



PO Box 49, Seeley Lake, MT 59868

406-677-7007

## Wildlife Field Forensics: Advanced Training for Wildlife Crime Scene Investigators



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

***THE ANNUAL SEMINAR WILL BE HELD AT THE  
SEELEY LAKE COMMUNITY CENTER IN SEELEY LAKE, MT***

**9-11 MAY 2023**

*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
- Basics of DNA analysis and tissue collection protocols
  - Case history – Wolf poisoning case in Idaho
  - Wildlife conflict programs in rural communities
    - Tentative – Necropsy demonstration

*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 26-28 hours of POST certifiable credits.*

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**Carleen Gonder ~ 406-677-7007 ~ [carleen\\_montana@yahoo.com](mailto:carleen_montana@yahoo.com)**

## MAY 2023 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; Seeley Lake, 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



### **Firearms evidence field analysis; Wolf poisoning case; 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.

### **Wildlife human attack investigation techniques**

***Brian Sommer, 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.

### **Wildlife conflict programs in rural communities**

***Seth Wilson, Blackfoot Challenge Executive Director***

Seth joined the Challenge as Executive Director in 2019. He grew up in West Cornwall, CT and holds a B.A. in Environmental Studies and Government from St. Lawrence University, a M.S. in Environmental Studies as well as a Ph.D. in Forestry from the University of Montana in Missoula, MT. He was a post-doctoral research fellow at Yale University from 2009-2010. While conducting his doctoral research, Seth began working for the Blackfoot Challenge in 2001 as the organization's first Wildlife Coordinator, helping to gather baseline data and develop strategies to reduce conflicts with grizzly bears and wolves that are still hallmarks of the program today. As an applied conservation biologist, Seth has worked on resolving issues between people and wildlife in the United States, Canada, and Europe for more than 20 years. Most recently, he spent three years in Slovenia as an advisor to the Slovenian Forest Service and partners from Italy, Austria, Croatia, Slovakia, and Romania to support brown bear and Eurasian lynx conservation and management

# Wildlife Field Forensics Previous Seminars



Photo Unk

C. Gonder

J. Sommers



J. Sommers



C. Gonder



J. Wolfe



J. Wolfe



K. Young



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