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Closing Remarks – Twenty-Second Vertebrate Pest Conference

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Proc. 22nd Vertebr. Pest Conf. (R. M. Timm and J. M. O'Brien, Eds.)
Published at Univ. of Calif., Davis. 2006. p. 535.

It has been a traditional practice for the Chair-Elect of the conference to deliver the closing remarks. The first Vertebrate Pest Conference was held in 1962 (44 years ago), followed by the second conference held in 1964. Since the early years, it was decided that the conferences be held bi-annually, which is unique in that it attracts record numbers of participants. This year, the conference drew 332 registered participants. In addition to those from across the U.S., a total of 26 participants represented 7 countries (Australia, Canada, Israel, Kenya, New Zealand, and the U.K.).

Approximately 90 papers were presented, plus 13 poster presentations. Included in participants was a record number of students— 26 in all, many of whom presented either oral papers or posters.

Currently, the Vertebrate Pest Council is comprised of 19 active members, a dedicated group of professionals who are committed to providing you with a quality educational program covering a wide variety of conventional, as well as controversial, topics. The Council members provide their services voluntarily, with membership ranging from 44 years (Dr. Walter E. "Howdy" Howard), and 42 years Rex E. Marsh (who, unfortunately, was unable to attend this conference), the two longest-serving Council members, both of whom have provided valuable guidance.

I would like to extend my gratitude to conference chair John O'Brien, from the Nevada Department of Agriculture, who worked very hard the past two years. Many thanks are due to Terry Salmon, program chair, and his committee for providing an outstanding program. Having served in public health for over 40 years, I am extremely pleased to note that the program agenda included a special symposium on wildlife diseases and their affect on human and occupational health-related issues. In addition to being the program chair, Terry also chaired the continuing education committee, receiving valuable assistance from Charlotte Carson, representing PAPA. Terry has also served (on his own time) as the business manager of the VPC for more than 20 years, and we are assuming that he has "kept the books" accurately, as we have not, (repeat) *not* yet been interrogated by IRS agents!

The conference field trip has consistently been a popular event, regardless of the weather conditions, which are certainly not a deterrent to this hardy group of individuals! Thanks to Brian Finlayson, field trip chair, and his committee for another successful field trip, which this year included 75 participants. Thanks are due to Duane Schnabel, local arrangements chair, and his committee, who worked very hard to ensure the best

possible facilities. Publicity chair Bob Timm and his committee diligently did their best to "get the word out" to professionals in this field, to ensure good attendance from all over the U.S.

Bob Timm and Amber Shrum also handled the tedious and laborious task conference registration. I would like to especially thank Amber for all the extra effort she contributed toward making this conference a success. In addition, Bob Timm is also the *Proceedings* editor. I encourage the speakers to submit their manuscripts to Bob on a timely basis, in order that the *Proceedings* can be prepared and distributed to all the attendees without delay. If there are any changes in your mailing address, please promptly notify the Council.

Rex Baker, chair for commercial displays, assisted by Council member Charlie Smith, attracted 12 exhibitors (Advanced Telemetry Systems; Avitrol Corporation; Bell Laboratories; Critter Control; CSIRO Publishing, Innotech Communications; LandCare Research – New Zealand Ltd. Pest Control & Wildlife Toxicology; J. T. Eaton & Co.; Pest Con Systems; Rodentator – Meyer Industries; RejeX-it; and Urban Wildlife Management). The Council sincerely appreciates vendor participation and support.

Thanks are due to all the speakers. Lastly, thanks are also due to the "unsung heroes", the technicians (Victor Kowalski, Tracy Ellis, Stephanie Lawrence, and Bob Caywood) who handled the audio-visuals and the PowerPoint presentations. Please join me in acknowledging their efforts.

This officially concludes the 22nd VPC. We look forward to seeing you at the 23rd VPC, to be held at the beautiful Wyndham Hotel in San Diego, California, on March 17-20, 2008.

Have a safe trip home.

