



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

John Hadidian

I'd like to wish everyone the happiest of holidays and a prosperous and productive new year. The Urban Wildlife Working Group has a great deal to look forward to in this coming year, including involvement in a national conference on urban wildlife that will be hosted by the Arbor Day Foundation in May and the 3rd International Wildlife Congress that will take place next December in Christchurch, New Zealand. Kate Stenberg will assume duties as chair at the TWS annual meeting in Burlington, Vermont, and some new (and perhaps some old) faces as officers and board members will take their seats at that conference as well. With elections upcoming, I encourage all working group members to consider running for office. The future of this group will depend on how active its membership is, and it is critical that new faces keep appearing to energize and prompt our future agenda.

Another way to get involved is by offering to work on one of our committees. With elections to be held soon, we need to find three members willing to serve on the Nominating and Elections Committee. Our other standing committees include Membership, Audit, Communications, and Annual Meeting Technical Session. I'll be polling existing members and placing a call on our listserv soon to get committee activities going again.

One issue for us has been that we often do not have committee members all attending the annual meeting, or a quorum that can be used to get committee business on the table and voted on. We'll need to adopt a strategy for dealing with that situation.

Anyone who is interested in working on any committees is welcomed to get in touch with me to discuss opportunities. There also is an opportunity for special committee work that members could propose to the Chair (e.g., a committee to explore options for an international meeting). Our charter allows for the creation of special committees, and we need to be creative in considering their potential use.

Look for a call for nominations and elections soon and consider the possibility of running!

Notes from Bismarck

The Urban Wildlife Working Group (UWWG) held its annual meeting September 26, 2002 as a part of The Wildlife Society's 9th Annual Conference in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Chair John Hadidian reported that current UWWG membership was just over 120 individuals, approximately 20 to 30 of whom are active members. He mentioned an interest in increasing the activity of current members and reaching new young professionals, particularly those in

fields that focus on human-wildlife interactions.

Also of critical interest to the group was the concern that wildlife agencies often do not take urban wildlife seriously. This was followed by a discussion of ways the UWWG could work together with local agencies to identify opportunities for UWWG input and outreach, and how UWWG might make urban wildlife more appreciated in the training of biologists at the university level.

Unfinished business discussed in Bismarck included a summary of the UWWG-sponsored media workshop held earlier in the week and affirmation of support for: the May 2003 Urban Wildlife Management Conference at the Arbor Day Foundation in Nebraska City; the upcoming (Dec 2003) 3rd International Wildlife Management Congress in Christchurch, New Zealand; and the Defenders of Wildlife Carnivores 2002 meeting November, 2002. For more information on the media workshop or any of these conferences, see articles in this newsletter.

New business at the annual meeting focused primarily on proposed workshop sessions for The Wildlife Society's 10th Annual Conference in Burlington, Vermont. More information on two proposals appears later in this newsletter.

UWWG Media Workshop Popular among Bismarck Attendees

On Tuesday, September 24th, the UWWG offered the workshop "**Media Self-Defense: Skills and Strategies for Wildlife Professionals**" at The Wildlife Society's 9th annual meeting in Bismarck. Feedback from the more than 50 attendees was very positive.

Clarence Jones, a professional media consultant and former investigative reporter for the *Miami Herald* suggested skills and strategies wildlife professionals can use to deal with the media successfully. Approximately 25 attendees took part in the afternoon's hands-on workshop polishing their skills with on-camera exercises and peer critiques.

This workshop was suggested at the UWWG annual meeting in Reno as a way to provide wildlife professionals with the communications tools necessary for successful interactions with members of the media. Many who participated said this was the first media training they had ever received and hoped there would be more opportunities like this at future meetings.

Urban Carnivores

Seth Riley put together a session on urban carnivores at the **Carnivores 2002** conference organized by Defenders of Wildlife and held November 17-20, in Monterey, California. The session featured nine presentations in two segments, chaired by Seth and John Hadidian. Included were talks on urban coyotes, raccoons, skunks, bears, red foxes, bobcats, raptors, endangered kit foxes, fishers, and domestic cats. Further information is available on the web site www.defenders.org/carnivores2002/.


The Wildlife Society's 10th Annual Conference


The 10th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society will be held in Burlington, Vermont September 6-10, 2003. Proposed UWWG workshops include sessions on habitat conservation in the host city and wildlife diseases.

UWWG Chair-Elect Kate Stenberg of Quailcrott Environmental Services in Seattle, Washington has proposed a half-day workshop entitled *Habitat Conservation in Burlington, VT: A Case Study*. This workshop would enable the wildlife biologists at the annual conference to truly benefit the host city by working with the City of Burlington and students from the University of Vermont to analyze the city's current urban wildlife management plans and suggest implementation priorities and possible alternative strategies.


Also proposed is *Wildlife Disease and the Urban/Suburban Environment*, a full day symposium organized by Milton Friend of the USGS National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wisconsin. This symposium would explore the extent to which zoonotic diseases may affect urban and suburban habitats. The session would also address public education tools and management strategies that should be considered to protect the well being of both the wildlife and humans involved.

Upcoming and of Interest

 The Urban Ecosystem Research Consortium will host **Urban Ecology and Conservation Symposium: Sharing Data, Making Connections** on January 24, 2003 from 9 am to 5 pm at Portland University's Smith Center. This symposium is offered to facilitate networking, partnership building, and information exchange among urban ecologists in the Portland/Vancouver region. Abstracts of up to 250 words will be accepted through December 6, 2002. For more information on the symposium or for submitting an abstract, see the symposium web site at www.esr.pdx.edu/uerc.

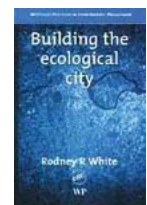
 The UWWG will sponsor a special session at the **68th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference** entitled "**Trouble in the City: Human/Wildlife Conflicts in Urban and Suburban North America.**" The conference is scheduled for the last week of March 2003 and will be held in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

The session is co-chaired by Craig Miller of the Illinois Natural History Survey and Jeff Duguay of Stephen F. Austin State University and will aim to increase understanding of the causes, consequences, and potential solutions to the escalating problem of wildlife/human conflicts in urban North America. For more information contact Craig by phone at 217-333-7485 or by e-mail at craigm@inhs.uiuc.edu.

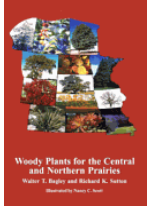
 **The 2003 Urban Wildlife Management National Conference** sponsored by The National Arbor Day Foundation is scheduled for May 5-7, 2003 at Arbor Day Farm in Nebraska City, Nebraska. The conference is presented in cooperation with the UWWG as well as The Humane Society of the United States and the Habitat Restoration Branch of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For more information contact The National Arbor Day Foundation by phone at 402-474-5655 or by e-mail at conferences@arborday.org.

New In Print

Earlier this year CRC Press introduced **Building the Ecological City** by Rodney R. White. This 238-page book provides a review of the impact modern cities have had on the surrounding environment, methods for developing ecological sustainability in urban environments, and alternative solu-



tions to many current natural resource practices in the urban environment. For more information on this and other CRC press offerings, check out their web site at www.crcpress.com.



Particularly of interest to those involved in prairie restoration, Blackburn Press offers **Woody Plants for the Central and Northern Prairies**. This book is designed to help in the identification and selection of native woody plant species in landscape and habitat renewal projects. The book also includes descriptions and sketches of the native and exotic woody plants most often found on the prairies of the U.S. and Canada. For more information, see their web site at www.blackburnpress.com.

Urban Wildlife News Survey

Thanks so much to the many of you who have responded to the UWWG query regarding your newsletter preferences. Your requests for e-mail or print versions of the newsletter have been recorded and should take effect with this issue.

If you have not yet responded, it's not too late. E-mail or write Jennifer Cotting and let her know whether you would like to continue to receive print copies of the newsletter or would prefer e-mail notification of when the newsletter is posted to the working group's web site. Jennifer can be reached at cot1800@aol.com or 2419 Homestead Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20902.

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