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Wildlife Field Forensics: Advanced Training for Wildlife Crime Scene Investigators

***THE SIXTH ANNUAL SEMINAR WILL BE HELD AT THE
DOUBLE ARROW LODGE IN SEELEY LAKE, MT***

15-17 MAY 2012

A practical training seminar designed for state and federal wildlife officers and investigators will again be presented 15-17 May 2012. The topics covered by a team of experienced field orientated presenters include: time of death estimates based on decomposition stage analysis, forensic entomology basics and collection protocols, field firearms and ammunition examination techniques, necropsy presentation and field demonstration, the basics of forensic DNA analysis and tissue collection protocols, footwear and vehicle track impression and basic scene investigation techniques, electronic/digital forensics, relevant case histories, and location and availability of resources for forensic analysis. The seminar will be structured similarly to the highly acclaimed courses given in Montana each spring since 2007, as well those hosted by Denali National Park, Katmai National Park and Mojave National Park. The seminars include both lecture and hands on exercises. Each attendee will receive 26 hours of POST certifiable credits.

The last day will include scenarios with carcasses that will draw elements from the various topics covered during the seminar

**ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF
MIDWEST FISH AND GAME LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS**

MAY 2012 PRESENTERS ~ *Listed alphabetically*

Forensic entomology, case histories including poaching, and collection protocols

Gail S. Anderson, PhD, Professor, School of Criminology, Simon Fraser University, BC Canada, Diplomat, American Board of Forensic Entomology

Dr. Anderson is a forensic entomologist and consults with the police in homicide investigations and wildlife enforcement officers in poaching cases. She is a Professor in forensic entomology in the School of Criminology at Simon Fraser University, Associate Director of the School of Criminology, Co-Director of the Centre for Forensic Research, a forensic consultant to the RCMP and City Police across Canada (and other countries) and a regular instructor at Canadian Police College. She is a Board Certified Forensic Entomologist. She has been analyzing forensic entomology cases since 1988, and has testified as an expert witness in court many times. Her work has been featured in several television programs including "Journeys - Grave Testimony", and "Forbidden Places - Silent Witness" shown on Discovery Channel, Planet Education and "The Nature of Things - Postmortem". She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and President and Fellow of The Canadian Society of Forensic Sciences, the Past-President of the Entomological Society of BC, President-Elect of the North American Forensic Entomology Association, as well as a member of the International Association for Identification, the Canadian Identification Society, Entomological Society of America and Entomological Society of Canada. She was a recipient of Canada's Top 40 under 40 Award in 1999, received a YWCA Women of Distinction Award for Science and Technology in 1999, and the Simon Fraser University Alumni Association Outstanding Alumni Award for Academic Achievement in 1995. She was listed in TIME magazine as one of the top 5 innovators in the world, this century, in the field of Criminal Justice. Dr. Anderson was presented with the Derome Award in 2001. This is the most prestigious award the Canadian Society of Forensic Science bestows, for outstanding contributions to the field of forensic science. Dr. Anderson's presentation will be on the use of insects in wildlife crime analyses and will involve a slide presentation, handout and field demonstration

Decomposition stage analysis for time of death estimates

Carleen Gonder, MIS, Founder and executive director of Wildlife Field Forensics; Ovando, MT

Carleen conducted a wildlife decomposition research project at the University of Montana's Lubrecht Experimental Forest. Subjects included: mountain lions, black bears, wolves and a whitetail deer. The purpose of the project was to develop time of death markers to be used in field investigations by wildlife officers. Carleen's PowerPoint lecture will illustrate the various decomposition stages analyzed in her research in order to provide time of death estimates, plus seasonal affects on stage durations and an introduction to bone weathering of scavenged carcasses. Included will be descriptions of representative insects for each stage, and a hands-on field component with actual carcass samples. Carleen was a law enforcement officer with US Fish and Wildlife Service, Wyoming Game and Fish and National Park Service, and has received numerous awards for investigations. In 2007 she launched the Wildlife Field Forensics training program with its inaugural spring seminar which has since become an annual event in Montana. Due to numerous requests, she formed a core group of trainers that can travel to various venues providing a range from a single topic to a full three day program.

Electronic/digital forensics and scenarios

Pat Hylton, Idaho Fish and Game Regional Investigator; Cottonwood, ID

Officer Hylton has been a Regional Investigator for six years and a Senior Conservation Officer for 13. He has worked for Fish and Wildlife agencies in Washington, Montana and Idaho in various positions prior to joining the enforcement ranks. Pat holds a B.S. degree from the University of Idaho in wildlife management. He is a POST certified tactics instructor in five disciplines, and is certified in cell phone digital evidence analysis and internet investigations.

Firearms evidence field analysis and GPS for evidentiary purposes (as alternate course)

Tony Latham, retired Idaho Fish and Game Regional Investigator; Salmon, ID

The firearms course instructs field techniques to conduct detailed examinations of spent bullets, cartridge cases and suspected firearms. It includes both lecture and practical exercises. This in-depth course has been given to: North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Assoc. conference, Idaho Fish and Game in-service and new officer training,

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks in-service, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in-service, and National Tribal Game Warden training. Tony has a degree from the University of Idaho and was a uniformed Conservation Officer with Idaho Fish and Game for 15 years. His experience includes backcountry patrols via boat and horseback. In 2003 he was selected as Idaho Fish and Game's first Regional Investigator. He has been the recipient of multiple officer of the year awards.

The basics of DNA/biological evidence: Field materials and practicum

Karen Rudolph, Ph.D., Formerly the Idaho Fish and Game Forensic Specialist; Boise, ID

Dr. Rudolph's presentation will focus on field techniques for DNA evidence collection and determination, and will include a practical with a "mock" crime scene. Dr. Rudolph has an undergraduate degree in molecular, cellular and developmental biology from the University of Colorado, and a doctorate in molecular biology from Dartmouth College. She had been with Idaho Fish and Game since 1995, initially participating in bighorn sheep disease research and in 1997 assumed duties of Idaho's wildlife forensics program. In 2008 Dr. Rudolph was the first woman to receive the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's 2007 Guy Bradley Award for wildlife law enforcement. In the history of this award, this was also the first time a recipient was not a law enforcement officer. The Guy Bradley Award is named after the first wildlife law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty in 1905 and is presented each year by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to recognize individuals for outstanding lifetime contributions to wildlife law enforcement. The award was given in recognition of her establishment of Idaho Fish and Game's wildlife forensics program, development of evidence collection protocols and field kits for Idaho's conservation officers, and her outreach efforts by launching a Wildlife Crime Scene Investigation program for school children.

Tire track and footwear impression evidence collection and field necropsy demonstration

Jim Wolfe, MS; Anchorage, AK

Jim has worked in the forensic science field since 1979 when he set up and managed the Alaska State Fish and Wildlife Protection Crime Lab in Palmer. He transferred to the Alaska State Crime Lab in 1985 with extensive experience in fish and wildlife forensic science and expanded his expertise to include shoeprint and tiretrack exams, biological evidence screening, trace evidence, videotape enhancements, and crime scene investigations. Jim retired as a supervising criminalist from the crime lab in 2004 and is continuing to provide training to law enforcement agencies. Presently, Jim is an adjunct faculty at UAA and UAF teaching introductory forensic science and basic crime scene techniques. He is an Alaska certified police instructor for physical evidence collection and preservation, and has regularly instructed at the Alaska Public Safety Academy since 1988. As training coordinator with the state crime lab, Jim provided both local and regional training in crime scene examinations and physical evidence collection.

Case histories

TBA

Wildlife Field Forensics Previous Seminars



Top row from left
 - C. Gonder, Montana 2007
 - K. Rudolph and D. Stroud, Montana 2009
 - G. Anderson, Montana 2009
Second row from left
 - Attendees, Montana 2010
 - K. Dirks (Env. Canada), Montana 2010
 - C. Gonder, Denali National Park 2010



Third row from left
 - C. Gonder, Denali 2010
 - T. Latham, Denali 2010
 - G. Anderson, T. Latham and C. Gonder, Denali 2010
 - K. Rudolph, Denali 2010
Fourth row from left
 - T. Latham and J. Wolfe, Denali 2010
 - K. Rudolph, G. Anderson, and T. Latham, Laughlin, NV/hosted by Mojave National Preserve 2010

