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Group Newsletter

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2007

INTERACTIONS: Newsletter of The Wildlife Society Wildlife Damage Management Working Group, Interactions: Volume 13 Issue 3 Fall 2007

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INTERACTIONS

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*Proposed changes to the
WDMWG Charter.*

For details, see page 2.

Special points of interest:

- Beaver management workshop
- Changes to the Wildlife Damage Working Group Charter
- Call for papers for the 23rd Vertebrate Pest Conference
- Learn about the Agriculture Network Information Center

Visit us on the web at:
<http://Wildlifedamagegroup.unl.edu>

LETTERS FROM ART

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE IS APPROACHING FAST

Hi everyone,
I hope your year is going well and I also hope to see you in Arizona next month.

Important date to know is our Annual Business Meeting, which will be held in the Mesquite Room at the Hotel Arizona, Monday, September 24, from 10am - 12pm. There will be some important issues at this meeting, including (hopefully) a somewhat final decision on where we will hold our 2009 WDM conference. If you have ever wondered what the Working Group is about, there is no better place to hear it than at the business meeting.

Also, if you have ever wondered what the TWS has been doing in recently, there is no better place to hear it than this year in Tucson, Arizona. To that end, I present the following summary of activities TWS has accomplished

over the past 12 months. After reading the following, I hope you feel it would be worth attending our national meeting:

- (1) The successful design and launch of The Wildlife Professional.
- (2) Establishment of principles of management for the JWM and the identification of new editors for JWM and WM.
- (3) Improved outside fundraising (over \$250,000 this year to date and we're not done yet).
- (4) Development of a new IT infrastructure that will allow for better security, improved communication, ease of membership renewal, conference registration and publications fulfillment.
- (5) A completely reconstructed web site that will go online before the TWS 2007

annual conference in Tucson. (6) Web templates and list servers for TWS subunits that will go online soon.

(7) The digitizing of all TWS legacy publications going back to 1937. Planning for how to make them available is now underway.

(8) Improved communication with subunits through outreach by the ED/CEO and Council and hiring of a Subunits and Certification Coordinator.

(9) Improved identity and design of all TWS publications.

(10) Improved public relations presence through development of press releases and their distribution through membership in the Environmental News Network.

Continued on pg. 2

CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS

ISSUE OF HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS TO FOCUS ON LARGE PREDATORS

The peer-reviewed journal, *Human-Wildlife Conflicts*, will be publishing a special issue during 2008 on the management of bears and other large predators. If you would like to submit an article for publication in this issue, please send a hard copy and electronic

copy of your manuscript to Philip Parisi, Managing Editor, *Human-Wildlife Conflicts*, Wildland Resources Department, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322-5230. A guide for authors, which contains details on how to prepare a manuscript for this

journal, is available at www.BerrymanInstitute.org. Contact Philip Parisi by phone (435/797-3593) or by e-mail (hwc@cc.usu.edu) if you have questions or seek more information. Currently, no final deadline has been set for submitting manuscripts.

LETTERS FROM ART (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

(11) Improved financial, conflict of interest and other operational policies to bring TWS into full compliance with Sarbanes Oxley and the suggestions of our auditors.

(12) Improved financial reporting and organization of Council meetings, decision-making and business, both face-to-face and online.

(13) Improvement of TWS conferences with the addition of more student activities (e.g., the work in progress poster session) and the opportunity for more dialogue and debate, through the addition of panel discussions and round tables.

(14) Successful completion of the WIN program and report to NFWF.

(15) The completion of the Science Initiative in cooperation with Cornell University, USFWS, USGS, and AFS and the identification of a new initiative for 2007 (Citizen Science).

(16) Improved communication and collaboration with partners (e.g., NWF, TRCP, USFWS, USGS, AFS, etc.)

(17) Realigned staff, with clearly defined work plans and performance-related reviews.

(18) Formulation of a membership recruitment and retention plan.

(19) Establishment of a Canadian Section.

(20) Creation of three new membership categories: Family, Commercial, and Agency.

(21) Completion of a comprehensive strategic planning process, which is now being narrowed and refined into a business

plan, achievable within the next five years.

(22) Near completion of a business plan for The Wildlife Professional.

(23) Refurbishment of the TWS Headquarters.

(24) MOUs with the Wildlife Disease Association and Human-Wildlife Conflict Coalition.

(25) A very active policy program.

(26) Successful launching of the TWS Leadership Institute.

(27) A new sleeker, more attractive and electronic Wildlifer.

(28) A start on rebuilding our operating reserve.

(29) Establishment of Ethnic and Gender Diversity, Student Professional Development, and Wildlife Disease Working Groups.

(30) Publishing of several technical reports and the launching of several others.

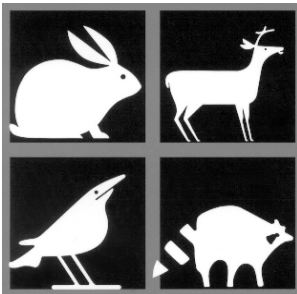
I consider it a huge honor to represent the Working Group as your Chair. It is also very gratifying to know TWS holds up our Working Group as an example as what can be accomplished to other Chapters, Sections, and Working Groups. It is only because of the interest of the Working Group members that we can accomplish what we have done to date. I look forward to accomplishing much more in the future with your help.

Hope to see you this September!

Art



WDMWG President - Art Smith



WILDLIFE DAMAGE WORKING GROUP BUSINESS PROPOSED CHANGE TO WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP CHARTER

One item of business that will be addressed at the next Wildlife Damage Management Working Group business meeting will be a revision to the WDMWG charter. Below is a statement regarding the proposed change. Please review the statements prior to the upcoming annual business meeting, which will be held in the Mesquite Room at the

Hotel Arizona, Monday, September 24, from 10am - 12pm.



TWS Council has made a change regarding Working Group Position Statement Guidelines. They now require for all position statements prepared by working groups to be approved by TWS Council before they are adopted by the working group. Within Article VIII Section 1, please replace the current sentence "The Working Group shall consult with The Wildlife Society before issuing resolutions to ensure that they are not in

conflict with Society policy" with **"TWS Council must approve all position statements developed by Working Groups prior to their final adoption by the Working Group"**. To learn more about Council's guideline, please visit The Wildlife Society web page at www.wildlife.org.



CALL FOR PAPERS:
INTERNATIONAL BEAVER ECOLOGY AND
MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP
PHOENIX, ARIZONA OCTOBER 9-12, 2007

The USDA Wildlife Services is organizing an International Beaver Ecology and Management Workshop, sponsored by the Tres Rios Project. Workshop dates are October 9th – 12th, 2007. The venue will be the Crowne Plaza San Marcos Gold Resort in Phoenix, Arizona. This call for papers is an effort to attract a wide array of potential contributors. Papers can be of a practical nature, or more technically or research oriented.

Contributed papers will be accepted in (but not limited to) the following categories:

- Beaver as an invasive species
- Beaver ecology
- Population dynamics of beaver
- Beaver genetics
- Conservation and restoration in areas used by beaver
- Beaver movement and habitat use
- Beaver behavior
- Beaver and economics
- Beaver management techniques

Format for Abstracts

Submit the abstract formatted as a single paragraph preceded by the title, authors' names and affiliations. Following the abstract, identify the contact person by name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address. Your presentation may describe work currently in progress. Format the page as follows:

Software: MS Word

Margins: 1" all around

Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt

Spacing: Singles

Justification: Left

Word Limit: 300

Email an abstract as an attachment in Word (.doc) or Rich Text Format (.rtf) by September 1st, 2007 to Dr. Jimmy Taylor:

jimmy.d.taylor@aphis.usda.gov

Speakers are not required to submit a manuscript at the workshop. However, a book may be published from the work-

shop if enough interest is shown by presenters. It will help us to determine potential interest if persons wanting to contribute towards developing a book chapter make their interest known when they submit an abstract.

There will be NO registration fee for the conference. Please be sure to pass this information on to other interested individuals who may not receive this publication



Beaver. Photo: J. Spencer, Jr., USDA

FOCUS ON THE FIELD
AGNIC WILDLIFE DAMAGE
MANAGEMENT

Wildlife conflicts with humans are everywhere: wild birds feed on crops; geese droppings negatively impact recreation in parks; mammals browse tree roots, seeds and seedlings in forests; invasive (nonnative) species, such as the brown treesnake, destroy native faunas; predators, such as coyotes, mountain lions and wolves, kill livestock.

The Agriculture Network Information Center (AgNIC) website presents an overview of the wildlife damage problem in the United States and does not attempt to duplicate materials found on other wildlife damage management sites. While certain

pest species are covered in some detail (especially those illustrative of various aspects of the damage problem), most are discussed only generally. The strength of this site lies in two directions: its presentation of issues mentioned only briefly, if at all, on other damage management sites, e.g. economics, human dimensions, endangered species; and its cataloging of resources and references for further study.

The AgNIC Wildlife Damage Management Web site is a cooperative project between the National Wildlife Research Center, with headquarters in Fort Collins, Colorado, and



Colorado State University Libraries. The Web site concentrates on wildlife damage management science. Wildlife causes damage to agricultural, urban, natural resources, human health and safety and threatened or endangered species. These problems affect agricultural producers, ranchers, military, air travelers, and homeowners in a variety of ways.

You can visit this website at:
<http://lib.colostate.edu/research/agnic/>

Information from AgNIC website

CALLS FROM THE FIELD (OR A HOUSE, OR A FARM, OR A...)

Wildlife damage management in reverse

In July, wildlife damage hotline technicians received a call asking about raccoon trapping, although they were not interested in capturing raccoons..."How can I prevent a raccoon from getting into a cage trap? I want to sabotage my neighbor's trap so that the raccoons will not get in it. They haven't done anything and I don't want him to hurt them."

New species of mole discovered....

A woman from Indiana called to get help with the mole in her backyard. Her description included digging up plants, eating vegetables, being fearless, brown, and....bigger than a cat! This may be due to her close proximity to the

new nuclear waster disposal facility. This has the possibility of being a new SciFi thriller - Night of the Scalopus.

Please pass the remote

A mother of some small children called because a couple of opossums were coming into the house at night through a hold near the bathtub. She had been feeding the opossums because she thought one of them was pregnant. Although we (Indiana Wildlife Conflicts Information Hotline) convinced her that feeding was not a good idea, she did not want to trap the opossums. Her main concern was whether or not they might have rabies. When asked if they acted sick, she said no,

but they do act very tame. "Sometimes the opossum sits by me on the couch while the family watches TV and just looks at me." Our suggestion - try watching more Animal Plant and the opossum will spend more time watching television, and less time watching you.

Has anyone seen the remote?



HUMANE SOCIETY GETTING INTO THE PRIVATE NUISANCE WILDLIFE CONTROL BUSINESS

The flowing article is a portion of the press release from The Humane Society of the United States about a new business venture into the nuisance wildlife control industry. For more information about their new business, you can visit their website at:

http://www.hsus.org/wildlife/urban_wildlife_our_wild_neighbors/

(PressZoom) - Conflicts between people and wild animals are dramatically on the rise. People want - and deserve - immediate and successful solutions to their wildlife problems, while being assured that wild animals are humanely handled and treated. The HSUS has a new innovative program, Wild NeighborsR: Humane Wildlife SolutionsT (HWS), launching in Washington, DC on June 26, which will provide humane wildlife eviction and removal services for homeowners, accompanied by guaranteed re-entry prevention and customer education often not offered by other wildlife removal companies. HWS benefits wildlife, homeowners and the environment.

HWS embraces biologically appropriate and ecologically sound strategies for people who seek effective solutions - homeowners, businesses and communities experiencing conflicts with wild animals. Whether it is a squirrel living in an attic, a raccoon in a chimney, a beaver damming a road culvert or geese loafing at the local marina, HWS will successfully and humanely resolve people's problems while respecting and protecting the lives of the animals involved.

According to the program's director, wildlife conflict resolution specialist John Griffin, "The current business landscape of 'nuisance' wildlife control ranges from small mom and pop operations to large franchises and they vary widely in their approaches and in the ethical principles that underpin their practices. Humane Wildlife SolutionsT will set new standards for nuisance wildlife control with our ultimate goal of changing standard practices across the board to be more humane."

CALL FOR PAPERS:

23RD VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE

MARCH 17-20, 2008 SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

A "Call for Papers" for the 23rd Vertebrate Pest Conference has been issued. This Conference is scheduled to be held March 17-20, 2008 in beautiful downtown San Diego, at the spectacular Westin San Diego at Emerald Plaza. Monday, March 17 will be an optional all-day field trip. The Conference will open the morning of Tuesday, March 18 with a plenary session, followed by general and concurrent sessions from Tuesday afternoon through Thursday.

Abstracts should be submitted not later than September 1 to Dr. Kathleen Fagerstone, the Conference's program chairperson, at the USDA National Wildlife Research Center. For questions, email Kathy at <kathleen.a.fagerstone@aphis.usda.gov>. For instructions on how to format and submit abstracts, or for more information about this upcoming Conference, visit the VPC web site: <http://vpconference.org>.

**EXTENDED TO
SEPTEMBER 1, 2007**

FALL 2007 ISSUE OF *HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS* NOW AVAILABLE SPECIAL TOPIC: FERAL SWINE

The second issue of *Human-Wildlife Conflicts* was published in August 2007. This issue contained peer-reviewed manuscripts on wildlife damage management, commentary, editorials, book reviews, and obituaries, with a special focus on feral swine. Many of these papers on feral swine were presented at the 2006 feral swine conference in Mobile, Alabama.

For those of you who did not receive a copy of this publication, you can submit your request for a free copy to the Managing Editor, Phil Parisi, at hwc@cc.usu.edu. Authors who are interested in submitting manuscripts should contact Phil at the above email for information and a Guide to Authors or they can find the same information by visiting www.BerrymanInstitute.org. (include your name and mailing address). An on-line version of the journal can also be found at the Berryman Institute website.

Contributors are encouraged to send manuscripts and cover letter via e-mail to the editor or on computer disk by mail to:

Michael R. Conover, Editor, *Human-Wildlife Conflicts*, Department of Wildland Resources, 5230 Old Main Hill, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322-5230. Detailed submission guidelines are available on the Berryman Institute website: www.BerrymanInstitute.org.



HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT IN THE NEWS

Feral swine

Wild hogs creating problems and opportunities.

Feral swine are moving into urban areas and causing problems in some suburbs of San Antonio, Texas. Express-News, Texas

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/business/stories/MYSA082207.01E.hogstexas.296f5b2.html>

Wildlife Specialist speaks at meeting

USDA APHIS Wildlife Services officials met with Roosevelt County, New Mexico, Commissioners to discuss problems with feral swine in their county. Portales News-Tribune, New Mexico. http://www.pntonline.com/news/county_11319_article.html/jaureguiberry_approved.html

http://www.pntonline.com/news/county_11319_article.html/jaureguiberry_approved.html

Neighbors feuding over feral pigs on big island

In Hilo, HI, residents disagree over the management of feral swine. Some of the residents love the feral swine, and go so far as to provide food for them on a regular basis. While other in the neighborhood experience damage to gardens and other property. Associated Press, Hawaii. <http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2007/Jul/31/br/br3462178950.html>

<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2007/Jul/31/br/br3462178950.html>

Animal Attacks

Rabies confirmed in coyote that attacks woman.

In June, 2007, a woman was attacked by a coyote in Prowers County, Colorado. The coyote was shot and later tested positive for rabies. 7 News, Denver, Colorado. <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/13533655/detail.html>

<http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/13533655/detail.html>

Black Bear

Bears killed in Oregon for damaging timber.

The remains of 10 bears were found in Jewell Meadow Wildlife Area near Astoria, Oregon. The bears were probably killed for damaging timber. Associated Press, Oregon.

<http://www.theolympian.com/outdoors/story/137679.html>

White-tailed deer

Can birth control curb the urban deer population?

An animal preservationist group in Wisconsin is advocating the use of new birth control methods for the control of urban deer in Wisconsin. GazetteXtra.com, Wisconsin. <http://www.gazetteextra.com/deercontrol081307.asp>

<http://www.gazetteextra.com/deercontrol081307.asp>



Canada geese

Canada geese making a mess in Struthers.

A large flock of geese near the Hamilton Lake area in Ohio are causing headaches for local residents. Residents met with officials from Ohio Department of Wildlife to discuss options, which primarily consisted of various forms of harassment. The Vindicator, Ohio. http://www.vindy.com/content/local_regional/314857892388336.php

http://www.vindy.com/content/local_regional/314857892388336.php

RECENT WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT RESEARCH

This section will highlight current research in our field each quarter. Articles are located by conducting a search of periodical databases which contain possible relevant content. If you have an wildlife damage management related article that has been accepted for publication and want to ensure that your peers are aware of its publication, please send a copy of the article to the editor at joe.n.caudell@aphis.usda.gov. Nothing is inferred by an articles exclusion or inclusion in this column. Articles that appear in *Human-Wildlife Conflicts* do not appear in this column because the entire journal is available on open-access (see below). Many of these articles can be found on-line at the APHIS USDA Wildlife Services National Wildlife Research Center web site (<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/nwrc/is/publications.html>).

Amano, T., K. Ushiyama, G. Fujita, and H. Higuchi. 2007. Predicting grazing damage by white-fronted geese under different regimes of agricultural management and physiological consequences for the geese. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 44:506-515.

Arjo, W. M., R. E. Huenefeld, and D. L. Nolte. 2007. Mountain beaver home ranges, habitat use, and population dynamics in Washington. *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 85:328-337.

Engman, R. M., A. Stevens, J. Allen, J. Dunlap, M. Daniel, D. Teague, and B. Constantin. 2007. Feral swine management for conservation of an imperiled wetland habitat: Florida's vanishing seepage slopes. *Biological Conservation* 134:440-446.

Harrington, J. L., and M. R. Conover. 2007. Does removing coyotes for livestock protection benefit free-ranging ungulates? *Journal of Wildlife Management* 71:1555-1560.

We studied the effects of coyote (*Canis latrans*) control for livestock protection on native ungulates during 2003 and 2004 on 7 sites in Utah and Colorado, USA, totaling over 1,900 km². We found no relationships between coyote control variables and offspring/female deer ratios. However, control effort (no. of hr spent aerial gunning for coyotes) and success (no. of coyotes taken) were positively correlated with numbers of mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) and pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*) observed per kilometer of transect. Our results suggest that coyote control for livestock protection may increase densities of mule deer and pronghorn in areas where it is conducted.

Hoare, J. M., L. K. Adams, L. S. Bull, and D. R. Towns. 2007. Attempting to manage complex predator-prey interactions fails to avert imminent extinction of a threatened New Zealand skink population. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 71:1576-1584.

Leblond, M., C. Dussault, J. P. Ouellet, M. Poulin, R. Courtois, and J. Fortin. 2007. Electric fencing as a measure to reduce moose-vehicle collisions. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 71:1695-1703.

Linz, G. M., H. J. Homan, L. B. Penry, T. M. Primus, and M. J. Goodall. 2007. Evaluation of caffeine and garlic oil as bird repellents. National Sunflower Association Sunflower Research Forum.

McDonald, J. E., D. E. Clark, and W. A. Woytek. 2007. Reduction and maintenance of a white-tailed deer herd in central Massachusetts. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 71:1585-1593.

Controlled public hunts have been used in a variety of settings to reduce overabundant white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) herds. We present the results of a large-scale (160 km²) controlled hunt at Quabbin Reservation (QR) in central Massachusetts, USA. The QR was divided into 5 hunt zones. Hunting was initiated in each zone from 1991 to 1994 and continued through 2004. The management goal was to achieve posthunt deer densities of 4 deer/km². Initial estimated deer densities in each zone ranged from 11.4 deer/km² to 27.6 deer/km². The management goals were reached in each zone after 2-4 years of hunting. Posthunt populations were maintained at or below the goal even though total hunter effort was reduced. Hunters were not required to harvest antlerless deer, but antlerless deer comprised 55-83% of the harvest each year. We simulated the effects of 5 years without hunting on deer populations. The simulated deer population exceeded management goals after 2 years. Our results demonstrate that controlled public deer hunts can effectively reduce deer populations and maintain them at desired levels over large areas with minimal hunter restrictions. Managers should prepare stakeholders during the hunt planning process for the need to continue overall harvest rates of >30% during the maintenance phase of a deer management program.

Pitt, W. C., and G. C. Witmer. 2007. Invasive predators: a synthesis of the past, present, and future. Pages 265-293 in A. M. T. Elewa, editor. *Predation in organisms-a distinct phenomenon*. Springer Verlag. Heifberg.

VerCautern, K. C., M. J. Lavelle, N. W. Seward, J. W. Fischer, G. E. Phillips. 2007. Fence-line contact between wild and farmed cervids in Colorado: potential for disease transmission. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 71:1594-1602.

VerCauteren, K. C., M. J. Lavelle, N. W. Seward, J. W. Fischer, and G. E. Phillips. Fence-line contact between wild and farmed white-tailed deer in Michigan: potential for disease transmission. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 71:1603-1606.

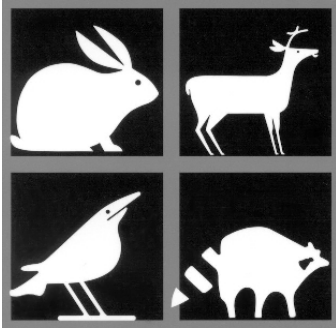
Werner, S. J., J. L. Cummings, S. K. Tupper, J. C. Hurley, R. S. Stahl, and T. M. Primus. 2007. Caffeine formulation for avian repellency. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 71:1676-1681.

Witmer, G. W., F. Boyd, and Z. Hillis-Starr. 2007. The successful eradication of introduced roof rats (*Rattus rattus*) from Buck Island using diphacinone, followed by an irruption of house mice (*Mus musculus*). *Wildlife Research* 34:108-115.

Newsletter of The Wildlife Society
Wildlife Damage Management Working Group

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The Wildlife Society Wildlife Damage Management Working Group

Our Mission:

The mission of the Wildlife Damage Management Working Group is to promote better understanding of the challenges of managing human-wildlife conflicts and to provide a forum for TWS members to advance their skills and knowledge of wildlife damage management practices.

Our Goals:

- Enhance understanding within the profession and various stakeholder groups of the need for responsible wildlife damage management activities.
- Facilitate information transfer to wildlife management professionals and various publics.
- Serve as a professional catalyst, clearinghouse, and conduit for wildlife damage management information.
- Assist TWS Council and resource management agencies with wildlife damage management policy formulation, analysis, and decision making.
- Promote development of new technologies and maintenance of existing cost-effective management tools.

UPCOMING MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, AND EVENTS

September

Call for Papers - for the 23rd Vertebrate Pest Conference has been issued. This Conference is scheduled to be held March 17-20, 2008. Submissions are due September 1, 2008. See article on page 3 in this issue of Interactions for submission details.

Call for Papers - for the International Beaver Ecology and Management Workshop. See article on page 3 of this issue of Interactions for details.

6th International Conference on Fertility Control for Wildlife will be held on September 3 - 5, 2007, at the Central Science Laboratory, York, United Kingdom, <http://www.wildlifefertility.org/>.

The 14th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society will be

held on September 22-26, 2007, in Tuscon, AZ. More information can be found at www.wildlife.org.

October

The USDA Wildlife Services is organizing an International Beaver Ecology and Management Workshop. Workshop dates are October 9th - 12th, 2007. The venue will be the Crowne Plaza San Marcos Gold Resort in Phoenix, Arizona. Details about this conference can be found on the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services National Wildlife Research Center website at: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/nwrc/>

February 08

The 16th Annual Nebraska Urban Pest Conference will be held on February 19-20 in Lincoln, NE. Details about the conference can be found at

<http://icwdm.org/Education/Documents/NebraskaUrban-PestMngConf2008.pdf>

March 08

The 23rd Vertebrate Pest Conference is scheduled to be held March 17-20, 2008 in San Diego, CA, at the Westin San Diego at Emerald Plaza. More information will follow in subsequent issues

April 08

A National Conference on Feral Hogs will be held in St. Louis, Missouri on April 13-16, 2008. The Missouri Department of Conservation is hosting the meeting and will have additional information on a website in the near future. Interactions will post additional information as it becomes available. Please make plans now for this conference.