



Urban Wildlife News

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

Volume 7, Number 2, Winter 2008/2009

Editors: Lowell Adams and Jennifer Cotting

A Word from the Chair

David Drake

The Wildlife Society's Urban Wildlife Working Group sponsored a very successful half-day symposium at the 15th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society (TWS) in Miami in November 2008. The title of the symposium was "Integrating Wildlife and Resource Conservation with Urban Planning." Sherry Ruther (Pima County Planning, Tucson, Arizona) did all of the hard work to organize the session and developed it with input from Chris Moorman (North Carolina State University), Lesley Kordella, and John Davis (Texas Parks and Wildlife). The symposium was well attended, especially given that the session was held on the last day of the conference.

John Davis began the session by providing an excellent overview about the basics of land use planning and suggested opportunities and ways for wildlife managers to influence the planning process. Rebecca Kihlslinger (Environmental Law Institute) discussed the Conservation Thresholds Program, an integrated, science-based conservation planning program. Steve Allen (North Carolina State University) reported on the results of a survey of attendees to nine conservation-based design workshops held throughout North Carolina about barriers to implementing conservation-based developments. Jacquelyn Wallace (North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission) presented a new program the Commission is unveiling called "Green Growth Toolbox," a

web-based planning assistance tool provided to local governments trying to integrate wildlife into different phases of urban planning. Bill Hammond (Kitson Partners) provided a case study of the Babcock Ranch, a 145-square-mile area where humans and wildlife live compatibly in close proximity. George Hess and Chris Moorman presented results from their research detailing criteria that should be considered for successful designing and implementation of suburban/urban greenways for wildlife. Greg Gologowski (Harmony Development) provided a case study about simultaneously providing human and wildlife habitat in a suburban conservation development. I presented a talk offering constructive criticism of the conservation subdivision planning process from a wildlife perspective, and Mark Hostetler (University of Florida) presented a companion talk examining the wildlife perspective of the construction and post-construction phases of conservation subdivisions. Francois de Kock (Half Associates) provided an overview of wildlife and conservation planning relative to LEED standards. The session concluded with a lively panel discussion and question and answer period.

The Urban Wildlife Working Group continues to grow in membership and activities. Future plans involving the working group include sponsoring and helping to organize the Urban Wildlife Ecology and Management conference at the University of Massachusetts, 21-24 June 2009. The working group has also offered to sponsor a full-day

workshop at the 16th TWS conference in Monterey, California, examining urban wildlife and parks in the San Francisco Bay area. I encourage you to stay involved in urban wildlife management in your community and in your professional society. Enjoy the rest of winter, and hope to see all of you in June at the Urban Wildlife Ecology and Management conference.

Sincerely,
David

Annual Meeting in Miami

The working group held its annual meeting on 9 November 2008, in Miami, Florida, in conjunction with the annual conference of TWS. Thirteen members attended, constituting a quorum. Chair David Drake noted that due notice of the meeting was given by TWS in its preliminary conference program. Following are highlights of the meeting.

1. Minutes of the 2007 annual meeting (Tucson, Arizona) were read and approved.
2. No treasurer's report was presented. Chair Drake indicated he thought we had about \$4,000 at the current time.
3. Drake reported that we received notification from TWS that TWS had space and was providing electronic database services for working groups to house working group information. Discussion ensued on what was really being offered and how we might use this resource. Mark Wallace will investigate further and report back to the group.
4. The chair reported that TWS was requesting working group support (i.e., \$100 donations or more) of its Leadership Institute. Emily Hemblin briefly reported that the institute provides training for young new professionals to create the next generation

of TWS leaders. It was decided to hold off support until after we have concluded our Urban Wildlife Symposium in Massachusetts this summer.

5. Chair Drake reported the need for a Nominating and Elections Committee to prepare a slate of candidates for voting by the membership. New officers and board members will assume their duties next year at the annual meeting in California.

6. David Drake and Seth Riley reported on the current status of our upcoming conference. The conference will be held at the University of Massachusetts, 21-24 June 2009. We have signed contracts with the conference hotel and are moving forward with program development and local arrangements. It was suggested that the working group propose a symposium on "Urban Wildlife Education" and David Drake and Mark Wallace will develop that session. Help is still needed in a variety of areas: poster session, session moderators, registration, etc. Please contact Stephen DeStefano (sdestef@nrc.umass.edu, 413-5454889) if you can assist with these or other activities. The hope is to follow up the Massachusetts conference with one in Texas in 2011 (John Davis, Mark Wallace, and others).

7. David Drake reported that he had a class conduct a follow-up on the Adams et al. (1987) survey of urban wildlife research and education in North American Colleges and Universities. He provided summary data from the latest survey. The most important point to note was that there has seemingly been no increase in programs or courses offered at universities. Follow-up discussion pointed out that urban wildlife management is not just wildlife damage management in cities. There is a niche to develop curricula criteria for urban wildlife biologists (specific

education and training for urban biologists that traditional wildlife biologist do not need). Drake's goal is to create a white paper on urban wildlife curricula for the June conference in Massachusetts. This led to more discussion of an urban wildlife education symposium at the Massachusetts meeting. David Drake and Mark Wallace will prepare a session proposal for consideration by the conference program committee.

8. The working group will continue with the kind of local planning, hands-on workshops at the annual conference of TWS that we have had since the meeting in Burlington, Vermont. Mark Wallace and David Drake will put together a proposal for TWS before the 5 December deadline. The session will focus on activities and examples in the San Francisco Bay area located about 1 hour north of Monterey, California (location of the 2009 annual conference of TWS). Chris Moorman, Seth Riley, and Jacquelyn Wallace will assist with planning.

Park Ranger Program in Maryland

Michael Tchou, Senior Park Ranger, Montgomery County, Maryland, is developing the Maryland-National Capitol Parks and Planning Commission Park Ranger Program for Montgomery County. Wildlife management is included in the Program's mission statement. The planned wildlife component will include rescue of injured animals in the parks, dealing with domestic animal issues, and providing education resources on how to deal with urban wildlife. The plan for the program is to respond to wildlife calls throughout the county on Planning Commission park property. Michael also is working on organizing a statewide Park Ranger Association. One of the Association's goals is to create professional training standards, and one module focuses

on urban wildlife management. Michael would like to work with others interested in the topics outlined above. You can reach him at Montgomery County Park Police Headquarters at Saddlebrook, 12754 Layhill Road, Silver Spring, MD 20906 (Phone: 301-929-2732; E-mail: Michael.Tchou@montgomeryparks.org).

Regional Urban Wildlife Conference in Dallas, Texas

Online registration is now open for "Situations and Solutions," a full-day workshop dealing with urban wildlife co-sponsored by Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Parks & Wildlife, and North Texas Master Naturalist Chapter. This conference will feature experts who will discuss a variety of ways to successfully manage problematic urban wildlife species. Special guest speaker, Dr. Stan Gehrt, is an associate professor of environmental and natural resources at Ohio State University and the author of *Urban ecology of coyotes in the Chicago metropolitan area*. The workshop, which will take place in Dallas on March 4, 2009, is designed for professionals who may need to interact or remove wildlife from their property, as well as anyone who has an interest in learning more about urban wildlife issues. An early registration fee of \$30 is available through February 23, 2009. The fee is \$35 after that date. Visit <http://ntmn.org/UrbanWildlife/> for more information or contact Fred Burrell or the North Texas Master Naturalist at (214) 904-3050 to register by phone.

Partners of the Americas

Partners of the Americas ([Partners of the Americas](#)) is an organization that evolved from an initiative of President Kennedy in the early 1960s. Its mission is "To work together as citizen volunteers from Latin

America, the Caribbean and the United States to improve the lives of people across the hemisphere.” It’s a people-to-people exchange program involving 120 chapters and 60 partnerships. A state chapter in the United States is partnered with a like chapter in Central or South America or the Caribbean. For example, the state of Maryland is partnered with the state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil because of similar characteristics. Each has a large bay (Chesapeake in Maryland and Guanabara in Rio) with surrounding human development, among other common features.

One initiative of the Maryland-Rio Partnership is a university student exchange program focused on ecology and natural resources management. Every other year, a small group of Brazilian students and one or two faculty members come to Maryland to learn about its educational and academic facilities, environmental NGOs, related government agencies, and research foundations; in the intervening years, a like number of students and faculty from the University of Maryland travel to the state of Rio de Janeiro. Because of the metropolitan areas involved, urban wildlife ecology and management can be incorporated into the program. If you are interested in international work, it may be worthwhile investigating further Partners of the Americas. There may be a chapter partnership in your state that would allow you to expand your urban wildlife conservation efforts.

Urban Ecology Fellowships

The Urban Ecology Research Learning Alliance is offering student research awards of up to \$5000 for projects conducted in any of the national parks in the National Capital Region. These fellowships are an excellent opportunity to conduct focused short-term studies, expand on an existing research

question, or evaluate approaches to a question. Deadline for submitting applications is February 28, 2009. For more information and to download an application please visit: <http://www.nps.gov/cue>

Summer Opportunity for Undergraduates

Miami University (Oxford, Ohio) is pleased to announce the 2009 Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Program in Ecology in Human Dominated Landscapes, funded by the National Science Foundation. This is an exciting paid summer research opportunity for undergraduates. Eight positions are available for summer 2009 (May 18-July 31). Students will be immersed in their own research projects, each of which is part of a larger team of students and faculty. Each student will receive:

- \$4,200 stipend
- Free housing
- Travel to and from Miami University
- Funds to use for their research
- 12 credit hours, tuition-free and transferable.

The University has a particular interest in undergraduates focusing on ecology and environmental science from any institution. Prior coursework in ecology and/or environmental science is recommended, and the University has a preference for students who are entering their junior or senior years. Each participant must be enrolled as an undergraduate student the following fall semester to qualify for the program. Applications will be reviewed starting February 1, 2009. For more information, visit the web at www.muohio.edu/ecoreu or contact the REU coordinator: Tammy McPeck, Department of Zoology, Miami University, Oxford, OH 45056; (513-529-3119);

ecoreu@muohio.edu). For information about other REU opportunities, visit:

www.ensp.umd.edu/Internships.htm#REU

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