern to the commercial operator." Connecticut NWCO Rich Daniotti, Jr., moderated the discussion.

The consensus of the group present was that Tim Julien represent them as acting president as the new trade association was being established. There was some discussion on dues, and attendees were discussing annual dues in the $100-$200 ballpark.

Tim Julien is looking for additional comments. He can be reached at A&T Wildlife Management Services, 1832 N. Bazil Ave., Indianapolis, Indiana 46219 (e-mail <tjulien@iquest.net>).

Rob Erickson, publisher of *Wildlife Control Technology Magazine*, volunteered a page in WCT for news of the national association, as well as use of the WCT web site. In other words, the infrastructure exists for information about a national organization to be disseminated widely among NWCOs.

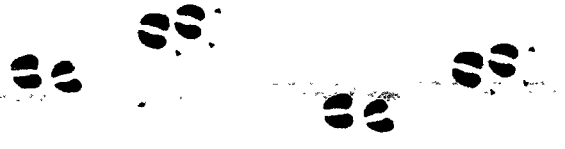
My predication is that a national NWCO organization will be developed, although the development may be slow, and that it is in the best interest of NADCA to act in an assisting role to bring professional wildlife damage management concerns, issues, and foresight to this new organization. A NWCO national organization probably will not fill all the needs of many NADCA members. There will be room for both, since they will have different objectives. I look forward to these two organizations acting in concert to improve the state of the art and science of wildlife damage management. NADCA leadership should monitor the development of a national NWCO organization, and I would recommend regular consultations between the officers after both groups are established.

# More Reports From 4th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society

### Foraging Ecology of Adult Female Mountain Lions in Northeastern Oregon

*Cathy M. Nowak*, G.W. Witmer, M.G. Henjum, and J.J. Akenson*
**Dept. of Natural Resource Sciences, Washington State University*

In June, 1996, we began an investigation of the foraging ecology of mountain lions in the Catherine Creek Wildlife Management Unit in northeast Oregon. Preliminary predation rate and prey composition data will be presented as well as some habitat characteristics of cache sites. Individual lions are located by ground radio telemetry each day and these sites are subsequently searched for kills. Study animals have been documented at day beds up to 1.5 km from a kill. This, combined with the near complete consumption of very young fawns and calves, makes it difficult to locate kills based only on radio telemetry at day bed sites. However, documentation of kills is improved during winter with the aid of snow tracking. To date, we have documented 25 ungulate kills and 16 interkill intervals from 5 lions. Of these, 18 were young of the year (12 mule deer fawns, 6 elk calves) and 7 were adult mule deer. The mean interkill interval to date is 7.6 days. The study is planned to continue through June, 1998 for a total of 2 years in the field. During the upcoming snow free season we will test alternative methods, such as more frequent telemetry locations and the use of trained lion hounds, to increase our success at finding kills.



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# NWCO Concerns Heard

The publishing of Ki Faulkner's draft certification guidelines in **The Probe**, even if it is a pull-out section, would help with their knowing what is going on with certification. I tried to impress the people in attendance that they should look at taking the blinders off and talking to the Ph.D.s and their grad students about problems that they are having in the doing their work and how these people could do papers on overcoming these problems.

The meeting was not a total waste in any manner, even though there were less that 12 people in attendance. I was asked quite a few questions on Sunday morning about the meeting from people who did not attend and who, due to the lateness of the speakers and the cost of eating at the hotel, went out for their evening meal. One specific question which was asked me after the meeting is the following: What role does NADCA want to play in the NWCO industry?

### Forging a New Wildlife Management Paradigm: Integrating Animal Protection Values

*Wayne P. Pacelle*
*The Humane Society of the United States, Washington, DC*

From 1940 to 1990, American voters approved only one statewide ballot initiative restricting hunting or trapping practices, subsequently reversing that one restriction eight years later. Since 1990, voters have sided with animal protection advocates in 10 of 13 statewide ballot races addressing specific hunting and trapping practices. The recent measures have been strongly contested, with proponents and opponents making roughly comparable campaign expenditures. The initiatives have dealt with practices such as bear baiting; the hound hunting of bears, mountain lions, and bobcats; the trophy hunting of mountain lions; the trapping of furbearing mammals in body-gripping traps, including the steel-jaw leghold trap; the same-day airborne hunting of wolves and other predators; and the composition of state fish and wildlife boards. The initiative process has become the most reliable means of affecting significant hunting and trapping policy reforms, as compared to state fish and wildlife boards or Legislatures. I discuss the political circumstances that have resulted in this surge of electoral activity in the wildlife domain and address the sociological and demographic factors that have produced the lopsided electoral verdicts favoring animal advocates. In order to adjust to an emerging nationwide consciousness about the humane and ethical treatment of wildlife, legislators and wildlife managers must reformulate their policies or risk alienating the majority of the electorate and radically diminishing public confidence in the actions and policies of the agencies.

### Factors Influencing the Relation Between the Density of Ungulates and Wolves

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Estimates of the relative densities of populations of ungulates and wolves, or ungulate:wolf ratios, commonly are used to evaluate the effect of predation on ungulates. The use of these simple indices may be misleading unless they are interpreted with respect to the species composition of available prey, the rate of growth of the prey population, the proximity of the prey to carrying capacity (K), and the functional response in the rate of predation by wolves to changing density of prey. We incorporate data from field studies of ungulates and wolves to test for differences between ungulate species in their ability to support wolves per unit of biomass. We conduct sensitivity analyses of models that integrate density-dependent growth of ungulate populations and functional responses of wolves to evaluate the relative importance of these factors to the relation between ungulate and wolf densities. Finally, we propose a stochastic model which predicts ungulate:wolf ratios at equilibrium that may be useful when interpreting ungulate:wolf ratios observed in the wild. Our analysis suggests that some ungulate species such as white-tailed deer will support a higher density of wolves than other ungulate species. We believe that the growth rate of prey populations, their response to density dependence, and their proximity to K are important influences on the relation between ungulate and wolf density, whereas, the functional response exhibited by wolves is relatively unimportant.

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