



Urban Wildlife News

The Newsletter of the Urban Wildlife Working Group
of The Wildlife Society

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Editors: Lowell Adams and Jennifer Cotting

A Word from the Chair

Kate Stenberg

Greetings!

This will be my last message as Chair of the Urban Wildlife Working Group. Get ready to welcome Seth Riley to this forum. And please be sure to review the enclosed biographies of the candidates for Chair-elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and board positions. These folks have graciously agreed to help guide the working group for the next two years. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with them.

Watch for your ballot to vote for working group officers and board members **in late July**. Please be sure to mark your choices and **return your votes**.

By the time we meet in Wisconsin at the annual meeting in September, the wildlife departments of all 50 states should have completed their comprehensive wildlife conservation strategies. Rumor has it that most of these plans focus on wildlife diversity and on finding innovative ways to conserve the biodiversity of each state. The principle of "no species left behind" means that conservation efforts not only look at those species most in trouble, but also at keeping the common species common. There's room here for urban wildlife efforts. What does your state plan include?

In Washington State, the Governor established a Biodiversity Council. We are

charged with developing a strategy to conserve biodiversity in the state by the end of 2007. Obviously, we will be building on the many on-going efforts currently in place in the state such as the comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy, which will enable the state to qualify for state wildlife grants through the federal government.

Comprehensive strategies include promoting watchable wildlife opportunities and linkages with economic development agencies. Tourism, landowner incentives, and festivals can all be the carrots that lead to habitat restoration, species recovery, and sustainable economies. Tourism needs an infrastructure to support it and therefore is inherently linked to urban areas. Urban wildlife conservation makes a logical bridge.

Comprehensive strategies also include educational efforts. I recently picked up the book *Last Child in the Woods; Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder* by Richard Louv. The premise, supported by much research, is that children need time with the natural world to develop properly. As the majority of the world's population now lives in urban areas, this issue is likely to become more significant.

The challenge to you is to find ways to integrate wildlife into our urban areas, make nature available to children, and to find innovative ways to pay for it. What ideas are coming out of your local area? Share them with Lowell and Jennifer, editors of this newsletter, to publish for the working group.

Finally, watch for your ballot for working group officers and board members and vote!

Correction

In the previous newsletter we acknowledged the organizers of the Bow Corridor workshop that was held during The Wildlife Society's 11th annual meeting in Calgary. One of the organizers who was accidentally overlooked was Harry Zinn, Associate Professor of Recreation and Park Management at Penn State University. Harry co-organized the workshop. Thank you Harry, and sorry for the omission.

National Arbor Day Foundation Conference

The National Arbor Day Foundation held its third urban wildlife conference on May 23-25 at the Lied Conference Center in Nebraska City. Approximately 50 professionals from across the country met to hear 17 presentations on topics ranging from the control of wildlife damage in urban areas to urban preserve design and maintenance. The attendees represented a wide range of professions and specialists, including wildlife biologists, planners, resource and park managers, health professionals, and environmental consultants. Critter Control was an exhibitor and sponsored one of the breaks. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Humane Society of the United States joined the urban working group as at-large sponsors and contributors to the conference. As it has in the past, the setting offered an excellent opportunity for attendees to meet and interact both formally and informally. One well-attended informal discussion session focused on how to expand and improve upon this event. The Arbor Day Foundation is interested in continuing

this conference series and the challenge for the working group is how to ensure that happens. Among other possible changes would be to hold the event at other venues and engage local support. Anyone interested in contributing ideas to this event should contact the conference coordinator for Arbor Day, Steve Pearson, at spearson@arborday.org.

--John Hadidian

Fall Elections

Election of officers and board of the working group will take place soon, and winners will be installed at the annual meeting of the working group in September 2005. The working group charter calls for a slate of candidates proposed by the Nominating and Elections Committee to be circulated to working group members 30 days before the election (which will be by mail ballot in accordance with the charter). The charter calls for two candidates to run for each of the elective positions. At this point, we have one candidate each for Chair-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer and eight candidates agreeing to run for the six board positions. If you know of someone willing to serve as an officer or board member (and who has agreed to be a candidate), please consider nominating the individual. To submit the name of an additional candidate you need the signed support of six or more members of the working group. Please review (and save) this slate of candidates and look for an official ballot from the Nominating and Elections Committee in about 30 days. Please direct any questions or comments to committee chair Brent Rudolph (rudolphb@michigan.gov).

The Nominating and Elections Committee offers this proposed slate of candidates:

Chair-Elect (will vote for one)
David Drake

Secretary – Treasurer (will vote for one)
Harry Zinn

Board Members (will vote for six)
Running for re-election
John Triana

First-time candidates
Stephen DeStefano
Mark Hostetler
Leslie Kordella
Allan O'Connell
Michael O'Donnell
Bryan Pritchett
Mark Wallace

Brief resumes of candidates, listed in alphabetical order, are found below.

Stephen DeStefano

Stephen DeStefano received B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in wildlife ecology from the Universities of Massachusetts, Wisconsin, and Idaho, respectively. He was a research associate with the USGS Oregon Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit and Assistant Unit Leader with the Arizona Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. Currently he is Unit Leader and Adjunct Professor with the Massachusetts Unit at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Steve's primary research interests are in suburban wildlife ecology and human-wildlife interactions. Among his urban-related research, he studied the distribution and habitat use of greater roadrunners in Tucson, Arizona, survival and movements of white-tailed deer in suburban and rural Massachusetts, the demography and movements of beavers along a suburban-rural gradient in Massachusetts, and has collaborated with human dimensions specialists on studies of human-wildlife interac-

tions in suburban environments. He also developed and taught a seminar course in suburban wildlife ecology. Steve has been a member of The Wildlife Society since 1978 and is a member of the TWS Urban Wildlife Working Group.

David Drake

David is currently an Extension Wildlife Specialist/Assistant Professor at Rutgers University, and has accepted a position as an Extension Wildlife Specialist/Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison effective July 1, 2005. David received his Ph.D. in Forestry from North Carolina State University and his M.S. from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at Texas A&M University. His main research and extension focus while at Rutgers has been managing wildlife in New Jersey, the most densely populated state in the nation. David is a member of The Wildlife Society and the Urban Wildlife Working Group, and has co-organized the last 2 Urban Wildlife Working Group-sponsored workshops at the 10th and 11th Annual Wildlife Society meetings in Burlington, Vermont and Calgary, Alberta, respectively. The workshops examined how wildlife and people co-exist in human-dominated landscapes. If elected, David will work to increase the visibility of urban wildlife management within and outside the wildlife profession.

Mark Hostetler

Mark Hostetler is an Associate Professor, Department of Wildlife Ecology & Conservation, University of Florida. With over ten years of experience in urban wildlife issues and natural resource management, Mark conducts research and outreach on how urban landscapes can be designed and managed, from small to large scales, to conserve natural resources. He has extensive experience in working with homeown-

ers, developers, and policymakers on ways to manage and design residential developments. In particular, he is developing educational programs that will help homeowners manage their yards and neighborhoods for wildlife. He has published in *Landscape and Urban Planning*, *Urban Ecosystems*, and has several book chapters on urban design and its effect on natural resources. In conjunction with the University of Florida's Program for Resource Efficient Communities, Mark and his graduate students are working with several developers to establish natural resource conservation strategies in communities that are billed as "green" developments. Mark has a B.S. in biology from Purdue University and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in zoology from the University of Florida.

Lesley Kordella

Lesley Kordella received her B.S. in Biology from George Mason University and her Master of Natural Resources from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Lesley is the Ecological Restoration Program Manager for the Wildlife Habitat Council, based in Silver Spring, Maryland. She manages the Council's Land Restoration Program. For the past three years Lesley has also managed the Wildlife Habitat Council's Backyard Conservation Program, and provided consulting expertise to businesses nationally on how to improve their lands for wildlife and environmental education. She has also worked for the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park in Washington, D.C. and Front Royal, Virginia. Lesley presently participates as an active member and instructor for the Interstate Technology Regulatory Council's Ecological Land Reuse Team, which focuses on the ecological restoration of contaminated lands. She is completing her Masters of Urban and Regional Planning at Virginia

Tech. Lesley was born in Washington, D.C., and grew up in Loudoun County, Virginia.

Allan O'Connell

Allan O'Connell is a research biologist at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Maryland. He earned his Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Massachusetts and has directed natural resource management and science programs for the National Park Service and U.S. Geological Survey in New York and Maine. At the graduate level, he has taught courses in Natural Resource Policy on Federal Lands and "Ecology and Management of Exotic Species." Born and raised in New York City, he has an intimate knowledge of urban conservation needs and issues as they relate to wildlife ecology and management. He has worked on a variety of wildlife issues with implications for the urban environment including beaver population damage control and disease transmission, endangered species protection in the coastal zone, wildlife disease vectors and public health, white-tailed deer ecology, predator-prey interactions, the effects of habitat fragmentation on forest birds, biodiversity assessments using natural history collections, and currently is studying the population dynamics of isolated raccoon populations and their influence on endangered prey. He believes that the two most important issues with respect to urban wildlife are 1) the need for the public to understand the importance and value of wildlife in the context of wildlife as an integral component of our changing landscapes, and 2) the importance of urban wildlife ecology to the wildlife profession as we move toward an ever increasing urban environment in the 21st century. He would welcome the opportunity to serve as a board member.

Mike O'Donnell

Mike O'Donnell is a Principal Lecturer in the Department of Biology at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. His responsibilities in this position include coordination, teaching, and curriculum development for the Introductory Biology Program. He is also a member of Trinity's Environmental Sciences Program, and a member of the steering committee for the college's field station. He also teaches an urban wildlife ecology course for non-science majors, and feels strongly that urban wildlife biology courses can be used to get non-science students interested in ecological studies. Mike also designed and taught in a summer program for incoming college students that involved community service along with the study of urban wildlife. His recent research projects involve undergraduate students, and include foraging behavior in urbanized areas, den site selection by nuisance raccoons excluded from houses, and the use of non-invasive techniques to survey wildlife along an urban-rural gradient. He has a B.S. in Zoology from the University of Rhode Island and a M.S. in Wildlife Biology and Management from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, where he studied the attitudes of urban-suburban residents toward nuisance wildlife.

Bryan Pritchett

A graduate of Kansas State University, Bryan holds a B.S. degree in wildlife biology. Bryan is the Natural Resources Conservation and Environmental Education Coordinator for the City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks Program, where he oversees natural resource management activities on Boulder's 45,000 acres of open space and directs environmental education and community outreach services. His work includes management of several federally listed species. Bryan also has been intimately involved in developing management

policies for prairie dogs within Boulder. He is currently working on a comprehensive wildlife management plan for the City of Boulder. Bryan served on the Board of Directors of the Colorado Wildlife Federation from 1989 to 1993. He was elected to the National Wildlife Federation Board of Directors in 1993, and has served in a variety of capacities, including Chairman. He has represented NWF on issues related to impacts of urban sprawl on wildlife and global conservation problems stemming from human population growth, in venues that include local public hearings, Congressional hearings, and United Nations conferences. Bryan is a member of The Wildlife Society, as well as the Colorado Chapter, and is excited about the potential opportunity to serve on the board of the Urban Wildlife Working Group.

John Triana

John Triana is a Natural Resources Technician for the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority. He is responsible for the stewardship of the forested lands owned by the Authority in and around New Haven, Connecticut. Prior to starting his current position he was an environmental educator for the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority. He has a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology from the University of Massachusetts, and a M.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He is married with 2 daughters and is president of the New Haven Bird Club.

Mark Wallace

Mark Wallace obtained his B.S. at the University of Washington (1981), and his M.S. (1984) and Ph.D. (1991) in wildlife at the University of Arizona. He has been on the faculty at Texas Tech University (TTU) since 1996. His research focuses on animal-habitat relationships, particularly on the

effects of human land use patterns on wild- life and habitats. While at TTU he has worked on modeling elk populations in New Mexico, studying the effects of red imported fire ants on white-tailed deer, prairie dogs in fragmented habitats, urban burrowing owls, and swift fox ecology and the effects of landscape changes on wild turkey popula- tion dynamics. Mark is a member of The Wildlife Society and a charter member of the TWS Urban Wildlife Working Group. He welcomes the opportunity to support the Urban Wildlife Working Group by serving as a board member.

Harry Zinn

Harry Zinn received his Ph.D. in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources (Depart- ment of Natural Resource Recreation and Tourism) from Colorado State University and his M.S. in Forest Management from the University of Maine. He is currently an Associate Professor of Recreation, Park and Tourism Management at Penn State University. Harry’s primary research focus is investigating changing human responses to wildlife and the environment, including

public responses to issues in managing wildlife and protected lands and waters, as well as participation patterns in wildlife- and nature-dependent recreation and tourism. His urban-related research includes study- ing public responses to cougars, coyotes, beaver, and prairie dogs in urban areas of Colorado, and studying visitor responses to feral horses and domestic dogs in an ur- ban-interface estuarine reserve in North Carolina. Harry has been a member of The Wildlife Society since 1995. Since joining the TWS Urban Wildlife Working Group in 2002, he has been a steering committee member for the TWS Urban Wildlife Work- shops, and he is leading this committee for 2005. He welcomes the opportunity to in- crease his support for the Urban Wildlife Working Group by serving as Secretary- Treasurer.

*-- Submitted by the
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Brent Rudolph, chair
Lowell Adams
Charles Nilon*

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