We’re thrilled to commemorate The Botstiber Institute for Wildlife Fertility Control’s (BIWFC) 5th Anniversary with this Five-Year Report! In these pages, you’ll learn about the emerging field of wildlife fertility control, how the BIWFC came to be, our major program areas, our achievements over the last five years, and a glimpse of what we have planned for the future to advance the field and promote coexistence worldwide.

Since its inception in August 2016, the BIWFC organized and hosted, the 8th International Conference on Wildlife Fertility Control; workshops and seminars on wildlife fertility control and conflict mitigation for urban deer, and wild horses and burros; and presented and hosted in-person and virtual symposiums on wildlife fertility control at numerous conferences in the United States and Africa. We also organized and hosted 12 webinars on the use of fertility control for several different species.

In addition, we have provided grants to support: the production of a documentary on the role of contraception in advancing coexistence between humans and wildlife; a wildlife fertility control conference in Billings, Montana; a wild donkey study in the Caribbean; a prairie dog study in Fort Collins, Colorado; a rodent study in Florida; and urban deer studies in Ohio and New York.

Finally, we have built a robust public education and awareness program. Today, visitors to The BIWFC website www.wildlifefertilitycontrol.org can search our repository for wildlife fertility control publications, read our quarterly newsletters, download factsheets, join our social media accounts, listen to our appearances on podcasts, and watch our public education video, vignettes, webinars, and previously recorded speaker presentations from past events.

We have accomplished a lot in a relatively short period of time and are excited about the future. This year, we premiered our educational film “An Overview of Wildlife Fertility Control,” are planning the 9th International Conference on Wildlife Fertility Control in May 2022 in Colorado Springs, CO, and are delighted to announce the launch of BIWFC Europe!

Thank you for taking the time to read this report and learn more about the BIWFC. We hope to see you in Colorado Springs in 2022.

Monique Principi
Managing Director

Stephanie Boyles Griffin
Science & Policy Director

Cover photos: elephants by Stephanie Boyles Griffin; all others by Rose Lombardo.
The Botstiber Institute for Wildlife Fertility Control’s Advisory Board is comprised of leaders in the fields of wildlife fertility control, wildlife management and veterinary medicine.

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Advisory Board Chair
AZA Reproductive Management Center

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Veterinary Population Management Laboratory, Department of Production Animal Studies
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Tufts University

The Botstiber Institute for Wildlife Fertility Control Aims to Advance the Use of Effective, Sustainable Fertility Control Methods to Mitigate Human-Wildlife Conflicts and Promote Coexistence Worldwide.

BIWFC STAFF

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As human populations expand, conflicts between humans and wildlife have increased exponentially, and until recently, efforts to resolve such conflicts focused primarily on lethal population management. In the late 20th century, in response to human health and safety, animal welfare and environmental concerns associated with these traditional wildlife management practices, researchers began exploring the possibility of mitigating conflicts by using fertility control to manage wildlife populations.

In August 2016 The Dietrich W. Botstiber Foundation (DWBF), in partnership with The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), established The Botstiber Institute for Wildlife Fertility Control (BIWFC) to advance the use of effective, sustainable fertility control methods to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts and promote coexistence worldwide.

The BIWFC also serves as a resource center and information repository for the field of wildlife fertility control by:

- stimulating vital discussion, collaboration, and networking through events such as conferences, workshops, symposiums and seminars
- supporting wildlife fertility control projects through grants
- educating wildlife managers, policy makers and the public about the role that wildlife fertility control could play in mitigating human-wildlife conflicts and promoting coexistence.

In the five years since its inception the BIWFC has held true to its mission by hosting and sponsoring numerous events, providing grants to support projects related to the field and providing information about wildlife fertility control to its various audiences around the world.
During its first year the BIWFC took on several major tasks including launching a website (www.wildlifefertilitycontrol.org) with an online Repository of Publications. The BIWFC also presented at and served as a sponsor for The Wildlife Society (TWS) annual conference in Albuquerque, NM and the Pathways conference in Estes Park, Colorado.

In 2017 The BIWFC conducted its first grant cycle attracting 21 research proposals and funding four.

Perhaps the most exciting and challenging task for the BIWFC in its first year was hosting the 8th International Conference on Wildlife Fertility Control in Washington D.C. This much anticipated event took place in July and attracted more than 100 attendees from 12 countries. The conference was a continuation of an international forum on research into the management of wildlife populations through contraception that began more than 30 years ago.

Participants included scientists, veterinarians, managers, policy makers and advocates in the field of wildlife fertility control. Presentations focused on the progress and challenges of fertility control in a variety of species including elephants, wild horses, deer, wild pigs, squirrels, commensal rodents and kangaroos.

“I think it’s wonderful that the Botstiber Institute has come into this discipline. The commitment that they have in education and bringing different groups of people together, finding forums, venues, for communication in a positive way, I think could be really helpful. I know a lot of us look forward to that continuing and growing as you identify more ways to do that, more people, and more groups to work with.”

Cheryl Asa
Advisory Board Chair
Association of Zoos and Aquariums
Reproductive Management Center
The BIWFC started 2018 by launching a quarterly newsletter and opening several social media accounts, including Facebook, Twitter and Youtube. The BIWFC also hosted two workshops in 2018 which drew attendees from around the country. The first workshop, "Urban Deer Fertility Control," took place in May in Tarrytown, NY with ten speakers and nearly 60 attendees. The second workshop, "Free Roaming Horse and Burro Fertility Control," took place in November in Albuquerque, NM and included 11 speakers and 60 attendees.

In the summer of 2018 the BIWFC staff members traveled around the country conducting interviews and shooting video for the educational film "An Overview of Wildlife Fertility Control." Montana, Colorado, Maryland, New York and Arizona were among the states they visited.

The BIWFC also sponsored and/or exhibited at several conferences throughout the year including The Wildlife Society (TWS) in Cleveland, OH, Pathways in Germany, and Alliance for Contraception in Cats and Dogs (ACC&D) in Boston, MA.

In addition, the BIWFC hosted its first webinar titled, "State of the Field: Wildlife Fertility Control to Mitigate Human-Wildlife Conflicts." This launched a webinar series that continues today.

Finally, the BIWFC fully funded a grant proposal from the Science and Conservation Center for the “PZP Immuncontraception Conference.”

“I think the Botstiber Institute has a really great advantage being able to network across the globe and bring the advances in fertility control to wildlife field managers and educators that want to learn more.”

Grace Kahler
Wildlife Field Manager
The Humane Society of the United States
In the summer of 2019 the BIWFC hosted a session and exhibited at the International Urban Wildlife Conference (IUWC) in Portland, Oregon. In the fall the Institute hosted a session and exhibited at the Pathways 2019 conference in Estes Park, Colorado; and sponsored and exhibited at The Wildlife Society (TWS) 2019 conference in Reno, Nevada. Many of the presentations were later posted on the BIWFC website.

A short video on the Humane Society of the United States’ burro fertility project was created in 2019 and posted on the BIWFC website and social media platforms garnering thousands of views. This was the first in a continuing series of short videos that grew into a video library on the website.

The BIWFC expanded its webinar series with two new additions, “Life in the big smoke: peri-urban kangaroo management using fertility control” and “Wild Equine Management: The Role of Fertility Control.”

In addition the BIWFC continued adding information to its website including an online Fact Sheet Library with documents on GonaCon, Native PZP, and Immunocontraception for wild horses.

Finally, the BIWFC attended the first PZP Conference hosted by the Science and Conservation Center in Billings, Montana and funded by the BIWFC.

“I’m very excited about the Botstiber Institute, because I can see it acting as a catalyst. I can see it acting as a hub of information for anybody that wants to know more about fertility control. I feel the Botstiber Institute has a big role in terms of bridging the gap between research and practical applications. Academics are often not very good at talking to the public. So I can see the Botstiber Institute having a coordinating role in this context. In the future, I can definitely see the Botstiber Institute expanding, becoming larger, and perhaps having contact points in different continents.”

Giovanna Massei
Senior Ecologist
Mammal Discipline Leader
National Wildlife Management Centre
Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), UK
The BWFC opened 2020 by sponsoring a symposium, featuring eight presentations, at the Pathways Africa conference in Limuru, Kenya. The Institute also posted its second short video on the urban prairie dogs fertility control project early in the year.

Shortly after that, in March of 2020, The BIWFC, as well as much of the world, went into lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic. That didn't stop the staff, however, from moving ahead with planned projects throughout the year.

Two more short videos were created and posted to the BIWFC website and social media pages - one on immunocontraception in African elephants and another on fertility control projects on wild boar, cattle and gray squirrels. The BIWFC also added three more webinars to the Webinar Series:

- "An Update on Native and Recombinant Zona Pellucida Immunocontraceptives in Donkeys in the Caribbean"
- "PZP-22: Multi-Year Reversible Contraception for Wild Horses and Deer"
- "Deer Population Demographic Impacts of Intensive Surgical Sterilization Treatments"

The BIWFC also opened LinkedIn and Instagram accounts in 2020 and added two more fact sheets, ContraPest and OvoControl, to the website. In addition the BIWFC sponsored and exhibited at the Taking Action for Animals (TAFA) virtual conference as well as The Wildlife Society (TWS) 2020 virtual conference. They also hosted a symposium at TWS 2020 virtual conference which included five presenters.

Finally, the BIWFC Science and Policy Director Stephanie Griffin Boyles was a guest on three national wildlife podcasts in 2020, and the BIWFC fully funded a grant proposal for a documentary on wildlife fertility control.
“I think the Institute can play a very big role indeed, as far as fertility control is concerned, by making people aware of the methods that are available. And it is not only fertility control, it’s creating awareness of human-wildlife conflict and how to avoid that.”

Henk Bertschinger
Emeritus Professor, BVSc, DrVetMed, PhD,
Veterinary Population Management Laboratory
Department of Production Animal Studies
University of Pretoria, South Africa
• The Dietrich W. Botstiber Foundation and the Humane Society of the United States establish The Botstiber Institute for Wildlife Fertility Control (BIWFC).

2016

2017

• BIWFC hosts 8th International Conference on Wildlife Fertility Control from July 18 - 21 in Washington, D.C. with more than 100 attendees from 12 countries

• BIWFC sponsors and presents at TWS 2017 in Albuquerque, NM and Pathways 2017 in Estes Park, CO

• BIWFC launches website www.wildlifefertilitycontrol.org

• BIWFC establishes online Repository of Publications on website

• First BIWFC grant cycle attracts 21 research proposals – four were funded

2018

• BIWFC launches quarterly newsletter and establishes Facebook, Twitter and YouTube pages

• BIWFC hosts Urban Deer Fertility Workshop in Tarrytown, NY and nearly 60 attendees

• BIWFC sponsors/exhibits/probably in attendance at International Symposium in Germany

• Staff travels to Assateague Island, NY to shoot interviews for educational video

• BIWFC exhibits and sponsors at TWS 2018 conference

• BIWFC hosts first webinar "Solving Wildlife Fertility Control to Manage Wildlife Conflicts"

• BIWFC hosts "Free-Roaming Wildlife Fertility Control" workshop in the field, with 11 presentations and real footage about the Platero project

• Staff travels to Oatman, AZ to shoot educational video
2019

- BIWFC directors appear on Radnor Studio 21 TV in Radnor, PA
- BIWFC initiates an online Fact Sheet Library with sheets on GonaCon, Native PZP & Immunocontraception for Wild Horses posted on website
- BIWFC hosts "Urban Deer Conflict Management" seminar in Harrisburg, PA
- BIWFC exhibits and hosts symposium with five presentations at International Urban Wildlife (IUWC) Conference in Portland, OR
- Staff members attend PZP conference in Billings, MT, funded with BIWFC grant
- BIWFC exhibits and sponsors a session with six presentations at the Pathways 2019 conference in Estes Park, CO
- BIWFC sponsors and exhibits at TWS 2019 conference in Reno, NV
- Posts first short video on HSUS wild burro fertility control project
- BIWFC hosts second webinar “Life in the big smoke: peri-urban kangaroo management using fertility control"
- BIWFC hosts third webinar "Wild Equine Management: The Role of Fertility Control"
- BIWFC grant funds Science and Conservation Center’s PZP Conference

2020

- BIWFC opens Instagram and LinkedIn accounts
- BIWFC provides a grant for a documentary
- Fact Sheets on ContraPest, OvoControl and PZP-22 posted to website
- BIWFC sponsors symposium with eight presentations at Pathways Africa 2020 conference in Limuru, Kenya
- BIWFC sponsors/exhibits at Taking Action for Animals (TAPA) virtual conference
- BIWFC sponsors/exhibits and hosts a symposium with five presentations at TWS 2020 virtual conference
- BIWFC Science & Policy Director discusses wildlife fertility Control on three national podcasts
- BIWFC posts second short video on urban prairie dogs fertility control project
- BIWFC posts third short video on immunocontraception in African elephants
- BIWFC posts fourth short video on fertility control projects on wild boar, cattle and gray squirrels
- BIWFC hosts fourth webinar, "An Update on Native and Recombinant Zona Pellucida Immunocontraceptives in Donkeys in the Caribbean"
- BIWFC hosts fifth webinar "PZP-22: Multi-Year Reversible Contraception for Wild Horses and Deer"
- BIWFC hosts sixth webinar "Deer Population Demographic Impacts of Intensive Surgical Sterilization Treatments"
This year, 2021, the Botstiber Institute for Wildlife Fertility Control commemorates its 5th Anniversary. We are very proud of our accomplishments thus far, most of which can be viewed on our five-year timeline published in this book. Over the years our small staff has grown from two to five members enabling us to increase the number of programs and events we produce as well as our reach into the field of wildlife fertility control.

To mark our anniversary, we developed many exciting programs, webinars and more, including:

• The release of our educational film, “An Overview of Wildlife Fertility Control,” produced by BIWFC

• The expansion of our international presence with the opening of our European office in the United Kingdom in the fall of 2021

• A newly expanded Grants Program with a wider range of topics within our guidelines

• New additions to our Webinar Series and Video Series

• The expansion of our unique repository for literature produced and published on wildlife fertility control worldwide

• A three day virtual workshop series on wild boar in June 2021

• Continued planning for hosting the next International Conference on Wildlife Fertility Control to take place May 23 – 25, 2022 in Colorado Springs, Colorado

As we look to the future our goal is to continue serving as a uniquely qualified resource center for wildlife fertility control and to continue educating wildlife professionals, policy makers and the public. We encourage you to check our website, www.wildlifefertilitycontrol.org, for news and updates, and to follow us on social media, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

“In a short span of time, Botstiber Institute has made seminal contributions in the field of fertility control with special reference to ‘wildlife population management’ by disseminating the current knowledge through video/webinar, creating Repository of Publications, awarding highly competitive grants and supporting international conferences. I am confident that in future, Botstiber Institute will further broaden its activities having far-reaching implications to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts.”

Dr. Satish Kumar Gupta
President-International Society for Immunology of Reproduction
Former Deputy Director, National Institute of Immunology
ICMR Emeritus Scientist
BIWFC Opens Europe Office

The Botstiber Institute for Wildlife Fertility Control established a European office at the University of York, United Kingdom in early September 2021. This new European center will assist BIWFC in its mission to advance the use of effective, sustainable fertility control methods to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts and promote coexistence worldwide.

“This new initiative will broaden the Institute’s ability to educate and advance the field beyond the US and increase our international presence,” said Monique Princi, BIWFC Managing Director.

Serving as BIWFC Europe’s new director is Dr. Giovanna Massei, who has worked in wildlife management for 30 years with 17 years in fertility control research. She has also served on the BIWFC Advisory Board for several years. In addition to directing BIWFC Europe, Dr. Massei will continue to serve as Senior Ecologist, at the National Wildlife Management Centre of the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), UK.

BIWFC Europe will carry out the Institute’s general mission, purpose and goals focusing on promoting fertility control through knowledge exchange and stakeholder and public engagement. BIWFC Europe will be a catalyst for the activities of the BIWFC headquarters and offer a fulcrum from which many initiatives could be carried out.

Read more.

BIWFC Produces Educational Film

The Botstiber Institute for Wildlife Fertility Control educational film, “An Overview of Wildlife Fertility Control,” was completed just in time for our 5th Anniversary celebration.

Nearly two years in the making, this film was created with the intention of educating the public and creating connections between wildlife managers, researchers, and advocates.

It tells the story of ongoing research and projects in the United States related to wildlife fertility control. The goal is to inform viewers who may not know much at all about wildlife fertility control (or perhaps have misconceptions) by giving them a full informative overview of the field.

We invite you to visit our website to view “An Overview of Wildlife Fertility Control.”

BIWFC Awards Three Grants

The BIWFC awarded three grants for our 2021 Grant Cycle. Congratulations to the following researchers:

Teresa M. Telecky, PhD
Vice President, Wildlife, Humane Society International
“Elephant Immucontraception Program: Affecting Policy Change in Africa.”
Click Here to learn more about the project.

Russell Hill
Professor, Joint Head of Department of Anthropology; Project Lead Primate & Predator Project, Department of Anthropology, Durham University, UK
“Developing a Primate-Specific Bait Delivery System for Crop-Foraging Primates in South Africa.”
Click Here to learn more about the project.

Jason Bruemmer, PhD,
Program Leader, Fertility Control, National Wildlife Research Center, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services
“Identification of a Long-Lasting Adjuvant for Immucontraceptives in Horses.”
Click Here to learn more about the project.

9th International Conference on Wildlife Fertility Control

May 23-25, 2022

The International Conference on Wildlife Fertility Control, organized and hosted by the Botstiber Institute for Wildlife Fertility Control, was to take place in May 2021. However, with uncertainties surrounding the COVID-19 situation during the spring of 2021, and after much consideration, the BIWFC decided to postpone the Conference until May 2022.

The conference will now take place at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort in Colorado Springs, Colorado from May 23 - 25, 2022.

This conference is a continuation of the international forum on the use of fertility control methods to address human-wildlife conflicts that began more than 30 years ago. The conference brings together wildlife professionals from a range of disciplines to share the latest information on research, tools and applications, issues, and challenges, and promote dialogue among a diverse audience.

Please continue to check our conference webpage for information on registration, lodging, conference sessions and sponsorships. We look forward to seeing you in Colorado Springs.