

Columns

The Director's desk

WELL, THIS is truly a momentous occasion for the Berryman Institute: publication of the inaugural issue of its scientific journal, *Human–Wildlife Conflicts* (HWC). This issue has been long in the making (over 2 years), but well worth the wait!!! Wildlife-damage management, and more generally, human–wildlife conflict resolution, continues to grow in prominence, and the Berryman Institute is ready and able to work with all of its state, federal, and private partners to address these issues through sound empirical research and outstanding outreach programs. HWC is designed to place wildlife damage management in the same forefront as other fields of study in wildlife. With the leadership of Dr. Michael Conover as its editor, we are confident that our journal will provide practicing scientists, field personnel, and wildlife biologists with critical information necessary to address the diverse issues that face us concerning human–wildlife conflict resolution. We all are so proud of this accomplishment that is so greatly needed by our clientele!

I would also like to mention a noteworthy accomplishment of Berryman Institute-East



that will address the growing concern about wildlife disease issues. In December, 2006, we entered into a cooperative agreement with the College of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University to “share” a wildlife veterinary pathologist. It took us almost 2 years of searching for the right candidate, but we now have Dr. Skip Jack on board as a 50% faculty member with Berryman (the remaining 50% is with the MSU Vet School Diagnostic Laboratory). Dr. Jack has a threefold mission: conduct and collaborate on key research in the wildlife disease arena; develop an outreach program that provides the critical training biologists need to monitor and perhaps identify and assist in diagnosis (via sample collection) of wildlife diseases; and teach a course in wildlife field pathology that hopefully will have a distance learning component. We are indeed excited about this addition to the Berryman faculty!

I hope that you enjoy this first issue of an important milestone in the field of wildlife damage management: its own journal! ❄

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