

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: March 1, 2013
Report To: TWS Council
From: Jeff Levensgood, Chairperson, Wildlife Toxicology Working Group
Subject: Interim Report of the Wildlife Toxicology Working Group

Recommendations to Council: No specific recommendations are made at this time. This interim report is provided as required, and we request the report be approved by Council.

Membership, Officers and Meetings: WTWG membership is currently 72. Last year, our membership was 84. Current WTWG officers include:

Chairperson:	Jeff Levensgood
Chair-Elect:	Brian Hiller
Past-Chair:	Tom Augspurger
Vice Chair:	Beth MacCallum
Vice Chair:	Tim Bargar
Treasurer:	Deborah Rudis
Secretary:	Carrie Marr
Newsletter Editor / Communications (non-elected):	Louise Venne

An annual meeting of the working group was held 15 October, 2012, in Portland, OR with ten members in attendance in person and eight members by teleconference. Notes of the business meeting are on our website (<http://joomla.wildlife.org/Toxicology/>).

Workshops and Symposia: At the 2012 national conference, the WTWG presented a workshop, *Pollutants and Wildlife Management: Ecotoxicology for Biologists and Land Managers*; eleven participants attended. This was the second time the WTWG offered this workshop; in 2012 contact hours for TWS certifications could be earned. Eleven attendees spanned the experience gradient from novice to practitioner. All received a binder containing a copy of the slides, a CD with reference materials, and information about the WTWG. We received positive feedback about the workshop as well as suggestions we will use to tailor future continuing education offerings.

In January 2013, the WTWG submitted a proposal to offer the workshop at the 2013 TWS annual conference. A modified version of last year's workshop was proposed; this year we proposed to offer a full day workshop and an increase in non-student fees from the baseline \$25 to \$50. The workshop was approved as proposed.

In February 2012, the WTWG sponsored a special session at the 2012 annual meeting of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (Long Beach, CA, November 2012). The

session, *Wildlife Ecotoxicology Supporting Management Decision Making* focused on the broad array of wildlife toxicology work that ultimately supports and/or contributes to management decision making. The goal of the session was to provide ecologists, toxicologists, biologists, land managers, and decision makers with exposure to a diversity of ecotoxicological projects useful for making informed and effective decisions related to wildlife management. We also had an informational booth at the SETAC conference (see below). The special session and booth gave the WTWG a more visible presence at SETAC and facilitated coordination among these groups, one of our recent priorities.

The WTWG will be working in conjunction with the Wildlife Disease Working Group to develop a proposal for a jointly-sponsored session for the 2014 TWS conference.

Graduate Student Research Award: The WTWG awarded our 2012 Graduate Student Award to Lisa Kaulfersch (Michigan State University). Her proposal "*Selenium exposure and reproductive health of select avian species associated with a large iron mine in Marquette County, Michigan, USA*" was evaluated independently by three WTWG reviewers and judged the winner of a \$500 award for travel and participation at the TWS annual conference in Portland. Anthony Roberts (Utah State University) and Sara Rensing (Southern Illinois University) received honorable mention awards of funds sufficient to cover annual membership in TWS and the WTWG.

The WTWG Executive Board expects to offer a graduate student research award in 2013. The competition will be announced in April with applications due in May and an award in June so students can attend the TWS conference.

Communication and Outreach: We maintain a website on the Working Groups section of the TWS website. Fall and winter issues of the *Wildlife Toxicology Working Group Newsletter* were compiled, edited and disseminated. In addition to articles of general interest and updates on Executive Board meetings and actions, each issue had a column from the Chair, a profile of a WTWG member, and announcements of recently published member articles and events relevant to wildlife toxicology.

In a reciprocal agreement between TWS and SETAC, the WTWG was provided booth space at the 2012 SETAC conference held Nov. 11-15, in Long Beach, CA. The idea/goal of the agreement was to increase promotion opportunities and awareness of each group within the membership of the other. From our standpoint, there are a large number of toxicologists working on wildlife related issues who belong to SETAC and it would be beneficial to have those experts as members of TWS and the WTWG as well. The booth was very well received and was successful in raising awareness of TWS and the WTWG and our mission/role, within the membership of SETAC.

During the 2012 SETAC meeting in Long Beach, there were several discussions regarding the establishment of a Wildlife Toxicology Advisory Group within SETAC. The objectives and goals for this Advisory Group are yet to be formulated; however, there appears to be interest among some members of SETAC and TWS, especially members of TWS WTWG, to take initial

exploratory steps for such a group. Following an informal meeting at the Terrestrial Bioaccumulation Workshop in Florida, a paper is being drafted to begin this process. Additional information will be provided to members of TWS WTWG as they are available.

Our Vice-Chair Beth McCallum personally contacted new members early in 2013 on behalf of the Board and reached out to previous members to encourage continued participation. This extra effort to personally contact new and former members will help with participation in WTWG activities.

Treasury: Our 2012 tax form is provided as an addendum. As of December 31, 2012, our account balance was \$1715.09.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Levensgood , 2012-2013 Chair, Wildlife Toxicology Working Group
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