



BOTSTIBER INSTITUTE
FOR WILDLIFE FERTILITY CONTROL

Newsletter
Summer 2022

9th International Conference on Wildlife Fertility Control

The 9th International Conference on Wildlife Fertility Control (ICWFC), hosted by the BIWFC, drew more than 120 people to the Cheyenne Mountain Resort in Colorado Springs, CO from May 23 – 25, including professionals from North America (U.S. – 24 states, Washington, D.C. and the Navajo Nation, Canada, and the Caribbean – St. Kitts), Europe (Belgium, Italy, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom), South Africa, Asia (India and Japan) and Australia. They were comprised of wildlife professionals and managers, university faculty and students, biologists, veterinarians, non-profit staff and board members, and government officials.



Nearly 40 speakers discussed the role of fertility control in mitigating human wildlife conflicts as well as the development of wildlife fertility control methods in various sessions, including human dimensions, recent research, practical applications, data management, legal & political challenges, welfare, and social-economic aspects.



The conference featured two special guests, The Honorable Jared Polis, Governor of Colorado, and best-selling author Mary Roach. In his talk Governor Polis addressed the need for compassionate, humane methods in managing wild horse populations. Roach, who has been called “America’s funniest science writer,” by the Washington Post, held an entertaining and engaging virtual Q & A session with the audience about her experiences researching and writing *“Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law.”*

In addition, BIWFC presented the Trailblazer Award to Cheryl Asa, a member of the BIWFC Advisory Board and Conference Committee, and Advisory Board Chair for the Association of Zoos and Aquariums Reproductive Management Center. This award was presented to Cheryl for the profound impact that she has had on the field of wildlife fertility control during her career of over 30 years.



The closing session engaged participants in developing a list of priorities and approaches

for educating and engaging diverse stakeholders worldwide in the advancement of a scientific field that is both species-specific and dependent upon location-based strategies.

Photos, the program book, and testimonials from the conference can be found [here](#).

Call for Papers

[Wildlife Research](#) plans to publish a Special Issue on Wildlife Fertility Control in 2023. We invite you to submit your best paper for review.

Submission deadline has been extended to **September 30, 2022**.

We are interested in receiving papers that engage with the following topics:

- Human dimensions
- Recent research in contraceptive development
- Advancement in practical applications
- Modelling the effect of fertility control on populations
- Socio-economic aspects of fertility control applications
- Ethics, health, & welfare
- Advancement in delivery methods
- Regulatory, legal, & political challenges

See details [here](#).

For additional information, please contact Giovanna Massei (gmassei@botstiber.org) or Stephanie Boyles Griffin (sboyles@humanesociety.org).

BIWFC Europe Update from the Director



In the last six months Dr. Giovanna Massei attended conferences in Colorado Springs (USA), Edinburgh (UK), and Arusha (Tanzania), and presented or co-authored eight talks on fertility control for non-native grey squirrels in the UK, for feral cattle in Hong Kong, for baboons in South Africa, and for wild boar in Spain. The topics ranged from a general overview of wildlife fertility control to applications for specific

contexts, through to developing new oral contraceptives and delivering them to wildlife. Based on comments and e-mails received after these events, the talks were truly appreciated, with several colleagues mentioning these were “an eye opener”. Most importantly, the information reached hundreds of delegates in at least 50-60 countries.

More “European bridges” to highlight applications of wildlife fertility control were built through blogs, interviews, and webinars. This included an October [interview](#) by the [UK Squirrel Accord](#) on the grey squirrel project which had 251 views; in December Dr. Massei wrote a blog on “[Exploding animal populations – how can we co-exist?](#)”; in February, she was [interviewed](#) by the Foundation for Advice and Action in the Defense of Animals (FAADA) on fertility control for wild boar and parakeets. In June, Dr. Massei

advertised the upcoming "Wildlife Research Special Issue on Fertility Control for Wildlife" to the 580 delegates from 40 countries of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare's conference on Advancing Animal Welfare Science.

Events in the pipeline include next September's *13th International Symposium on Wild Boar and Other Suids* in Spain and October's *Pathways Europe 2022: Human Dimensions of Wildlife*. The latter accepted a BIWFC proposal to host an Organized Session entitled "Too many? Wildlife fertility control to share landscapes" with 5-6 speakers invited. This is particularly important because human dimensions now represent a key aspect of mitigating human-wildlife conflicts. Lastly, the director of the Singapore National Parks invited Dr. Massei to talk about wild boar management at a wild boar workshop, which will raise awareness about the BIWFC's work beyond Europe and continue to build strong bridges and facilitate human-wildlife coexistence.

BIWFC Webinar Library



As part of our mission to serve as a resource for all things wildlife fertility control, the BIWFC will continue to host webinars starting in Fall 2022. Our past webinars can be found in our [webinar library](#). This includes our very first webinar titled "[State of the Field: Wildlife fertility Control to Mitigate Human-Wildlife Conflicts](#)" from October 2018 and our most recent webinar series titled "[Mitigating Wild Boar Conflict Around the World: The Potential for Using Fertility Control.](#)"

Wildlife Fertility Control Repository

The [BIWFC Repository](#) aims to be the resource for all research related to wildlife fertility control. Click [here](#) to view the collection of over 100 papers. Recent additions include:

- "Fertility control for managing macropods – Current approaches and future prospects" ([2021](#)) *Ecological, Management and Restoration*
- "Deslorelin implants in free-ranging female eastern grey kangaroos (*Macropus giganteus*): Mechanism of action and contraceptive efficacy" ([2013](#)) *Wildlife Research*
- "Longevity of an immunocontraceptive vaccine effect on fecundity in rats" ([2022](#)) *Vaccine: X*

If you authored or co-authored a peer-reviewed article related to wildlife fertility control and would like your work to be included, please forward the PDF articles to biwfc@botstiber.org. We will archive your work after reviewing the publishers' policy and guidelines.

IMPORTANT DATES

[13th International Symposium on Wild Boar and Other Suids](#),
September 6-9

The BIWFC plans to attend the [13th International Symposium on Wild Boar and Other Suids](#) in Seva, Barcelona, where our BIWFC Europe Director, Giovanna Massei, is a keynote speaker. This conference will discuss wild boar biology and eco-ethology as well

as management practice, population control strategies and damage mitigation methods.

Nordic Congress of Wildlife Research, Uppsala, Sweden, September 19-23

The [Nordic Congress of Wildlife Research](#) aims to bring together professionals to discuss challenging issues in wildlife ecology and management. They encourage a broad perspective, welcoming those in wildlife sciences, social sciences, and human dimensions of wildlife, as well as international contributions. The BIWFC Europe Director plans to speak at the conference.

Pathways Europe: Human Dimensions of Wildlife Conference, October 9-12

The BIWFC will host a symposium of six speakers titled "*Too many? Wildlife fertility control to share landscapes*" at the [Pathways Europe: Human Dimensions of Wildlife Conference](#) held in Wageningen, The Netherlands. With the theme of "Sharing Landscapes," this conference aims to answer the question of how we can share landscapes in ways that are beneficial for both humans and wildlife in times of species extinction, climate change and social injustice.

4th Free Roaming Equid & Ecosystem Sustainability Summit 2022: Community Connections, October 12-14

The Free-Roaming Equid & Ecosystem Sustainability (FREES) Summit aims to enhance communication and engage diverse stakeholder groups in meaningful dialogue as we work together. The theme of the [4th FREES Summit](#) is "Community Connections – A Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Wild and Free-roaming Horse and Burro Act" and will be held in Utah.

Animal Grantmakers Conference, October 23-26

The BIWFC, a member of [Animal Grantmakers](#), will be sponsoring and attending this annual gathering of the nation's only funder affinity group focused on protecting and enabling the well-being of all animals.

The Wildlife Society's 29th Annual Conference, November 6-10

The BIWFC will host a symposium titled "*Fertility Control to Mitigate Conflicts and Manage Wild Horse and Burro Populations on Public Lands in the U.S.*" and an exhibit table at [The Wildlife Society's 29th Annual Conference](#) held in Spokane, Washington November 6-10. The Wildlife Society Conference is one of the largest gatherings of wildlife professionals, drawing over 2,000 attendees in the past.

IN THE NEWS

Grey Squirrels in the UK

BBC News discussed the UK's plan to use fertility control for the grey squirrel population. With about 2.7 million invasive grey squirrels, the species is destructive to both native

trees and the native red squirrels. Read more [here](#) about the implementation of this nonlethal method.

Wild Horse Stakeholders

As a part of *Wyoming Public Radio's* "I Respectfully Disagree" series, four different stakeholders were brought together to discuss Wyoming wild horses. The stakeholders were able to find common ground regarding implementing a "land swap" to consolidate public and private lands. Read or listen to the full discussion [here](#).

Poison Free by 2023 in Seattle

Madison Park Times reported that Seattle was implementing a pilot program to use fertility control to reduce the rodent population. Eight months in, the project team announced a 91% reduction in the rat population. One of the goals of the project is to take the success of the program to other pest control businesses and neighborhoods.

Oral Contraception Progress

The Guardian [reported](#) on the progress of the UK's Animal and Plant Health Agency grey squirrel oral contraception trials. The chief scientific adviser at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, was quoted saying "fertility control can be an effective method complementing other approaches to wildlife management."

Click [here](#) to view more articles

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