



# **SUPPLEMENT TO THE JOURNAL OF WILDLIFE DISEASES**

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Wildlife Diseases Newsletter

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*Visit the WDA website at: <http://www.wildlifedisease.org>*

## **President's Corner**

[Editor's note: This issue of the *President's Corner* was contributed by Michael Miller, WDA Vice President. President Scott Wright will return to the *President's Corner* in July, and the Vice President will return to his bunker at an undisclosed location.]

Greetings from Colorado. It's finally springtime in the Rockies, which means that on average the snow is now melting faster than it's falling. Hopefully most of the big drifts will be gone by the time we gather in Estes Park for our annual conference in August. On behalf of the organizing committee and the myriad of members and others helping with bringing this conference together, we're looking forward to welcoming all of you to a very special part of Colorado in just a few short months.

I've been working in and around the field of wildlife diseases for nearly three decades, and I can honestly say that I don't believe business has ever been better. Between the emergence of (seemingly) new threats like Asian strains of highly pathogenic avian influenza, West Nile virus, chytridiomycosis, chronic wasting disease, and avian vacuolar myelinopathy (you're welcome, John) and the reemergence or persistence of perennial favorites like bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis, foot-and-mouth disease, rabies, plague, herpesviruses, hemorrhagic diseases, and many, many others, I think we finally have the attention of wildlife managers, politicians, and the general public. The message that WDA members have been sending to all who'd listen for over 50 years finally has been received: Diseases can be important in the ecology, management, and long-term sustainability of wildlife resources world-wide – they should not be ignored!

So now what? We've succeeded in elevating the awareness of our various governments and publics, and in several places they're truly concerned about these wildlife diseases that are out there wreaking ecological and economic havoc. In most cases, this concern leads almost immediately to a very logical question: What are we going to do about it?

In response to this very logical question, we may stare blankly. Or begin sweating, profusely. Or, we may do a quick search of the mental files to offer up examples of our collective past success in controlling the other important wildlife disease problems we've so methodically identified over the years. Let's see, there has been good work done with rabies vaccination in free-ranging wildlife, and then there's... well, um... no, er... hmmm... Well, there's been *lots* of good work done with rabies vaccination.

The point is that although we wildlife health professionals have made tremendous progress in detecting (eventually), diagnosing, and describing diseases affecting wildlife we've made precious little parallel progress on the science of managing these problems. As it turns out, it's much easier to identify health problems in free-ranging wildlife than it is to do anything meaningful about those problems we've identified. Examples of successful endeavors to control (forget about eradicate) diseases of wildlife are few and far between. So it seems both time and timely for us to confront a very fundamental question about wildlife health: Can we manage it?

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The Wildlife Disease Association does not regard the Supplement to the Journal of Wildlife Diseases (Wildlife Diseases Newsletter) as a citable publication and, therefore, it should not be referenced in the scientific literature.

Sounds like an excellent theme for a conference, no? Those of you who have been paying attention know by now, of course, that the theme of this year's WDA conference in Estes Park is "*Wildlife health: Can we manage it?*" During our upcoming meeting, we hope to stimulate all participants to at least begin contemplating several key aspects of a topic that likely will shape the future of wildlife disease study as much as any over the next few decades. We'll begin by focusing on the ecology of wildlife diseases and their implications for both species and ecosystems – to me, this understanding is fundamental not only to deciding on whether a wildlife disease truly needs to be managed, but also to devising strategies for intervening where necessary. We'll next consider control strategies (both tried and hypothetical) and adaptive frameworks for managing diseases of concern, because we need approaches that will allow us to learn as we go if we're ever going to make progress in wildlife disease control. Certainly no less important than strategic considerations, we'll also spend time spotlighting the social and political challenges that inevitably arise in the course of either planning for or implementing management actions, because (in my personal experience, anyway) underestimating these aspects of wildlife management – disease or otherwise – inevitably leads to failure. And finally, we'll spend some time sharing new advances in tools and technology that may help us as we move forward to confront both known and yet-to-emerge health problems impacting free-ranging wildlife around the world.

Yes, it does seem like a lot to pack into our five days together, but we really do need to open this conversation somewhere. And what better place than the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, right on the fringe of Rocky Mountain National Park, where you can literally take a hike to ponder the events of the day? I hope each and every one of you can join us this summer in the Colorado Rockies as we share our progress and consider our future in the study of wildlife health and its management. Safe travels, and see you soon!

—*Michael Miller, Vice President*

## WDA ACTIVITIES

**The 56th Annual Meeting of the Wildlife Disease Association. Estes Park, CO, USA. August 12–17, 2007!!** The 56th Annual Meeting of the Wildlife Disease Association will be held August 12–17, 2007 at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado, USA. The National Park Service and Colorado Division of Wildlife will host this year's event. Keeping the world's wildlife resources healthy is a laudable goal, but do we really have the knowledge, tools, and capability to successfully manage wildlife health? The WDA invites members and others interested in promoting wildlife health to attend a conference entitled "Wildlife health: Can we manage it?" This meeting will bring together wildlife managers, biologists, ecologists, and health professionals to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing wildlife health and its management in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Special sessions on disease ecology, adaptive management, and new tools and technology for the study and control of health problems in natural populations will serve as foundations for a stimulating forum for developing insights and strategies focused toward keeping our valuable wildlife resources healthy for future generations. Who should attend and/or submit abstracts? Wildlife biologists, wildlife managers, veterinarians, epidemiologists, ecologists, parasitologists, molecular biologists, pathologists, microbiologists—Any professional with an interest in the management of wildlife health. Registration for the conference and YMCA lodging opens February 1, 2007. Early registration for the conference and YMCA lodging closes June 1, 2007. Deadline for abstracts submission is May 1, 2007. Online registration closes August 1, 2007. For more information visit: [http://wildlifedisease.org/2007\\_Conference/](http://wildlifedisease.org/2007_Conference/).

**Submit Items NOW to the 2007 WDA Auction!** This year's auction will be held during the annual meeting in Estes Park, Colorado, USA on August 14, 2007. This is a very special auction in which all the proceeds will be contributed to the Tom Thorne and Beth Williams Memorial Fund for Achievement in Wildlife Health (See Supplement to JWD, April, 2006). So that we can all start preparing to be the highest bidder on a particularly fantastic piece, we invite you to submit a photo and description of your auction item to the following email address: [wda\\_auction@yahoo.com](mailto:wda_auction@yahoo.com). These items will be displayed at [http://wildlifedisease.org/2007\\_Conference/](http://wildlifedisease.org/2007_Conference/) starting May 1, 2007. If you haven't yet started thinking about all the wonderful things you are going to bring to this auction, start now! See you there!

—*Submitted by Pauline Nol and Terry Creekmore*

## MEMBERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Visiting with Joan Budd

In the spring of 2006, I had the pleasure of visiting Joan Budd, a charter member of the Wildlife Disease Association. Many current WDA members will not know Joan and her very important contributions to science, the Association, and other science societies.



Joan was born on a farm near Roblin, Manitoba, Canada. Roblin is about 400 km northwest of Winnipeg, Manitoba, a distinctly rural area. Joan decided early on that she was not to be a farmer! In 1946, she moved east to train at the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) in Guelph, Ontario and was awarded her D.V.M. in 1950. Eager to continue her studies, Joan moved to Madison where she recalls the very dynamic stimulating environment in the Department of Veterinary Sciences at the University of Wisconsin at that time. Joan returned to the OVC following completion of a Master of Science degree in Wisconsin in 1951.

Joan spent most of the ensuing 25 plus years as a research scientist and professor in the departments of bacteriology and pathology at OVC where her research focused on diseases of fish and fur bearing animals. For a few years during this period, Joan relocated to Manitoulin Island, Ontario where her husband was a fisheries scientist at a government research lab on Lake Huron. Joan returned to the OVC as a professor following the loss of her husband. However, this definitely did not end Joan's association with Manitoulin Island, the largest island in the world in a freshwater lake.

Within the WDA, Joan served in many capacities in a "gentle nudging way". She was an Associate Editor or member of the Editorial Board from 1967 to 1982. She served on a number of committees, was a Member-at-Large of Council (1972–1975) and was Vice President (1975–1977). One of Joan's many contributions was coordinating the development of committee guidelines that continue to provide direction to the WDA committees. Joan has never been one to seek the 'spotlight' but suffice it to say that Joan's contributions were and continue to be very much appreciated. Joan was the first female Vice President of the WDA and the second WDA member to receive both the Distinguished Service and Emeritus Awards from the Association.

Joan has been a member of numerous other science societies and continues her involvement with her alma mater. Manitoulin Island, where Joan has a cottage and gardens, has remained a core part of her annual cycle in retirement. A few days after we visited in early May, Joan was driving the approximate 260 km north to catch the first ferry of the summer to Manitoulin Island from which she returns to Guelph before the ferry closes down in October. May Joan have many more such seasonal migrations!

—Submitted by Ed Addison

## **WDA STUDENTS**

### **Create a Student Chapter of the WDA!**

Student Chapters of the WDA aim at:

- Educating students interested in wildlife health and disease about the profession, career opportunities, job qualifications and education, and externships, volunteer, and research opportunities.

- Enhancing the skills of students interested in wildlife health and disease through lectures, workshops, conferences, and field trips.
- Connecting students interested in wildlife health and disease to mentors in WDA through the faculty advisor and guest lecturers.

Student Chapters are run by student officers, including a president and a vice-president, and if filled, a secretary and a treasurer, under the supervision of a faculty advisor.

Visit our website at <http://www.wildlifedisease.org> or contact Leslie Reperant to learn more!

### **Become a WDA Student Ambassador!**

We have created a special power point slide show to introduce wildlife health students to the WDA. This presentation includes information on how to start a WDA student chapter. Become a WDA student ambassador by presenting the power point slide show to students at your University and actively take part in the promotion of the Wildlife Disease Association!

Visit our website at <http://www.wildlifedisease.org> to find the power point slide show and learn more!

### **Share your experiences!**

Many WDA members are committed to mentoring students and giving advice when it comes to engaging in the world of wildlife disease research. This is one of the reasons why the annual meeting of the WDA has a very special “family-like” atmosphere. **Students!** Have a coffee with WDA members during the breaks or join WDA members for a drink or dinner at the end of the meeting day. You will find yourself being presented with tips, advice, and anecdotes related to the academic and scientific life of a wildlife health researcher, from doctoral studies to professorship. **WDA Members!** Make it your priority during the meetings to get together with students and share your experiences with, offer advice to, and encourage them in their pursuit of a career in the wildlife health profession.

Please contact Leslie Reperant, WDA Student Representative on Council, for a copy of the powerpoint, or with any questions or ideas at [reperant@princeton.edu](mailto:reperant@princeton.edu).

## **WDA STUDENT AWARDS COMPETITION**

Each year the Wildlife Disease Association sponsors student awards competitions. The WDA Student Awards Committee (comprised of 8 members from around the globe) will judge the Graduate Student Research Recognition Award and Scholarship Award. Members of the audience attending the annual WDA meeting will judge the Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award. Criteria for judging of the awards are available on the WDA website at the following URL: [http://www.wildlifedisease.org/Student\\_Awards.htm](http://www.wildlifedisease.org/Student_Awards.htm).

Applicants **MUST** be Student Members of the WDA at the time applications for the Graduate Student Research Recognition and Scholarship Awards are received and/or at the time the abstract for the Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award is submitted for consideration. Furthermore, students applying for the Graduate Student Research Recognition Award and Scholarship Award **MUST** be pursuing an advanced degree at the time of application.

### **Awards:**

#### **Wildlife Disease Association Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award**

In 1987 the WDA Best Student Presentation Award was renamed the WDA Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award, honoring the memory of a man who made great contributions to the field of wildlife diseases through his own work and through his dedication to students. Terry Amundson was a wildlife disease specialist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources from 1981 until his death from a car accident in 1987. Terry obtained Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Zoology and Veterinary Microbiology, respectively, from the University of Minnesota, then completed his Ph.D. studying arthropod-borne viruses in wild mammals at the University of Wisconsin. While working for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Terry helped forge a Great Lakes disease policy and was involved in reducing disease problems at the state's fish hatcheries. He implemented Wisconsin's fish and wildlife contaminant analysis and advisory programs. Terry was one of the first individuals in Wisconsin to investigate the importance of Lyme disease and its host vector in the state, which led to increased public awareness, diagnosis, and treatment of the disease in humans and animals. Concern over the state's declining wolf population resulted in Terry's discovery that canine parvovirus was a major cause of wolf mortality. At the time of Terry's death, he was Chairperson for the WDA Student Activities Committee. Terry's enthusiasm

and love of the natural world continues to serve as an inspiration to all of us as we present a student each year with an award in his name.

– *Adapted from July 1998 Supplement to the JWD (Charlotte Quist-Ed)*

**DEADLINE:** May 1, 2007 (the deadline for abstract submissions corresponds with the deadline for general abstract submissions for the annual WDA conference). This award acknowledges outstanding oral presentation of research findings at the annual WDA conference. The winner receives \$250 US and a plaque. To be considered, the student must give an oral presentation (usually 12 minutes with 3 minutes for questions) on their research project to the WDA conference audience in the student presentation session. Students wishing to be considered for the award MUST submit a presentation abstract following the guidelines in the “Call for Abstracts/Papers” to both the Scientific Program Chair for the annual conference and to the Chair of the Student Awards Committee (contact information below), clearly identifying the abstract as a student submission to be considered for the oral presentation award. Candidates will be scored on the following criteria:

- Quality, innovation, and impact of science
- Quality of visual aids
- Delivery and style
- Relevance to management of wildlife/ecosystem health

#### **Wildlife Disease Association Student Poster Award**

**DEADLINE:** May 1, 2007 (the deadline for abstract submissions corresponds with the deadline for general abstract submissions for the annual WDA conference). This award acknowledges the best student poster detailing a wildlife disease or wildlife health research project presented at the annual WDA conference. This award is not presented every year, but will be presented at the 2007 WDA conference in Estes Park, Colorado. The winner receives \$250 US and a plaque. To be considered the student MUST submit a poster abstract following the guidelines in the “Call for Abstracts/Papers” to both the Scientific Program Chair for the annual conference and to the Chair of the Student Awards Committee (contact information below), clearly identifying the abstract as a student submission to be considered for the poster award. Candidates will be scored on the following criteria:

- Quality, innovation, and impact of science
- Organization and layout of poster
- Quality and style of text, figures, and images
- Relevance to management of wildlife/ecosystem health

#### **Wildlife Disease Association Graduate Student Research Recognition Award**

**DEADLINE:** Applications must have been received no later than April 20, 2007. This award is given to the student judged to have the best research project in the field of wildlife health/disease, based on written communication and scientific achievement. The winner receives a plaque and up to \$2,000 US to cover travel, housing, registration, etc. related to the annual WDA conference. The student will be the featured speaker during the student presentation session at the conference.

#### **Wildlife Disease Association Scholarship**

**DEADLINE:** Applications must have been received no later than April 20, 2007. This award acknowledges outstanding academic and research accomplishment, productivity, and future potential in pursuit of new knowledge in wildlife disease or health. The scholarship has a value of \$2,000 US and is awarded annually to an outstanding student pursuing Master’s or doctoral degrees specializing in research on wildlife disease. To be considered, the candidate must have completed a four-year baccalaureate degree. Candidates with an overall grade point average of 3.5 or above in 4.0 systems or 80% or better in percentile systems will receive priority. Students not scored on the 4.0 grade point system MUST include an official explanation of the grade point or grade score system used at their institution and preferably provide a conversion to a 4.0 or percentile grade point average. The candidate should be committed to leadership, scholarship, and service in the wildlife health profession.

All four awards are non-renewable and each award may be received only once by a given candidate. Submit applications electronically as email attachments to:

Dr. Todd Cornish – Chair, WDA Student Awards Committee; Email: [tcornish@uwyo.edu](mailto:tcornish@uwyo.edu); Mail address and telephone number for inquiries only: Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory; University of Wyoming; 1174 Snowy Range Road; Laramie, WY 82070 USA; (307) 742-6638.

# HAPPENINGS IN THE FIELD

## USGS National Wildlife Health Center's Quarterly Wildlife Mortality Report

Quarterly Wildlife Mortality Report						
October 2006 to December 2006						
State	Location	Dates	Species	Mortality	Diagnosis	Labsite
AK	Maritime NWR	11/20/06–11/30/06	Crested Auklet	20 (e)	Toxicosis suspect	NON
CA	Imperial County	12/09/06–12/13/06	Lesser Snow Goose	60	Open	NW
CA	Sacramento NWR	09/29/06–10/25/06	Northern Shoveler	355	Botulism type C	NW
			American Wigeon			
			American Coot			
			Mallard			
			Green-Winged Teal			
CA	Tulare County	10/18/06–11/03/06	American Coot	497	Open: botulism suspect	NON
			Northern Shoveler			
			Ruddy Duck			
			Western Sandpiper			
			Unidentified Waterfowl			
FL	Dade County	08/24/06–09/15/06	Eurasian Collared Dove	20 (e)	Avian paromyxovirus	KDL
FL	Indian River	12/18/06–01/01/07	Eastern Brown Pelican	13	Open	NW
			American White Pelican			
FL	Dade County	09/18/06–09/25/06	Unidentified Duck	45	Open	KDL
ID	Cassia County	12/05/06–12/14/06	Mallard	1,500	Aspergillois suspect	ID, NW
KS	Maxwell Refuge	09/01/06–11/15/06	Bison	47	Mycoplasma	UNK
MA	Cape Cod National Seashore	10/15/06–12/14/06	Common Eider	500 (e)	Parasitism suspect	NW
MD	Poplar and Coaches Island	10/25/06-ongoing	Great Blue Heron	12	Steatitis	NW
MN	Upper MS NWR	12/18/06–12/20/06	Tundra (Whistling) Swan	8	Lead poisoning, Open	NW
MO	Swan Lake NWR	12/16/06-ongoing	Lesser Snow Goose	45	Avian cholera	NW
MT	Georgetown Lake	09/29/06–10/23/06	American Coot	1,000 (e)	Open	NW
MT	Lake County	12/10/06–12/12/06	Mallard	15 (e)	Pneumonia, Aspergillois	NW
MT	Billings	11/01/06–11/01/06	Unidentified Duck	75	Open	NW
			Green-Winged Teal			
			Gadwall			
			Ruddy Duck			
			American Coot			
MT	Smith Lake	10/11/06–11/01/06	American Coot	700	Open	NW
NM	Carlsbad	08/15/02–08/15/02	Western Kingbird,	36	Undetermined	UNK
			Unidentified Oriole			
			Unidentified Sparrow			
			Pyrrhuloxia			
			Cactus Wren			
NM	Rio Rancho	11/10/06–12/01/06	American Coot	20	Botulism type C	NW
			Ruddy Duck			
			Mallard			
NY	Dunkirk	10/20/06–12/25/06	Common Loon	2,000 (e)	Botulism type E	NW, NY
NY	Dunkirk	08/15/06–09/20/06	Unidentified Gull	18	Open: botulism suspect	NYC
NY	Lake Ontario	10/21/06–12/25/06	Common Loon	4000 (e)	Botulism type E	NW, NY
			Red Breasted Merganser			
			Long-Tailed Duck (Oldsquaw)			
			White-Winged Scoter			
			Red-Necked Grebe			

**Quarterly Wildlife Mortality Report**

October 2006 to December 2006

Continued

State	Location	Dates	Species	Mortality	Diagnosis	Labsite
OK	Hackberry Flat WMA	12/13/06–12/14/06	Mallard Ross' Goose American Widgeon Northern Pintail Green-Winged Teal	21	Open: aflatoxicosis suspect	NW
OK	Sequoyah NWR	12/23/06–01/01/07	Lesser Snow Goose Ross' Goose	13	Trauma: gunshot, Peritonitis	NW
SD	Lake Nicholson	11/15/06–11/30/06	Greater Snow Goose	1,000 (e)	Open: toxicosis suspect	SD
WI	Dane County	10/10/06–10/13/06	Raccoon	5	Parvovirus	NW
WI	Shawano Lake	09/20/06–12/15/06	American Coot Lesser Scaup Mallard Ruddy Duck Unidentified Teal	1,202	Parasitism suspect	NW
Update:						
FL	Dade	09/04/07–10/01/06	Muscovy Duck Unidentified Egret Unidentified Heron White Ibis Tri-colored Heron	48	Botulism suspect	KDL
FL, GA	Northeast Florida (Nassau, Duval, St. Johns Counties)  Southeast Georgia (McIntosh, Camben, Glynn Counties)	09/10/06–11/30/06	Loggerhead Turtle Eastern Brown Pelican Sandpiper Unidentified Shorebird Unidentified Seabird	200 (e)	Toxicosis suspect	KDL, UFL
WI	Lake Onalaska	09/01/06–11/29/06	American Coot Lesser Scaup Blue-winged Teal Bufflehead Duck Ruddy Duck	3974 (e)	Parasitism suspect	NW

(e) = estimate; \* = morbidity, not mortality

Idaho Wildlife Health Laboratory (ID), Kistimnee Diagnostic Laboratory (KDL), National Wildlife Health Center (NW), New York City Diagnostic Lab (NYC), New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation (NY), No diagnostics pursued (NON), South Dakota University Diagnostic Laboratory (SD), University of Florida (UFL), Unknown (UNK)

Species:

American Coot (*Fulica Americana*); American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*); American Widgeon (*Anas Americana*); Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*); Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*); Cactus Wren (*Campylorhynchus brunnei-capillus*); Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*); Common Loon (*Gavia immer*); Crested Auklet (*Aethia cristatella*); Eastern Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*); Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*); Gadwall (*Anas strepera*); Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*); Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*); Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*); Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*); Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*); Muscovy (*Cairina moschata*); Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*); Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*); Pyrrhuloxia (*Cardinalis sinuatis*); Red-breasted merganser (*Mergus serrator*); Red-necked grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*); Ross' Goose (*Chen rossii*); Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*); Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*); Tri-colored Heron (*Hydranasa tricolor*); Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*); Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*); Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*); White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*); White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*);

Bison (*Bison bison*); Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*); Loggerhead Turtle (*Caretta caretta*)

Written and compiled by: Kathryn Converse, Krysten Schuler - Western US, Grace McLaughlin, Mark Jankowski - Eastern US, and Jennifer Bradsky - Technician.

The Quarterly Wildlife Mortality Report is available at <http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov>. To report mortality or receive information about this report, contact the above NWHC staff, or for Hawaiian Islands contact Thierry Work. Phone: (608) 270-2400, FAX: (608) 270-2415 or e-mail: [kathy\\_converse@usgs.gov](mailto:kathy_converse@usgs.gov). USGS National Wildlife Health Center, 6006 Schroeder Road, Madison, WI, 53711.

## WDA SECTION NEWS

### NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN SECTION

#### The European Student Chapter of the Wildlife Disease Association

Are you a graduate or an undergraduate student interested in wildlife? Do you study veterinary medicine, biology or another study related to research and wildlife? Then why not join the EWDA Student Chapter! The objective of the chapter is to promote shared knowledge between established researchers and wildlife disease students, to connect people so international relationships can be formed and to enhance skills of wildlife disease students.

The *EWDA discussion E-list* ([http://groups.yahoo.com/subscribe/EWDA\\_discussion](http://groups.yahoo.com/subscribe/EWDA_discussion)) gives you the latest news about wildlife health and diseases, job opportunities and forms a platform to discuss hot wildlife topics. The *EWDA Student Workshop* offers a unique opportunity to meet renowned scientists, to extend your international network and learn about wildlife research in a special way. The *EWDA Electronic Journal Club* is just starting, but will become an up-to-date list of recent references on wildlife diseases and disease ecology as they get published in the literature. If you want to do more: become a *country representative*! They disseminate information about the EWDA Student Chapter to wildlife disease students in the representative's country and promote the involvement of wildlife disease students from their country in the EWDA Student Chapter activities.

**Whether you are undergraduate, MSc, PhD or post-doc, become a EWDA Student Chapter member!** Registration is free, and can be done at the student page of the EWDA ([www.ewda.org](http://www.ewda.org))

—Miriam Maas, *EWDA Student Representative* ([M.Maas3@students.uu.nl](mailto:M.Maas3@students.uu.nl))

#### The Belgian Wildlife Disease Society

The Belgian Wildlife Disease Society (BWDS) was established at the beginning of 2003 as a response to a national and international demand for better co-operation and a better communication in the field of wildlife disease study and surveillance. The main objectives of the BWDS are to promote research and to exchange information in the field of wildlife diseases in Belgium. Additional to the collection of basic information on wildlife diseases for the Belgian territory, these goals will be pursued by the monitoring of unusual wildlife mortalities and the surveillance of known pathogens and newly emerging diseases. The organisation also aims at advising the Belgian authorities about wildlife diseases in order to meet their obligations towards the OIE. Last but not least, the BWDS wants to constitute a forum and an information desk for anyone interested in wildlife diseases in Belgium, or trying to find answers to particular questions in this field.

The structure of the BWDS is that of a de-facto organisation, independent of any official or private institution, uniting scientists and practitioners from different disciplines. Though most of the founding members are veterinarians, the BWDS is open to biologists, ecologists, bio-engineers and others actively working in wildlife disease-related disciplines. It is believed, as a matter of fact, that a multidisciplinary approach is the key to a broad exchange of knowledge and the development of an efficient wildlife disease-monitoring network.

Anyone involved or interested in wildlife diseases in its broadest sense can become a member and will be informed of forthcoming meetings that will be organised at least once a year, often in connection with the more frequent board meetings. The board of directors and the general assembly will be re-elected every 4 years from among the regular members.

The first BWDS Symposium held on 26th November, 2005, focused on Emerging Diseases in Wildlife, a theme which is a source of growing international concern because of its ecological, zoonotic and veterinary implications. The large attendance including many professionals working in wildlife disease related areas proved the need of a co-ordinated structure for wildlife disease study and surveillance in Belgium.

In continuation of the first symposium, we are now organising a second edition, which will explore the ecology of wildlife diseases. The Symposium's chosen topics will represent concrete examples of complex interactions between wildlife diseases, environment and men and is to be held at the Queen Astrid Military Hospital in Brussels, Belgium on October 13, 2007. More information on the second BWDS symposium can be found on our website <http://wildlife.var.fgov.be> which will be updated regularly.

BWDS Board members: Paul Tavernier Paul Heyman Stefan Roels

**EWDA WEBSITE - [www.ewda.org](http://www.ewda.org)** Visit the EWDA website at [www.ewda.org](http://www.ewda.org) and find information on conferences, (in particular the September 2006 conference in Aosta, Italy) members' interests, publications and lots more. The website is kindly provided free of charge by the UK Central Science Laboratory. We are considering a new look for the site so if you have any further suggestions or material then please send them to [r.delahay@csl.gov.uk](mailto:r.delahay@csl.gov.uk).

Please mail, fax or e-mail submissions to, Paul Duff, VLA Diseases of Wildlife, VLA Penrith, Merrythought, Calthwaite, PENRITH, Cumbria, CA11 9RR, United Kingdom, *e-mail* p.duff@vla.defra.gsi.gov.uk *Fax* ++44(0)-1768-885314 /*phone* ++44(0)-1768-885295.

## NEWS FROM THE NORDIC SECTION

The WDA Nordic Section will hold its Annual meeting on Svalbard, June 25–28, 2007. Anyone interested in attending should contact Knut Madslie, knut.madslie@vetinst.no, for more information.

Information about Svalbard can be found on [www.svalbard.net](http://www.svalbard.net).

## NEWS FROM THE AUSTRALASIAN SECTION

### Chairperson's Report

Firstly, I want to note with great sadness the death of Anne Martin, our Secretary/Treasurer at the beginning of 2007. Anne Martin has been an enthusiastic and easily recognized member of the Australasian Section of the Wildlife Disease Association from her student days. Since then she has worked at the Adelaide Zoo and elsewhere, very keen to learn more about disease and the veterinary care of wildlife. Her energy and scientific interest in wildlife health has been apparent to all her colleagues. We will greatly miss her positive contributions. In September 2006 she became Secretary/Treasurer of the Australasian Section at our Naracoorte SA meeting. During these three months Anne made a significant contribution to the running of our Section and we are very grateful for her efforts. She was very honest with difficulties in her life and we admire the contributions she has made. Our thoughts are with her family, friends and colleagues. I am very grateful to Anne's WDA friends and colleagues for their thoughts and efforts to organize a very positive way in which we can recognize Anne's contributions and interest in wildlife diseases (see later). We also thank Maria Cardoso, our past Secretary/Treasurer for her work. Rupert Baker, Veterinarian at Healesville Sanctuary, has offered to take over the role of Secretary/Treasurer. We are very grateful to Rupert, and also very grateful to the others who offered to assist us. Paul Eden, Veterinarian at Perth Zoo, is Convener of the WDA-A 2007 meeting from Saturday 22– Friday 21 September at the Dryandra Woodland Village (<http://www.dryandravillage.org.au/>) 164km south-east of Perth, WA. Spring is the time to go to WA and this is our first WDA-A meeting in Western Australia. Paul is working on a great scientific program as this is an opportunity to invite a broad range of scientists from Perth and WA. Our WDA 'bush' meetings are always an outstanding way to get to know some part of the country with local experts. Families are also very welcome at our WDA-A meetings. The Australian Wildlife Health Network will be holding their AGM as part of this meeting, so it is also an excellent opportunity to be updated and contribute to the progress of the AWHN (<http://www.wildlifehealth.org.au/AWHN/home.aspx>). Shirley will be providing the catering, her 21st year WDAs!! We are also keen to invite colleagues from Asia, so please let Paul know if you have suggestions. Please consider booking your holidays and travel early!

–Pam Whiteley (WDA-A Chairperson)

**2006 Barry Munday Award.** Dr. Damien Higgins of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney was awarded The Barry L. Munday Recognition Award 2006. A shield in Tasmanian Celery-Top Pine was presented to his colleague, Dr Sue Hemsley, who received it on his behalf, at the dinner at Naracoorte. The proposal for the Award was as follows; Damien has a long and impressive history in the field of wildlife husbandry, clinical management, ecology, physiology, disease research and field based studies. He is currently an ARC Fellow in the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney, on a large ARC Linkage project "Treatment and prevention of Cryptococcosis and Chlamydiosis of koalas". In this project his responsibilities span from the pathogenesis of disease to the clinical management and formulation of practical management strategies as well as examination of the fundamental aspects of marsupial immunopathology. Moreover, in this position he provides significant leadership to 4 PhD students in basic marsupial immunology research as well as clinical management of naturally occurring disease. Since 1997 Damien has contributed 11 peer reviewed journal articles to the field of wildlife disease research (7 in the past 5 years). These articles range from chlamydiosis in koalas to chemical restraint in seals. In fact, he has published on aspects of disease and medicine in 6 wildlife species. During this time, he has also made significant contributions to marine mammal research and whale stranding management plans. It should be added that he undertook much of this research while acting as a veterinarian at Taronga Zoo, a consultant for the Australian Registry of Wildlife Pathology and an academic at the University of Sydney. Prior to the past 5 years, Damien has been a zoo veterinarian at Taronga Zoo and Curumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and before that in general veterinary practice as well as a field veterinarian with ANARE on several Antarctic expeditions. Dr Higgins is an outstanding emerging talent in the field of wildlife research and has exhibited sustained performance in the past 5 years. We strongly believe that he is deserving of an award such as this, recognizing excellence in this field. A special thanks to Tim McManus of Falmouth, Tasmania, for once again organising preparation of the shield.

–Dave Spratt (WDA-A Executive Member)

**WDA Australasian Section Conference 2007.** The 2007 WDA Australasian Section meeting will be held 22–29 September, 2007 at the Lions Dryandra Woodland Village in Western Australia, just 164 km south-east of Perth. It contains a number of threatened endangered Western Australian fauna, including the numbat, woylie, red-tailed phascogale and mallee fowl, and is also renowned for its wild flowers in the Spring. Dryandra Woodland also is an important part of the Western Australian Department of Environment and Conservation Western Shield Program, and houses an off limits captive breeding facility with breed-for-release populations of bilbies, rufus harewallabies and western barred bandicoots, to name a few. There are numerous walking trails through the park, as well as the Barna Mia sanctuary, where some of these endangered species may be spotted on a night walk. Due to the location of the conference and the many conservation programs occurring here, the theme for the conference this year is “**Health monitoring and disease investigation in population management and species recovery programs**”. We will attempt to hold at least one session revolving around the theme, however any talk relating to wild and captive non-domestic animals is welcome. In general, papers should be of 10 minutes duration, allowing 5 minutes for question time between papers. Audiovisual aids that will be made available will include a data projector and laptop computer. If other aids are required (eg an overhead projector, 35mm slide projector) please request them through the contact details below. All presenters are asked to submit a brief abstract or short description of their presentation, which will be included in the Conference Proceedings. To ensure these are available by the time of the conference it would be appreciated if these could be submitted by **31st July 2007**, although the sooner you can submit this the better! Limited accommodation is available on site (check out [www.dryandravillage.org.au](http://www.dryandravillage.org.au)). For those wishing to book alternative accommodation, search under Narrogin on [www.dryandratourism.org.au](http://www.dryandratourism.org.au) or [www.westernaustralia.com](http://www.westernaustralia.com). More details regarding the conference will be made available shortly. Until then, if you would like to indicate your interest in presenting a paper, please send your abstract to Maria Cardoso ([maria.cardoso@student.unsw.edu.au](mailto:maria.cardoso@student.unsw.edu.au)) or contact Paul Eden ([paul.eden@perthzoo.wa.gov.au](mailto:paul.eden@perthzoo.wa.gov.au) or at 08 9474 0404). Look forward to seeing you at Dryandra in September 2007!

–Paul Eden, *WA State Rep (WDA Australasian Section), Conference Convenor 2007*

## **WDA SECTION CHAIRS AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**African Section.** For information regarding the African Section, contact Elizabeth Wambwa, Kenya Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 40241, Nairobi, Kenya. Telephone: 254-2-504180; Fax: 254-2-505866; email: [ewambwa@yahoo.com](mailto:ewambwa@yahoo.com)

**Australasian Section.** For information regarding the Australasian Section, contact Pam Whiteley, 1 Brinsley Road, Camberwell, VIC 3124, Australia; Ph: 61-3-98825608; FAX: 61-3-98823054; Email: [pwhitele@bigpond.net.au](mailto:pwhitele@bigpond.net.au)

**European Section.** For information regarding the European Section, contact Dolores Gavier-Widén; Division of Wildlife Fish and Environment, SVA (National Veterinary Institute), SE 751 89 Uppsala, Sweden; Ph: 46-18-674-215; FAX: 46-18-30-91-62; Email: [dolores@sva.se](mailto:dolores@sva.se)

**Nordic Section.** For information regarding the Nordic Section, contact Eric Agren, Department of Wildlife, National Veterinary Institute, SE-751 89 Uppsala, SWEDEN, Telephone +46 18 67 40 00 Fax +46 18 30 91 62 or E-mail: [Erik.Agren@sva.se](mailto:Erik.Agren@sva.se).

**Wildlife Veterinarian Section.** For information regarding the Wildlife Veterinarian Section, contact Kirsten Gilardi, Wildlife Health Center, University of California Davis, CA 95616 USA. Telephone: 530-752-4896, FAX: 530-752-3318, email: [kvgilardi@ucdavis.edu](mailto:kvgilardi@ucdavis.edu).

## **JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Visit the JWD website at <http://www.wildlifedisease.org/Jobs.htm> for up to date job listings.

## **TRAINING/EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Visit the JWD website at <http://www.wildlifedisease.org/Training.htm> for more information on training opportunities.

**Dallas Zoo and Dallas Aquarium Veterinary Student Preceptorship.** A four to eight-week preceptorship offers exposure to clinical zoo and aquarium veterinary practice at a large metropolitan zoo. The student will work closely with the veterinary and keeper staff and receive an introduction to husbandry, restraint/immobilization, basic medical procedure techniques, and necropsies of zoo animals, the unique

aspects of veterinary management of animals in a zoo setting, and the MedARKS recordkeeping system. An onsite library is available for use. Responsibilities will be assigned based on the student's areas of interest and experience level. The student is expected to complete a project and present results to the veterinary staff, and will be responsible for local transportation, housing, and food. Applicants should be a fourth year veterinary student (or in final year of non-U.S. veterinary program) and have completed four weeks of a clinical medicine or surgery rotation before the start of the preceptorship. Negative tuberculin skin test within 60 days of the start of the preceptorship, current tetanus vaccination, and personal health insurance are required. Applicants should send a letter of intent, curriculum vitae, contact information for three references, and the name of their Zoo/Exotic Animal advisor to: Tim Storms, Associate Veterinarian at Dallas Zoo and Dallas Aquarium, 650 South R.L. Thornton Hwy., Dallas, Texas 75203-2996.

**Training Available in Fish Diagnostics, Inspections, and Laboratory Methods.** The US Fish and Wildlife Service Fish Health Centers provide laboratory and field examination services to the National Fish Hatcheries. Our main emphasis is to assist the hatcheries in producing quality fish that will contribute to the enhancement and restoration of aquatic ecosystems. At the Olympia and Idaho Fish Health Centers, the work may involve travel to field sites to perform diagnostic examinations and collect samples that are then evaluated in our laboratories. Routine testing procedures include bacteriology (biochemical, ELISA, and PCR methods), virology (cell culture, serological, and PCR methods), parasitology (microscopic and PCR methods), histology, and clinical chemistry. Training may be arranged for one day or several weeks at one or both of these laboratories depending on the interests and availability of the individual. In general, most broodstock inspections are performed from September through November, juvenile inspections are performed from January through April, and wild fish surveys are conducted from March through September. Routine diagnostic examinations are performed year round and special projects are conducted as time and necessity permit. For more information, please contact Joy Evered DVM, at the Olympia Fish Health Center; email [joy\\_evered@fws.gov](mailto:joy_evered@fws.gov) or Marilyn Blair DVM, at the Idaho Fish Health Center; email [marilyn.j.blair@fws.gov](mailto:marilyn.j.blair@fws.gov).

**Sr. Veterinary Student Preceptorship in Avian and Conservation Medicine.** A four to six-week preceptorship in Avian and Conservation Medicine is being offered to a senior-year veterinary student by the International Crane Foundation (ICF) in Baraboo, Wisconsin. The preceptor will train with the Veterinary Services Unit of the Conservation Services Department in all phases of the clinical practice, but have opportunities for interaction with the Crane Conservation Department to learn captive propagation, husbandry, and management of this unique family of birds. The preceptor can expect to gain practical experience in crane capture, transport, anesthesia, preventive medicine, disease surveillance, and the contribution of veterinary medicine to crane conservation including field project support and professional consultations. Preceptors are encouraged to complete and report on a research or laboratory project during their stay. Opportunities for visiting the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine and the National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, WI will be made available to interested preceptors. No stipend is available for this position; however, on-site housing in the ICF Guesthouse will be provided depending on availability at the time the preceptorship is scheduled. Applicants should send a cover letter, curriculum vitae, or resume and one letter of recommendation from a faculty member of their home institution to: Barry Hartup, DVM, Director of Veterinary Services, International Crane Foundation, E-11376 Shady Lane Road, Baraboo, WI 53913, email [hartup@savingcranes.org](mailto:hartup@savingcranes.org). Please view our website at [www.savingcranes.org](http://www.savingcranes.org).

**Directory of Post-Graduate Educational Opportunities in Zoo and Wildlife Medicine.** The World Association of Wildlife Veterinarians has recently produced a Directory of Post-Graduate Educational Opportunities in Zoo and Wildlife Medicine. The Directory covers opportunities in over fifty countries and is a must for veterinary students or graduates interested in furthering their careers in the field of wildlife medicine. For further information, please contact the Secretary of the WAWV at: [F.Scullion@zoo.co.uk](mailto:F.Scullion@zoo.co.uk).

## MEETING AND CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visit the JWD website at <http://www.wildlifedisease.org> for more conference listings.

**43rd International Symposium on Diseases of Zoo and Wild Animals. Edinburgh, UK. May 16–20, 2007.** On behalf of the exotic animal service at the University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh Zoo and the Leibniz Institute of Zoo and Wildlife Research (IZW) we are pleased to extend a very warm invitation to you to participate in its 43rd International Symposium on Diseases of Zoo and Wild animals (16th–20th of May 2007) in Edinburgh, UK. The focus of the Conference will be symposia on the following topics: 1. Advances in reproductive technology 2. Aquatic bird medicine and conservation 3. Neonatology - rearing and disease 4. Nocturnal animals -husbandry, disease and conservation 5. Infectious

disease of ungulates. The social program will allow delegates to sample the food, drink and culture and natural heritage of Scotland. For detailed conference information and registration: <http://www.vet.ed.ac.uk/news.htm>

**56th Annual Meeting of the Wildlife Disease Association. Estes Park, Colorado, USA. August 12–17, 2007.** The 56th Annual Meeting of the Wildlife Disease Association will be held August 12–17, 2007 at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado, USA (See WDA ACTIVITIES in this issue for details). Registration for the conference and YMCA lodging opens February 1, 2007. Early registration for the conference and YMCA lodging closes June 1, 2007. Deadline for abstracts submission is May 1, 2007. Online registration closes August 1, 2007. For more information visit: <http://wildlifedisease.org/2007.Conference/>.

**Second Symposium of the Belgian Wildlife Disease Society, Brussels, Belgium. October 13th, 2007.** The 2nd symposium of the Belgian Wildlife Disease Society will be held at the Queen Astrid Military Hospital in Brussels, Belgium on October 13, 2007. The symposium is focusing on Wildlife diseases, environment and man. In continuation of the first symposium in 2005, dealing with emerging diseases in wildlife, this second symposium will explore the ecology of wildlife diseases. There is also an opportunity to present posters on “wildlife diseases” in the broadest sense.

Deadline for abstracts is **June 30, 2007** and must be sent to Paul Heyman, [paul.heyman@mil.be](mailto:paul.heyman@mil.be). The symposium language will be English. The format for the abstracts can be found on our website, <http://wildlife.var.fgov.be/route.php> where you will find more details on the symposium speakers, topics, and venue as well. Deadline for registration is **October 1, 2007**. The BWDS is an independent non-profit working group, uniting scientists and practitioners in order to promote research and to exchange information in the field of wildlife diseases in Belgium. The BWDS is open to veterinarians, biologists, ecologists, bio-engineers, and others actively working in this field. See NEWS FROM EUROPE in this issue for more information on the BWDS.

**Annual conference of the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians. Knoxville, TN, USA. October 20–26, 2007.** The American Association of Zoo Veterinarians will hold its annual conference in conjunction with the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians and the Nutrition Advisory Group in Knoxville, Tennessee in October, 2007. Topics for sessions will include Anesthesia/Analgesia, Avian, Balancing Life and Zoo/Wildlife Medicine, Contraception/Reproduction, Carnivores/Small Mammals, Case Reports, Ectotherm Medicine, Emerging/Infectious Diseases, Large Mammals, Media Relations/Animal Rights/Animal Welfare and the Law, Nutrition, Pathology, Primates, Toxicology/Pharmacology/Therapeutics, and Wildlife Health and Conservation. A poster session, workshops and wet labs, and a Cutting Edge speaker will also be included. Those wishing to submit a title to be considered for presentation at this joint annual meeting are asked to complete a title submission form and e-mail, mail, or fax completed forms to the appropriate session chair. Session chairs and title forms are posted at <http://www.aazv.org>, and <http://www.aawv.net> and <http://nagonline.net>. **The deadline for submission of titles to session chairs is 16 February 2007.**

**Annual meeting of the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians. Knoxville, TN, USA. October 20–26, 2007.** The American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians will hold its annual meeting in conjunction with the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians in Knoxville, Tennessee during 20–26 October, 2007. The AAWV will be chairing sessions on Wildlife Health and Conservation (Dr. Jonathan Sleeman), Toxicology, Pharmacology and Therapeutics (Dr. Jim Sikarskie), as well as co-chairing sessions on Anesthesia and Analgesia (Dr. Bill Lance) and Emerging and Infectious Diseases (Dr. Terra Kelly). In addition, we will host a Chronic Wasting Disease Workshop, sponsor a Cutting Edge Speaker, and conduct our Annual Business Meeting. We encourage you to submit titles to be considered for presentation. This promises to be an excellent program, and a great opportunity to connect with colleagues from both organizations. If you have any questions about submitting a title or the forthcoming meeting, please do not hesitate to contact our Vice-President, Jonathan Sleeman ([jonathan.sleeman@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:jonathan.sleeman@dgif.virginia.gov)).

#### **Note from the Editor**

Send any items such as reports, meeting announcements, diagnostic riddles, position and grant announcements, or anything else deemed appropriate for the Supplement to the Journal of Wildlife Diseases or the WDA website, to Pauline Nol (Supplement Editor) at USDA/APHIS, National Wildlife Research Center, 4101 LaPorte Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80521 USA, Ph: (970) 266-6126, Fax: (970) 266-6157, Email: [pauline.nol@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:pauline.nol@aphis.usda.gov), or Michael Ziccardi (Website Editor) at Wildlife Health Center, University of California, Davis, CA, 95616, USA, Ph: (530) 754-5701, Fax: (530) 752-3318, Email: [mhziccardi@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mhziccardi@ucdavis.edu). Files in Microsoft Word sent electronically or via disk are preferred, though submissions in any form are welcome. **MANY THANKS!**

—Pauline