



Student Chapter Progress Report

Chapter Name:

University of Guelph Wildlife Disease Association Student Chapter

Established in (if known): 2017

Mission: Our mission is to catalyze interactions between veterinary, undergraduate and graduate students, as well as staff and faculty from across the University of Guelph with an interest in wildlife disease by providing a forum for inter-disciplinary discussion of contemporary challenges facing wildlife disease research, management and public engagement, while simultaneously providing career building and educational opportunities as diverse as the foci of the chapters' membership-base. In placing a strong emphasis on discipline diversity, and by launching the University of Guelph Student Chapter of the Wildlife Disease Association as an inter-departmental collaboration, we hope to 1) broaden the education of members through exposure to concepts outside their area of specialization, 2) provide members with opportunities/collaborations outside of their field of study, and 3) create a network of specialists amongst the future generation of wildlife disease professionals.

Number of chapter members: 12

Number of chapter members that are WDA members: 4

Faculty Advisor

Name: Dr. Claire Jardine

Position: Associate Professor, Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative Manager Ontario|Nunavut

Email: cjardi01@uoguelph.ca

Current board members

Co-President:

Name: Dr. Shannon French

Email: frenchs@uoguelph.ca



Co-President:

Name: Alex Sutton

Email: asutto01@uoguelph.ca

Secretary:

Name: Mason Stothart

Email address: mstothar@uoguelph.ca

Treasurer

Name: Carolyn Trombley

Email address: carotrombley@gmail.com

Board members 2018-2019

Elections are held on an annual basis during the second week of the Fall semester.

Description of Chapter Activities

PR & Fundraising:

Online presence:

- Chapter website (if applicable): NA
- Chapter facebook page (if applicable): NA
- Other chapter online or social media presence (i.e. youtube, twitter): NA
- Does your chapter have a newsletter?: NA

Member recruitment & Club outreach

- Word of mouth
- Departmental Emails
- Advertised talks
- University "Clubs Days"

Collaboration:

- NA

WDA-representation:

- Announce at chapter hosted seminars what the WDA mission is and how to become a member.

Fundraising:

- Membership fees: \$0
- Hosted fundraising: None
- Grants applied for: None



EVENTS

Seminar: Ecology of black-legged Ticks (*Ixodes scapularis*) in southern Ontario Canada

Speaker: Dr. Katie Clow

Seminar: Prevalence and geographic distribution of *Echinococcus multilocularis* in coyotes and foxes across southern Ontario

Speaker: Jon Kotwa

March Mammal Madness Bracket Charity Fundraiser

We ran a March Mammal Madness (<http://mammalssuck.blogspot.ca/>) departmental bracket pool with proceeds going to a local charity. In parallel, we blended smack-talk and primary literature to highlight disease ecology research relevant to this year's competitors.

(Upcoming) Seminar: Evidence of 'sickness behaviour' in bats with white-nose syndrome

Speaker: Shelby Bohn

(Upcoming) Workshop: "Build your own bat detector workshop"

To compliment the seminar on White Nose Syndrome, we will be hosting a workshop wherein we walk attendees through converting refurbished FM radios into portable heterodyne bat detectors.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Guelph Student Chapter just recently gained accreditation as a WDA student chapter in December of 2017. During the 4 months since, we have begun planning events for the upcoming year, launching a disease ecology seminar series, and planning for active recruitment of chapter members during the Fall 2018 semester.