Student Chapter Progress Report

Chapter Name: Oklahoma State University Student Chapter of The Wildlife Disease Association

Established in (if known): Fall 2016

**Mission:** To stimulate student interest in wildlife disease and to familiarize its members with what to expect and what is expected of them within the field of wildlife disease management, research, and field work and to expand knowledge of students to the current topics of wildlife disease.

**Number of chapter members:** 20

**Number of chapter members that are WDA members:** 3

**Faculty Advisor**
Name: Joao Brandao
Position: Assistant Professor of Zoological Medicine
Email: jbrandao@okstate.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:**
Name: Erica Perez
Email: erica.perez@okstate.edu
Vice President
Name: Katie Schwartz
Email address: katherine.schwartz@okstate.edu

Other Officers (e.g. treasurer, secretary etc.)
Incl. position, name and email address

Ashley Jackson (Secretary)
Ashley.jackson@okstate.edu

Molley Drakeley (Treasurer)
drakele@okstate.edu

Ryan Koch (Integrative Biology Department Rep)
Ryan.koch@okstate.edu

Corey Sage (Natural Resource Mgmt Department Rep)
Corey.sage@oksate.edu

How frequently does your chapter hold elections?

Annually (April)

Board members 2018-2019
If nothing changes, please report this. If changes are scheduled for later in 2018, please provide the planned time frame for board and/or country representative changes. Always make sure to update the Student Representative on Officer changes!

President:
Name: Katie Schwartz
Email: katherine.schwartz@okstate.edu

Vice President
Name: Ashley Jackson
Email address: ashley.jackson12@okstate.edu
Other Officers
Incl. position, name and email address

Treasurer: Zachary Roy
Email: zach.roy@okstate.edu

Secretary: Kristin McCay
Email: kristin.mccary@okstate.edu

IB Representative: Ryan Koch
Email: ryan.koch@okstate.edu

Description of Chapter Activities

PR & Fundraising
PR:
- We have a very active Facebook community where we post upcoming events, meeting times, group photos, and current/interesting topics in the field of wildlife disease

Member recruitment & Club outreach
- We advertise our meetings on our Facebook page, as well as sending out emails to our member list serve. We have department representatives that hang flyers in their respective buildings and will also contact administrative staff within the departments to send emails to all students.

Collaboration:
- We have held joint events with both the Wildlife Society and the student chapter of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. The former we have had field trips (zoo visits, chytrid surveys) events and the latter we’ve jointly held necropsy/wet lab events
- Which other groups does your chapter collaborate with?
WDA-representation:
- We would frequently hang flyers around campus for meetings and events as well as advertise our meetings at collaborative group meetings (like TWS). We would discuss the importance of networking with wildlife professionals, particularly at meetings like the WDA and did have 2 members go to meetings. We would like to do more fundraising in the future to support more students attending.

Fundraising:
- We collected a $10 membership fee for members for the year. We just created a logo at the end of the 2017-2018 school year in which we stickers with the logo for $5.

EVENTS
- April 2017, Amphibian infectious disease surveys: Roughly 10 members participated in a citizen science project created by the Sam Noble Museum at the University of Oklahoma to is attempting to map the distribution of chytrid fungus in the state. We had members come out on 2 separate days to catch and swab frogs/toads. We discovered one of the lakes we visited tested positive for the fungus.
- **September 2017, Science café and Research on Tap:** We encourage our members to join in on university events that we relevant to our mission. Science café discussed black bears in Oklahoma and their current status with regard to population growth and ongoing research (including disease prevalence). Research on Tap was a Q&A with Dr. Mason Reichard, a parasitologist in the vet med school here on campus and his presentation was discussing tick borne diseases that can harm both pets and people.

- **October 2017, Guest Speaker- Dr. Matt Bolek (~14 members):** Dr. Bolek is a parasitologist in the Department of Integrative Biology at OSU. He spoke with us about his work studying the life cycles of trematodes in aquatic snails.
November 2017, Necrospy/wetlab (13 participants): Dr. Faye Lorenzsonn, a veterinarian with WildCare, conducted a wildlife necropsy lab with our student members. We necropsied a wide variety of animals including rabbits, great blue herons, opossums, and squirrels.

opossum stomach—yuck!
Owl Pellet

Group shot (minus a few)
- November 2017, Guest Speaker- Jessa Watters (~15 members): Ms. Watters spoke with us about chytrid fungus and other pathogens that negatively affect amphibian populations. She also discussed the current work her lab is doing to map the distribution of this infectious disease across the state of Oklahoma through citizen science groups.

- January 2018, Bat/White Nose Cave Surveys: We had 6 students join USFWS biologist to join along for bat cave counts and white nose surveillance. Students navigated through the cave systems and learned how to identify bat species native to eastern Oklahoma and how to spot signs of WNS. Biologists shared their PPE with participants and taught the group the importance and decontaminating all clothes and gear so as to not spread fungal spores.
March 2018, Guest Speaker (virtual)- Dr. Michael Yabsley (~12 members): We had a Q&A with Dr. Michael Yabsley of SCWDS to discuss his role in wildlife disease research and how our students may approach a career in his field. Many veterinary students were also able to ask questions about internships in the field of wildlife disease.

April 2018, Guest Speaker (virtual)- Dr. Cora Singleton (~15 members): We had a Q&A with Dr. Singleton who is a senior clinician at the San Diego Zoo. We learned about her job duties, and what role her work plays in the field of wildlife disease. Many students were able to ask advice regarding their journey in becoming wildlife disease professionals.
(Bi)Annual events (if applicable):
  - See above

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.
  - We have weekly member meetings where we average about 15 members. We try to have field trips/guest speakers/other events at least 3 times each semester. Some of these events coincide with member meetings and others are scheduled separately.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
We are still new, but word is spreading quickly around campus and I know they’ll be growing in size with each meeting!