

CPRC NEWS  
A Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Chesapeake and Potomac Regional Chapter of the  
Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry  
Vol 14, Number 1, Winter 2004

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Meeting

Thursday, April 22, 2004

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Conservation  
Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV

**See Page 2 for Details**

You are invited to attend the



Chesapeake and Potomac Regional Chapter  
Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry



**Spring Meeting to be held on**



**EARTH DAY - Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2004 from 9:30–4:30**

**Cost: FREE to CPRC members (\$15 to join; \$5 for students)**

#### **Keynote Speakers**

Dr. Michael Barbour, Tetrattech, Inc.: *Ecological Assessment of Aquatic Resources: Linking Science to Decision-Making*

Dr. Elizabeth Blood, National Science Foundation: *NEON: A National Research Platform for Addressing the Nation's Environmental Challenges*

**Attendees and students are invited to submit abstracts for poster or oral presentations on environmental toxicology or chemistry. Students who present will compete for a \$100 award for best presentation (either poster or oral).**

**Abstracts, along with preference for oral or poster, should be sent by March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2004 to Heather Stapleton: [heather.stapleton@nist.gov](mailto:heather.stapleton@nist.gov) If attending but not presenting, please RSVP to Heather by April 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**Due to security restrictions, advance registration is required – no walk-ins will be admitted. Nonmembers may pay dues on-site.**

**Location:** U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - National Conservation Training Center  
698 Conservation Way - Shepherdstown, WV 25443 (approx. 90 miles west of Baltimore / northwest of D.C.) Co-sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

2004 Meeting Chair: Sherry Krest, USFWS

*Driving directions and nearby hotels are available online at: <http://training.fws.gov/contact.html>*

## LOCAL NEWS

### PandaMania to Sweep the DC Area



So you remember those “party animals” from a couple of years ago? Artfully adorned elephants and

donkeys representing the symbols of the two major political parties showed up on virtually every street corner in the downtown DC business district.

Well now it’s time for animals to return to the streets! This time there will be 150 panda statues – some standing, some seated – and all painted in a variety of designs. Already, 1,200 artists and groups have submitted drawings for consideration by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. The artists will be selected by the Commission by the end of March and each get a \$1,500 stipend to help buy supplies to paint their pandas.

The finished pandas will be on display throughout the city from May through September, after which they will be auctioned off. [The highest bidder for the party animals was \$25,000 for the “America the Beautiful” elephant, which was covered with stars and stripes.]

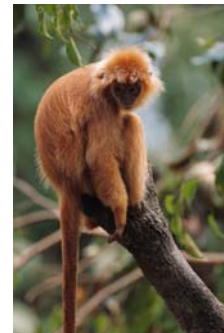
### NAS Releases its Zoo Report

In late breaking news, it seems the selection of the panda may be an omen, as the National Academy of Sciences released its interim report on the National Zoo. The Academy was asked to review highly publicized animal deaths and identify the pressing issues in animal care and management. **The following summarizes the zoo’s initial response to the report and the progress that is being made.**

NAS found that “many of these deaths were due to the advanced age of the animals or preexisting conditions and the medical care provided was adequate and in some cases well beyond any reasonable expectation of care.”

The report also noted that many of the Zoo’s problems are not new; they were many years in the making and they cannot be “made right in one or two years,” according to NAS review committee chair Dr. Michael Roberts.

For the past year, the National Zoo has made progress toward addressing the issues outlined in the NAS report. The bullets below indicate some of the changes that have been made or are underway at the National Zoo.



#### ***Finding 1: Preventive care program issues***

- The veterinary staff at the National Zoo is already addressing the backlog of animals on the preventive care program schedule. For example, nearly 80 percent of primates in the Small Mammal House have received annual exams, and staff will continue to bring the program up to date. Sick or injured animals, however, will always take priority over annual physical exams.
- Not all animals at the National Zoo are on the preventive care program schedule, including animals for which anesthesia is particularly risky. Not all animals are

vaccinated every year as some immunization procedures carry risk, especially for aging animals. It is important to note that the National Zoo's preventive care program goes beyond guidelines provided by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The National Zoo's preventive care program is designed to meet or exceed recommended guidelines.

### ***Finding 2: Nutrition issues***

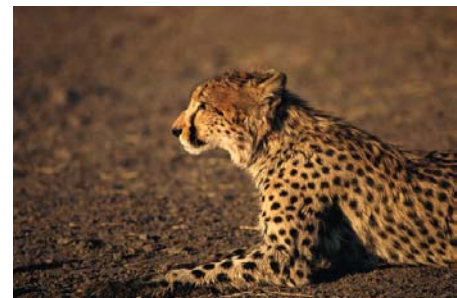
- The Zoo acknowledged the shortcomings in animal nutrition, a longstanding problem at the National Zoo. The Zoo has already made progress in this area, and will continue with plans already in place that will centralize the animal commissary by 2005.
- In 2003, the Zoo changed supervision and oversight of animal nutrition to improve communication and to review and document diets. Roles and responsibilities have been clarified, new staff hired and a Zoo-wide review of all animal diets is in full swing.
- The nutritionist and commissary manager are documenting and revising all animal diets at the Zoo. Diets for birds, elephants, great cats, small mammals and primates have been completed.

### ***Finding 3: Animal welfare documentation***

- The National Zoo agreed that proper documentation for federally regulated research programs needs immediate and thorough attention. Plans for two reorganized Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees are underway, and the Zoo welcomed additional guidance from the NAS with regard to staff training and implementation.

### ***Finding 4: Zoo policy issues***

- The Zoo is in the midst of significant changes designed to improve and clarify policies and procedures, and to ensure that all levels of management are accountable for following and communicating them.
- In 2003, the Zoo increased animal care supervision by reorganizing and expanding staff, clarifying roles and responsibilities, and revising all "best practices," many of which were outdated or nonexistent.
- Poor internal communication at the Zoo has been a problem, and there have been instances where policies and procedures were not adhered to (as in the case of the zebras or red pandas).
- In other cases, there was poor documentation of adherence to best practices. For example, the process of euthanasia is working (as noted by the NAS), but the circulation of paperwork associated with the process was not working prior to a revised policy completed in January 2004. Many other zoos do not use euthanasia forms, nor require that the director sign off on all euthanasia.
- The Zoo accepted the NAS recommendation to discontinue the practice of professional courtesy to pets (no such service has been provided since April 2003). All staff will be notified of this official "no pets" policy.



**Finding 5: Record-keeping issues**

- The AZA is currently funding the development of a modern zoo-wide information system with the support of AZA member zoos; the National Zoo is participating in this effort.
- In the meantime, as part of the 2003 best practice review and to ensure consistency within each set of records, the Zoo explicitly identified what should be included in the keeper records and veterinary/animal health records. The head veterinarian and the general curator oversee this new requirement at the Zoo. It should be noted that the content of veterinary and keeper records is different, as they express different viewpoints.
- As of fall 2003, all updates or edits to medical records are initialed and dated by the person making the entry so it is clear those changes were not part of the original document.
- The Zoo will develop a standard system for filing and archiving keeper records, which will be overseen by the general curator and the registrar.

**Finding 6: Pest management issues**

- The Zoo aggressively pursued this problem in 2003 and efforts continue.
- Pesticides in and around animal areas were discontinued following the deaths of the red pandas in January 2003. Only nontoxic chemicals and trapping were used while a new chemical safety approval process was established as part of the best practice review. The Zoo erred on the side of caution when it discontinued use of pesticides.
- The Zoo hired a new safety officer and a new pest control manager in 2003. The Zoo

is developing a new Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan, led by the pest manager, who now reports to the veterinary pathology department to ensure animal safety. The IPM plan includes using pesticides in certain areas of the Zoo; removing uneaten food; correcting facilities problems that allow access to rodents; and training all staff to identify new or ongoing pest control problems.

- Friends of the National Zoo (FONZ) has a contract in place for pest control in human food areas.

**Finding 7: Strategic planning**

- The Zoo began its own strategic planning process in October 2003, as noted by the NAS; the plan is intended to incorporate the 10-year renewal and animal collection plans.
- The Zoo's mission, vision, values, three-to-five-year goals and performance measures will be complete in May 2004, and are designed to relate to the Smithsonian Institution's strategic plan and the Smithsonian Science strategic plan.

Editor's Note: The NAS report made a point of stating that problems associated with the zoo could not be blamed on Lucy Spelman, the Director of the National Zoo, and that no malpractice was evident. Despite this, however, Ms. Spelman announced that she would be resigning at the end of 2004, citing the need to remove the distractions so the zoo could continue the progress being made.



## THE STUDENT PAGES

These pages are designed specifically for the benefit of student members of the Chesapeake and Potomac Chapter. Let us know what is important to you and what we can do to make CPRC work for you. Please contact your student representative **Christina Dryden** ([cdryden@odu.edu](mailto:cdryden@odu.edu)) or send info directly to the editor.

### RESUME HUMOR

As students, some of you are planning to graduate soon and will be seeking employment. The following are actual phrases found on resumes [Note: if you can't determine what is wrong with each entry, please go back and study some more].

"I have lurnt Word Perfect 6.0 computer and spreasheet progroms."

"Am a perfectionist and rarely if if ever forget details."

"Wholly responsible for two (2) failed financial institutions."

"It's best for employers that I not work with people."

"I have an excellent track record, though I am not a horse."

"I am loyal to my employer at all costs. Please feel free to respond to my resume on my office voice mail."

"I procrastinate, especially when the task is unpleasant."

"Personal interests: donating blood. Fourteen gallons so far."

"Note: Please don't misconstrue my 14 jobs as 'job-hopping'. I have never quit a job."

"The company made me a scapegoat, just like my three previous employers."

"References: none. I've left a path of destruction behind me."

Self-confident? Try this one"

"Let's meet, so you can 'ooh' and 'aah' over my experience."

### GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

CPRC again would like to remind student members of the extremely valuable opportunity that awaits them each and every year...

#### *...our Graduate Student Research Awards...*

Would you believe that in 2003 CPRC was prepared to give TWO graduate student research awards but only one person put in an application!!!

For those of you would somehow missed this last year, here's how it works...

- 1) You put in a brief proposal of your research (2 pages), plus a CV
- 2) The Awards committee reviews the proposals and rates them on a series of criteria (quality, feasibility, experience, innovation, etc.).
- 3) The two winners each get a check for \$500 paid directly to them.

Sounds easy, right? Imagine how easy it was this past year when **Lance Yonkos** was the only one who submitted a proposal. Not only was it an easy \$500 for Lance, but also it would have been an easy \$500 for a second student had there been one. [By the way, the check is made out directly to the student to be used to help defray costs any way he or she sees fit.]

So start planning for 2004, folks. Thanks to continuing corporate support from **ExxonMobil**, **BBL Sciences**, and **Compliance Services International**, we will again offer two Graduate Student Research Awards.

Look for the announcement in the next CPRC News!!

**Don't miss out!!**

## CPRC Member News



### Not Fred Pinkney

Pretty, eh?! Our itinerant CPRC former President, **Fred Pinkney**, has been at it again. Continuing in his long-standing tradition of seeking out the most disgusting fish photos he can find, Fred provides us with this...uh, illustrative example of a bullhead with a squamous carcinoma. [For you people with less grotesque jobs, that's an invasive skin tumor].

Fred is the lead author on a paper entitled "Tumor Prevalence and Biomarkers of Exposure and Response in Brown Bullheads (*Ameiurus nebulosus*) from the Anacostia River, Washington, DC and Tuckahoe River, Maryland", which appeared in the March 2004 issue of SETAC's own Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (23:638-647). Coauthor **John Harshbarger** is also a CPRC member (though Fred hogs all the press). Their key findings were that the liver tumor prevalence in Anacostia River bullheads of 50-68% is as high as any reported in a U.S. river (which can't be a good thing). DNA analysis, performed by coauthor **Bill Reichert**, indicated a high degree of DNA binding with polycyclic aromatic compounds.

Anyone wanting a copy should log on to the SETAC web site ([www.SETAC.org](http://www.SETAC.org)). The story was also featured in the Metro section of the February 11, 2004 Washington Post.

Contact Fred for autographs at [fred\\_pinkney@fws.gov](mailto:fred_pinkney@fws.gov).

## On the Move

They say you can't keep a good woman down. Two of CPRC's most prominent members have recently changed jobs, though luckily for us both have remained within the realm of CPRC.

With mixed emotions, **Beth McGee**, both a CPRC member and a SETAC North America Board representative, has left the USFWS Chesapeake Bay Field Office and moved into the Non-Government Organization category. She is now the Maryland Senior Scientist at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. [Yes, the very place that CPRC held it's spring 2003 annual meeting, though I doubt there's any connection...right?!]

Must be something in the water up at that particular FWS office (perhaps it explains Fred's bullheads). In any case, **Paige Doelling-Brown** has also jumped ship from USFWS and is now at EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Fate and Effects Division, in Arlington, VA (aka Crystal City). Paige is also a former CPRC board member. She can be reached at 703-305-5320 or [doelling-brown.paige@epa.gov](mailto:doelling-brown.paige@epa.gov).

## SETAC 2005 – Baltimore

The annual SETAC meeting for 2005 will again be held in Baltimore in the Inner Harbor. In early February the SETAC board unanimously approved **David Kent**, **Bill Goodfellow**, and **Lisa Baron** as program tri-chairs for the meeting. So now the work begins.

**Please start thinking about a meeting theme, a logo, special programs, ideas for speakers, and social events.**

Very shortly the three of us will be selecting the rest of the program committee, so please contact us if you are interested in volunteering. We can be reached at:

David: [dkent@complianceservices.com](mailto:dkent@complianceservices.com)

Bill: [wlg@eaest.com](mailto:wlg@eaest.com)

Lisa: [lisa.baron@dot.state.nj.us](mailto:lisa.baron@dot.state.nj.us)

## HUMOR

(for those people who need a smile)

### Obscure Weights and Measures

Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter = Esquimo Pi

2000 pounds of Chinese soup = Won Ton

1 millionth of a mouthwash = 1 microscope

Time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement = 1 bananosecond

365.25 days of drinking low-calorie beer because it's less filling = 1 lite year

Half a large intestine = 1 semicolon

1 millionth of a fish = 1 microfische

1 trillion pins = 1 terrapin

8 nickels = 2 paradigms

2000 mockingbirds = 2 kilomockingbirds

10 cards = 1 decacards

1000 aches = 1 megahertz

Basic unit of laryngitis = 1 hoarsepower

Shortest distance between 2 jokes = 1 straight line



### A Good Pun is its Own Reward

Sea captains don't like crew cuts

A Freudian slip is when you say one thing but mean your mother

Marriage is the mourning after the knot before

Corduroy pillows are making headlines

A successful diet is the triumph of mind over platter

When you dream in color, it's a pigment of your imagination

Reading whilst sunbathing leaves you well-red

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana

### More One Liners

It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere

The trouble with life is there is no background music

**Quick Quiz Answer: It was day time.**

## Chesapeake and Potomac Regional Chapter Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP – 2004

Online application: <http://chapters.setac.org/cprc/index.htm>

**SETAC:** the **Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry** is an independent, nonprofit professional society that provides a forum for individuals and institutions engaged in the study of environmental issues, management and conservation of natural resources, environmental education, and environmental research and development.

**CPRC:** the **Chesapeake and Potomac Regional Chapter** of SETAC is a non-profit organization started in the year 1983. CPRC's mission is to promote the exchange of information among environmental scientists in the Mid-Atlantic States

Note: you do not have to be a SETAC member to be a member of CPRC.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Employed by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Check the Appropriate Membership Class:** Regular \_\_\_ (\$15) Student \_\_\_ (\$5)

**Employment Class:** Academic \_\_\_ Government \_\_\_ Business \_\_\_ Consulting \_\_\_

**Education:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(highest degree, discipline, year)

Please enclose a check made out to CPRC. This form and check should be sent to:  
**David J. Kent - c/o Compliance Services International**  
**2001 Jefferson Davis Hwy. Suite 1010. Arlington, VA 22202**

## Closing Thoughts



2004 looks like it will be another busy year for the Chapter. I encourage all CPRC members to become active and give your support to CPRC **President Cliff Duke, Vice President Cal Baier-Anderson**, and all the rest of the officers and Board.

As mentioned on page 7, yours truly David Kent, Bill Goodfellow, and Lisa Baron will be co-chairing the SETAC 2005 meeting to be held in Baltimore. Since we had a meeting at the same location not too many years ago it will be important for us to come up with some new ideas for both the scientific and social programs. Please contact any of us if you want to volunteer to be on the committee (for those who have already volunteered, thank you in advance). We will need to come up with a theme and design a logo very shortly so let's get those thinking caps on (sorry, cute phrase from the early 80's...or was it the 70's?).

As usual, articles and especially photographs are welcome.

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**Questions/Comments/Ideas for Articles - Please send an email to the editor at [DKent@ComplianceServices.com](mailto:DKent@ComplianceServices.com).**