



PO Box 27, Ovando, MT 59854

406-793-7007

Ten Year Anniversary Celebration! **Wildlife Field Forensics**

Advanced Field Training for Wildlife Crime Scene Investigators



Field necropsy demo above ~ Montana May 2012 seminar ~ 48 attendees from 18 agencies

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

9-11 MAY 2017

Lecture and Field Training includes:

- Decomposition analysis for time of death estimates
- Forensic entomology basics and insect collection protocols
 - Wildlife human attack investigation techniques
- Field firearms and ammunition examination techniques
 - Field necropsy lecture presentation and demo
- Basics of DNA analysis and tissue collection protocols
- Tire track and footwear impression evidence collection
 - Relevant case histories

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 and Preserve, Katmai National Park and Preserve, Mojave National Preserve, Blue Ridge Parkway, Parks Canada/Vancouver Island University, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Federal Wildlife Officer Basic Training. The seminar includes lecture and hands on field exercises. Each attendee will receive 28 hours of POST certifiable credits.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Carleen Gonder ~ 406-793-7007 ~ carleen_montana@yahoo.com

MAY 2017 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, Diplomate, 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 through the University of Montana (UM) at UM's Lubrecht Experimental Forest utilizing various wildlife species. 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 who are available travel to various venues providing a range from a single topic to a full three day program. Carleen is a registered federal government contractor

The basics of DNA/biological evidence

Tricia Hosch-Hebdon, MS, Idaho Fish and Game Forensics Lab (no photo available)

Tricia Hebdon is the laboratory manager and primary forensic analyst for the Idaho Department of Fish & Game's (IDFG) Wildlife Health and Forensic Laboratory. She is responsible for the day to day management of the both the Wildlife Health lab and the Forensic lab. Tricia is responsible for all the forensic analysis, forensic quality assurance, training & development. The IDFG Forensic Laboratory currently provides forensic support and training for IDFG's 110 Conservation Officers, as well as: Oregon State Police and the Nevada Division of Wildlife when requested. Tricia has a B.S. in Biology from the University of California Riverside in 1995. She received a M.S. in Zoology and Physiology from the University of Wyoming with an emphasis in wildlife ecology, physiology, and conservation in 1999. Tricia has been working in molecular genetics & wildlife research since 1995 and began working for Idaho Fish & Game in 1999 on a bighorn sheep disease project. From 2000-2007, Tricia developed new and cutting edge molecular skills working in human public health at the Idaho Public Health Laboratory, as both a Molecular Microbiologist and Bioterrorism Preparedness Coordinator. During this tenure, she was able to train at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta and Fort Collins in rapid diagnostic technology; biosafety and security practices; and specimen preservation and sample collection. Tricia returned to Idaho Fish and Game in 2007, where she continues to work to enhance the understanding and capabilities in both wildlife health and forensics. Over the past 20 years, Tricia has also helped to design and provide biological based training to thousands of people. This has included; working as biology adjunct faculty at Boise State University, providing innovative rapid diagnostic training for clinical & hospital laboratory staff with the National Laboratory Response Network (LRN), providing New Officer & Advanced Forensic Field Training for Idaho conservation officers, and Wildlife Human Attack Response Training agency staff from multiple states & jurisdictions with the North American Wildlife Human Incident and Attack Response Training groups.



Firearms evidence field analysis; GPS for evidentiary purposes (as alternate course if cancellation)

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. Besides writing Analyzing Ballistic Evidence: On-Scene by the Investigator, Tony has authored a memoir and novels.



Field necropsy lecture and demo

Helen Schwantje, DVM, Vancouver Island, BC Canada

Helen Schwantje has been the Wildlife Veterinarian for BC since 1992. She graduated with a DVM degree from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in 1981 and completed a Masters of Science in Veterinary Pathology

(Wildlife Diseases) in 1987. She has also worked in several mixed animal practices, zoo practices, laboratory pathology and wildlife consulting. Unlike her previous life, Helen doesn't make many animals better now. Most of her work is with the health of populations, the individual animals are usually dead or anesthetized. She provides advice and support, training and materials for government staff, wildlife professionals and the public to handle animals humanely, to evaluate wildlife health and protect human health. Wildlife forensic investigations are a special interest and that has led to a rich relationship with the BC Conservation Officer Service, assisting on enforcement activities, the development of training, policy and procedures as well as regular field investigations into carnivore attacks on humans

Wildlife human attack investigation techniques

Brian Sommers, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Criminal Investigator (no photo available)

Brian Sommers has been a Montana Game Warden for 30 years and, since 2006, has been a Criminal Investigator for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Brian attended the 2006 Wildlife Human Attack Response Training (WHART) Conference in Fernie, BC. He later conducted and facilitated the 2009 Conference in Kalispell, MT, the 2012 Conference in Missoula, MT, and attended and facilitated at the 2014 Conference in Whitehorse, Yukon. Brian wrote and implemented Montana FWP's Wildlife Attack Response Guidelines in 2009 with the aid of other Montana Officers and Biologists. Brian has assisted and provided guidance to other states and agencies during attack investigations. Brian has attended over 1200 hours of Montana Peace Officer Standards Training (POST) courses during his career; he has obtained Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced POST Certificates and is a certified POST Instructor. In 2014 Brian co-facilitated WHART training for the 15 states that comprise SEAFWA (Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies). During this compressed training, Brian helped bring this valuable and unique training to over 60 wildlife personnel representing 13 of the 15 Southeastern states. In 2014 Brian began teaching Wildlife Attack Investigations at the Wildlife Field Forensics Conference and First Responder to Wildlife Human Attack Classes to Border Patrol Officers/other agencies and EMS personnel who may find themselves responding to a Wildlife Attack. In 2015 Brian facilitated WHART training for New Mexico and Florida and March 2016 the training will be presented to Missouri.



Tire track and footwear impression evidence collection

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 tire track exams, biological evidence screening, trace evidence, videotape enhancements, and crime scene investigations. As training coordinator with the state crime lab, Jim provided both local and regional training in crime scene examinations and physical evidence collection. Jim retired as a supervising criminalist from the crime lab in 2004 and continues his work in forensics as an independent consultant, teacher and trainer. Jim is an adjunct faculty with the University of Alaska, and has been the lead crime scene and physical evidence instructor for the UAF-CTC Law Enforcement Academy in Fairbanks. He is an Alaska certified police instructor for physical evidence collection and preservation and has taught over 300 classes to law enforcement personnel.

Special Guests to be Announced

Wildlife Field Forensics Previous Seminars



J. Sommers

C. Gonder

Photo Unk



J. Sommers



J. Wolfe

C. Gonder



J. Wolfe



K. Young



J. Wolfe



K. Young



J. Wolfe



J. Sommers