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Group Newsletter

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2003

TWS Wildlife Damage Management Working Group Newsletter: Spring 2003 – Volume 10(1)

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FORWARD

Greetings! Thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers, the first major meeting organized by the Working Group was a resounding success. The 10th Wildlife Damage Management Conference (the successor to the Great Plains and Eastern Conferences) was held in Hot Springs Arkansas from April 6-9, 2003. There were 238 people in attendance! General session presentations covered bird, mammal, and rodent topics, while specialized session presentations covered aquaculture, wildlife diseases, and college curricula. Bob Warren, the TWS president, gave an excellent keynote address about the history of wildlife damage management in the United States. The conference was concluded with a field trip highlighting the aquaculture industry. Proceedings from the conference will be published within eight months.

The Working Group is beginning to make plans for the next conference, to be held in the spring of 2005, likely in the Great Lakes Region. Rich Chipman and Art Smith are heading a Site Selection Committee. Two locations have been suggested thus far, The Sawmill Creek Resort on Lake Erie near Cleveland, Ohio, and The Grand Traverse Resort and Spa in Traverse City, Michigan. Jim Armstrong and Frank Boyd will head the Program Committee. They are looking for ideas for symposia, so if you have an idea you would like to propose, please contact them. If you would like to help with any aspect of organizing the next meeting, please let me know!

I am sorry to report that the Working Group's proposals for symposia were not accepted for the 10th Annual TWS Conference in Burlington, Vermont. The Working Group submitted two proposals for half-day symposia, including "The Raccoon Resource: Conservation, Conflict, and Disease Management", and "Impacts of Double-Crested Cormorants on Natural Resources in the Northern U.S and Canada". However, the meeting will have a general session on Wildlife Damage Management and many relevant papers and I encourage Working Group members to attend the meeting. Our Working Group will hold its annual meeting in Burlington at the conference.

Our Working Group did receive approval to hold two symposia the 3rd International Wildlife Management Congress, which will be held December 1-5, 2003 in Christchurch, New Zealand. This international conference will include a major emphasis on wildlife-human interactions and wildlife damage management. The two symposia sponsored by the WDMWG are "Wildlife Damage Management in the United States" and "Diseases at the Wildlife-Human Interface".

- Kathy
Fagerstone,
Chair

kathleen.a.fagerstone@aphis.usda.gov

Testing carp blood for sterility during the field trip at the 10th Wildlife Damage Management Conference in Hot Springs, Arkansas. The field trip included this and other demonstrations of wildlife damage management techniques used in aquaculture facilities. 9 April 2003.

Photo by G. McCann



RECENT WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES

68th Annual North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference

The Wildlife Society Council sponsored a special half-day-long session dealing with wildlife damage management at the 68th Annual North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference on 28 March 2003 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. This session was titled "Trouble in the City: Human/Wildlife Conflicts in Urban and Suburban North America" and included numerous presentations and discussions dealing with wildlife damage management issues in the mainstream of the North American public.

NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

10th Wildlife Damage Conference—A Profitable Venture

By now, most of you have gathered that 10th WDM Conference in Hot Springs was both a professional and financial success. Total registered attendance equaled 238, with 50 of these also electing to take part in the 1-day aquaculture field trip. Providing an accurate accounting statement of the virtually hundreds of transactions that comprised this event is not trivial. I will make an official accounting statement in my year-end report, but I thought you may be interested to know in general how the conference did financially.

We obtained contributions from 7 groups that totaled \$10,700. These contributors were: USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, The Wildlife Society, California Vertebrate Pest Council, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, State of Arizona Game and Fish Department, Missouri Department of Conservation, and the Tennessee Chapter of TWS. We sincerely thank each of these contributors for their monetary contribution, which helped defray costs of the event. We would also like to thank the Arkansas Game and Fish Department for donating and preparing the wonderful catfish fillets served at the end of the field trip.

Exhibitors provided an additional \$2,700 in revenues (including the Reed-Joseph International Company,

Becker Underwood, Margo Supplies Inc., Wildlife Control Technologies, Deer Stopper, Bird-X, Electrobraided Fence Ltd., and Sutton Ag Enterprises). We appreciate their patronage.

Registrants contributed the bulk of the monies, totaling \$30,525 with adjustments for student, early, and late charges. The field trip brought in another \$2,250.

Main costs were \$12,369.43 (hotel/food), \$2,070.26 (programs and mailing), \$705.20 (registration gift-rulers), \$700 (field trip bus), \$664.28 (credit card fees). Of course, a major cost remaining involves publication of the Proceedings, estimated projected cost of \$5,000-\$10,000.

If you do the math, the 10th Wildlife Damage Management Conference generated approximately \$20,000-25,000 in revenues for the Working Group. Currently, the cash balance in our account is \$39,684.91 (4/25/03), with payments for the hotel/food, one invited speaker, and The Proceedings still unpaid. Not too shabby, huh? This should be a sufficient "cushion" for continued, bi-annual scheduling of this type of conference.

- Ray Sterner, Secretary/Treasurer
ray.t.sterner@aphis.usda.gov

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I would like to express thanks to the officers, board members, and other members of the Working Group who continue to forward pertinent information to me for inclusion in *INTERACTIONS*. I also greatly appreciate everyone's understanding of the inconsistent mailing of recent issues; this may continue until I complete graduate school! It is likely that the quickest way to access the most recent issue of *INTERACTIONS* is to check the Working Group website periodically (see URL below), as the newsletter will be posted on the web before printed copies are mailed. *INTERACTIONS* will be getting a face-lift over the next several issues as well. Constructive criticisms and contributions are always welcome! Please keep the information and notices coming in... Thank you!

- Danny Martin, Editor
danny.martin@dnr.state.mn.us

<http://wildlifedamagegroup.unl.edu>

Your link to *INTERACTIONS* on the web!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

4th European Vertebrate Pest Conference

University of Parma, Italy
9-12 September 2003
www.biol.unipr.it/europest/

3rd International Wildlife Management Congress

Christchurch, New Zealand
1-5 December 2003
www.conference.canterbury.ac.nz/wildlife2003/

5th Bird Strike Committee USA/Canada Conference

Toronto, Ontario
18-21 August 2003
contact: Bruce MacKinnon <mackinb@tc.gc.ca>
(or) Carol Liber <pnwp@attcanada.ca>

New Urban Wildlife Stakeholder Group Formed in L.A. County, California

The Los Angeles County Urban Wildlife Management Association (UWMA) was formed in April 2003. The mission of the new Association is: "to attempt to find ways to reduce human/wildlife conflicts in Los Angeles County through increased cooperation, education, outreach, and research". The UWMA currently consists of stakeholders from Federal, state, county, and city government agencies, as well as humane organizations, land managers, and private groups. Those interested in future meetings and/or more information about the UWMA can contact:

Ray Smith
L.A. Co. Dept. Ag. Comm./Weights & Measures
ray@acwm.co.la.ca.us



D. Martin 1999

10TH WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE EVALUATION FINDINGS

The following list includes highlights from the evaluation forms filled out by those who attended the 10th Wildlife Damage Management Conference in Hot Springs, Arkansas (6-9 April 2003):

- 1) Conference rating: 3.45 out of 4
- 2) Best thing about conference: Networking, presentation content/concurrent sessions, and diversity of topics/expertise
- 3) Things to change: More room for posters/presentation room size/larger meeting facility
- 4) Technical session rating: 3.41 out of 4
- 5) Facility rating: 2.92 out of 4



Paul Curtis discusses development of a curriculum for the nuisance wildlife control industry in New York during the Opening Session at the 10th Wildlife Damage Management Conference, 7 April 2003 (photo by D. Martin).

Proceedings Available

Proceedings and abstracts of the 2002 meeting of the Vertebrate Pests of Agriculture, Forestry, and Public Lands are now available at the WCC-95 website:

<http://wcc-95.unl.edu/abstracts.html>

Proceedings from previous meetings are also archived on this web site.

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP / THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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Annual basic membership dues are \$56.00 of which 15% pays for the bimonthly newsletter, *The Wildlifer*, which is received by all members. Dues for full-time students are \$28.00. **TWS accepts U.S. dollars drawn on a U.S. bank only or by credit card.**

WITH YOUR PAID MEMBERSHIP you may subscribe to the *Wildlife Society Bulletin* for an additional \$23.00. *The Journal of Wildlife Management* with *Wildlife Monographs* for an additional \$26.00, or ALL publications for an additional \$48.00. Members may also join a section, chapter, and/or working groups.

WORKING GROUP DUES (\$5.00 each)

01 - Wildlife Planning & Administration
02 - Wildlife Economics
03 - Biological Diversity
04 - Biometrics
05 - College and University Wildlife Education
07 - GIS, Remote Sensing, & Telemetry
08 - Restoration
09 - Native Peoples' Wildlife Management

11 - Sustainable Use of Ecosystem Resources
12 - Wildlife Damage Management
13 - Wildlife Toxicology (\$7.00)
14 - Urban Wildlife
16 - International Wildlife
17 - Public Conservation Education & Extension
18 - Local Governance