



## Message from the President



A new year brings joy and hope.

The joy of working in the exciting field of wildlife, communicating with more than 1300 members globally, exchanging knowledge and experience. All WDA members together form a unique body of wildlife disease excellence in the world, which comprises numerous disciplines, animal species and conditions; I am proud

and happy to be part of it.

The hope that with our work, WDA members will make a difference in wild animal health and conservation worldwide, despite the many challenges and difficulties, for example those increasingly posed by the ecological threats of modernization.

As the New Year starts, I look back at 2011 and see the good results of the work of our past president, officers, council, editors and committee members. I see the founding of the new Latin American section and the warm welcome it received from so many WDA members. I see the fantastic WDA conference in beautiful Quebec. I see the improvement of the Journal of Wildlife Diseases, its impact factor, quality and popularity increasing

rapidly. Looking farther back in time, in the past years and decades, I see the footprints left by our past executive manager, officers, council and all the dedicated members who with their work and commitment built the foundation and developed WDA. I see the stable economy of the association which is the result of the cautious and clever administration through the years. This allows WDA to keep low membership fees, to give fine and much appreciated awards, and among other things, to support the JWD, geographical sections and student activities. My sincere thanks go to all of you who contributed to the work and development of WDA.

2012 will be an exciting year for WDA. Communication and access to information are essential to our network, therefore improvements on electronic communication, on the website and the Journal of Wildlife Diseases will be priorities. Efforts will be made to increase the number of members. WDA members will receive more new benefits, value added features for which our executive manager, among others, worked very hard. Fund-raising will be promoted. The prospects for the 2012 annual conference, which will take place in Lyon, France, together with the European section and will be very student-friendly, are excellent. We have a very good year ahead of us.

WDA members, I invite you all to get more involved and like me, to feel proud of belonging to WDA. Enjoy communicating with other members in the friendly and informal environment that WDA offers, working together for our mission.

Have a happy New Year full of joy and hope,

*Dolores*

Dolores Gavier-Widén, president of WDA

### Inside this issue

WDA News	2
WDA Section News	4
WDA Students	7
News From the Field	10
Training, Education and Employment Opportunities	12
Meetings and Conferences	13

## Call for Nominations for the Emeritus Award and the Addison Distinguished Service Award

*By Dave Edmunds*

The WDA awards committee is seeking nominations for the Addison Distinguished Service Award and the Emeritus Award. This is your opportunity to help us provide recognition to deserving WDA members. Below is some information about these two awards; a list of past recipients can be found at (<http://www.wildlifedisease.org>). Just click on the "About Us" tab and look under "Awards and Recognition."

Please take a few minutes from your busy schedule to consider potential nominees for these very important awards.

The Addison Distinguished Service (DS) Award is the highest award of the WDA. The purpose of the DS Award is to honor a WDA member of long standing who, by his/her outstanding accomplishments in research, teaching, and other activities, including participation in WDA affairs, has made a noteworthy contribution furthering the aims of the WDA.

The Emeritus Award confers Emeritus status, an honorary category of membership, to members of the WDA who have retired from their profession and who, in the opinion of Council, have contributed significantly to the study of wildlife diseases. Emeritus Award recipients will be considered full voting members who receive the Journal of Wildlife Diseases without further payment of dues.

**Nominations, including a CV, should be sent to: Dave Edmunds ([Edmunds@uwyo.edu](mailto:Edmunds@uwyo.edu)) or any awards committee member by MARCH 15, 2012.**

The other awards committee members include: Ted Leighton ([ted.leighton@usask.ca](mailto:ted.leighton@usask.ca)), Lee Skerratt ([lee.skerratt@jcu.edu.au](mailto:lee.skerratt@jcu.edu.au)), Gerardo Suzan ([Gerardosuz@gmail.com](mailto:Gerardosuz@gmail.com)), Christy Wyckoff ([acwyckoff@gmail.com](mailto:acwyckoff@gmail.com)), and Becki Lawson ([Becki.Lawson@ioz.ac.uk](mailto:Becki.Lawson@ioz.ac.uk)).

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) about WDA Sections

*By Dave Jessup and Thierry Work*

The WDA Constitution and Bylaws state that formation of a Section can be proposed by a group of no less than 10 WDA members. Sections must have a unifying common interest or geography, be open to all WDA members who share that interest or geography, have popularly elected officers, regular sectional meetings, and abide by the WDA Constitution and Bylaws. WDA Council has the ultimate authority to review applications and grant Section status.

Currently WDA has four geographic based sections, Australasian (WDA-A), European (EWDA), Latin/South American (WDA-LSA), and Nordic (NWDA), and one interest based section, Wildlife Veterinary (WVS). The approximate respective numbers of years in existence are 34, 22, 1, 27 and 30. An African section was formed in the late 1980's and reformed as an Africa/Mid-East Section in 2001-02, but is currently not active. Prior to rise of the current Sections in 1980-90's, they were based on species management interests like waterfowl and big game.

**How is it determined what Section a member is in ?** It depends. For the geographic sections, membership is determined by your address and email location in the WDA membership directory. For the Wildlife Veterinary Section (WVS), members with those interests may join, but no one is automatically assigned to it.

**Do I have to be a member of my geographic Section ?** Although geographic section membership occurs by default at no cost to you based on your WDA membership address, you can opt to not be a member of your geographic Section by notifying that Section's chair and/or unsubscribing to any electronic newsletter provided by the Section.

**If I belong to a geographic Section, does that Section benefit ?** Yes. Currently, WDA provides a \$15.00 rebate to each Section for all classes of membership. These funds can be used for the benefit of its members and in support of Section activities. **Note:** The Australasian Section has a voluntary donation check off that is included in the renewal materials that also provides some additional Section revenue.

**Can a member belong to more than one Section ?** Yes, under some circumstances. But only the geographic Section in which the member resides will receive the rebate for that member. By the actions of Council and from a practical standpoint, membership in geographic sections is defined by residence as it is listed in the WDA directory, and individually directing a members rebate to another section can not be accommodated.

For example, currently, if an EWDA member, or a WDA-WVS member in Canada or the USA wanted to also be a member of the Australasian Section, maybe to get their newsletter and keep up contacts, if they asked for and were granted permission, and paid the WDA-A voluntary dues (on the membership renewal check off form), they could become an Australasian Section member. Several people outside Australasia have chosen to do this. Other Sections have not yet defined how they might handle requests for membership from outside their geographic area.

**What about the Wildlife Veterinary Section (WVS) ?** This Section is defined by professional interest rather than geography. It does not get rebates for its members from WDA. It is in the process of reforming and may choose to have a voluntary check off fee or another way of raising Section funds. Currently many members of the WVS are members of geographic Sections too.



## Reform of the Wildlife Veterinary Section (WVS) of the Wildlife Disease Association (WDA)

When the WVS was formed about 30 years ago there were only 4 WDA Sections including Big Game, Waterfowl, Upland Game, and the newly formed Australasian Section. The American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians (AAWV), established in 1979 under the auspices of AVMA, was alone in representing the interests of veterinarians working on free-ranging wildlife (comprising only a few dozen individuals in North America at the time). There were no European or Canadian Association(s) of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians, no World Association of Wildlife Veterinarians, and the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians didn't interact with WDA, or have a significant wildlife component. Thus, the AAWV asked to be allowed to form and run a WVS within WDA, Council approved, and AAWV modified its Constitution to include management of the WVS. AAWV provided the funding for WVS activities.

Much has changed in 3 decades. Species and management based Sections have disappeared, and more wildlife veterinarians comprise a higher percentage of WDA's membership. WDA has also grown from a predominantly 90% North American association to one that now has about 40% of its members originating from Australasia, Europe, Latin America, and Asia reflected by several newer geographic WDA Sections (Nordic, European, and Latin/South American).

The WDA Constitution and Bylaws state that sections must, among other things, be open to all members who share a common interest or geography and have popularly elected officers that are members of WDA. Having a WVS section governed by AAWV officers is not in line with WDA's governing documents nor does it reflect WDA's international membership, hence the need to reform the WVS.

A joint WDA and AAWV committee of 8 members worked on this issue for several years and came up with a mutually agreed upon set of solutions. Veterinary medicine and its application to free-ranging



# WDA News

wildlife will remain the common interest of the WVS, and all WDA members sharing this interest can help organize and run this Section. All WDA members, who are veterinarians or involved in the application of veterinary science to wildlife, regardless of nationality, will be encouraged to join and participate in the Section, and run for leadership posts, should they wish. Elections should result in an independent slate of officers that reflects the WVS membership in WDA, and will allow it to operate in accordance with WDA bylaws. These reforms will take place during the first 9 months of 2012.

## WDA Section News

### WDA Australasia

*By Jenny McLelland*

Following our annual general meeting at last year's conference we have welcomed Tash Czarny, a PhD graduate and now second year veterinary student onto our executive as our student representative; Andrea Reiss as our chairperson elect and Jasmin Hufschmid as our new secretary. We would like to thank Michael Lynch our outgoing secretary for all his hard work over the last couple of years. Tasha looks forward to working with the student activities committee to represent the interests of Australasian students. Part of Jasmin's role is to welcoming new members and to ensure that those from outside Australasia who join the section via the donation to section are added to our membership list and receive member mailouts, access to our listserve etc. If anyone who has done this and has not heard from us, please contact Jasmin at [huj@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:huj@unimelb.edu.au).



Recently we have been talking with members in In-

donesia and Vietnam about ways we can increase our involvement in the area and increase the accessibility of WDA to our South-East Asian colleagues. Currently this is working well using social networking (search facebook for WDA Australasia, Indonesia group) and we are discussing ways to financially support conference attendance.

Section activities are pretty quiet over our summer period during the university holidays, but after the break, seminars and talks at the universities will resume. If anyone is visiting Australia or New Zealand and is interested in sharing some knowledge or experiences, please let us know.

Several NZ members have been involved in the Rena oilspill in Tauranga, New Zealand (visit [http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/about-massey/news/article.cfm?mnarticle\\_uuid=DA732273-E9F3-017D-6A26-06AFE8ADAA0A](http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/about-massey/news/article.cfm?mnarticle_uuid=DA732273-E9F3-017D-6A26-06AFE8ADAA0A) for a recent media release). We look forward to an article about the spill in a future newsletter.

Late last year Jenna Donley, a young woman known to many in our section, was killed by a pygmy elephant on a post-exam trip to Malaysia. Jenna, a very high achieving veterinary student just completed her final year of veterinary science at Sydney University including an honours project on chronic renal failure in big cats. She was a passionate and vibrant person who was already contributing to the field of wildlife medicine as a young student. She has visited a lot of the zoo's in Australia on work experience as well as attended the WDA conference in Tasmania in 2010 and has met and been mentored by many of our members. Young people like Jenna are rare and it is a sad loss to our profession as well as to her friends and family. Her partner Matt Izzo has kindly written an obituary for inclusion in this newsletter.

This year's conference will be in South-East Queensland, towards the end of September. Information will be posted on the WDA website once dates and location are confirmed. We hope some of you will make it to enjoy Shirley's food, our company and of course some fabulous presentations!

# WDA Section News

## Obituary— Dr. Jenna Donley BVSc (HONS1)

19<sup>th</sup> July 1986 -7<sup>th</sup> December 2011

The profession lost one of its brightest upcoming stars when Jenna was fatally attacked by a pygmy elephant in the Tabin Wildlife Reserve, Borneo while on a guided walk in early December, 2011.

Like many, Jenna's goal to become a veterinarian was established at a very young age and there was nothing that was going to stop her from realising that dream. Jenna did not achieve the marks to enter the veterinary degree straight from school so enrolled in an animal science course. Jenna excelled in the first year of this course which enabled her to achieve a



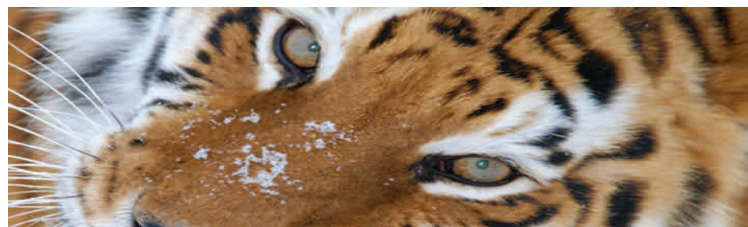
full-fee paying position in veterinary science. In order to pay for her dream, Jenna deferred for one year and proceeded to work three jobs in order to save the money required. After only two years of the veterinary science degree, Jenna's marks earned her a government funded position in the course.

Jenna was an outstanding student, a multiple Dean's list prize winner, who was to receive first class honours as well as the prestigious University medal on her graduation day. Unfortunately, she was not able to formally accept the prizes she deserved but I personally had assured her on many occasions that she was going to receive them.

Jenna's main passion in veterinary science was the health and conservation of wildlife, in particular, 'big cats'. In her final year she completed an honours project setting the groundwork for investigations into chronic renal disease in non-domestic felids which is

a common cause of morbidity and mortality in these captive animals. Jenna's honours focused on the clinical records of felids residing at Taronga and Western Plains Zoos over the last thirty years to determine the prevalence, type and clinical course of renal disease. In true Jenna style, the final paper was only supposed to be approximately 5,000 words but her submission was a 25,000 word thesis which would have rivalled many masters' thesis. Jenna won the Morris Animal Foundation Student Scholarship, an internationally competitive scholarship, and was to present her research findings in Florida, USA in March 2012. A shortened version of Jenna's research has been submitted to the *Journal of Wildlife Medicine*. Jenna had accepted a position in a large animal clinic in Victoria but had already planned to continue the research by undertaking a PhD in the not too distant future.

Jenna will not only be missed as a veterinarian but also a friend to many. Jenna had an infectious personality which made many people smile and her compassion towards her family, friends and strangers alike was unrivalled. Many of us were fortunate to have known Jenna, and even though she was only on this earth for a brief period, her influence on all of our lives will last for a long time.



A memorial fund has been established by the University of Sydney to continue Jenna's research into chronic renal disease. For all those who would like to make a gift, they can download the form at: [sydney.edu.au/supportsydney/how/memorial\\_gifts](http://sydney.edu.au/supportsydney/how/memorial_gifts)

Dr Matthew Izzo (Jenna's loving partner)  
BVSc (HONS1) MVetClinStud MANZCVS (Dairy Medicine)



# WDA Committees

WDA thanks the chairs and members of it's 2011-12 Committees, their work on behalf of the membership is greatly appreciated!

## Executive Manager Review

Lynn Creekmore (chair)  
Laurie Baeten  
Scott Wright  
Tonie Rocke  
Charles van Riper

Tom DeLiberto

Joe Gaydos  
Colin Gillin  
Mike Miller

## Awards

Dave Edmunds (chair)  
Ted Leighton  
Lee F. Skerratt  
Gerardo Suzan  
Christy Wyckoff  
Becki Lawson

## Time and Place

Thierry Work (chair)  
Ed Addison  
Marc Artois  
Philippe Berny  
Pat Klein  
Stephane Lair  
Lena Measures  
Deb Miller  
Sarah Willard-Eroh  
Lauren Maestas

## Information

Shelli Dubay (chair)  
Renee Carleton  
Josh Dein  
Leslie Reperant  
Karrie Rose

## Nominations

Lynn Creekmore (chair)  
Ed Addison  
Jane Harms  
Terra Kelly  
Margo Pybus  
Charles van Riper  
Pam Whiteley

## International

Ignasi Marco (chair)  
Anne-lise Chaber  
Elena Garde  
Stephanie Godfrey  
Morten Tryland  
Peter van Tulden

## Endowment & New Funds

Tom Yuill (chair)  
Bill Karesh  
Krista Jones  
Steven van Beurden  
Charles Van Riper

## Membership & Promotions

Lisa Shender (chair)  
Walt Cook  
Alan Fedynich  
Rick Gerhold  
Debra McCauley  
Michelle Verant  
David Bergman

## JWD Endowment

Anne Fairbrother (chair)  
Patti Bright

## Student Awards

Emi Saito (chair)  
Justin Brown  
Ezio Ferroglio  
Peter Holz  
Kevin Keel  
Ignasi Marco  
Jolianne Rijks  
Marie-Pierre Ryser  
Ivan Vickovic

## Student Activities

Jane Harms (chair)  
Samantha Allen  
Carlos Das Neves  
Stacey Elmore  
Heather Fenton  
Rick Gerhold  
Frances Gulland  
Terra Kelly  
Mark Ruder

## Budget & Audit

Laurie Baeten (chair)  
Ed Addison  
Dolores Gavier-Widen  
Dave Jessup  
Carol Meteyer  
Jim Mills  
Tom Yuill

## Audit

Mike Ziccardi (chair)  
Carol Meteyer  
Paul Barrows  
Julia Burco

## Public Awareness

Ian Barker (chair)  
Tonie Rocke  
Jacques Godfroid  
Ted Leighton  
Kristin Mansfield  
Lyndel Post (AU)  
Marcela Uhart

## Wildlife Veterinary Section

Colin Gillin (chair)  
Ed Addison  
Lynn Creekmore  
Jonathan Sleeman  
Pam Whiteley  
Thierry Work  
Tom Yuill  
Dave Jessup

## Teller

Peri Wolff (chair)  
Pauline Nol  
Nelson Marreros  
Judit Smit  
Cindy Driscoll  
Steven van Buerden

## Tom & Beth

Dolores Gavier-Widen (chair)  
Colin Gillin  
Hank Edwards  
Michael Kock  
Helen Schwantje  
John Fischer

# Student News

Photos from the 60th Annual International Conference of the Wildlife Disease Association, held in Quebec City, 2011, are now posted on the WDA website, check it out!

[http://www.wildlivedisease.org/wda\\_2011\\_conference\\_photo.shtml](http://www.wildlivedisease.org/wda_2011_conference_photo.shtml)

Here we highlight the shining stars of the student competitions...



Wildlife Disease Graduate Student Research Recognition Award

**Stacie Robinson**



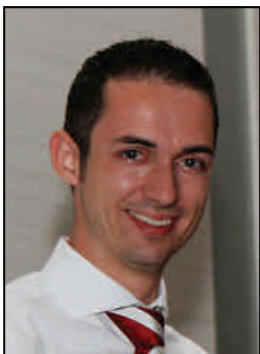
WDA Student Poster Competition

**Samantha Allen**



Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award

**Caroline van Hemert**



Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award

**Steven van Beurden**



Wildlife Disease Association Scholarship

**Shamus Keeler**



WDA Student Poster Competition

Honorable Mention

**Jesus Palomino**



Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award

Honorable Mention

**Lisa Werden**

# Student Awards Competition



## 2012 WDA/EWDA STUDENT AWARDS COMPETITION

The 2012 WDA/EWDA Joint Conference will  
be in Lyon, France (July 22-27, 2012)!



The Wildlife Disease Association (WDA) annually offers four student awards. In addition, the European WDA (EWDA) is offering a student travel award for the 2012 joint meeting! Students are encouraged to compete for the following awards:

### 1. WDA Graduate Student Research Recognition Award:

This award is given to the student judged to have the best research project in the field of wildlife health or disease. The winner receives up to \$5,000 US to cover travel, housing, registration, and similar expenses related to the conference. The student will be the keynote speaker during the student presentation session at the conference.

### 2. WDA Graduate Student Scholarship Award:

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.

### 3. WDA Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award:

This award acknowledges outstanding oral presentation of research findings at the annual WDA conference. The winner receives \$250 US.

### 4. WDA Student Poster Award:

This award goes to the best student poster detailing a wildlife disease or wildlife health research project presented at the annual WDA conference. The winner receives \$250 US.

### 5. EWDA Student Travel Award:

A maximum of four suitable students will be awarded 250 euro each.

**\*\*\*PLEASE SEE**

<http://www.wildlifedisease.org/document/general/WDAStudentAwardsCompetition2012.pdf>

**for detailed instructions on how to apply and to read about the criteria for each award.\*\*\***

Applicants for the WDA awards must be student members of the WDA at the time applications or abstracts are received. Information about WDA student membership can be found at:

[https://timssnet2.allenpress.com/ECOMWDAS/timssnet/memberships/tnt\\_membership.cfm](https://timssnet2.allenpress.com/ECOMWDAS/timssnet/memberships/tnt_membership.cfm).

Applicants for the WDA Graduate Student Research Recognition Award and WDA Graduate Student Scholarship Award must be pursuing an advanced (graduate) degree at the time of application. All four WDA awards are non-renewable, and each award may be received only once by a given candidate.

Please direct inquiries to:

**WDA Awards:** Dr. Emi K. Sato, Chair WDA Student Awards Committee, [Emi.K.Saito@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Emi.K.Saito@aphis.usda.gov)

**EWDA Student Travel Awards:** Dr. Ignasi Marco, EWDA Board, Student Activities, [Ignasi.Marco@uab.cat](mailto:Ignasi.Marco@uab.cat)



# Student Chapters

## WDA Student Activities and New Student Chapters

*By Jane Harms*

*WDA Student Representative on Council*

Welcome to 2012! The New Year brings more exciting news regarding recent additions and changes to the WDA student chapters, as well as a number of new and upcoming ventures by our Student Activities Committee. To start, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our three new student chapters, the Student Chapter of the Wildlife Disease Association at The University of Guelph, located in Guelph, Ontario, the Atlantic Veterinary College Student Chapter, in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, and the University of Florida Student Chapter of the Wildlife Disease Association in Gainesville, Florida. As always it is wonderful to see new chapters created by enthusiastic and hard-working students, and we look forward to working with you in the future! Along with the addition of these new chapters, the student chapter at the University of Saskatchewan has been recently revitalized by keen students and mentors (see photo), and has already hosted several exciting events for students interested in wildlife health and disease issues. The new chapters join established student chapters based at Colorado State University, Texas A & M University, University of Arizona, Oregon State University, University of Georgia, University of Tennessee, and the European WDA student chapter. The creation, growth, and development of so many WDA student chapters in 2011 has been fantastic, and we hope to see the continued expansion in the coming year. Over the past year, a number of student chapters have also elected new officers, and these details, along with the events and presentations hosted by the student chapters, can be found on the student section of the WDA website.

Student chapters are an important part of the WDA parent organisation, as chapter members and executives share their interest in wildlife health issues with other students at their institutions, and introduce students to the WDA. WDA student chapter goals include educating students about wildlife health profession and career oppor-

tunities and education, externships, volunteer, and research opportunities; enhancing the skills of students interested in wildlife health and disease through lectures, workshops, conferences, and field trips; and connecting students interested in wildlife health and disease to mentors in WDA through faculty advisors and guest lecturers. If you are interested in joining or starting a student chapter or if you would like some more information on what our chapters are up to, please visit the WDA website and look under the "Students" tab, or email me.



The 2011-2012 executive committee for the University of Saskatchewan WDA Student Chapter: In the back from left to right Molly Patterson, Cheri Dugal, Ryan Brook. In the front from left to right Jane Harms, Ted Leighton, and Stacey Elmore. Absent is Jenna Molotsky.

The 2010-2011 Student Activities Committee (SAC) continued their hard work throughout this past year. The committee set up and maintained a new WDA student Facebook group site, planned several well-attended student activities at the WDA Annual Conference in Quebec City, and worked on ways to attract new student members to the WDA. Additionally, the SAC, along with the WDA council, was able to finalize a WDA student chapter funding opportunity for all student chapters. Creating this funding opportunity required much time and effort on the part of the SAC and

# Student Chapters

council members, and we are very happy to be able to support WDA students with this new initiative. Congratulations to the University of Tennessee WDA student chapter and the Colorado State University WDA Student Chapter on receiving funding from this initiative! Current and prospective student chapters can access the application for the 2012 funding opportunity soon, and can email me for more information.

In closing, I would like to take the opportunity to encourage students interested in wildlife health and disease issues to become members of the WDA. Student membership in WDA is an incredible deal - benefits include joining an international, multidisciplinary group of scientists who will be mentors, colleagues, and friends, access to online and hard copy of the Journal of Wildlife Diseases, reduced registration fees for the annual conference, quarterly newsletters, and much much more. Please think about joining today!

## News from the field

### USGS National Wildlife Health Center Mortality Report

By Barbara Bodenstein

#### Avian Botulism Type C throughout the U.S.

Late summer and early fall represents the peak period for avian botulism events and in 2011 botulism type C events were confirmed or suspected in all four migratory bird flyways.

In the Atlantic Flyway, botulism type C was the suspect cause of death for a mortality event in Orange County, Florida involving approximately 50 resident Muscovy Ducks (*Cairina moschata*).

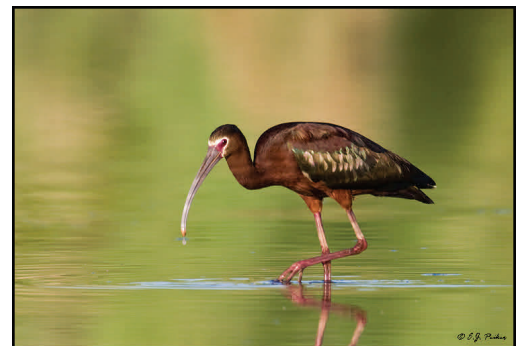
In the Mississippi Flyway, mortality associated with botulism type C affected around 400 birds, with most of the events occurring in community ponds and retention areas and affecting primarily Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*).

The deaths associated with type C botulism were much higher in the Central Flyway which had almost 3,000 bird deaths, primarily in waterfowl species. The largest event in this flyway occurred at Blue Blanket Lake, Walworth County, South Dakota where over 1,000 Redheads (*Aythya americana*), Gadwalls (*Anas strepera*), Blue-wing Teal (*Anas discors*), Mallards and American Coots (*Fulica americana*) were affected.

In the Pacific Flyway, ten confirmed avian botulism events were investigated by the USGS National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) and partnering agencies in Arizona, California, Nevada and Oregon. In addition, several mortality events in Utah and California were suspected to be avian botulism type C. Mortalities involved less than 200 birds per event with the exception of an event that occurred in Nevada on private land near Carson Lake State Wetland Complex and Fallon and Stillwater National Wildlife Refuges. Due to the flooding of vegetated fields during hot weather, conditions at this location were favorable for botulism. This was the largest reported botulism event in the country this year and involved an estimated 3,000 waterfowl and shorebirds of various species.

In consultation with NWHC, Nevada Division of Wildlife and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists were able to respond and provide daily

carcass pick up and disease management activities to mitigate the extent of this die-off. Disease management activities were essential since the location of the mortality was within two miles of a migratory staging area for over 80,000 additional waterfowl and shorebirds. One of the species most affected early in the mortality event were White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*).



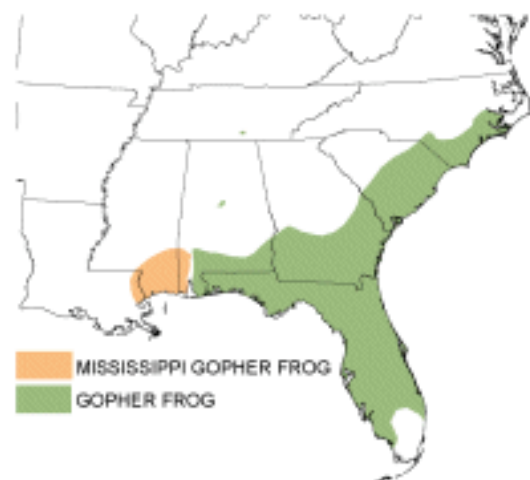
## Avian botulism Type E in the Great Lakes Region

Avian botulism type E mortality events, which are typically confined to the Great Lakes in the United States, were confirmed on Lake Ontario (Monroe and Wayne Counties, New York), northern Lake Erie, southeastern Georgian Bay on Lake Huron, and on Lake Michigan (Door County, Wisconsin and Leelanau County, Michigan). The botulism-confirmed mortality events on Lake Michigan were much larger than those reported on Lake Ontario; however, active surveillance for bird mortalities is conducted on Lake Michigan by Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore volunteers and USGS Avian Monitoring for Botulism Lakeshore Events Program (AMBLE) volunteers. The largest mortality event occurred at Lake Huron beginning in August, and affected fish (mostly sturgeon) and later birds. Avian mortalities occurred between September and October with an estimated total mortality of 3,000-8,000 birds: affected species included Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*), Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*), Common Loons (*Gavia immer*), Red-necked Grebes (*Podiceps grise-gena*), Long-tailed Ducks (*Clangula hyemalis*), and White-winged Scoters (*Melanitta fusca*). Reporting agencies include National Wildlife Health Center, Cornell University, and Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Center.

## Mortality in captive Mississippi Gopher Frog larvae (Harrison County, Mississippi)

In September, the USGS National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) was contacted for assistance with an overnight mortality event involving approximately 2,400 newly hatched endangered larval Mississippi Gopher Frogs (*Rana sevosa*). The tadpoles originated from portions of several egg masses that had been collected one week earlier from a single natural pond for captive propagation. No natural mortality among adults or egg masses

was observed at the pond at the time of collection. NWHC received representative specimens from each egg mass for diagnostic evaluation. Notable abnormalities in the 1-2 mm sized hatchlings from two egg masses included the presence of blisters and fluid accumulation in the skin and tails. Many of the tadpoles also had oddly curled tail tips. It could not be determined if these lesions occurred before death or represent post-mortem artifact. In addition, some of the tadpoles appeared too underdeveloped to have hatched under normal conditions, suggesting that some of the eggs might have prematurely burst open releasing the tadpoles. The cause of mortality is still under investigation although adverse husbandry conditions, such as exposure to acidified water, are one possible explanation for these findings. No fungi were observed and no viruses were isolated from pooled samples. Mississippi Gopher Frogs, a federally-listed species since 2004, currently number less than 100 adults in two isolated populations in southern Mississippi. An undescribed systemic Perkinsus-like protozoan infection and chytridiomycosis are known disease threats to the remaining population, as is predation of egg masses by Caddisfly larvae and snakes.



<http://www.conservationsoutheast.com/infogf.htm>

For the full NWHC quarterly mortality report, please see [http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/publications/quarterly\\_reports/index.jsp](http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/publications/quarterly_reports/index.jsp)



# Training, Education, Employment

## Graduate Student Positions in Muskox Disease Ecology, Epidemiology and Public Health

Department of Ecosystem and Public Health,  
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of  
Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

**Project:** Positions are available for two graduate students, MSc and PhD, to study muskox disease ecology, epidemiology and public health starting September 2012 in the Department of Ecosystem and Public Health at the University of Calgary. The Principal Investigators are Drs. Sylvia Checkley and Susan Kutz (Department of Ecosystem and Public Health, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine) working in collaboration with researchers from the Government of Nunavut and the Government of the Northwest Territories. A stipend of \$20 000 Canadian will be available with potential for more funding.

**Qualifications:** We seek two self-motivated, industrious person to begin a Master's and PhD graduate programs starting Fall 2012. Experience and demonstrated interest in wildlife conservation or medicine and northern studies is essential, as is the ability to work cooperatively with a multidisciplinary group is essential. For the MSc position, applicants should have a BSc or similar degree; for the PhD position, the applicant should have an MSc in epidemiology, wildlife ecology, or related field. A DVM degree may be an asset but is not required.

**Start date:** September 1, 2012

**Application Deadline:** Feb 1, 2012, or until suitable applicants are identified.

**Application:** Send a letter of introduction describing research interests and experience, a current CV, an unofficial copy of transcripts, and 3 references to Dr. Sylvia Checkley, Department of Ecosystem and Public Health, University of Calgary, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. Phone: (403) 210-7409 Fax: (403) 210-9740, Email: [sylvia.checkley@ucalgary.ca](mailto:sylvia.checkley@ucalgary.ca).

**Further Information:** Please review our web pages at - <http://vet.ucalgary.ca/>, <http://vet.ucalgary.ca/profiles/sylvia-checkley>, <http://people.ucalgary.ca/~jinvik/Kutz.html>. You may also contact Dr. Checkley for further information.



## Master of Science in Conservation Medicine Degree Program

Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine,  
North Grafton, MA. 01536 USA

The continued emergence of new diseases from wild animals, the effects of human activities on endangered species, and the impact of climate change on biodiversity are just a few of the topics to be examined in a new and novel Master of Science in Conservation Medicine degree program at Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine. The MS in Conservation Medicine is designed to prepare students from varied backgrounds for a career in conservation medicine.

Tufts University's program in Conservation Medicine is an intensive 12-month professional master's degree, which will build upon the expertise each student brings to the program. It is designed to provide graduates with foundational knowledge in the various contributing fields of conservation medicine, and develop their team building, organizational and leadership skills necessary for successful implementation of real world conservation efforts.

Since many disciplines are involved in conservation medicine, the MS in Conservation Medicine seeks a diversity of backgrounds, including; natural and social scientists, veterinarians, engineers, public health and medical professionals, epidemiologists, lawyers, policy and wildlife professionals, and others interested in applying their expertise to conservation medicine issues.

# Training, Education, Employment

## **Master of Science in Conservation Medicine Degree Program (continued from previous page)**

**Deadline for applications is 1 April 2011.** Classes start in the Fall.

For more information and to apply on-line visit our program website at:

<http://www.tufts.edu/vet/mcm/>

Learn more about Tufts Center for Conservation Medicine at:

<http://www.tufts.edu/vet/ccm/>

## **Full-time Wildlife Veterinarian**

### **New England Wildlife Center, South Weymouth, Massachusetts**

This posting has been extended to January 20th, 2012. Please see full posting at [http://](http://www.wildlifedisease.org/opportunity_position.shtml?pick=10)

[www.wildlifedisease.org/opportunity\\_position.shtml?pick=10](http://www.wildlifedisease.org/opportunity_position.shtml?pick=10)

**Workshop for Wildlife Health Professionals**, 21-22 February, 2012 presented by the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Center and held at the Calgary Zoo, Calgary, Alberta. The registration form can be found at: <http://www.wildtechproject.com/wildlistattachments/regform.pdf>



**Wildlife Pathology Short Course**, 13-18 February, 2012 presented by the Australian Registry of Wildlife Health and held in Sydney, Australia. The course program and registration forms are available to download from the website: [www.arwh.org](http://www.arwh.org) or by contacting the Registry at [arwh@zoo.nsw.gov.au](mailto:arwh@zoo.nsw.gov.au).

# Meetings and Conferences



**8<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Avian Influenza**, April 1-4, 2012, to be held at Royal Holloway, University of London, United Kingdom. Conference details can be found at [http://vla.defra.gov.uk/news/new\\_isai12.htm](http://vla.defra.gov.uk/news/new_isai12.htm)

## **The Society for Wildlife Forensic Science triennial meeting**

May 21-25, 2012 in Jackson Hole, WY. Veterinarians, students, and other scientists involved or interested in the field of wildlife forensics are invited to take part in the conference which includes a workshop on veterinary forensic pathology. US Fish and Wildlife Service pathologists will guide you through the law enforcement aspects, techniques, tools, and common findings encountered in a veterinary forensic pathology investigation. Other workshop topics will include crime scene investigation, forensic DNA analysis, and species identification by chemical analysis. Visit our website for more information on the conference and on becoming a member of SWFS: <http://www.wildlifeformenscience.org/events/swfs-meeting/>.



# Meetings and Conferences

## Joint WDA/European WDA Conference

22-27 July, 2012, Lyon, France. See <http://wda2012.vetagro-sup.fr> for abstract submission, registration, and all information pertaining to this exciting event!

The main topic of the conference will be "Convergence in wildlife health". The organizing and scientific committees are aiming at gathering experts in wildlife health from a wide range of experiences and origins. Please note that the official language of the congress is English and that all abstracts should be submitted in English.



**While we accept abstracts on all subjects related to wildlife health, we specifically encourage abstracts on the following themes:**

- ONE HEALTH
- MIGRATION AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE RISK
- HOW TO ASSESS THE HEALTH STATUS OF A WILD ANIMAL POPULATION
- WEIGHING COSTS AND BENEFITS OF WILDLIFE DISEASE CONTROL
- EFFECTS OF MULTIPLE POLLUTANTS ON A SINGLE HOST

**Deadline for abstract submission is April 1st, 2012.** Authors will be notified by May 1st 2012 whether their abstract is accepted, and its assignment to an oral or poster session.

**Featured workshops** (tentative, see web site for details)

1. AMERICAN COLLEGE OF ZOOLOGICAL MEDICINE ULTRASHORT COURSE

Sonia M. Hernandez, University of Georgia

2. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR WILDLIFE HEALTH MANAGEMENT IN LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES Ted Leighton, University of Saskatchewan

3. WILDTECH TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER WORKSHOP: NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR SCREENING AND DIAGNOSING PATHOGENS IN WILDLIFE Eszter Papp, University of Nottingham

4. BIODIVERSITY AND ANIMAL HEALTH

Céline Richomme, French Agency for Food, Environment and Occupational Health Safety

5. RED-EARED SLIDER TURTLE AND DOMESTIC PIGEON NECROPSY: THEY DIDN'T TEACH ME THAT IN VETERINARY SCHOOL! Estelle Rousselet, Lyon Veterinary School

6. INFECTIOUS KERATOCONJUNCTIVITIS IN WILDLIFE: A COMPARATIVE APPROACH FOR NEW PERSPECTIVES Marie-Pierre Ryser, University of Bern

7. AMPHIBIAN CHYTRIDIOMYCOSIS Stephanie Shaw, James Cook University

8. WHITE NOSE SYNDROME IN CAVE HIBERNATING BATS: PATHOLOGY,

EPIDEMIOLOGY, HOST-PATHOGEN ECOLOGY, DIAGNOSTIC TECHNIQUES, AND MANAGEMENT Michelle Verant, U.S. Geological Survey

**Registration fees for earlybird WDA members will be 300€, and only 100€ for WDA students.**





# WDA's Future: a glass half full or half empty ?

It has been 9 months since the WDA Newsletter featured an editorial by WDA members Damien Joly and Robert Cook on open access to wildlife health information. Despite the fact that this letter did not elicit many responses from WDA members it did spur along many decisions being considered at the time.

The Wildlife Disease Association (WDA) has been around for more than 60 years, but with changing times and circumstances come new challenges. WDA's mission is perhaps even more relevant today than at any time in the past... "to acquire, disseminate and apply knowledge of the health and diseases of wild animals to their biology, ecology and conservation, including interactions with humans and domestic animals", but, how we accomplish our mission may need to be adapted to changing times and circumstances. This opinion piece is in part in response to Damien and Robert's letter of on open access, and partly a way to provide a glimpse of what many of us see in WDA's future.

**The Future, Glass half empty:** For several years WDA Officers and Council have been looking at all of WDA's business practices and our business model. We face some challenges.

**Income:** The primary sources of income to WDA are membership and subscription fees, and page charges paid by authors. We have seen a slow and very modest increase in membership over the last decade or two, but also a slow and inexorable loss of subscribers (mostly libraries, large agencies and institutions), which essentially all journals are experiencing. Subscriptions are considerably



more expensive than individual memberships, so the loss in that area can easily more than offset any increased revenue from slowly increasing membership.

Author page charges cover about 2/3 of the actual costs of publication, so about 1/3 of the cost of each page of JWD is subsidized by the membership and subscription. Our experience, our advisors, and our cost comparisons tell us that increasing page charges or subscription fees will make us less competitive and may be counterproductive. Some similar journals charge much higher (2 to 3 times) membership fees, and very low page charges or submission fees. The bottom line is we don't feel increasing page charges serves WDA's mission, particularly in the developing world, and we DON'T want to keep raising membership fees.

Note: Both membership and subscription income, as well as page charges, are dependent on publication of Journal of Wildlife Diseases (JWD), perhaps the primary tool WDA has traditionally used to fulfill its mission.

**Can we improve business practices ?** We have recently instituted some new business practices that will help a bit. Authors will be required to pay at the time of final acceptance instead on several

# WDA's Future: a glass half full or half empty ?

months later, which should improve cash flow and eliminate non-payment. JWD will be taking some appropriate advertising and we are looking at other potential revenue streams.

**What about increasing our membership ?** That would be wonderful and starting in December of 2011 we will start rolling out what we are calling "value added" membership benefits. The first will be free electronic access to the now out of print "Parasitic Diseases of Wild Mammals". We hope to follow that in 2012 with electronic access to the Tom Thorne and Beth Williams wildlife disease slide series. Then, maybe electronic access to "Noninfectious Diseases of Wildlife", a member contributed photo gallery, and other items. All of these will be members-only features that may provide incentive to become and stay a WDA member. We will also be doing a membership drive, advertising what a great value WDA is and reaching out into areas where we hope to find potential new members.

But, there simply are not that many wildlife health specialists in the world. In the countries where wildlife health is growing the fastest, subscription to or membership in WDA may be cost prohibitive. Some potential members see themselves more allied to human and public health, or to disease ecology, ecosystem health, or wildlife management, fields in which there are competing journals and organizations. By being a big tent, open to all wildlife health specialists we are not the "go to" organization for toxicologists or pathologists or parasitologists. We are not exclusively veterinary. We are not very captive animal oriented and don't try to compete with Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine (a publication of American Association of Zoo Veterinarians and European Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians). And we are not "American" but are committed to a more international role. And we are only just now making inroads in the developing world, a world where ability to pay membership fees is a challenge. The

bottom line is that, it is probably unrealistic to expect a rapid and large increase in membership at this time.

At the same time JWD is becoming a worldwide wildlife health resource. A quick look at the "free access" program that is supported by a yearly grant from Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and WDA members shows that in calendar year 2010 colleagues in 134 of the 146 eligible nations (based on GDP) had downloaded files of articles, in total over 10,000 articles, the equivalent of 100 members downloading all of the approximately 100 papers in any one year, or more likely several hundred colleagues downloading dozens of articles. Although we have worked hard to provide "free access" to colleagues in the developing world it has very likely has cost us some memberships in those countries. Why pay when WDA provides its content to most colleagues in South and Latin America, and most of Asia, Africa and the Mid-east for free?



As an organization we feel providing access to top quality wildlife health information is extremely important, but it

definitely limits our growth potential. Our primary partner in this effort, Wildlife Conservation Society, has made it clear that it will not be able to continue supporting fee access, and WDA will be reviewing which countries qualify. Some, like Brazil, maybe Chile, Costa Rica may not continue to qualify. But the fact remains, **we are stuck between a rock and a hard place.** We are unlikely to grow our way out of this problem, particularly if we believe in access for those who can't pay. **Note:** "free access" is not the same as "open access".....under "open access" all content is free to everyone. WDA

# WDA's Future: a glass half full or half empty ?

already provides “open access” to all articles 18 months after they have been published. “Free access” includes current contents and is currently provided to colleagues in selected countries.

**What about going all electronic ?** We have looked pretty carefully at this and it appears that the cost of running a journal like JWD with electronic access only is about 3/4 to 4/5 of what it costs to run it as paper copy or both paper and electronic. That's because costs of manuscript receipt and review, editing, typesetting, membership records, emailing, electronic content provision (no it isn't free) etc. stay the same. About all you save are costs of the paper and the mailing of journals. Not nearly the savings some folks have speculated. Currently WDA members and students have the option of taking JWD as “electronic only” at a savings of \$10/year (10-20% of total). Only about 15-20% of members choose to do so. The proportion of students with “electronic only” access to JWD is a little higher than for regular members, and similarly a little higher for members outside North America. What's more, the rate of “electronic only” subscription is not increasing quickly, despite content arriving sooner.

A number of journals that have gone to “electronic only” have suffered decreased subscriptions. For example, in an effort to cut high publications costs, The Wildlife Society (TWS) discontinued Wildlife Society Bulletin (WSB) about 4 years ago, that at the time was popular and had thousands of subscribers, including many who took it in preference of Journal of Wildlife Management (JWM) if they couldn't afford both. WSB came back as an electronic only publication in January 2010. TWS was expecting subscription in the neighborhood of 3000. Currently they have only 850 people taking it as “electronic only” and may have to reconsider its publication. So far, our authors are not asking for “electronic only” publication, our members are not embracing “electronic only”, so to impose it on the membership in the perhaps false hope it will pro-

vide much greater cost effectiveness seems premature.

**What about “open access”?** Some scientific and commercial publishers have embraced an “open access” business model. Public Library of Science (PLOS) is often held up as an example of the success of this model. It

can afford to be a quick turn around, high impact publication. It is HEAVILY SUBSIDIZED by US Federal Government and other grants not available to small niche scientific publishers like us. They don't offer free manuscript review and editing for 4 manuscripts for every 1 they print, a form of mentoring for new authors just getting started for JWD. They don't support students, student workshops, student chapter activities, scholarships, research or other awards (WDA's student membership fees are less than the costs of production and distribution of JWD. Wildlife health is not their primary mission, and they do not provide professional meetings where a significant proportion of information exchange (in support of WDA's mission) and the development of contacts, relationships, networks and friendships take place. They don't really give anything away that hasn't been paid for by some other means. If WDA was supported by U.S. Federal Government grants we probably could afford completely open access. Right now we simply cannot. **Note:** The whole question of “open access” as the bright golden model for the future is undergoing some reality checking (Damien has provided a great article on this available at the WDA website).

**The Future, Glass Half Full:** WDA's goals are pretty clear. They reflect our Mission Statement, our traditions, our members expressed desires, and are most recently affirmed by the 2009 recommendations the Long Term Vision Committee. They are : 1) support the publication and worldwide distribution of JWD and other content, 2) con-





# WDA's Future: a glass half full or half empty ?

tinue internationalization, 3) enhance the association's electronic presence and 4) focus on providing mentorship and training particularly for those early in their career. And, of course, continue members benefits like reduced author page charges and conference registration fees and add and improve member services and without raising membership costs, if at all possible. GREAT!! But how can we do that given what we have discussed in "The Glass Half Empty"?

WDA's "secret weapon" is its \$1.23 million in securities and other financial assets that have been built up over the years through judicious stewardship by our financial management firm Jacobsen and Schmidt. This puts WDA in the unique position of trying a new business model of "partial endowment" by using the income on our investments to help pay for publication of JWD and free access to as much of the developing world as we can justify. Our goal is to endow the basic operations of JWD and its worldwide distribution without regard to ability to pay (\$120K to do that). We can, for at least the foreseeable future, take 4% of current investment total and work towards this goal. A generous \$25K grant from USDA-APHIS Wildlife has helped us kick start this initiative, and we will be trying to find matching funds for that \$25K, aiming to double or maybe triple it.

Endowment is a mechanism used by almost all colleges and universities to support lectureships and other activities that can't be supported by fees. Our long life and loyal membership have put WDA in the rather unique situation, for a small non-profit scientific society, to be in the position to consider this model. The funds WDA has been entrusted with are not a hoard, "a pile of money we are sitting on", they are a resource we must steward. We can and must secure our ability to meet our mission in the future, to meet your needs and aspirations, and those of our colleagues around the world.

**WDA needs your help.**

- WDA's membership does have some potential for increase, please help us get the word out. WDA membership is a "great deal".....where else can you get over 1000 pages of the highest quality wildlife disease research, news, and other pertinent information, and a fully functional professional society, open to all wildlife health professionals for \$100-110/ year ?
- Spread the word about membership "value added" to attract more members and retain those we have (about 5-7% of members per year don't renew and those have to be offset by new members).
- Work on WDA committees, help get the job done, help identify and provide "value added" items.
- Mentor wildlife health students, donate to student activities funds and provide items for and bid at the yearly auctions, all funds go to the students.
- If you believe in WDA's mission and our vision for the future you can help identify potential sources of grants, sponsorships, bequests and by providing matching donations when we do fund drives for endowment.

The road ahead is not going to be easy, but it is very doable. We are getting there, we will get there together. Remember WDA is all wildlife diseases, all conservation, all one health, all the time!

**Dolores Gavier Widen**

President WDA

**Thierry Work**

Vice President WDA

**David A. Jessup**

WDA Executive Manager