

2018 STUDENT CHAPTER PROGRESS REPORT



Chapter Name: Colorado State University Wildlife Disease Association (CSU WDA)
Established: 2009

Faculty Advisor

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Number of chapter members: 60

Number of chapter members that are WDA members: 8

Please list and describe in detail the activities of this student chapter over the past year. Photos are welcomed and encouraged. Include specifically how this chapter worked towards the WDA Student Chapter objectives:

1. *Educate students about career opportunities, job qualifications and education, externships, volunteer, and research opportunities in wildlife health fields.*
2. *Enhance skills of students through lectures, workshops, conferences, field trips.*
3. *Connect students to mentors in WDA and wildlife health professions through the faculty advisor and guest lecturers.*

Our CSU WDA membership includes undergraduate students, veterinary students, graduate students, faculty, and members of the broader wildlife

community from state and federal agencies. We aim to promote interdisciplinary communication and collaboration among those interested in wildlife disease research and management. As a student chapter of the Wildlife Disease Association, we aim to connect student members to mentors, to educate students about careers and research in wildlife diseases, and to provide opportunities for students to learn skills relevant to work in wildlife diseases. Below is a summary of our seminars, activities, and ongoing programs over the past year (Fall 2017 to Spring 2018):

Seminars

1. Giraffe Reproduction with Barb Wolfe

Dr. Wolfe joined us for lunch to talk about cutting edge research in giraffes and to connect with students.

2. Endangered Wildlife with Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald

30 students attended a dinner lecture with Dr. Fitzgerald, who showed lots of videos of wildlife in various countries he's visited over the years for wildlife research and conservation. He briefly explained for each clip what studies he'd been participating in at the time, but his focus was on encouraging the veterinary students who attended, as well as the undergraduate students, to pursue careers in wildlife and keep their passion for nature.

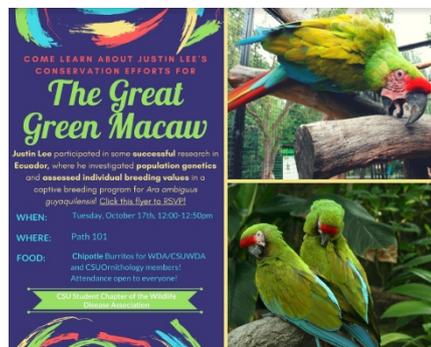


3. Wild Raptors and Falconry with Devin Jaffe (Paszek)*

Devin from High Plains Falconers graciously came up from Castle Rock to visit CSU and give an incredibly informative seminar on falconry, how it benefits wildlife and what it's really like to form this complicated bond with a trained wild animal. She also gave us an amazing demonstration with her two Harris Hawks, Phoenix and Pharoah, and her Kestrel. She made connections with students, such as Sky, who spent her Summer of 2018 working with High Plains Falconry and Nature's Educators because of meeting Devin at this event.

4. The Great Green Macaw Breeding Program with Justin Lee DVM, PhD*

Justin met with CSU WDA members over lunch in CSU's pathology building to tell us population genetics and assessment of individual breeding values in a captive breeding program for *Ara ambiguus guyaquilensi* in Ecuador.



Activities

1. Tour of the National Wildlife Property Repository

10 CSU WDA members visited the repository and received a tour of the facility, viewing the wildlife items that have been abandoned or forfeited to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

2. Tour of Colorado Parks and Wildlife

CSU WDA teamed up with CSU SAARP (American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners) to enjoy a tour of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Health Facility led by CPW Wildlife Veterinarian, Dr. Lisa Wolfe.



3. Wildlife Immobilization Clinic with Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Twenty veterinary student members of CSU WDA attended our annual Wildlife Immobilization clinic taught by Colorado Parks and Wildlife Veterinarians Dr. Lisa Wolfe and Dr. Mike Miller. Case modules featured capturing urban nuisance bears, helicopter darting Bighorn Sheep, and immobilizing and sampling a wild felid for research. Each case involved discussion of immobilization and capture for the case and a hands-on activity to practice the skills discussed. Students also had the opportunity to discuss careers and research in wildlife diseases with Dr. Wolfe and Dr. Miller over lunch.



4. Wild Animal Sanctuary Tour

Dr. Val Johnson provided CSU WDA members with a behind the scenes tour of the veterinary clinic at the Wild Animal Sanctuary in Keensburg. She answered questions and students were able to ask questions regarding the facility and the services provided to the animals taken care of at the sanctuary.

5. Behind the Scenes Denver Museum of Natural Sciences Tour*

CSU WDA members teamed up with members of CSUFO (Field Ornithology) to hear from curators Garth Spellman and Jeff Stephenson to learn about the research done at DMNS on DNA sequencing of avian species, the taxidermy done at DMNS on thousands of specimens they receive from CPW yearly, and, after the behind the scenes tour, meander around the museum.



Community Outreach

We hosted interpretive booths at several events including CSU Vet-Fest, the CSU Involvement Fair, and the CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital Open House. These events allowed us to gain new student members, to engage the public by discussing wildlife management and wildlife disease issues, and to increase exposure of our student chapter and

the Wildlife Disease Association as a resource for wildlife disease professionals.

***Events with an asterisk were part of an exciting “Bird Week,” consisting of back to back events with a focus on avian species.**

Fundraising

In addition to receiving funding from the Associated Students of Colorado State University (ASCSU) and from the WDA parent chapter, we have several on-going fundraisers selling CSU WDA merchandise including travel mugs purchased in partnership with a local coffee shop chain, the Human Bean, and t-shirts. We also co-branded with ToGo ware, which provide reusable and durable bamboo utensils that come in their own pouch for convenience. CSU WDA officers also sell shirts with CSU WDA’s logo on the front, and deer antlers on the back at events such as Vet Fest, and they are also made available for purchase at seminars. Additional funding was obtained by charging for our Wildlife Immobilization Clinic, which costs \$20 for student members.

