



WDA Updates

The times they are a changin'.....and WDA is changin' with em'

By Dave Jessup

Following are a series of updates and briefs on new programs, policies and initiatives from WDA that we hope will not only improve the organization and services to members in the short run, but also set the stage for long term growth in services and programs you want at the lowest possible costs.

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Members only value added features

By now all members should know that we are providing you with more, much more, than just the Journal of Wildlife Diseases (JWD). Although JWD is WDA's signal product and world class source of wildlife health information, we recognize that in this age of "open access", and with WDA's provision of "free access" for the develop-

ing world, members may need a wider variety of features and services to justify the costs of membership. We believe this initiative may also help with renewal (keeping members) and encourage associate members toward full membership. Besides JWD and the quarterly WDA Newsletter members get:

- Reduced registration fees for annual meetings (usually about the cost of membership)
- Reduced page charges when publishing in JWD (difference for an article about equals 2 years membership)
- Electronic access to out of print books like Parasitic Diseases of Wild Mammals, Non-Infectious Diseases of Wildlife, and others in the coming years
- Electronic access to most presentations at the 2011 Annual Conference (may be continued)
- The WDA membership directory so you can stay in touch with over 1000 colleagues worldwide
- Access to the March 2012 Wildlife Professional special issue on Wildlife Health and Disease
- Access to the Tom Thorne and Beth Williams wildlife disease slide series

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- Access to a new slide series of key wild-life photos by members (under development)
- Periodic stories, photos, brain teasers and pictures for your enjoyment
- Page charges to be paid electronically or by invoice at the time of final acceptance by the Editor
- Providing authors with the options of “early access” and “open access” at a fee (coming in 2012)

New Journal of Wildlife Diseases Business Practices

JWD is both WDA's signal product, but also our largest single expense. WDA Council has approved a new set of business practices that should increase efficiency. A number of members have offered suggestions on how the JWD services to authors could be improved and how costs could be reduced or additional revenue generated. New or continued JWD business policies include:

- Taking appropriate advertising in JWD
- With support from Wildlife Conservation Society providing free access to colleagues in the approximately 140 least economically developed nations of the world.
- Under funding provided by EcoHealth Alliance, editor discretion to wave page charges for a few articles with prominent “one health” or “ecohealth” themes
- Page charges based on article category (short or long letter, short or long article, review) not page length as type set



Campaign to Endow Journal of Wildlife Diseases

By now you all know that WDA is trying to match the \$25,000 grant provided by USDA -Wildlife Services last Fall for endowment and worldwide distribution of JWD. The campaign is now in Phase One.

Phase One:...Following a Keystone anonymous donation, to raise a total of \$12,500 from WDA's leadership. This shows leadership commitment to the endowment. Beginning March 1, 2012 WDA officers, council, committee chairs, editors and associate editors, and section chairs were asked to become part of the leadership circle by making a donation of \$100 or more.

As of March 30, 2012 we had received our keystone donation of \$1250 and \$5800 from WDA members currently in leadership positions. That brings us to approximately \$7000. In less than 30 days we have made it 2/3rds of the way to the Phase One goal of \$12,500 !!! We only need \$4500 more to complete it. Clearly WDA's leadership has really stepped up to the plate. Tom Yuill and Anne Fairbrother of the Endowment and New Funds Committee will be following up all donations with “Thank you” and income tax deduction letters.

At the suggestions of past President and JWD Editor, Charles Van Riper we have established several recognition levels beside

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membership level (\$25) and leadership level (\$100). These additional levels are bronze (\$50), silver (\$75), gold (\$150) and platinum (\$200). All donors will be acknowledged in future JWD publications.

Phase Two:...On April 25, 2012 we will ask the entire WDA membership to help with the endowment. By then we expect to be close to the Phase One goal of \$12,500. The goal for the general membership is to raise another \$12,500, for a total of \$25,000, matching the USDA grant. We hope many members will choose to go for bronze or silver levels, join the leadership circle, or even go for gold or platinum. You can use a credit card to donate just by hitting the "Donate" button on the left at the WDA website or by sending a check to made out to WDA to Laurie Baeten, WDA Treasurer at 129 N. Frey Ave, Fort Collins, CO 80521 USA.

At the end of Phase 2, possibly as soon as Fall 2012, when leadership and membership have matched the \$25,000 from USDA, we have another \$25,000 match lined up. This means by Fall or Winter 2012, we will have tripled what we started with. In one year we will have raised \$75,000, and most importantly shown that WDA leadership and membership are strongly behind the JWD endowment. This is critical for Phase Three.

Phase Three: Beginning in 2013, we will focus on getting much more funding from outside endowments, grants, bequests, and we will use the interest and increased value on WDA's existing funds to raise at least \$100-200K yearly. We will continue this effort by holding a few WDA auctions, fun events or fundraisers for the next 7-8 years. And, by 2020 WDA should have the \$1.75-2 million

to endow JWD and its distribution into perpetuity Which is the Overall Goal.

Why does the **Overall Goal** matter?

- 1) WDA is uniquely positioned to endow the most costly portion of its operations. With JWD's costs supported by an endowment, membership fees can stay at their current low level, which, with inflation likely, means that WDA membership will just keep being a better and better deal.
- 2) WDA will be able to afford to continue to support open or selected country free access in pursuit of our mission and One Health objectives.
- 3) Although we intend to keep author page charges at a competitive level, they will not need to increase to cover production costs.
- 4) WDA will have the option to increase JWD pages published, consider other types of publications or other services **without increasing costs to the members**.

Reformation of the Wildlife Veterinary Section

To comply with WDA Bylaws and to open geographic membership in the WDA Wildlife Veterinary Section it has been undergoing a process of reformation. This has been a joint and cooperative effort between WDA and the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians over the last two years, and has been announced in previous WDA Newsletters and emails. The WVS is open to all WDA members with an interest in application of veterinary sciences to the health/disease and conservation of wild animals. In response to the latest polling over 230 WDA

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members have expressed an interest in being members of this section.

WDA Bylaws require that Sections have a Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, and Student Representative on their advisory group or council. The exact make up of Section advisory groups or councils are not defined. Currently there is a call for nominations for these positions to those who have indicated their interest.

The schedule for WVS nominations, election and reformation:

- April 5, 2012: Open call to WDA members who responded positively regarding membership in WVS for nomination of WVS officers.
- April 27: Close call for nominations, slate of potential candidates sent to ad-hoc nominations committee
- May 5: Committee completes selection of candidates for election as WVS officers
- May 6: Election for WVS officers open
- May 30: Elections Closed
- June 1 2012: New officers announced to WVS membership
- July 2012 WDA meeting in Lyon, France: Newly elected officers seated, WDA-WVS officially reformed.

WDA wants to know you and serve you better

WDA has begun an aggressive effort to find out more about you. We began by asking those attending the 2011 Annual Conference what they liked, didn't like and what they look for in an annual conference. In the next week or two we will ask all WDA mem-

bers to let us know more about their location, Section membership, background, education, area of specialization, size of organization or agency, and what WDA services are most important to you. Please help us serve you by responding.

Electronic Presence

WDA continues to explore how to improve its electronic presence. One aspect of this we have already implemented is electronic access to "members only value added" features. Under agreement with Allen Marketing and Management we will be completely reforming our webpage. The new webpage will allow us to provide you with easier access to more content, high security, more of "value added benefits" at a single location, more slide sets and videos, easier elections, easier polling and membership input, RSS feeds, and Facebook and Twitter features.



Internationalization

WDA is meeting its' goals for increasing international membership, participation and interaction between members. As part of this WDA meetings were held in Puerto Iguazu, Argentina in 2010, Quebec City, Canada in 2011, and will be held in Lyon France in 2012. WDA will then return to North America with the 2013 Annual Conference in Knox-

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ville and the 2014 meeting is likely to be in the Southwestern USA. For 2015 the potential of a joint meeting with WDA-Australasia (WDA-A) is being considered.

The European, Nordic and Australasian Sections remain strong. The new WDA Latin American Section is active and starting to grow. The possibility to reviving the Africa-Mid-eastern Section will be explored at a meeting in September 2012 at Kruger National Park. The Australasian Section and WDA are also exploring the potential for an Asian Section to bud off WDA-A.

International submission of articles to and publication in JWD are up. International participation in WDA Council and committees remains strong.

WDA 61st Annual and 10th EWDA Conference: Update

Our upcoming conference in July is very likely going to be the largest WDA meeting ever. Registration is running at double the numbers when compared to the same time before the meeting in previous years. Over 450 abstracts for papers and posters were submitted. All indications are that we will have a huge turnout, particularly from Europe and more than usual from Africa and the Mid-east.

Latin America Section

This is our first contribution to the WDA Newsletter as a Section! The Latin America Section was established in August 2011, and currently has 27 members. Section officers are Marcela Uhart (Chair), Jose Luiz Catao-Dias (Co-Chair), Maria Forzan (Treasurer) and Eliana Reiko Matushima and



Latin America Section members gather at the 2011 International WDA meeting in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada.

Ezequiel Hidalgo (co-Secretaries). If you live in Latin America but have not yet joined the Section, please contact Ezequiel ezequielhidalgovet@yahoo.com. Also, please contact Ezequiel if you are from L. America but currently live elsewhere and would like to either contribute to Section activities and/or receive Section news. In our efforts to serve you best, we welcome all member contributions and suggestions, so please reach out to us.

We are currently recruiting candidates to become the student representative for the Section. If you are a L. America graduate student and would like to apply, please contact M. Uhart at muhart@wcs.org. We are ideally searching for one Spanish speaking and one Portuguese speaking student that can share this role. Once we have a minimum of 3 candidates, we will hold a ballot.

Benefits for L. America Section members

While we are still fairly new and are slowly coming up to speed with Section-specific activities, we have

WDA Section News

Don't forget, you can access the section websites through the main WDA website: go to www.wildlifedisease.org and then click on "Sections"!

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identified a variety of services to our members that we would like to share with you. Beyond benefits applying to all WDA members, L. America Section members will:

Be invited to join a google group for Section communications, group discussions (ie. technical, research, management), posting of upcoming events, conferences, job and other opportunities.

Have access to assistance (ie. shared lodging) for the upcoming WDA 2012 annual conference in Lyon.

Qualify for editorial assistance for abstracts submitted to the WDA 2012 Conference and pre-approved by the Scientific Committee. This will be coordinated with the Scientific Committee and apply to abstracts of adequate scientific quality in need of language or editorial improvements.

Pay reduced fees at conferences and other events organized and hosted by Section members. We will provide quarterly updates on upcoming events in the region through this newsletter (see below) and more regularly via the Section's google group.

Upcoming events in Latin America

- V International Buin Zoo Zoological Medicine Course: Health and disease Diagnostics of Zoo and Wild animals: Population Diagnostic vs Individual Diagnostics. April 12-15 2012. Buin Zoo Zoological Park, Chile. Speakers: Richard Jakob-Hoff and Fernando Esperón Fajardo.
- VI International Buin Zoo Zoological Medicine Course: Zoo and Wildlife Immobilization and Anesthesia. October 4-7 2012. Buin Zoo Zoological Park, Chile. Speakers: Darryl Heard, Gary West and R. Scott Larsen. Theoretical sessions for both courses can be taken online. WDA members are granted a 30% discount on the Webinar course fee. For details contact Ezequiel Hidalgo ezequielhidalgovet@yahoo.com or conservacion@buinzoo.cl
More information (In Spanish): <http://www.buinzoo.cl/cursos-de-medicina-zoologica/>

- X Congreso Internacional de Manejo de Fauna en la Amazonía y América Latina. May 14-18, 2012. Salta, Argentina. Deadline for abstracts April 15th. More information <http://www.xcimfauna.com.ar/>
- VIII Reunión Argentina de Patología Veterinaria. 22-24 May, 2012. Córdoba, Argentina. More information at http://www.ucc.edu.ar/portalnuevo/interna_ucc_subsite.php?sec=74

Graduate Research Programs in Latin America

For the benefit of our membership, we will regularly post information on graduate research programs available in the region. In this issue we will describe the Laboratory of Comparative Pathology of Wildlife – LAPCOM, based at the University of São Paulo, in



Dr. Catao Diaz training students at his lab.

Brazil. This Laboratory was created in 1995 at the Department of Pathology and within the Post-graduate Program in Comparative and Experimental Pathology at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. Since its inception, the LAPCOM has attracted researchers as well as under and post-graduate students from Brazil, and more recently from several Latin American countries interested in wildlife pathology. Over the more than 15 years of continuous training of Latin American researchers, the LAPCOM has graduated 35 Masters and 13 PhDs, and currently has 05 Masters, 10 PhD and 01 Post-

doctorate students. The research projects developed have been published in several renowned journals, including the Journal of Wildlife Diseases, Avian Diseases, Journal of Medical Primatology, Diseases of Aquatic Organisms, Journal of Clinical Microbiology, Veterinary Pathology, Vector Borne and Zoonotic Diseases, Biological Conservation, Infection, Genetics & Evolution, and Veterinary Microbiology. The main research focus of the LAPCOM is comparative pathology of infectious diseases in wild neotropical vertebrates. Currently, studies on malaria and selected viruses of seabirds; malaria, leishmaniasis, trypanosomiasis and toxoplasmosis in neotropical primates; chytridiomycosis in anura; fibropapillomatosis in marine turtles; and health evaluations of capybaras, and chelonians are underway. Besides these ongoing studies, new research such as toxicological investigations in marine turtles and snakes, and the effects of human activities on the health of cetaceans have recently been conducted. Those interested in learning more about LAPCOM, are encouraged to contact Drs. José Luiz Catão-Dias (zecatao@usp.br) and Eliana Reiko Matushima (ermatush@usp.br).

Nordic section

Sweden

By Erik Ågren, (erik.agren@sva.se), National Veterinary Institute, Uppsala, Sweden

Salmonellosis in passerines peaks in late winter, and this year has seen an increased mortality at bird feeders, with multiple submissions positive for *Salmonella Typhimurium*. As a consequence of increased passerine disease, the number of domestic cats with salmonellosis diagnosed at small animal hospitals has also been high this year.

Since the fall of 2011, there have been multiple reports of male moose (*Alces alces*) with extensive skin lesions over the dorsal area – from the neck to the rump. The alopecic lesions show ulceration, exudation and thick crusting, with a deep chronic inflammation including eosinophilic components and granulation tissue with hair follicle atrophy. *Staphylococcus aureus* has been isolated

in multiple cases. Deer ked (*Lipoptena cervi*), *Chorioptes* sp., and ticks (*Ixodes ricinus*) are found in some cases where skin samples have been submitted for examination. As only male moose are affected, the present hypothesis is possible pyotraumatic dermatitis due to self-inflicted scratching using antlers, with secondary bacterial infection. Why there was such a high incidence the past fall and winter is not clear yet.

Tularemia (infection with *Francisella tularensis holarctica* (type B)) is endemic in Sweden with clinical cases in both animals and humans. This past year has seen a high number (a few hundred) human cases and a small number of diagnosed cases in hares, now more often in European brown hares, *Lepus europeus* than in the mountain hare, *Lepus timidus*. Other infections hitting the lagomorphs in Sweden are outbreaks of European brown hare syndrome, rabbit viral hem-



Photo: sid_63 flickr

orrhagic disease, both calici virus infections, and myxomatosis in rabbits. These diseases are reported to OIE, but submissions for diagnostic confirmation are usually sparse, as hunters and public are well aware of these diseases and do not report possible cases. This is the downside for authorities tracking and reporting well-known diseases, and extra efforts are needed to receive reports and submissions from the public, for diagnostics.

As the dwarf tape worm, *Echinococcus multilocularis* was found in Sweden in early 2011 for the first time, a continued increased surveillance effort

regarding this parasite in wildlife, is planned. In 2011, 3 000 foxes from the seasonal fox hunt were examined. In 2012, fox scats are to be collected and examined with a newly developed PCR-method. Using the Swedish Association for Hunting and Wildlife Management network of hunters and members, a pre-arranged number of scats in each municipality are to be collected. Also, projects continuing to investigate presence of the parasite in small rodents are planned, as well as other investigations involving both wildlife and humans, as this zoonotic disease raises concerns on human behavior during outdoor activities as well as need for risk assessments and recommendations from authorities.

Norway

An outbreak of contagious ecthyma (orf) in musk ox in Norway

By Turid Vikøren, (turid.vikoren@vetinst.no) and Bjørnar Ytrehus, Norwegian Veterinary Institute, Oslo, Norway

Since mid-January 2012, a total of eleven cases of contagious ecthyma caused by orf-virus have been diagnosed among calves in a free-ranging musk ox

(*Ovibos moschatus*) population in Dovrefjell, Norway. The affected animals showed pustular, wart-like lesions in the skin around the mouth and on the muzzle, and several calves were euthanized of welfare grounds. Histology revealed a pustular dermatitis consistent with orf. This is the second outbreak of orf in this musk ox population, the first occurred during summer and autumn in 2004. The annual population census performed in March 2012, showed a peak in population size, however the calf-cow ratio was lower than in an average year. This indicates that



Musk ox, or *Ovibos moschatus*, in the Dovrefjell national park, Norway Photo: Vincent Munier/Wild Wonders of Europe

the orf-epizootic might have caused further mortality among calves than those cases that have been registered. This is the first orf-outbreak during winter. Harsh conditions with icebound pastures and a peak in population size and density with many calves novel to the virus, are factors considered significant for triggering the epizootic.

Swedish hair-loss in one Norwegian Moose

By Knut Madslien, (knut.madslien@vetinst.no), Norwegian Veterinary Institute, Oslo, Norway

A single male, sub-adult moose (*Alces alces*) with multifocal, extensive hair-loss was euthanized in the south-eastern part of Norway in February. Post-mortem examination revealed similar pathological lesions as those reported from alopecic moose in Sweden. The distribution of hair-loss, however, was more multifocal and over the flanks. No ectoparasites were found in the coat. *Staphylococcus aureus* were isolated from the affected skin, as found with the moose from Sweden.

Still no findings of *Echinococcus multilocularis* in Norway

Knut Madslien and Rebecca Davidson, Norwegian Veterinary Institute

Intensification of the *E. multilocularis* surveillance program was initiated in Norwegian counties along the Swedish border after the first identification of this parasite in Sweden in 2011. In total 533 fecal samples were collected from red foxes shot during the 2010-2011 licensed hunting season and analyzed with a modified taeniid egg isolation and multiplex PCR technique. However, all samples tested negative for *E. multilocularis*. The surveillance program continues and a further 600 samples have been collected for analysis during 2012.

Finland

New development in *Trichomonas gallinae* epidemic in Finland

By Marja Isomursu, (marja.isomurso@evira.fi) Finnish Food Safety Authority (Evira), Oulu, Finland

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The avian protozoan parasite, *Trichomonas gallinae*, first emerged in finch populations of Finland, Sweden and Norway in 2008. The parasite quickly spread in Finland and has caused large-scale morbidity and mortality among greenfinches (*Carduelis chloris*). So far, trichomonosis in other passerine species has apparently been rare. In January 2012, first reports of trichomonosis-like illness in yellowhammers (*Emberiza citrinella*) were received and soon after that, first cases were confirmed by necropsy and isolation of the parasite from the crop. Nine new outbreaks were confirmed during the following winter months from different parts of the country. All outbreaks were seen in feeding places visited by flocks of yellowhammers. The reason behind this new epidemiological development could be climatic: December 2011 was the warmest since the emergence of trichomonosis allowing the horizontal spread of freeze-intolerant *T. gallinae* at feeding places. Yellowhammers form large flocks and visit feeding places in Finland only in winter. This behavior has probably protected the population from the disease up to now. Interestingly, no cases were seen in greenfinches while yellowhammers were dying. The last cases in greenfinches were confirmed in the warm December 2011.

had impact related trauma injuries such as broken wings and necks. Other birds were simply stranded and appeared healthy. The affected area was approximately 15 miles wide and 30 miles long. Surviving healthy grebes were captured, evaluated and released into nearby water bodies in southern Utah where they were able to achieve a running start required to take flight. Carcasses submitted to the NWHC for necropsy confirmed blunt trauma. No underlying diseases were identified. The event received national media attention due to its size. Similar events in this area of Utah occurred in 1991 and 1997 involving an estimated 4,500 and 6,700 Eared grebes, respectively.



Pelagic bird mortalities along the Pacific coast of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties (California)

A mortality event involving primarily Western and Clark's grebes was reported along the Pacific coast of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, California in early November 2011 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office (VFWO), and California Department of Fish and Game Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR). The event may have started in early October, based on admissions to local wildlife rehabilitation facilities at that time. Birds were observed stranded on beaches and struggling to stay upright along the coastal waters of Ventura Harbor. As of March 2012, an estimated 670 pelagic birds and 7 marine mammals have been reported moribund or dead. During November and December, the NWHC received 26 birds representing 8 species for diagnostic evaluation and a field investigation by NWHC staff was conducted in mid-December. Emaciation has been the only consistent finding among all the birds examined. However, non-specific vacuoles (holes) in the white matter of brains in 12 birds also were detected. Infectious diseases such as pathogenic bacteria and viruses have been ruled out. Electron microscopy of brain tissue and contaminant analysis

News from the Field

USGS National Wildlife Health Center Mortality Report

By Barbara Bodenstein

Thousands of Eared Grebes crash land in southern Utah

Utah Department of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) staff responded to reports of approximately 3,500 Eared grebes found dead or injured the morning of December 13, 2011. UDWR staff suspected the birds had crash landed in parking lots of local businesses and road ways throughout St. George/Cedar City area during snow storms the night before. An estimated 2,000 birds were reported dead and another 1,500 alive. Dead and injured birds

News from the Field

is currently being pursued to better characterize the nature of these brain lesions and cause of mortality. Partners from USFWS, CDFG and wildlife rehabilitation volunteers continue to monitor the area and receive individual bird stranding reports; however, peak mortality had subsided by late December.

Unusual mortality event of Harbor seals along the northeastern Atlantic Coast (Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts)

An unusual mortality event (UME) primarily among juvenile Harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) was declared by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in November 2011 along the northeast Atlantic coast from southern Maine to northern Massachusetts. Peak mortality occurring from early September to mid-October was three times the average annual mortality rate reported for the region. Total mortality was estimated at 163 animals by early December; upper res-



Harbor Seal, Fred Sorenson USFWS

piratory signs were reported in sick animals. The USGS-National Wildlife Health Center was one of several collaborating laboratories invited by NOAA to participate in the mortality investigation and provided virology support. Common findings reported by partners among the 23 animals examined included good to fair nutritional condition, hemorrhagic interstitial pneumonia, and ulcerative dermatitis. Mixed bacterial pneumonia was thought to be secondary to an underlying respiratory infection. Influenza A virus (subtype H3N8 of avian origin) was isolated from multiple tissues of five

seals collected from coastal New Hampshire during peak mortality. The role of avian influenza as the main cause of mortality in the broader geographic area could not be established because of insufficient suitable samples. Test results of seal samples collected late in the mortality event have been negative for influenza viruses. Mortality from influenza A infections have occurred in the past among free-ranging seal populations although this is the first report of the H3N8 subtype. Diagnostic investigations continue on available samples. For more information on the Atlantic coastal event, visit http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/health/mmume/pinniped_northeast2011.htm.

Trematodiasis continues to cause mortality on the Upper Mississippi River and Lake Winnibigoshish (Minnesota, Wisconsin)

Trematodiasis, caused by the exotic trematodes *Sphaeridiotrema globulus*, *Cyathocotyle bushiensis*, and *Leyogonimus polyoon*, caused the largest number of avian mortalities (>15,000) in the Mississippi Flyway in 2011. The two main sites of mortality, the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife Refuge (Pools 7, 8, and 9) and Lake Winnibigoshish, Minnesota first experienced trematodiasis associated mortality in 2002 and 2007, respectively. Biannual disease monitoring efforts on Pools 7 and 8, conducted by refuge staff since 2002, indicated that the 2011 mortality numbers approached the peak levels reported in 2007. The drivers of variations in annual mortality caused by this disease are not completely understood. Combined spring and fall mortality was approximately 13,800 on Pools 7 and 8 on the Mississippi River and approximately 600 on Lake Winnibigoshish. Mortality on Pool 9 of the Mississippi River was only observed in the fall of 2011 and resulted in approximately 1,000 dead. The two primary species affected by this disease continue to be American coot and Lesser scaup.

For the full NWHC quarterly mortality report, please see http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/publications/quarterly_reports/index.jsp

Training, Education, Employment

July 2012 Educational Ecotourism Experience in Sierra Gorda, Mexico

In collaboration with Sierra Gorda Ecotours, returned Peace Corps Mexico volunteers Rick and Sally Botzler (2009-2011) are co-facilitating a two-week educational ecotourism experience in the Sierra Gorda Bio-sphere Reserve in Querétaro, Mexico.

Rick is a longtime member of the Wildlife

Disease Association and recently presented a paper at the WDA meeting in Quebec last August on research in the Sierra Gorda region that confirmed the presence of the chytrid fungus among amphibians on the Reserve.

The purpose of the ecotourism itinerary is to educate participants about the Sierra Gorda Ecological Group's approach to sustainable development with a "conservation economy"—a unique and remarkable approach combining sustainable agriculture, environmental restoration such as watershed and forest rehabilitation, and ecotourism—that has successfully transformed this World Biosphere Reserve into a region where inhabitants have been earning sustainable livelihoods for nearly 25 years. The two-week

itinerary will occur in a number of stunningly beautiful locations in the Reserve. Participants will be staying in comfortable cabins or cottages.

This guided educational ecotourism experience in the Sierra Gorda is scheduled for July 9-21, 2012, and is available on a first-come, first-served basis for a maximum of 12 participants.

Also, please note: Some remote destinations require travelling together by bus or vans on dirt roads with rough conditions. Also, some excursions require that participants traverse moderate to challenging



trails of two to six miles in length. Only youth 12 and over may participate, and each youth up to the age of 18 years must be accompanied by an adult.

To learn more about the itinerary, please contact Rick and Sally Botzler via e-mail at botzlers@sbcglobal.net and you will be sent a descriptive PowerPoint, the written itinerary, and list of recommended readings. The deadline for responding is Monday, April 16, 2012, at the above e-mail address. Those responding before or by the deadline will be listed in the order of their e-mail response, and a wait list will be kept beyond the maximum of 12 participants in case of cancellation by earlier respondents.

We hope that many WDA members are able to join us for this unique opportunity. We're sure that participants will fall in love with the people and the landscape of the Sierra Gorda!



Training, Education, and Employment

Tenure Track Faculty Position - Wildlife/ Zoo Pathologist

The Department of Pathobiology, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, invites applications for a tenure-track faculty position at the Assistant or Associate Professor level in Wildlife/Zoo Pathology. A degree in Veterinary Medicine and a doctorate or a strong research background in a field relevant to Wildlife/ Zoo Pathology is required. Applicants should be a diplomate of the American or European College of Veterinary Pathologists or eligible for the certification examination.

The successful applicant will establish and sustain a research program utilizing contemporary and innovative investigative approaches. The research program will be suitable to support graduate education at the PhD level. The Department has recognized strengths in mammalian and comparative pathology, veterinary infectious diseases, and immunology.

In September 2010, the Department, together with the Animal Health Laboratory, moved into a new state-of-the-art 13,000 square metre building housing well-equipped modern research and diagnostic laboratories. In addition, researchers have access to nearby research stations suitable for conducting research in a variety of domestic animals and on-campus housing for laboratory animal species.

The position includes teaching undergraduate and graduate students the discipline of wildlife/zoo pathology through lectures, small group discussion, and experiential learning. Diagnostic investigations are conducted in close collaboration with the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre and

the University of Guelph Animal Health Laboratory, a full-service AAVLD-accredited laboratory.

The University of Guelph is a comprehensive university, consistently ranked highly among comparable Canadian institutions. Five other universities, including 3 with medical schools, are within an hour of Guelph. The city of Guelph is a pleasant community of about 118,000 people, located in southern Ontario's technology triangle, approximately one hour west of Toronto.

The University of Guelph is committed to equity in its policies, practices, and programs, supports diversity in its teaching, learning and work environments, and ensures that applications for members of underrepresented groups are seriously considered under its employment equity policy. All qualified individuals who would contribute to the further diversification of our University community are encouraged to apply.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.

Salary is negotiable and commensurate with qualifications and experience. The deadline for applications is 30 April 2012, or until a suitable candidate is found. Please send a cover letter describing your background and career goals, complete curriculum vitae and the contact information for three individuals who will provide letters of reference to:

Dr. Robert M. Jacobs, Chair
Department of Pathobiology
University of Guelph
Guelph, Ontario, CANADA N1G 2W1
Phone: 519-824-4120
Fax: (519) 824-5930
email: rjacobs@uoguelph.ca
For information on the department or city see:
<http://www.ovc.uoguelph.ca/Path> and <http://www.guelph.ca>



Meetings and Conferences

Joint WDA/European WDA Conference

22-27 July, 2012, Lyon, France. See <http://wda2012.vetagro-sup.fr> for 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.



It is possible to register for WDA 2012 on our website. When registering, you are kindly requested to register also for the icebreaker and banquet if you plan to attend. At the same time, think about your meal option for the bird Park visit (picnic, traditional lunch in a local restaurant or on your own). Remember that all social activities are included in the registration fee, but that we will not provide luncheons during the conference (many different options locally). Are you coming with your kids? let us know if you plan to bring them to the bird park!

You may also register for one (and one only) of the fabulous pre-congress workshop. We encourage you to take advantage of the «Early bird» rate, available until May 15, 2012. When you visit the WDA2012 website, please spend some time at the Accommodation page. Remember that we are not responsible for hotel and room reservation, but we have negotiated some preferential rates for our meeting. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you book your rooms as soon as possible, to benefit from these preferred rates.

101st AFWA Annual Meeting

September 9-12, 2012 Hilton Head, South Carolina. <http://www.fishwildlife.org/index.php?section=annual-meeting&activator=19>



The Wildlife Society Annual Conference

The Wildlife Society will hold its 19th Annual Conference in Portland, Oregon from October 13-18, 2012. The meeting will include workshops, symposia, panel discussions, breakfast roundtables, special poster sessions, contributed papers (oral presentations), and contributed posters. We invite submission of contributed papers and posters on topics of wildlife ecology, management, conservation, education, or policy. <http://wildlifesociety.org/>

4th Biennial Conference of the International Association for Ecology and Health

15-18 October 2012, Kunming City, China

Ecohealth — the transdisciplinary study of dynamic relationships and interactions among people, ecosystems, and human health — provides both a theoretical framework for understanding the changing human-ecosystem interface and a practical ecosystem approach to health in the context of global change.

The EcoHealth 2012 conference will serve as a forum for scientists, local practitioners, policy makers, and students. EcoHealth conferences facilitate research and policy exchange among experts in ecosystems and health, create and sustain a dialogue on practical approaches, and reinforce leadership and collaboration for ongoing development of the ecohealth field.

<http://www.ecohealth2012.org>