Student Chapter Progress Report

Chapter Name: Florida Student Chapter of the Wildlife Disease Association

Established in (if known): July 2017

Mission: To acquire and disseminate wildlife disease knowledge to our members and the general public. We provide crucial skills to our members to be successful in the field of wildlife disease and networking opportunities with scientists across disciplines to foster cooperation in the sciences.

Number of chapter members: 12

Number of chapter members that are WDA members: 6

Faculty Advisor
Name: Samantha Wisely
Position: Associate Professor
Email: wisely@ufl.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: Allison Cauvin
Email: acauvin@ufl.edu

Vice President
Name: Shannon Moore
Email address: smoore517@ufl.edu
Other Officers (e.g. treasurer, secretary etc.)

Treasurer
Name: Emily Moore
Email: emilyvmoore@ufl.edu

Secretary:
Name: Annalyse Williams
Email: awilliams64@ufl.edu

How frequently does your chapter hold elections?
Once per year, at the end of the spring semester

Description of Chapter Activities

PR & Fundraising

PR:
Online presence:
- Chapter website (if applicable): scwda-fl.squarespace.com
- Chapter facebook page (if applicable): NA
- Other chapter online or social media presence (i.e. youtube, twitter): NA
- Does your chapter have a newsletter? No, but our website has a blog

Member recruitment & Club outreach
- How does your chapter announce and advertises your events? Through our listserv and our website
Collaboration:
- Which other groups does your chapter collaborate with? NA
- If your chapter collaborates, what does the chapter do together with the other organization? NA

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 handed out flyers, sent blasts to department-wide listservs, and coordinated outreach events at local establishments

Fundraising:
- Does your chapter have a membership fee, if so what are the fees? We have a $10 membership fee
- Did your chapter host a fundraiser (i.e. cookie sale, gear sale)? Yes, we hosted a fundraiser at a rolled ice cream joint in Gainesville, a fundraiser in conjunction with a local brewery, and sold T-shirts at the WDA conference this year.
- Did your chapter apply for grants and awards (i.e. WDA student chapter grants, university support)? No
- Any other way the chapter’s financially health is maintained (i.e. sponsorships)? Not currently

EVENTS
Please share the activities your chapter organized or co-organized between April 30th 2017 and April 30th 2018. 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.

1. Conservation of Rare & Imperiled Species in North Central Florida Seminar (10/10/17): Hosted by the Alachua Conservation Trust. Students got to attend a seminar series focused on conservation efforts in North Florida and network with
wildlife biologists from a variety of local and federal agencies. Five students attended.

2. **Sweetwater Wetlands Birding Competition (10/21/2017):** Students got to practice their wildlife identification skills by competing for the most species identified. Prizes were given to the winning teams. 5 students attended.

3. **Introductory Vector Identification Workshop (11/04/17):** Hosted by Dr. Emma Weeks at the University of Florida Department of Entomology. Students got an introduction to vector identification and vectors of wildlife importance, particularly within the state of Florida. 10 students attended.

4. **USGS Manatee Health Assessments (12/05/17 & 12/06/17):** Students had the opportunity to volunteer with the USGS Sirenia project, getting hands-on marine health assessment experience. 10 students attended.

5. **Wildlife Disease Working Group Meeting (11/6/2017):** Hosted by USGS. Students had the opportunity to attend and participate in the Wildlife Disease Working Group, which is a collection of local and federal officials dedicated to addressing the latest wildlife disease challenges within the state of Florida. 4 students attended.

6. **Marine Mammal Stranding Response Training (1/20/2018):** Students had the opportunity to participate in a training session hosted by the UF Stranding Response team and Aquatic Animal Health program. At the end of the training, students were given the opportunity to register as a volunteer with the UF stranding response team. 20 students attended.

7. **Ichetucknee “Spring” Cleaning Social (3/17/2018):** A social that involved floating down the Ichetucknee river in North-Central Florida and picking up any trash found floating in the river. 5 students attended.

8. **Fundraiser at First Magnitude Brewing Company (3/29/2018):** Fundraiser hosted at a local brewery to raise money to send our members to the 2018 WDA conference.

9. **Ectoparasites of Wildlife Importance Workshop (3/31/2018):** Students had the opportunity to expand upon their skills developed in the previous workshop by learning about groups of ectoparasites that affect the health of wildlife within Florida, and were then given time at the scopes to practice their identification skills.
Our student chapter hosts meetings every 2 weeks. Once a month we have a guest speaker who presents on their research to our students.

Additionally, our student chapter was instrumental in helping organize and run the 2018 WDA Conference in St. Augustine. We coordinated the photo contest, sold the T-shirts, assisted with the live auction, and acted as “all-hands-on-deck” volunteers for the conference.