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Damage Control Association

Wildlife Damage Management, Internet Center for

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July 2000

## The Probe, Issue 211 - July/August 2000

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# NADCA Election Results Announced

The following individuals have been selected to lead our Association during the years 2000 and 2001:

**PRESIDENT Mike Conover**

**VICE PRESIDENT - WEST Scott Hygnstrom**

**VICE PRESIDENT - EAST Pete Butchko**

**SECRETARY Kevin Sullivan**

**TREASURER Art Smith**

**REGIONAL DIRECTORS**  
Western (1: AK, CA, HI, NV, OR, WA)  
**John Consolini**

Southwest (2: AZ, CO, NM, UT)  
**John Baroch**

Northern Rockies (3: ID, MT, WY)  
**George Graves**

Southern (4: AR, LA, OK, TX)  
**Kevin Grant**

Northern Plains (5: IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD)  
**Chad Richardson**

Great Lakes (6: IL, IN, MI, OH, WI)  
**Mike Dwyer**

Northeastern (7: CT, PA, RI, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, VT)  
**Lynn Braband**

Centraleastern (8: DC, DE, MD, NC, SC, VA, WV)  
**Carson Kennard**

Southeastern (9: AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, TN)  
**Sam Linhart**

Congratulations to all those elected. A special word of thanks to everyone who allowed their names to be entered onto the ballot. A total of 99 ballots were received by the due date—a return rate of approximately 43% of our membership. Outgoing NADCA President Robert Schmidt will be conferring with incoming President Mike Conover regarding the timing of the transition to new leadership.

# Editor's Farewell

When Robert Schmidt and I volunteered to take on the responsibility of editing **THE PROBE** in the summer of 1990, I could not have imagined that I would continue in this position for ten years and some 207 issues! It's been an interesting endeavor. In this last issue under my editorship, I want to thank some of the people who have been instrumental in assisting me in producing this newsletter, month after month.

**Pamela Tinnin** began assisting Robert and me with this task when she was working as Robert's program assistant/editor at the Hopland R & E Center. She created the design and "look" for the newsletter, and her skill and patience with layout, artwork, desktop publishing, and editing have been essential in my being able to continue this effort through the years. (For those of you who may not know, Pam continued this work while attending seminary in Berkeley, California, and for the past several years has remained the newsletter's editorial assistant while serving as the full-time pastor of Partridge Community Church-UCC in Partridge, Kansas.) Thank you, Pam.

**Robert Schmidt** continued co-editing this newsletter following his move to Utah State University, and he was largely responsible for the feature (page 1) article in each issue until mid-1995. Thanks, Robert, for your assistance, ideas, encouragement, and vision.

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*How **THE PROBE** (and NADCA itself) will evolve under our new leadership remains to be seen. I encourage everyone to give your full support to our new officers and to our incoming newsletter editor, Larry Sullivan*

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**Terry Salmon** (through summer 1994) and **Scott Hygnstrom** (since fall 1994) have coordinated the printing and mailing of the newsletter through their respective University print shops and mail rooms, allowing **THE PROBE** to be distributed as part of their professional extension duties. Thanks, Terry and Scott.

And finally, to all of you who have contributed to the content of the newsletter by sending articles, reviews (**Stephen Vantassel**, in particular), news clippings, emails, calendar notices, and so on... thanks so much to all of you—it's really been your

*Continued on page 2, col. 2*

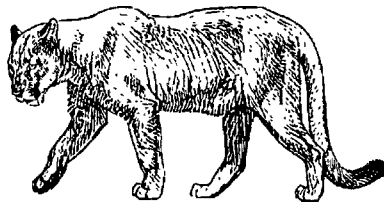
# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**October 5-8, 2000: 9th Eastern Wildlife Damage Management Conference, Nittany Lion Inn, State College, Pennsylvania.** Theme "Changes in Wildlife Damage Management for the 21st Century." Begins with reception and exhibit opening on the evening of Oct. 5; ends at noon Oct. 8. Registration \$195, or \$87 students; register by Sept. 25 to avoid \$25 late fee. Hotel rooms at conference site are \$98 single/\$108 double; to reserve call (800) 233-7505; alternative hotels available within walking distance. For more information, see web site <http://wildlife.cas.psu.edu>.

**September 9-14, 2001: 3rd European Vertebrate Pest Management Conference, Kibbutz Ma'ale Hachamisha Guest House, Israel.** Abstracts and posters for the conference are invited and due by March 2001. For further information, contact Conference Secretariat: Ortra Ltd., P.O. Box 9352, Tel Aviv 61092, Israel, email <vert@ortra.co.il> or visit web site <http://www.ortra.com/vertebrate>.

**Sept. 12-16, 2000: 7th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society, Nashville, Tennessee.** Includes symposia "Nonlethal Approaches to Wildlife Damage Management: Promise, Potential, Reality" and "Wildlife and Highways: Seeking Solutions to an Ecological and Socioeconomic Dilemma." TWS Wildlife Damage Management Working Group will meet Weds. Sept. 13 at 3:30 pm. For more information, see web site <http://www.wildlife.org>

**Dec. 12-14, 2000: Sixth Mountain Lion Workshop, Holiday Inn Riverwalk, San Antonio, Texas.** Call-for-Papers: submit oral or poster presentations on subjects such as state and provincial status, monitoring, interactions with prey, interactions with humans, populations, genetics, movements, or other aspects of ecology by Sept. 30 to Louis A. Harveson, Program Chairperson, in electronic format addressed to <harveson@sulross.edu>. For more information, see <http://www.sulross.edu/~lion/index.html>.



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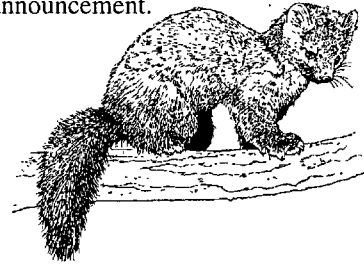
Your contributions of articles to *The Probe* are welcome and encouraged. The deadline for submitting materials is the 15th of the month prior to publication. Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of NADCA.

## Bill Clay to Head Wildlife Services

It was announced in mid-August that Bill Clay has been selected as the incoming Deputy Director of the USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services program. Bill has been sharing the job of serving as acting Deputy Director since Bobby Acord left the position in mid-1999 to take a higher administrative position within APHIS.

Bill has a strong history within Wildlife Services, having previously served on the staff of the Texas ADC dealing with urban wildlife problems, and having served as State Director of the North Dakota program. Following this, Bill was Director of the Operational Support Staff program for Wildlife Services, and most recently he served as Associate Deputy Director.

Bill's appointment to the position was effective immediately upon its announcement.



## Editor's Farewell

*Continued from page 1, col. 2*

newsletter! In contrast to my worthy predecessor, the late Bill Fitzwater, I've found myself having to author only a small amount of what has gone into each issue. Because of your contributions, **THE PROBE** has reflected, in many ways, the diverse interests and knowledge of the entire membership of NADCA.

How **THE PROBE** (and NADCA itself) will evolve under our new leadership remains to be seen. I encourage everyone to give your full support to our new officers and to our incoming newsletter editor, Larry Sullivan. I'm sure Larry will welcome your contributions, ideas, and encouragement.

So long,  
**Bob Timm**

## Newsletter Material Needed

Incoming **PROBE** editor Larry Sullivan solicits your input for upcoming issues of this newsletter. Please send any and all materials to Larry Sullivan, Extension Wildlife Specialist, University of Arizona, 325 BioSciences East, Tuscon, AZ 97521-0043, or e-mail them to <[sullivan@Ag.Arizona.Edu](mailto:sullivan@Ag.Arizona.Edu)>.

# Wildlife Damage Management in the News

## Parasite Makes Rats More Vulnerable to Cats

A parasite found in mammals causes behavioral changes in rats that makes them more vulnerable to cats, according to British scientists. Rats normally have an innate fear of felines, but researchers at the University of Oxford have discovered that the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii* makes rats less fearful and an easier prey for cats. The parasite lives in the intestines of cats and is excreted with feces. In infected rats, it alters their behavior toward cats, which eat them, completing the parasite's life cycle.

"Parasites are amazing things, if they can manipulate behavior to increase their chance of completing their life cycle they will," said Oxford parasitologist Joanne Webster. "*Toxoplasma gondii* is an ideal parasite to do this. It has a two-stage lifecycle, with rats as the intermediate host."

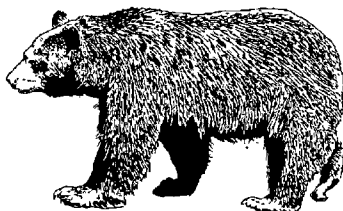
The findings, reported in the latest issue of *Proceedings of the Royal Society*, are particularly interesting because many humans, including 22 percent of Britons, are infected with the parasite. "It goes up to something like 87 percent of the French because they are more likely to eat raw and undercooked meat," Webster said. In most humans the parasite is dormant. But in people with suppressed immune systems, such as AIDS patients or cancer sufferers undergoing chemotherapy treatment, the parasite can become active. It can reside in any organ but is most common in the brain. "We shouldn't be ignoring such a prevalent parasite in our brains. Indeed there is evidence that we can expect subtle behavioral differences in humans too," Webster warned. Dr. Manuel Berdoy, a zoologist who also worked on the study, said the results could explain reports of altered personalities and IQs in some people.

—excerpted from a July 2000 Reuters article authored by Patricia Reaney

## Mounties Don't Like Shooting Bears

Police who sometimes turn to guns to repel bears that wander into the western Canadian resort community of Whistler, B.C. say they do not like using firearms against the furry visitors. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Whistler have painted bright orange two shotguns used to shoot bears that wander into town in the hope that bystanders will realize they are firing nonlethal ammunition such as rubber bullets.

Crowds that gather when police deal with problem bears often get angry when officers bring out their shotguns because they assume the animal is automatically going to be killed,

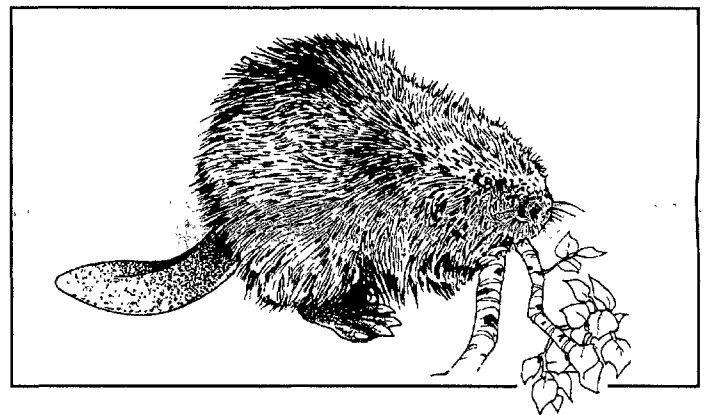


noted Constable Ray Bernoties. "Most of us live in Whistler. We love the bears as much as anyone else, but we often get painted with this brush that we don't like bears," Bernoties told Reuters. Bears often wander into rural communities in the mountains of British Columbia to find garbage during the dry summer months when food becomes scarce in the wild. Bernoties said police officers always try to scare away the animal before resorting to killing it. Bernoties said police in Whistler often have to respond to several bear complaints each day during the summer.

—excerpted from a Reuters article

## Crazed Beaver Terrorizes Farm

A Canadian farm woman was shaken after an apparently crazed beaver attacked her two giant Newfoundland dogs, pinning them against a fence and savaging them. "It pinned them. I never thought beavers were capable of that," Sam Pshyshlak



told reporters from her Manitoba farm 60 miles north of Winnipeg. "I've lost all respect for beavers. I never would have imagined this from a beaver," she said of the recent incident. She said the beaver "terrorized" her dogs, which weigh nearly 200 pounds each. "There was definitely something wrong with it," Pshyshlak observed.

The thick pelts of beavers were once Canada's main export and the flat-tailed animal has long occupied a place of honor on the country's five-cent coin. Most Canadians see them as cute and industrious but farmers often regard them as a nuisance for the dams they build and the flooding they cause. Pshyshlak said the animal that attacked her dogs weighed about 30 pounds and tore at one dog's leg and face. "In the shed, the whole floor was pooled with blood," she said.

Pshyshlak said conservation authorities said they would try to trap the animal, although she said she hasn't seen hide nor hair of the beaver since the attack occurred.

—excerpted from a Reuters article

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# Book Review: Stephen Vantassel, NWCO Correspondent

*"Mammal Trapping"* Gilbert Proulx, editor. Alpha Wildlife Research and Management Ltd. 1999. Hardcover. 231 pp.

If you are looking for a book that covers the complexities involved in the professional management of furbearers and mammals, *Mammal Trapping* is the book for you. In the preface, the editor explains that the book was created in order to "update the public and scientific community about mammal trapping technology, research and management." As you will see, the book has clearly fulfilled its mission. The book consists of a number of articles written by various researchers. All of the articles are published according to strict scientific protocols and guidelines. Sources are cited, and bibliographic information accompanies each article.

*Mammal Trapping* is a difficult book to summarize, because each article can stand on its own. So many different species and topics are discussed that any outlining of the book is essentially arbitrary. Nevertheless, if one had to outline the book, it could be done as follows: First, trap technology and evolution; second, application of capture technology in the management of various wildlife species; and finally, computer model for managing Canada lynx.

The book begins with a review of current state of mammal trap technology in North America. I found it to be an excellent

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*I found it to be an excellent overview of animal injury trap standards and the rationale for those standards. I appreciated the author's refusal to use the term "humane" and his decision to opt for objective injury standards instead.*

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overview of animal injury trap standards and the rationale for those standards. I appreciated the author's refusal to use the term "humane" and his decision to opt for objective injury standards instead. I would strongly suggest that anyone seeking to debate animal activists get hold of this article. It can prove invaluable in the defense of trapping. The information is incredibly detailed and comprehensive. You will be glad you read this article.

The second chapter, entitled "Pathological examination as an aid for trap selection guidelines: usefulness and limitations," is an appropriate follow-up article to the first. By explaining the complexities of carcass study, one can see that it can be difficult to evaluate trap effectiveness and injury scores simply from carcass examination.

Chapter three is the last article of the first section, according to my outline. This chapter compares the impact of stress on Australian Brushtail Possums caught in a foothold with the

stress to those caught in cage traps. I loved this article because it seeks to compare the different devices, one thought to be humane, and the other not. My point is that trap-induced stress should be compared between traps not between a trapped animal and non-trapped animal. I also think many readers will enjoy the discussion of how blood tests can provide markers for determining stress levels in animals. Chapter four covers the complexities of secondary foothold injuries in two species of fox in Saudi Arabia.

The lion's portion of the book discusses management and capture of wildlife. Let me list the titles for you:

Chapter 5 - The Bionic: an effective marten trap

Chapter 6 - Evaluation of the experimental traps to effectively kill northern pocket gophers

Chapter 7 - Factors affecting trap efficiency: a review

Chapter 8 - Gray and fox squirrel trapping: a review

Chapter 9 - Trapping considerations for the fossorial pocket gophers

Chapter 10 - A review and perspective of methods used to capture and handle skunks

Chapter 11 - Use of netted cage traps capturing white-tailed deer

Chapter 12 - Evaluation of two capture techniques for white-tailed deer

Chapter 13, "Resiliency of furbearers to trapping in Canada," provides an excellent explanation on how much trapping pressure various mammal populations could withstand. An easy-to-read graph shows the relative positions of the listed species to each other. I finally understand why my state doesn't allow fisher to be trapped for more than twenty-one days, even though Massachusetts has the highest fisher densities in the Northeast. It turns out that fisher populations are one species vulnerable to heavy trapping pressure. The limited trapping season helps protect the viability of the species.

Chapter 14 is titled "An expert system model for lynx management in Alaska." I think that other wildlife managers would be interested in this software. I heartily agree with the author, Mr. Golden, that the use of their software will help make wildlife management decisions a more rational and hopefully a more objective process. This software can only help eliminate the politicization of wildlife management issues. I can only hope that other computer software models are created for other species.

As you can probably tell from my review so far, I believe this book is superbly written. Technical writing isn't the easiest writing to read or to write. However, these writers did a great job making their information understandable while maintaining scientific writing protocols. I do wish that footnotes rather than in-text citations were the norm, as in-text citations interfere with the ease of reading.

Continued from page 4, col. 2

## Book Review

The text is superbly laid out with a hard cover binding holding its letter size pages. Photos (black and white only) and line drawings are clear and useful. I only wish that the book had more of them.

In conclusion, I loved this book. It really gave me a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding trap evaluation protocols and wildlife biology. As one who de-

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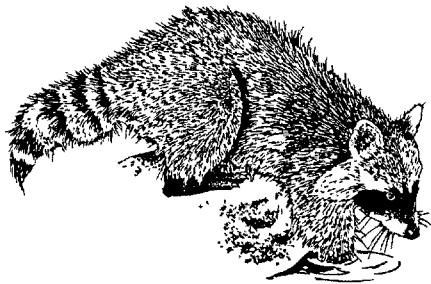
*In conclusion, I loved this book. It really gave me a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding trap evaluation protocols and wildlife biology. As one who debates animal rights activists, this book was an excellent source of information that will expose the fallacies of that extremist movement.*

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bates animal rights activists, this book was an excellent source of information that will expose the fallacies of that extremist movement. I must say that the authors, in my opinion, did not seek to fight the animal rights movement. It could be argued that the book supports many animal rights conclusions that commonly used traps are not the best option for the work they are used for. However, as one who believes that trappers should endeavor to use the best method possible, this book simply provided objectivity to an emotional discussion. We must remember that animal activists will never be happy with any killing of animals, even if we kill them with sweet dreams and tender kisses.

Unfortunately, if you want this book to tell you how to effectively capture this or that animal you will be disappointed. While the chapters on pocket gophers and deer may help you capture these animals more humanely, they are not a step-by-step discussion of the capture process and technique. Buy the book to expand your understanding of the factors and considerations surrounding Best Management Practices decisions (even though the book is not explicitly BMP, its spirit hovers throughout its pages), not for ADC information.

You can purchase your copy by sending \$50 (U.S.) or \$75 (Canadian) by check or money order to Alpha Wildlife



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## PeTA Attacks Wyoming License Plates

The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PeTA), of Norfolk, Va., has written a letter to Gov. Jim Geringer asking him to get rid of the bucking bronco on Wyoming license plates. According to PeTA, the picture of a cowboy on a bucking horse promotes and glorifies rodeo, a sport they claim is inhumane. PeTA campaign coordinator Kristie Sigmon, who wrote the May 9 letter, said spurs, bucking straps and electric jolts are some examples of inhumane treatment at rodeos.

Cheyenne veterinarian Norm Swanson disagrees. He said he has seen few animal injuries throughout the 30 years he has assisted with Cheyenne Frontier Days. He also said PeTA is "grossly uneducated and uninformed about the world of rodeo." Secretary of State Joe Meyer said the group is entitled to its opinion but could spend its time more effectively elsewhere. "I'm not sure what they want to accomplish," Meyer said. "This isn't going to have an impact on rodeo in the state."

The bucking bronco has been a Wyoming license plate trademark since 1936.

—excerpted from an article on the WLFA web site

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# Membership Renewal and Application Form

## NATIONAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Mail to: Grant Huggins, Treasurer, Noble Foundation, P.O. Box 2180, Ardmore, OK 73402

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ Home

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ Office

Additional Address Info: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Please use 9-digit Zip Code

Dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Class: Student \$10.00 Active \$20.00 Sponsor \$40.00 Patron \$100 (Circle one)

Check or Money Order payable to NADCA

Select one type of occupation or principal interest:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Pest Control Operator  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> USDA - APHIS - Wildlife Services   | <input type="checkbox"/> Retired                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> USDA - Extension Service           | <input type="checkbox"/> ADC Equipment/Supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal - not APHIS or Extension   | <input type="checkbox"/> State Agency           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Trapper                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator | <input type="checkbox"/> University             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____             |   |