



Student Chapter Progress Report – Guidelines

Complete this form and email to the Student Representative on Council, Marianthi Ioannidis (ioannidis.marianthi@gmail.com), before May 1st 2020. This report will be made available on the WDA website, thus it is also your chapter's business card.

- 1) Complete your report according to the guidelines below
- 2) Make sure to list the current officers and their details in this report.
- 3) If possible, please attach a group shot of the current chapter officers for 2020 to be added to the website.
Due to the COVID pandemic, we are unable to get a group shot of the new officer board at this time, however, we have many student organization related images from various meetings that I will attach at the bottom of this form.
- 4) Chapter that are not sending back a progress report will not be considered active anymore.



Student Chapter Progress Report

Chapter Name: *Wildlife Disease Association Student Chapter at Virginia Tech*

Established in (if known): *Spring 2019*

Mission: *The mission of The Wildlife Disease Association Student Chapter at Virginia Tech is to gain, share, and apply knowledge and experience relating to fish and wildlife diseases in Virginia and beyond for the purpose of public health, domestic animal health, and conservation.*



The Wildlife Disease Association Student Chapter at Virginia Tech

Number of chapter members: *21 paid student chapter members (46 listed on GobblerConnect)*

Number of chapter members that are WDA members:

*The number of student WDA members within the chapter is one of the election criteria in the Student Chapter Grant Selection process. Make sure that you advertise the advantages of WDA membership to your chapter members (discount on conference fees, student awards at conferences, WDA newsletter, mentoring program etc.). If you are unsure about the number of WDA members among your chapter members, feel free to attach your chapter's membership list. We can easily check how many people are WDA members.

Here are a list of the current chapter fee paid members:

Haley Olsen-Hodges, Paige Van de Vuurst, Steven Winter, Eric Hansen, Joy Flowers, Jessica Logan, Breanna Williams, Wesley Perkins, Dean Hoff, Jacqueline DeNisco, Lugie Rowell, Nick Chieu, Tabitha Gentry, Alma Talcott, Margot Briener, Caroline Isle, Tanner Bengtson, Greyson Kieffer, Alex Grimaudo, Charlotte Moore

Faculty Advisor

Name: Dr. Luis Escobar

Position: Assistant Professor of Wildlife Diseases within the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Email: escobar1@vt.edu



Current board members

Please include country of the officers when your chapter represents multiple countries. Also, please include country representatives here (this only applies to regional, not university- based chapters).

President (and founder)

Name: Joy Flowers

Email: joyf@vt.edu

Vice President

Name: Wesley Perkins

Email address: wesley19@vt.edu

Treasurer

Name: Haley-Olsen Hodges

Email Address: cyanocorax92@vt.edu

Secretary

Name: Greyson Kieffer

Email address: greyson@vt.edu

Social Chair

Name: Caroline Isle

Email Address: caroli33@vt.edu

Social Media Chair

Name: Haley-Olsen Hodges

Email Address: cyanocorax92@vt.edu

How frequently does your chapter hold elections?

Annually every Spring



Board members 2020-2021

If nothing changes, please report this. If changes are scheduled for later in 2020, please provide the planned time frame for board and/or country representative changes. **Always make sure to update the Student Representative on Officer changes!**

Officers for 2020-2021 were just recently elected and are the same as current and 2020-2021 board members. Board members are different from those listed in the previous 2019 progress report.

Description of Chapter Activities

PR & Fundraising

PR:

Online presence:

- Chapter website (if applicable): *N/A*
- Chapter facebook page (if applicable): *<https://www.facebook.com/groups/956073021244130>*
- Other chapter online or social media presence (i.e. youtube, twitter):
 - *Instagram: @wdavt*
 - *Twitter: @wda_vt*
- Does your chapter have a newsletter?
No, it currently does not.

Member recruitment & Club outreach

- How does your chapter announce and advertises your events?

We advertise our events and outreach through GobblerConnect (a social interface for VT students to look at various VT student organizations), departmental (Dept of Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Dept of Biological Sciences) emails and newsletters, posted flyers, and our student organization email.

Collaboration:

- Which other groups does your chapter collaborate with?

Our group collaborates with The Wildlife Society Student Chapter at Virginia Tech and is trying to collaborate more with the Pre-Vet Club at Virginia Tech.

We are highly connected to the Department of Wildlife Conservation. We are also connected to the Department of Biological Sciences, Department of Entomology, and the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine.



We maintain collaborative connections with professors, government officials, veterinarians, and graduate students through and outside of Virginia Tech

- If your chapter collaborates, what does the chapter do together with the other organization?
We had a social event in Fall 2019 with The Wildlife Society Student Chapter at Virginia Tech that connected professors and graduate students with undergraduate students that were interested in wildlife and wildlife diseases. We also had a scheduled collaborative hike during the Spring of 2020 with The Wildlife Society Student Chapter, but it was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

WDA-representation:

- How did your chapter promote the WDA? (i.e. hand-out WDA flyers, announced at meetings what WDA mission is and how to become a member, coordinated travel to the WDA conference)

We mention the WDA memberships and its associated benefits at the beginning of every semester. We also send out email reminders when WDA memberships need to be renewed and when they are discounted. In addition, we mention information regarding the conferences and grant and abstract due dates at meetings and through emails.

Fundraising:

- Does your chapter have a membership fee, if so what are the fees?
Yes, we do. Our fees are \$20 for the year and \$15 for the semester. We take cash or venmo and the venmo funds are directed towards our bank account.
- Did your chapter host a fundraiser (i.e. cookie sale, gear sale)?
We were planning to host a fundraiser by selling pathogen and parasite shaped/designed cookies this Spring 2020, but this was canceled due to the COVID pandemic.
- Did your chapter apply for grants and awards (i.e. WDA student chapter grants, university support)?
We have only applied for one WDA grant and that was in Spring 2019. We have not applied for the grants through the university yet.
- Any other way the chapter's financial health is maintained (i.e. sponsorships)?
No, we reached out for a few pizza sponsorships before the Fall 2020 semester but were not successful. We plan to try again in future semesters once the school starts to have in-person classes again.



EVENTS

Please share the activities your chapter organized or co-organized between April 30th 2019 and May 1st 2020. It is ok to overlap if you mentioned some of the events above. In addition, if you have exciting end of semester / summer plans please share those too. We love to know how you keep members engaged when school is not in session.

Fall 2019 Meetings

09/03 The Wildlife Society and Wildlife Disease Association Student Chapters at Virginia Tech social event connecting wildlife professors and grad students with undergraduate students- About 23 attendees

09/10 Jennifer Cromwell, Assistant State Director of the USDA's Wildlife Services, speaks about the Oral Rabies Vaccination Project- About 12 attendees

10/08 Dr. Kate Langwig, Assistant Professor within the Department of Biological Sciences at Virginia Tech, speaks about her research with white nose syndrome in native bat species-About 10 attendees

10/22 Snake Dissection and Anatomy Workshop -About 10 attendees

11/05 Beginner R statistical software workshop -About 14 attendees

11/19 Julia Murphy, Public Health Veterinarian of the Virginia Department of Health, speaks about the Echinococcus tapeworm and the public and wildlife health implications- About 17 attendees

12/03 Avian necropsy hosted and demonstrated by Dr. Karra Pierce, a veterinarian intern at the Wildlife Center of Virginia- About 12 attendees

Spring 2020 Meetings

01/28 Jarrod Leland Staff Scientist at Novozymes Biologicals talks about his work with insect pathogens - About 9 attendees

02/11 Avian handling/banding meeting demonstrated by Haley Olsen-Hodges, VT WDA Social Media Chair and Staff Naturalist at Southwest Virginia Wildlife Center of Roanoke. -About 13 attendees



02/25 Hands-on, field education meeting discussing B. salamandrivorans and how it would be sampled for in wild populations of salamanders- About 8 attendees

03/02 Dr. Gillian Eastwood, Professor of Vector-Borne Disease within the Department of Entomology at Virginia Tech, speaks about her research with mosquito borne diseases and wildlife -About 8 attendees

**These meetings were originally scheduled for the remainder of Spring 2020: VT WDA /VT The Wildlife Society joint hike, turtle shell repair workshop, and Dr. Maria Hopkins (Wildlife Disease Coordinator for the United States Geological Survey) speaking on wildlife disease mapping. These meetings will now be rescheduled for Fall 2020/Spring 2021.*

(Bi)Annual events (if applicable):

Please provide a brief description of the activity, include at least the date(s), speaker/host/goal and approximate attendance. If you have pictures, please include them.

- Public outreach events?
 - *01/ 25 Virginia Tech's Kids Tech University Exhibit: At our booth we had children match wildlife disease pathogens with their wildlife hosts. -100+ attendees*
- Workshops?
 - **Mentioned above* Avian necropsy workshop, Snake anatomy/dissection workshop, R statistical software workshop, and avian handling/banding workshop*

Weekly or monthly events (if applicable):

Please provide a brief description of the activity, include at least the date(s), speaker/host/goal and approximate attendance. If you have pictures, please include them.

- Seminars? N/A
- Paper discussions? N/A
- Volunteer events? N/A
- Webinars? N/A

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please share anything else you would like to share about your chapter.



!!!Regarding the WDA conference in 2021, Wisconsin

In order to organize the next student event prior the annual meeting we decided to ask the student chapter officers:

What would you like to have as a main topic/red line?

- Focusing on zoonotic wildlife diseases

What would you like to see during this event in terms of lectures, workshops,...?

Compiled officer responses:

- Basic statistical modeling workshops
- Life history associations with wildlife diseases
- White Nose Syndrome, Snake Fungal Disease, Chytrid Fungus (A lecture focusing on fungal diseases and other parasites)
- Insect disease vectors, particularly hippoboscid flies
- Hands-on learning workshops related to wildlife diseases





snake anatomy and dissection



Avian necropsy lab



