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Damage Control Association

Wildlife Damage Management, Internet Center  
for

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September 2001

## The Probe, Issue 218 – September/October 2001

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# Regional Directors Address NADCA's Future

*Chad Richardson, NADCA Northern Plains Regional Director*

As a relatively new member to NADCA and a new regional director, I thought that I could add a little different perspective on the future of NADCA than some of the old timers. After all, us younger folks are the future of the profession. I joined NADCA shortly after landing a job with USDA/Wildlife Services in 1995. My state director (also a NADCA regional director at the time) encouraged the membership. Prior to this, my only exposure to NADCA was at some of the wildlife damage management conferences that I attended as a student. There were these "members only" meetings that took place at those conferences and I always wondered what the big secret was.

Last fall I was attending the Eastern Wildlife Damage Management Conference and shared a room with a Wildlife Services biologist from Louisiana whom I have known for several years (we both started working for WS about the same time). I mentioned to him that I was going to the

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*...the bottom line is that NADCA has done a poor job of recruiting new members, at least since I have been around. I don't believe that the organization can have a future without recruiting new members.*

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NADCA meeting and he replied, "the what meeting?" The point is that had not a state director push a membership on me, I would have probably never known what those secret meetings were about either.

I agree with Mike Conover and John Baroch's comments in the last newsletter about ways to make NADCA better. The one thing that I would like to bring to the table that Mike and John barely mentioned is memberships. I think all

*Sam Linhart, NADCA Southeastern Regional Director*

It appears there is strong support by NADCA officers and members for strengthening our organization, broadening our activities, and representing and speaking out on animal damage control issues. However, as several members have pointed out in previous newsletters, growth of NADCA membership has been static and we have a total of only 187 members (in yr. 2000). Our limited numbers are therefore not likely to impress legislators or others formulating animal damage control regulations or policies.

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increase membership. Briefly, I suggest that we develop a portable poster presentation that could be set up at selected ADC-related professional meetings.

The presentation would explain our mission and interests, include photos of ADC activities, and summarize a few of the more visible ADC problems and solutions. NADCA members attending the meeting could man the display table during meeting breaks, respond to inquiries and questions, and enlist new members.

When I worked at the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study group at the University of Georgia, I saw these type displays used quite effectively by small professional veterinary groups having memberships of a size similar to NADCA's. Information and photos are mounted

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*Continued on page 2, Col. 2*

# Regional Directors Address NADCA's Future

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**Chad Richardson, NADCA Northern  
Plains Regional Director**

the ideas that Mike and John mentioned were great but the bottom line is that NADCA has done a poor job of recruiting new members, at least since I have been around. I don't believe that the organization can have a future without recruiting new members.

I couldn't agree more with John Baroch that we need to beef up the newsletter to recruit new members. I think that this would not only improve NADCA but could help generate new interest and recruit more members. I don't know if NADCA has a nice display or not (I don't recall ever seeing one), but I think that regional directors should be responsible for shuffling one around to conferences and meetings and handing out information about NADCA. We need to think of other ways to expose NADCA for the purpose of attracting new members (raffles, membership drives, etc.). Current members should also chip in whenever possible to help recruit new members. There are a lot of new people coming into the profession whom I'm sure have never heard of NADCA or may be wondering what those secret meetings are about.

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Your contributions 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.

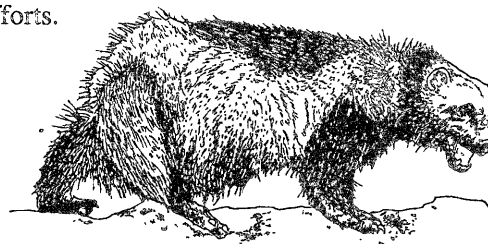
*Continued from page 1, Col. 2*

**Sam Linhart, NADCA Southeastern  
Regional Director**

on one or more folding metal poster display panels that are shipped via UPS in large tubes or long fiberboard cartons. They are sized so they can accompany airline passengers as regular checked baggage. I believe they cost about 300 dollars with the user group providing text and photos.

Visual display or graphic art groups within any large university are able to develop this type of presentation. It would also be useful to have a printed brochure summarizing the same information, with membership application, that could be handed out to interested individuals. Sponsorship to cover the costs of the above could be solicited from vendors of ADC products.

Up until now, it appears our group has relied pretty much on word of mouth to recruit new members. I think we need to adopt more aggressive methods, by whatever means, in order to boost NADCA membership. I would like to know what ideas other members have as regards NADCA recruitment efforts.



## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 4-7, 2001 - The Organization of Fish and Wildlife  
Information Managers, Doubletree-Columbia River, Portland, OR.  
For information contact [www.ofwim.org](http://www.ofwim.org).**

**November 14-17, 2001 - 24th Annual Wildlife Rehabilitation  
Conference, Lake Buena Vista, FL. Contact IWRC, 4437 Central  
Place, Suite B-4, Suisun City, CA 94585-1633; 707/864-1761; e-mail:  
[iwrc@inreach.com](mailto:iwrc@inreach.com); [iwrc-online.org](http://iwrc-online.org).**

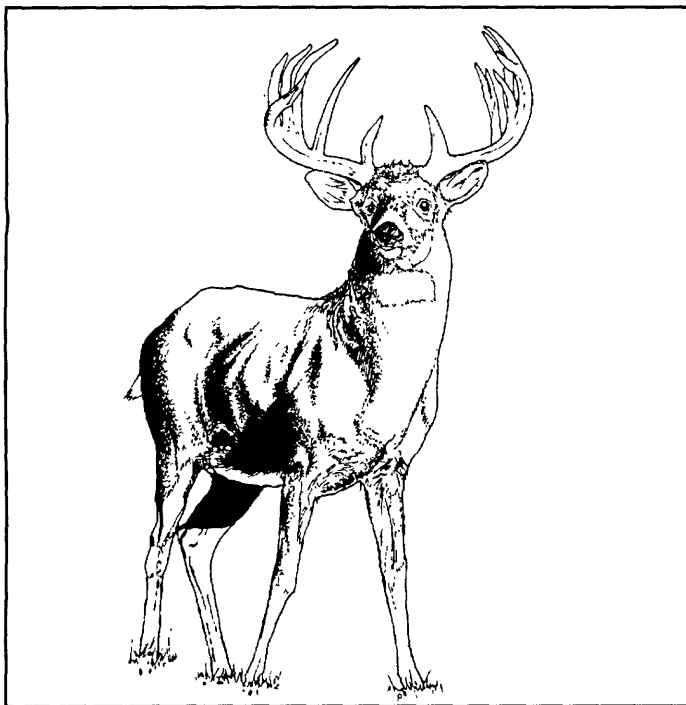
**February 4-6, 2002 - 8th Annual Wildlife Control Instructional  
Seminar, Imperial Palace, Las Vegas, NV. Sponsored by Wildlife  
Control Technology and the National Wildlife Control Operators  
Association. Contact Lisa at 815/286-3039; e-mail:  
[wctech@ix.netcom.com](mailto:wctech@ix.netcom.com); <http://www.wctech.com>**

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# Wildlife Damage Management in the News

## Deer Control Justified By the Supreme Court

On July 23rd, 2001, many residents of the Sea Pines Plantation (SPP) on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, breathed a sigh of relief when the State Supreme Court unanimously ruled that the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources was justified in issuing permits to kill 200 deer in an effort to control the white-tailed deer population on SPP. Residents have been trying to solve an overabundant deer problem for years; however, the deer control program has been blocked since 1998 by legal actions filed by an animal advocacy group called the Sea Pines Association for the Protection of Wildlife (SPAPW). This Supreme Court ruling is just the latest development in a story that began over 6 years ago.



Sea Pines Plantation is a private, gated community on the southern tip of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. Like many urban communities across the country, deer hunting and the discharge of firearms is not legal or practical because of safety concerns. The combination of a protected, enclosed deer population, ornamental plantings, and an invertebrate pest control program are just some of the factors that have caused the deer to exceed the cultural carrying capacity for many of the residents. The high number of deer in SPP has caused extensive damage to the landscape and ornamental plants of many residents for years. The large deer population

had also resulted in deer vehicle collisions with both residents and visitors. In 1995, Community Service Associates (CSA, the company responsible for the management of SPP) contracted with Dr. Bob Warren at the University of Georgia to study their deer population and to provide suggestions to control problems associated with the overabundant deer herd. During the next three years, Dr. Warren and two of his graduate students conducted research into the population dynamics, movement patterns, and potential control methods for the deer on SPP. During this period, a group of residents concerned for the well-being of the deer banded together to form the SPAPW, whose primary mission was to protect the deer. This organization consisted of both SPP and Hilton Head Island residents concerned for the deer.

In May 1998, Dr. Warren provided a report that, among other methods for controlling the damage caused by the deer, recommended reducing the current population by half and experimenting with using contraceptives on does to maintain the smaller population. Soon after the report, CSA launched the birth control portion of the program. However, before the population reduction could occur, the SPAPW went into action and filed a restraining order to block the culling. The restraining order was issued by the Court of Appeals in September 1998, but was later overturned.

The SPAPW was not daunted by this setback and appealed to the SC Supreme Court. In July 2001, the SC Supreme Court reached a decision that the SPAPW has no standing for the lawsuit. The SPAPW filed a request for the SC Supreme Court to reconsider their decision, but in August 2001 they refused. This ruling will allow the CSA to carry out the reduction in the deer herd in Fall 2001. This ruling is also an important precedent for other communities in South Carolina and around the country whose efforts to control deer damage through lethal methods are often blocked through legal action by animal activist groups.

—via Michael Conover



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The editor of **The PROBE** thanks contributors to this issue: Michael Conover, Chad Richardson, and Sam Linhart.

# Wildlife Damage Management in the News

## Animal Rights Groups Boast About Acts As America Copes With Tragedy

As America is working to cope with its worst terrorist attack in history, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) is touting its own terrorist activities.

According to a press release from the ALF office, the ALF is claiming credit for a September 9 firebombing at a Tucson, Arizona, McDonald's restaurant. ALF called the firebombing non-violent destruction.

ALF made the admission September 11.

This latest ALF act again illustrates the fanatic nature of the animal-rights movement in this country, said Rick Story, Wildlife Legislative Fund of America vice president. At a time when all Americans should pull together, these people are working to tear down the fabric of democracy with their terrorist acts. I hope that people remember this incident as a reason why we shall not succumb to any terrorist acts in the name of animal-rights.

The Tucson fire caused \$500,000 in damage and the initials ELF and ALF had been spray-painted on the fire-damaged store walls.

—North American Hunting Club Weekly News



## Look There! Bear Hair!

Biologists from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (DFWR) have begun using "hair traps" to get an estimate of the state's black bear population. "We know that we have bears, but beyond that we don't know a lot," said wildlife biologist Rick Mauro, who re-

*Continued in next column*

cently helped stretch barbed-wire on federal land near Grayson Lake to snag hair from passing bears.

Mauro said that DNA analysis of individual hairs will distinguish one bear from another and allow the DFWR to estimate the population.

More than 200 hair traps will be set in eastern Kentucky this summer. Jon Gassett, forest wildlife coordinator for the DFWR, says that he hopes to have a population estimate by the end of the year.

Biologists string the barbed wire around trees about 18 inches from the ground. Peanut butter and maple syrup is then smeared in the center of the tree. Bears that go over or under the wire to get to the bait will leave hair on the barbs.

—North American Hunting Club Weekly News



## Pet Shop Worker Dies of Rat Disease

A pet shop worker died of a severe heart ailment caused by rat bite fever, a rare infection that he contracted by cutting his finger on a rat cage, doctors said. The patient, a 24 year old male, died September 9 at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. Federal health officials said only a few cases of rat bite fever are reported each year.

"If the source is cutting yourself on a dirty cage, and it is not diagnosed quickly, it can become very serious," said Dr. Christian Newcomer, director of the Veterinary Resource Program of the National Institutes of Health.

The patient reportedly scratched his finger in mid-July at the pet shop where he worked. The infection he contracted attacked his heart, forcing him to undergo two operations. The bacteria destroyed one of his heart valves and damaged another.

Doctors said bacteria from a rat's saliva apparently entered his bloodstream through the cut. The bacteria are present in the saliva of all rats but not all bite victims contract rat bite fever. Most cases of the infection can be treated with antibiotics.

Newcomer said an animal's mouth can be a "garden of infectious diseases."

—from ProMED mail 15 September 2001

## Proceedings Available

The proceedings of the 2nd European Vertebrate Pest Management Conference have now been published under the title: "Advances in Pest Management II" (ISBN number: 3-930831-38-4)

This peer-reviewed book contains some 30 papers on advances in the field.

This book, and the proceedings of the first European conference ("Advances in Pest Management"), are both available as paperbacks from the publisher, Filander Verlag, for 68 DM each (or 34.75 Euro), which is about \$31 US. One can pay by credit card, bank check or wire transfer.

For orders, please contact the publisher by e-mail: [fil@filander.de](mailto:fil@filander.de)

## Publication Available

The latest Berryman Institute publication, "Exclusionary Methods to Reduce Predation on Ground-nesting Birds and Their Nests" (Jimenez et al. 2001), is available for free upon request at the following address: Jack H. Berryman Institute, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322-5210.

## Ever Wonder?

*What causes rat bite fever and what are the symptoms?*

Rat bite fever (RBF) is caused by two different organisms. One is the bacterium *Streptobacillus molini-formis*. This form of the disease has an incubation period of 3-10 days and is associated with a rapidly healing point of inoculation (the bite or scratch). The second form is caused by the bacterium *Spirillum minus* and has a longer incubation period (1-3 weeks), and the wound at the incubation site may reappear at the onset of the illness. The symptoms of RBF include irregularly relapsing fever, shaking chills, vomiting, headache, joint pain, muscle pain, rash, enlarged lymph tissue at the back of the throat, anemia, and infection of heart tissue.

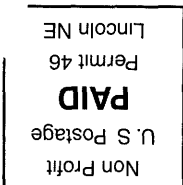
The case-fatality rate for RBF may approach 10 percent for untreated cases. According to the CDC, RBF is considered a rare disease in the United States, but since RBF it is not a reportable disease, there are no reliable data on its incidence. Most cases of RBF, including those acquired in the laboratory, follow rat bites; however, exposure to other domestic and wild animals has also resulted in disease.

—from *ProMED Mail* 15 September 2001

*In Memory  
Of the more than 6,000  
people killed in the attack on  
the United States on  
September 11, 2001*



TIME VALUED MATERIAL — DO NOT DELAY



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## Membership Renewal and Application Form

### NATIONAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL ASSOCIATION

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

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:

- ☐ Agriculture
- ☐ USDA - APHIS - ADC or SAT
- ☐ USDA - Extension Service
- ☐ Federal - not APHIS or Extension
- ☐ Foreign
- ☐ Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator
- ☐ Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Pest Control Operator
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ ADC Equipment/Supplies
- ☐ State Agency
- ☐ Trapper
- ☐ University

*The Probe*