Humane Educators Show Their Worth!
By Dezarae Jones-Hartwig, Education Manager, Wisconsin Humane Society and Kelley Über Sterner, Director of Education and Volunteer Development, Humane Society of Northeast Georgia

In reaction to member feedback of budget cuts and department changes, Jane Greco Deming sent a lifesaver out to humane educators with her Spring 2009 article in The Packrat titled, “In a Pinch: Keeping Humane Education Afloat During Rough Spells.” Little did anyone realize that Jane’s words were ever so timely and only hinting at what the coming years would bring for humane education. Budget cuts and department shifts quickly turned into job losses with little hope of being reinstated in the near future. So what is the creative and clever humane educator to do? Take stock and get ready for the challenge.

At the 2012 APHE National Conference at Tony La Russa’s Animal Rescue Foundation, it became APHE’s turn to “bank” on members’ knowledge and expertise during the conference roundtable session with the theme “Show Your Worth: Promoting the Value of Humane Education.” This was an opportunity to respond as a group to what we have all seen as discouraging changes in the field, and begin collectively capitalizing on the traditional and hidden potential of humane education.

“Show Your Worth” focused on seven topics polled by APHE members as vital to sustaining humane education including:
- Capitalizing on Connections
- Letting Technology Work for You
- Ideas to Net Income for Humane Education
- Program Evaluation and Assessment
- Speaking on Behalf of Humane Education
- Positive Programming
- Developing Community Partners

Each topic could have easily kept us talking for hours on end. Here, we highlight three of the most popular topics to get your thoughts stirring with new ideas. Included are some extracurricular reading from references noted in the roundtable discussions. Summary notes for all the topics are available in the Files section of the APHE Listserv at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/aphe.

Our goal is to ensure the conversation doesn’t stop in California. We wish to involve all APHE members in a dialogue to find long-standing solutions to what many of view as the decline of our field. Add your voice to the conversation at the APHE listserv, the APHE Facebook page, or in your local community with the APHE Regional Workshop Program.

Capitalizing on Connections
With teachers burdened to meet their core standards, very few have time to make humane education an individualized process in their classrooms. Until you come and visit! Humane educators have the privilege of being asked to speak in classrooms throughout the year; why not bank on that opportunity?

Our roundtable participants felt incorporating educational standards into programming was vital in obtaining and maintaining relationships with schools. If your time is strapped, tap into local colleges or universities through their College of Education and see if you can hook eager

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Dear APHE Members,

It was wonderful to see many of you at the 2012 APHE National Conference in early March. There is something unique about being immersed in the presentations, networking and conference activities: energy and inspiration abounds. Many thanks to everyone who made the event a success: the conference committee led by Beth Karzes and Stacey Zeitlin, our hosts at Tony La Russa’s Animal Rescue Foundation, the generous sponsors, the fabulous presenters, and all of the attendees.

Plans are already underway for the 2013 APHE National Humane Education Conference at the Detroit Zoological Society (DZS) April 11-12 in Royal Oak, Michigan near Detroit. APHE Board member and DZS Humane Education Specialist Lisa Forzley chairs the conference committee. We look forward to sharing more about DZS in the coming year, which is home of the Center for Zoo Animal Welfare (www.czaw.org).

Now more than ever it is vital that humane educators clearly communicate the value of humane education to their agencies and communities. We know of its benefits and interconnectedness to how humans treat one another, non-human animals and the environment, but others who are less familiar—including some decision makers - need to be educated.

In an effort to validate the value of humane education, the APHE Board has formed a research committee to explore opportunities for collaboration and investment in humane education research. We look forward to reporting progress in the coming year.

Warmly,
Susan Helmink

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**New Student Membership Created and Notice of Due Increase**

We are excited to announce the creation of a Student membership in response to members’ requests. Concurrently, the dues for standard one-year and two-year memberships will change effective July 1, 2012. Membership types and dues will be as follows:

- **One-year membership** - $50
- **Two-year membership** - $80
- **Student one-year membership** - $35

These changes come after careful and thoughtful review of comparable associations and strategic goals for APHE. Membership dues have remained stable for five years.

Student members will receive the online *Packrat* newsletter plus all other benefits and voting rights of standard membership. To qualify for a Student membership, one must be a full-time student taking 12 or more credit hours a semester or equivalent and provide a letter of verification from the school, college or university. Eligibility will be confirmed annually and is valid for one year after graduation.

We have received requests to create an organizational membership. This was also discussed and considered; however, because APHE is an association of individuals, the APHE Board concluded to maintain the individual membership structure at this time.

Thank you very much for your continued participation in and support of APHE. If you have any questions, please contact us at members@aphe.org.
Living Humane Education
By Mary Mast, 3rd Grade Teacher, Cesar Chavez Elementary School

A year ago, almost to the day, my students and I embarked on a journey that will, for us collectively, last a lifetime.

“Mrs. Mast! We have to do something!” they demanded as we pondered over a horrific tragedy that was unfolding before us. A neighborhood cat had been shot through the head with an arrow.

This wasn’t the beginning of invaluable lessons that lay ahead of us, as we welcomed the local humane society into our classroom on many occasions to educate us about the importance of humane animal welfare in our community, but it was about to take on a life of its own!

Phone calls, a change jar, and many heartfelt letters were delivered to “Bow,” the injured feline who was being taken care of at Carol’s Ferals to aid in his recovery. My students became pillars of character, advocates of compassion, respect, responsibility, citizenship, and most importantly, kindness. They were on a mission guided by righting an injustice.

As their teacher, I wondered how I could teach them the values of compassion, respect, and empathy. Whether you are a parent, an educator, or a concerned citizen, this question is crucial. Teaching humane education creates a more humane world. We need to start with our children.

Jen Self-Aulgur, Humane Education Coordinator from the Humane Society of West Michigan, provided us with these tools. A series of informative lessons were designed to assist us in incorporating humane education topics in our everyday curriculum while addressing character development. Experiencing these lessons, my students will become more empathetic adults, who not only care about animals, but also about each other and the world in which we live.

The value of humane education is critical in my opinion. The importance of redesigning how we educate people starts with motivation, and being aware of the choices we make every day. I want my students to become problem solvers who can creatively address challenges. Often humane issues are not routinely addressed in schools, but I think it’s imperative that we extend our lessons past the verbal, written, and mathematical components that make up our day.

Just look at what 28 students did! They took a chance. They put their academic knowledge and values into practice…and reaped the rewards! Now they can live their lives intentionally and meaningfully. And guess what? A year later, they haven’t forgotten how they made a difference in Bow’s life…only now they use correct punctuation in the letters that are still being sent his way!
In-Service Educators and Views of Humane Education
An overview of a humane education study by the Humane Literacy Coalition
By Stephanie Itle-Clark, Director, School of Continuing Education, Humane Society University

Formal educators in the K-12 system are tasked with facilitating academic, character, and social and emotional learning in the classroom. As part of this learning, the teaching of critical thinking revolving around the reinforcement of “kindness...care and compassion towards” people, animals, and the environment and the interconnection among the three can work to prevent needless suffering and create community building attitudes (Selby, 1995, p. 7). As a form of “character education and a partner to social and emotional learning, humane education encourages empathy and compassion for humans, animals, and the environment as well as assesses the intimate connection among the three” (DeLisle and Itle-Clark, 2011).

Humane education in schools and after-school programs has often been relegated to covering only the care and respect for cats and dogs, yet with the ever growing concern about educating the whole child, the anti-bullying movement, and existing character education legislation in a majority of states, we see an indication that the United States educational system is moving toward a new era in education that includes the building of critical thinking skills and prosocial behaviors such as empathy, kindness, respect, honesty, and responsibility (CEP, n.d.). As education embraces the needs of the whole child, schools will be looking for resources and programs that help schools to be “safe, healthy, engaged, supported, and challenged” (ASCD, n.d.).

With this in mind, and based upon knowledge of state mandates involving humane education, the Humane Literacy Coalition (HLC) comprised of representatives from RedRover, Humane Society University, the Association of Professional Humane Educators, the World Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and the American Anti-Vivisection Society came together to obtain a better understanding of how humane education is perceived in its holistic form by formal educators (those with formal education degrees versus informal educators who may promote humane education in other capacities), administrators, and those who set educational policy. HLC was also formed to review the creation and potential use of humane education benchmarks on the part of formal educators. HLC hypothesized that educators were not aware of humane education nor whether humane education was required in their state. HLC also wished to learn the opinion of educators, administrators, and policy makers concerning the creation of benchmarks that would help educators to infuse humane education into standards-based work. Based on these assumptions and questions, HLC developed a two-phase study comprised of questionnaires that were disseminated both at national education conferences and online during 2010-2011.

Familiarity with and Use of Humane Education
Results showed that educators, administrators, and policy makers at both elementary and secondary levels believed that all areas of humane education were important and felt that humane values were likely to be infused into the standards-based curricula. Question one of the phase-one study was designed to allow a better understanding of participant familiarity with the idea of humane education. Participants were asked to rank their familiarity with the term humane education using choices of very familiar, somewhat familiar, or not familiar. Of the phase one respondents, 57.9% (n = 149) of primary educators 66.2% (n = 247) of secondary educators, and 85% (n = 39) of administrators and policy makers were somewhat or very familiar with humane education.

A phase-two question asked participants to identify how

“As education embraces the needs of the whole child, schools will be looking for resources and programs that help schools to be “safe, healthy, engaged, supported, and challenged” (ASCD, n.d.)."
important they think it is for teachers to incorporate humane education into their lessons. Of these respondents, 97% of primary school teachers (n = 109) felt incorporating humane education into their work was very important or somewhat important, with 70.27% (n = 78) saying it was very important. Although smaller in number, 100% of secondary educators (n = 47) reported that incorporating humane education into their work was very important or somewhat important, with 76.60% (n = 36) saying it was very important.

Interestingly enough, even with the reported support for humane education, results showed that educators had varied levels of understanding concerning humane education and little knowledge of state requirements. A cross tabulation of self-reported state humane education requirements, in response to the question “Does your state have a humane education requirement?” indicated that over 50% of participants did not know if their states had any type of requirement. Slightly over 52% of respondents (n = 167) who live in a state with a humane education requirement reported being unaware of any requirement and only 12% (n = 35) in the same category reported correctly that their state required humane education. This indicates a disproportionate understanding of state requirements and a need for professional development opportunities and wider sharing in professional education resources.

**Future Implications**
Education professionals of today face a problem similar to that of the late 1900s in that they generally receive little formal training concerning humane or character education, specifically training in how to combine these reflective items with academics (Gore and Zeichner, 1991). Educators who learn to combine family, community, and personal understanding with academics become truly effective in building learning relationships (Elias, 2003, pp. 7-9).

A possible implication realized by the study is that teacher preparation and in-service programs are not including the concepts of humane education, and that given benchmarks for humane education, formal educators would more often include all three components of humane education in their work.

**Humane Education Benchmarks**
When participants were asked to answer how important they think it is for teachers to have guidelines to incorporate humane education there seemed to be much support. Of the respondents, 70.88% reported that humane education guidelines were either very important (n = 99) or somewhat important (n = 64). Only 5.17% reported that they felt guidelines would be not very important (n = 7) or not at all important (n = 1).

When looking at specific categories and numbers of respondents there was a larger number of primary (47.58%; n = 59) versus secondary (46.30%; n = 25) educators who reported that guidelines were very important. Administrators and those who create educational policy had similar responses to that of secondary educators (46.30%; n = 25).

**What You Can Do**
As a member of the Association of Professional Humane Educators (APHE) you can play a large part in supporting humane education and sharing the connection between humane concepts and that of the whole child. Please share these connections with college and university education departments as well as K-12 schools and offer professional development materials. APHE can be a guiding resource for your outreach, providing items such as the new Lesson Plan Workbook, webinars, and support through the e-mail listserv.

The full Humane Literacy Coalition research study will be posted soon on the Humane Society University website; watch for the update on the member listserv.
A Home Run for Humane Education
2012 APHE National Conference
By Stacey Zeitlin, Conference Co-Chair

It truly was a home run for humane education earlier this year at the 2012 APHE National Conference at Tony La Russa’s Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) in Walnut Creek, CA. The conference kicked off with a fun-filled mixer at the Renaissance Hotel on Wednesday, February 29th. Attendees split into regional groups to learn more about each other and the types of programs conducted by other organizations close to home.

Early the next day, 84 attendees loaded the buses for ARF, our gracious hosts throughout the conference. The rain on the first day couldn’t dampen the terrific networking and learning opportunities! The first day was filled with useful information about:

- Using storytelling and role-playing to teach conflict resolution to preschoolers
- Creating a high school veterinary program and sharing the research connected to it for the benefit of humane education across the country
- Brainstorming non-traditional partnerships to further humane education’s reach
- Connecting humane education to school standards using art and other subject areas
- Implementing a photography project to engage students and connect them to an organization’s mission

Attendees work through an activity from the Shadowing at the Shelter program that helps students understand the challenges surrounding placement and rehabilitation of homeless pets.

After the annual APHE Membership Meeting on Thursday afternoon, conference attendees and guests enjoyed fun and food during the dinner and auction to benefit the Nathania Gartman Memorial Scholarship Fund. During the event, APHE honored The Latham Foundation for its commitment to humane education and for its support of APHE through the years. The APHE Life Membership program was also unveiled to recognize individuals who have made significant and extraordinary contributions to the formation or advancement of APHE. The first recipient under this new program was Carol Shiveley, a longtime humane educator who served more than 10 years on the APHE and predecessor WHEA boards, including two terms as APHE president.

After the program, the auction raised $3,109 in support of the Nathania Gartman Memorial Scholarship Fund. These funds will assist APHE members to attend the 2013 APHE National Humane Education Conference taking place at the Detroit Zoological Society next spring.

On Friday the sun came out and so did another round of engaging and inspiring presenters! The day was filled with more great presentations and discussions including:

- Environmental issues and lessons to address them
• How vicarious modeling can impact humane education
• Implementing professional development workshops to involve teachers in humane education
• Cultural lessons used to engage students in Hawaii
• The inspiring story of Audie, one of Michael Vick’s dogfighting victims, who teaches others an inspiring message of hope

Other conference favorites included the Sharing Corral tables where participants shared programs and materials, the Roundtable Discussions during which conversations focused on promoting the value of humane education (see article, p.1) and networking to help attendees reach new levels of productivity. Tours of ARF, delicious food, and new vendor tables were also part of the activities.

The APHE National Humane Education Conference is such a terrific way to learn about new programs, recharge your commitment to humane education, and network with those in the field. I always leave the conference inspired and energized and can’t wait until next year’s conference!

If you missed the conference and are interested in learning more about the session topics, the presentation and handout materials are available online and may be downloaded for your reference. The cost is $20 for APHE members and $25 for non-members. Visit the Shop APHE section at www.aphe.org for details.

Special Thanks to the 2012 APHE National Conference Sponsors!

Special Thanks to the Nathania Gartman Memorial Scholarship Fund Sponsors!
Service Dog Row Excursion
2012 APHE National Conference
By Carol Everett

We had a marvelous and educational excursion to three inspiring destinations north of San Francisco. We first visited Bergin University of Canine Studies. This new campus offers undergraduate and graduate degrees and conducts research in the human-canine relationship, canine-related businesses and leading-edge assistance dog training and partnerships. One of the things I found remarkable was they teach dogs over 100 basic commands to assist people with disabilities.

The second excursion stop was at Forget Me Not Farm where abused farm animals live out their lives as therapy animals to at-risk children in order to help stop the cycle of abuse. Students receive a well-rounded horticultural experience by tending to the upkeep of the animals and gardens throughout the farm.

Our third and final stop was at Guide Dogs for the Blind. There were beautiful dogs everywhere! Their staff, veterinarians, groomers and trainers prepare dogs to become future guides. Guide dogs are bred for size and disposition specific to qualifications needed to assist the blind. They usually meet their blind partner when they are around 1 ½ years old and the two train together for two to four weeks at their onsite dormitories and training center.

These three unique facilities reinforced what we all know; the endless ways animals can enhance our lives and make us all more compassionate and loving people.

My First APHE Conference
By Maggie Howe

When I looked at job postings at the San Diego Humane Society and SPCA three years ago, I hoped to find a fun, temporary job working with animals. My plan was to do something I loved until I had to start my career. As fate would have it, on the website I saw the words “Humane Educator.” Coming from a background in both education (5th grade teacher) and animals (dog walker at numerous shelters), I couldn’t believe my eyes. Wait, wasn’t education for schools? Weren’t animal shelters just about adopting out animals?

Fast forward two and a half years, and I was living and breathing humane education. I couldn’t take my dog, Rosalita, to the park without instructing kids to “ask me first” and “walk up slowly,” as they approached to meet Rosalita, and I found joy in students remembering to “pet the guinea pig gently.” I found my true calling. The next great treasure I found was that there was a whole group of humane educators all working together for the same purpose. I was so excited at the idea of all those magnificent, creative, and smart people being together at the same time at the APHE National Conference.

As a former classroom teacher and an artistic and creative person, I figured I would submit a proposal at the call for presentations. I was thrilled when I was accepted to present “Incorporating Art into Standards Based Humane Education” in Walnut Creek, California. I prepared for my first conference and my first presentation by creating a PowerPoint loaded with samples from my students, and packing all my most professional “grown-up clothes.”

I arrived in Walnut Creek in time to attend the last hour of the mixer. Armed with an Arnold Palmer drink and a plate full of hummus, I wandered the room meeting humane educators from all over the country. It was so cool to be in a room filled with people who have my exact same passion in life. Not just kids, not just animals, but humane education.

The next day was filled with interesting presentations that invigorated me with ideas for my own programs. As
Humane Educators Show Their Worth! (continued from front cover)

education students in for the learning ride. Even though many of us focus on correlating our programs to state standards, it’s easy to overlook other valued curriculum connections that may give you better access to schools. Character Education and Social and Emotional Learning are two important humane education connections that have grown in popularity in schools and classrooms in recent years. Each of these frameworks emphasizes developing an effective and fully self-aware human through life stages.

Project example: Have local Language Arts classrooms write adoptable pet descriptions for your website, cage cards, or print medias.


Letting Technology Work for You
Wait...hang on...we just received a videotext with blogging capabilities going live now that this table was quite popular with attendees! We need to Tweet that along. With technology everywhere and in every classroom, it’s tough to resist its glowing call.

Table attendees felt technology helps professionalize our industry- so why resist? Some felt keeping up with the ever changing popular gadgets, apps, and presentation tools can be cumbersome. However, it allows you to send E-blasts to teachers and parents with resources, selected readings, study guides and activities that help reinforce humane messages and maintain relationships that can yield future program requests. Opinions on blogs were a brazen “YES” if you can keep them up to date, but “BLAH” and a burden if you are short on time or cannot keep it current. So why not utilize some tech savvy young people when you think of your programs? Have youth participants create a guided blog post, compose a reading review, or even record and edit an agency PSA. Overall, most roundtable participants described technology as the way to easily connect people with animals.

Project example: Have teen volunteer groups record videos of your animals or as they volunteer folding newspapers for kennels, making cat toys, etc. Most teens can record, edit and post a video all for your approval in no time.

Roundtable reference: Shelter Art Foundation (www.shelterartfoundation.org)

Ideas to Net Income for Humane Education
Yes, we saved the best for last! Who wasn’t ready to listen to the treasure trove of ideas that will keep your department financially afloat? Luckily, humane educators like to share, including program ideas. We found lots of similarities in programs that keep our programs going.

From birthday parties, camps and after-school programs to toddler story times, they were all there. However, that didn’t mean we were not “schooled” in the art of creative programming. A few new ideas including puppy movie nights, holiday parties and volunteer training surfaced during the discussion.

It’s easy to forget about investing in quality programs for adults, like your volunteers. However, it’s worth the extra time and will give you the recognition and good word-of-mouth that we all deserve. Adult programming is not limited to pet CPR and behavioral training. Consider a lecture series by distinguished professionals or book signings by local animal-loving authors.

The potential is limitless, even given what we feel are limits in physical space, time and funding. Sponsorships from businesses, local civic organizations, or family endowments can ease the burden, financial and otherwise. Everyone in this discussion agreed- it doesn’t hurt to ask for donations. And make sure that you keep track of the donations, both monetary and in-kind, that come into your organization because of your programming. It’s important to show how your programs contribute to your organization! Programs with a positive spin can help justify your humane education goals- so hang in there!

Project Example: Why not try a Yappy Hour at a local restaurant? Better yet, see if you can find a leading animal expert to come to it and highlight their work and give a lecture.

Roundtable reference: Tony La Russa’s All Stars © Humane Education Program (http://www.arf.net/people-programs/class-presentations/index.php)
Laura Nowlin

Laura Nowlin has been a member of APHE since 2009 and values being a part of a like-minded group of professionals who care deeply about the animals and kids they serve. She has worked in the animal profession for the past nine years – the first four in a zoological environment and the past five as Education Manager at the Wisconsin Humane Society in Milwaukee.

As Education Manager, Laura plans and leads high impact, mission-driven humane education programs for youth in the community. Like many humane educators, she wears many hats! She’s birthday party coordinator, tour guide, craft guru and one of the “go-to” people for anything kid related. Her favorite program is called PACK (Promoting Animal Care and Kindness), a program that partners with the local Big Brothers Big Sisters chapter to offer a five-week course for “Bigs” and “Littles” from underserved urban areas. Through hands-on learning, the kids (and adults) learn about different animals, but also form stronger bonds with animals, their peers and mentors.

One of the more challenging things Laura finds about humane education is not always being able to see immediate changes in the attitudes or behavior of the children she works with. As she says, we are “planting the seed, but not always around to see it grow.”

Much of the work of humane education does plant seeds and some of those seeds are tied with character education as well. Laura would love to see character and humane education more ingrained in classroom teaching. “It’s essential for kids to learn to be kind, fair, and respectful – as well as smart!” She does her part to make that happen by co-facilitating teacher training courses hosted by the Wisconsin Humane Society. Through her work, Laura would like to see every animal granted gentle care, kind words, a loving home, and all the love that a person can share. She is definitely on her way to making that happen!

Laura shares her home with her husband, son and wonderful dogs, Marley, a six-year-young Golden Retriever, and Belle, a five-year-young Great Pyrenees mix. Belle is a registered therapy dog who accompanies Laura on school visits.

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My First APHE Conference (continued from page 8)

each presentation wrapped up, a few more butterflies joined the army of them in my stomach, until… it was time. As my presentation started, I was filled with nerves, excitement, and approximately 20 pieces of candy that I had been eating to take my mind off of my nerves. Once I started speaking, either my sugar high or my enthusiasm for humane education took over and I sailed through. I got a few laughs, a few smiles, and a few “good jobs.” I loved every minute of it! Being up there, talking about what I find most important in life to a group of people who agree with me, was a high I’ve never felt before.

The rest of the conference went by superbly. I met some friends from all over the country and had a blast at the dinner and auction. I thoroughly enjoyed listening (way more relaxed, now that I had presented) to the rest of the presentations.

Attending the APHE National Conference was a unique experience to meet people and to ensure our field is recognized, cherished, and respected. Not only did I survive my first conference and presentation, I am now addicted.
DVD Review
By Community Programs Team of the Spartanburg Humane Society:
Ingrid Quigg Norris, Sarah Hatfield, CPDT-KA and Katie Freeseman

The Best Dog Ever, produced by The Latham Foundation, promotes humane attitudes towards our animal companions in a brief amount of time. The title, describes the happy ending the film reveals if one follows the suggestions outlined. The DVD’s brevity allows it to be used in a variety of venues: an introduction to a longer humane lesson, a tool for outreach events, or an educational video viewed in lobby areas of veterinarian’s offices or animal shelters.

An added bonus is the two language options, English or Spanish, with subtitles before each segment. The DVD highlights not only responsible pet care but the emotional bond people have with their pets. Using phrases such as, “pouring my soul into her,” “it helps me out a lot,” and “they live a happy life that will make me feel happy” helps the viewer relate to our pets as “companions.”

From a training standpoint, it was nice to see training and socialization included as an important part of being a responsible guardian and bonding with a new pet. Information on clicker training was included, though the explanation was quite brief. The note about the importance of exercise in preventing problems such as destructive chewing was also appreciated.

Overall, this DVD provided a good introduction to responsible pet care and living with The Best Dog Ever. I would love a sequel, “The Best Cat Ever!”

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Save the Date!

Motor City, here we come! The 2013 APHE National Humane Education Conference is set for April 11-12, 2013 hosted by the Detroit Zoological Society (DZS) in Royal Oak, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit. DZS has an extensive humane education program and fabulous facilities at its Ford Education Center.

Watch for further details and the call for presentations in future Packrat issues. And remember to save the date!