

The Wildlife Society

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION

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KATHERINE EDWARDS, EDITOR



PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Happy New Year! I hope that each of you had a wonderful holiday and were able to spend quality time with family and friends.

First, congratulations to **Ed Hackett**, our first Southeastern Section recipient of the newly created TWS Distinguished Service Award. This award, created last year by TWS Council, recognizes individuals who have worked throughout their careers to further the mission of TWS. Ed enjoyed a long and productive career in wildlife management, contributing immeasurably to local, regional, and national conservation programs. Ed has been a "behind the scenes" supporter of TWS programs for over 30 years. Ed was recognized as our Distinguished Service Award recipient at the TWS 75th Anniversary conference in Portland, Oregon, in October. I have known Ed for many years; he personifies leadership in our profession. Congratulations Ed!

As you know, TWS conducted an international search for our new Executive Director. I was recently notified that **Dr. Ken Williams**, Chief of the Cooperative Research Units Program in USGS, has accepted the position as TWS Executive Director, effective in early March. Join me in congratulating Ken on opening this new chapter of his professional life. As TWS continues to promote excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education, I am confident that Ken will provide the requisite leadership to achieve this mission.

We had an excellent business meeting at the Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) in October. This is a busy conference and I appreciate the time and effort from those who attended. At our meeting, we received reports of represented committees, discussed SE – TWS support for the upcoming on-line SEAFWA journal, strategic planning efforts for our section, the 2013 student conclave (in March 2013 to be hosted by the Leopold Wildlife Club at N.C. State University), the need to focus more on

students, and sponsoring a joint SE-TWS/Southern Division American Fisheries Society session at the 2014 SEAFWA conference. Among others, a goal for this year remains reinvigorating our section committees. We currently have over 10 committees. If you are not on a committee join one and become active. In order for TWS and SE-TWS to be leaders in impacting natural resource policies and be a strong voice for conservation, we need more members and members must be active. Join TWS at national, section, and chapter levels and get involved. Also encourage your fellow wildlifers to become TWS members.

Last January, I mentioned the biological, social, economic, and political aspects of conservation. In May, I referred to the relationship among these variables as the Operational Arc of Wildlife Conservation, and promised "more on this later." Later has arrived! Successful management of species and habitats involves optimizing the relationship among biology, sociology, economics, and politics. I conceptualize the inherent relationships in the diagram below. Biology is the "easy" part, the part we all love. In many ways it is the "easiest" because it is technical. Sociology, economics, and politics are much more challenging. They are adaptive and as such change frequently and in some instances dramatically.

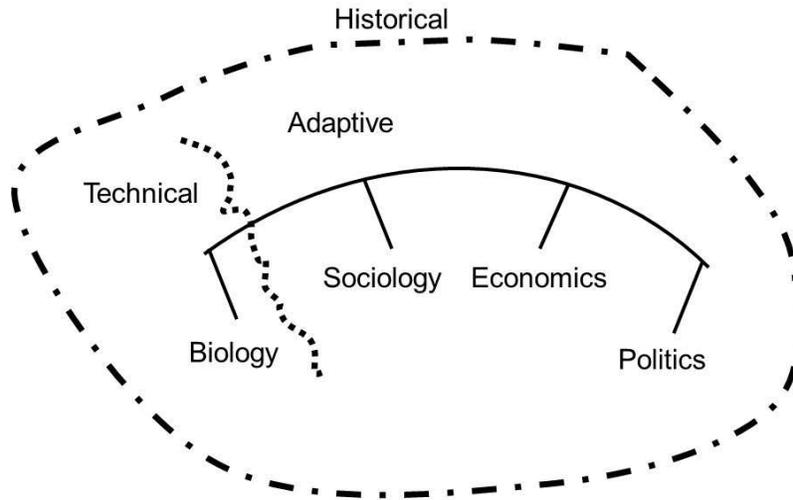
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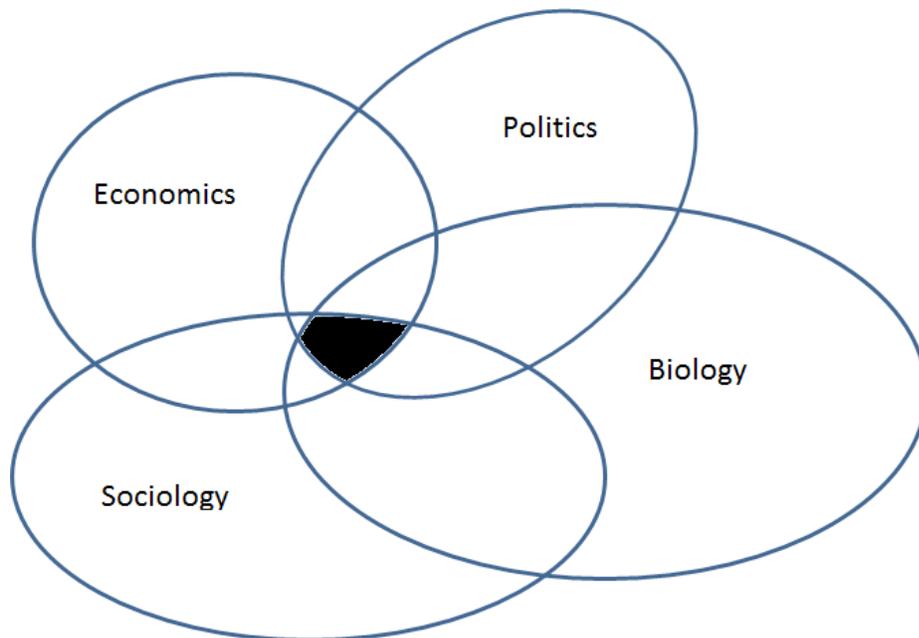
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Collectively, then, all of these variables interact within a historical context. It is only through an understanding of the historical context of an issue that the technical aspects of biology can be vetted against the adaptive nature of sociology, economics, and politics.

Operational Arc of Wildlife Conservation



Presented slightly differently, biology, sociology, economics, and politics can be viewed as dimensions that overlap to varying degrees (that change frequently), as represented below.



Of course the “eye of the needle” we so often find ourselves trying to thread is where these four dimensions overlap. This is the optimization of the four elements of the Arc. It is here where we are successful and no other. Unfortunately, biology is not always the largest dimension. But as biologists we so often gravitate toward the biological “truth” and push for that outcome, when in reality a composite outcome is the only possibility.

One of the goals of TWS is to foster professional development of strong leaders to carry on the tradition of conservation forged in North America for over 100 years. I carry a small card in my wallet that reads:

To be a true professional, strive always to:

- be a visionary leader,
- be a critical thinker,
- maintain a passion for the resource,
- be able to work at multiple spatial and temporal scales,
- achieve and maintain technical excellence,
- be intellectually honest,
- maintain flexibility in your approach and a positive attitude, and
- understand and operate within the context of the Arc.

I recently read that the “right leaders provide an inspirational tone and a context for the community” in which they flourish. We all need to seek out these opportunities to be the “right leaders” in our conservation realm! As always, if you have ideas or are interested in being more involved, send me an e-mail at david.cobb@ncwildlife.org.

“The Conservation movement [has] grown from a series of disjointed efforts into the most vital single question before the American people.”
Gifford Pinchot, 1910

David T. Cobb
Southeastern Section of TWS, President

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT

The end of the year seems to be a time of reflection for most. It seems especially relevant this year within TWS as we celebrate the 75th anniversary of our professional society. The fall issue of The Wildlife Professional did a very nice job of highlighting key people and moments in the illustrious history of TWS. If you have not had a chance to read it, I encourage you to do so. I was very pleased to see the TWS branded edition of “Opportunity for All”, especially as that story is so intertwined with the history of TWS. I recently heard the story of conservation success in this country called “the best story never told”, and I could not agree more. We, as wildlife professionals, should seek opportunities to tell this story to a variety of audiences and at a variety of venues. I have had many one-on-one conversations with people at airports, etc. and to a single person they are interested and intrigued by the saga of wildlife conservation in the U.S. We owe it to the future to educate people about our past.

The biggest news of 2012 and early 2013 for TWS is selection of the new Executive Director (ED)/CEO. **President Wini Kessler** led a selection team that reviewed numerous applications. They arrived at 3 candidates, whom were interviewed at the annual meeting in Portland, OR. Council was invited to sit in on the interviews and provide input to the selection committee. As you can imagine, the final selection was very difficult, but I believe the selection team made a wise decision. So, please join me in welcoming **Byron “Ken” Williams** to TWS as our new ED/CEO. Ken comes to TWS after serving as Chief of the USGS Cooperative Research Units for the past 15 years. Ken will be retiring from USGS at the end of February and begin his career with TWS on March 4, 2013. Ken brings with him a great deal of experience in many facets of natural resource conservation and management and has obviously filled an important leadership role with USGS for many years. I very

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much look forward to working with Ken during the remainder of my term on Council.

As highlighted by Jim Miller later in this newsletter, TWS has become very concerned about the proliferation of deer breeding/shooting facilities across the U.S. In 2012, several states had bills introduced to relax rules/regulations allowing operation of captive cervid facilities. Fortunately, all but one state failed to pass a bill – a victory for conservation. TWS is concerned due to potential negative impacts on the Public Trust Doctrine, disease transmission and spread, perceptions of hunting/wildlife management, and blurring the lines between domestic and wild animals. How TWS is approaching this issue is outlined in his article. However, we should all remain vigilant to this emerging threat and engage with state agencies and legislatures as needed.

As we look ahead to 2013, TWS has some key activities planned. One key activity is to return TWS to firm financial footing. Due to a variety of factors, TWS experienced a budget crisis during the latter half of 2012. TWS Council and staff have already proposed budget reductions for 2013 to better align

cash flow and expenditures. Another key activity in 2013 will be review of the TWS Strategic Plan.

This review was originally planned for Council prior to the March Council meeting, but has been pushed back to the annual meeting in October so that Ken Williams can be fully engaged. Of course, the annual meeting, which will be held the first week of October 2013 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin is always an important activity for TWS and I suspect we will have yet another stellar meeting. I am also hopeful we will continue to see rises in TWS membership and perhaps set a new record again in 2013.

Finally, TWS has opened a new political action center that allows members to easily send emails to their congresspersons on issues important to TWS and our natural resources. The site lists current issues and provides a quick and easy tool for sending emails to your representatives. Check it out at <https://votervoice.net/TWS/Campaigns>.

As always, I need to hear from you, the membership of the SE Section TWS to serve your needs. I hope to hear from you!

Darren Miller, Southeastern Section Representative to TWS Council

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DEER COMMITTEE

Southeast Deer Study Group

Deer Management Career Achievement Award Nominations Sought

The Southeast Deer Study Group Deer Management Career Achievement Award recognizes outstanding contributions to the understanding of white-tailed deer ecology and management in the southeastern United States. The award may recognize a single achievement or contributions over an extended period of time and is presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southeast Deer Study Group. The award is to be given for activities conducted within the member states of the SE Section of The Wildlife Society and the states of Missouri, Texas, Delaware, Maryland and West Virginia. Nomination is to be made by a member of the SE Section, but the nominee need not be a

member. Both individuals and groups are eligible for nomination. Nominations including supporting documentation and letters of recommendation were accepted until January 15, 2013 to Steve Demarais.

Retirement Recognition

The Southeast Deer Study Group and Southeast Deer Committee will recognize retiring deer biologists and managers at the 2013 banquet. Awardees need not attend the meeting, and retirement can be pending or past. Self nomination was allowed. No specific time frame for work with deer is required. Nominees not attending the meeting or banquet will receive their certificate by mail.

Submitted by: Steve Demarais,
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COMMITTEE REPORTS

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STUDENT AWARDS COMMITTEE

The following awards were presented at the 66th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Fish and Wildlife Agencies in Hot Springs, Arkansas, October 7-10, 2012:

Student Presentation Award

Six students (giving 8 presentations) were in the running for the best student presentation award at this year's conference. Judges scored each presenter on the organization, delivery, visual aids, and content of their presentations. **Courtney Tye**, with the University of Florida and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, was recognized at the SEAFWA banquet for having the highest composite score for her presentation, and received a plaque and a \$200 check from SETWS for her presentation entitled "Fox Squirrel (*Sciurus niger*) Distribution and Habitat Selection in Florida."

Student Poster Award

Two students (presenting 3 posters) were in the running for the best student poster award at this year's conference. Judges scored each student on the organization, presentation, and content of their posters. **H.T. Pittman**, with Clemson University, was recognized at the SEAFWA banquet for having the highest composite score for his poster, and received a plaque and a \$100 check from SETWS for his poster entitled "Using Nestling Feathers to Assess Spatial and Temporal Concentrations of Mercury in Bald Eagles at Voyageurs National Park, Minnesota, USA."

Student Chapter Award

Student chapters in the SETWS are evaluated by independent judges on an overall application package including professionalism and involvement in research education, management, stewardship, and outreach to name a few categories. This year, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Georgia was recognized as the student chapter of the year, and received a plaque and a \$1,000 check from SETWS for their outstanding service to their members and SETWS. Their accomplishments

include constructing 150 wood duck boxes for the GA Forest Stewardship Program, removing roadside trash under the Adopt-a-Mile Program, maintaining the ABAC Nature Study Area – the student chapter's outdoor teaching laboratory – including trail and pond maintenance and controlling invasive plants, participating in the SE Conclave and winning 5th overall, participating in and hosting several educational events for the public, and working deer check stations, to name a few.

Congratulations to all of our award winners for 2012!

Submitted by: Kelly Douglass,
Chair, SETWS Student Awards Committee
kelly.douglass@ncwildlife.org

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The following awards were presented at the 66th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Fish and Wildlife Agencies in Hot Springs, Arkansas, October 7-10, 2012:

Best Paper Award – Wildlife Technical Session

Seventeen manuscripts, published in the 2011 Proceedings, were in the running for the best paper award in the Wildlife Technical Session at this year's conference. Four independent reviewers examined all manuscripts; papers were evaluated based on strength of the background information and objectives, experimental design, presentation of the results, discussion quality, management implications, writing quality, content, and scientific merit. The SEAFWA technical committee examined the reviewer evaluations and decided if the manuscripts were acceptable. **Michael Byrne, Michael Chamberlain, and Frederick Kimmel**, were recognized at the SEAFWA banquet for having the best paper, and received a plaque for their manuscript entitled "Seasonal Space Use and Habitat Selection of Female Wild Turkeys in Louisiana Bottomland Forest."

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Wildlife Management Excellence Award

Three individuals were in the running for the Wildlife Management Excellence award at this year's conference. Nominees need not be TWS members, and can include a single individual or groups. Evaluations are based on a single significant achievement that has been accomplished in the field of wildlife management, such as recovery efforts for an endangered species, development of a wildlife management area, or successful efforts in preventing environmental damage. **Benjy Strope**, a technical assistance biologist with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, was recognized at the SEAFWA banquet as this year's WME award winner for his work in establishing and managing early-successional habitat on corporate-owned swine farms and private lands in southeastern North Carolina. Benjy has been instrumental in securing and managing \$566,000 in grants to improve more than 1,000 acres of quail habitat, resulting in what is likely the highest density of quail populations in North Carolina. Benjy also received a plaque from SETWS.

Congratulations to our award winners for 2012!

Submitted by: Kelly Douglass,
Chair, SETWS Publications Committee
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C.W. WATSON AWARD COMMITTEE

The Clarence W. Watson Award is the most prestigious award given in the Southeast and is presented to the career individual who, in the opinion of the Award Committee, has made the greatest contribution to wildlife or fish conservation during the previous year or years. The recipient of the 2012 Clarence W. Watson Award was **David K. Whitehurst** with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. David has been instrumental in bringing science-based management to the Commonwealth's fisheries and wildlife conservation programs throughout his 38-year service with the Department. The award was

presented at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Conference in Hot Springs, Arkansas, in October.

Nominations are being sought for the 2013 Clarence W. Watson Award. This annual award will be presented at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Conference in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, October 13-16, 2013. Nomination criteria and format may be found on page 38 of this newsletter. Nominations should be sent to: Mark D. Smith, School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, 3301 Forestry and Wildlife Sciences Building, 602 Duncan Drive, Auburn University, AL 36849; mds0007@auburn.edu; 334-844-8099 as soon as possible but no later than August 15, 2013.

Submitted by: Mark Smith,
mds0007@auburn.edu

WETLANDS WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

NO NEWS REPORTED

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

NO NEWS REPORTED

MINORITIES IN NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINRC will exist as a subcommittee within the new SEAFWA Human Resources Committee.

NONGAME AND ENDANGERED SPECIES COMMITTEE

NO NEWS REPORTED

ALABAMA



Alabama

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF)

Black Bears On the Increase in Alabama

Auburn researchers are currently working under a grant administered by the WFF to garner information on the State's expanding black bear population. Historically, black bears were relegated to southwest Alabama in Mobile, Washington and Clarke Counties. It now appears they are beginning to expand to areas outside those counties. In addition, sections of northeastern Alabama are witnessing the establishment of a small but increasing population, which is bolstered by individuals migrating from the Georgia population. Hair snare arrays with trail cameras have been deployed in areas of northeastern Alabama and Auburn's EcoDogs are being utilized in southwest Alabama to locate bear scat. Both techniques have the potential to provide suitable material to enable the researchers to identify individual bears by their DNA profile. The information collected will provide a better platform to expand information on dietary habits, habitat use, population size and genetic diversity of Alabama's black bears.

Gopher Tortoise Habitat

WFF Certified Wildlife Biologists **Jim Schrenkel, Joel Glover** and NRCS Staff Certified Wildlife Biologist **Jeff Thurmond** have been conducting Gopher Tortoise habitat assessments on 154 properties in south Alabama. The private lands are enrolled in the NRCS Working Lands for Wildlife Program. The landowners are receiving cost assistance to perform various practices beneficial to the Gopher Tortoise. These include prescribed burning, longleaf pine planting, invasive species control and mid-rotation release. Cost assistance of nearly \$3 million is being utilized to improve habitat on approximately 45,000 acres. The Gopher Tortoise is a candidate species for listing by the USFWS. This effort is one of many aimed at benefiting the species to make listing unnecessary. Fortunately, the habitat practices not only benefit the Gopher Tortoise but many other

species as well. WFF and NRCS have been in a cooperative partnership for over 8 years. WFF provides two certified wildlife biologists housed in NRCS offices to provide technical assistance to private landowners on Farmbill programs. This is just another example of how beneficial the partnership is to conservation efforts throughout Alabama.

Hunter Education News

Alabama's eighth community archery park opened on October 12 in Ozark, Ala. The facility includes an adult target range from 15 to 80 yards, a youth target range of five to 20 yards, a four-target range of 10 to 40 yards with a 15-foot platform and a 10-target walking course. The Ozark archery park joins seven others currently in operation including Athens, Cullman, Dothan, Demopolis, Decatur, Lincoln and Heflin. One more is under construction in Tuscaloosa. These facilities are one component of the WFF effort to increase awareness and participation in the life skill of archery.

Alabama Birding Trails

The West Alabama Birding Trail was launched on September 21 at the Tom Bevill Visitor Center in Pickensville, Alabama. Also, the official ribbon cutting for the Wiregrass Birding Trail was recently held at the trailhead of the Yohollow Mico Trail in Eufaula, Alabama. The Wiregrass Trail is the last of eight birding trails across the state as part of the Alabama Birding Trails Initiative, funded by the Department of Tourism, with the WFF as a partner. For more information, go to www.alabamabirdingtrails.com

Alabama Bat Working Group

The Alabama Bat Working Group (ABWG) held the annual Alabama Bat Blitz on October 22-26, 2012 on Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge Complex headquartered in Decatur, Alabama. Twenty-three individuals including biologists, students, and volunteers mist-netted and harp-trapped for bats. Representatives from the USFWS, Alabama A&M University, USFS, Auburn University, WFF, Redstone Arsenal, Regan Smith Energy Solutions, Alabama Geological Survey, and the Alabama Bat Working Group descended upon Wheeler to survey fall migrating bats in the Tennessee Valley and to gain experience with bat survey and monitoring

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techniques. **Dr. William Stone** (Alabama A&M), **Bill “Gator” Gates** and **Chris Lewzader** (Wheeler NWR) organized the outstanding event. Individuals mist netted for bats on Wheeler NWR for three nights and harp trapped at Cave Springs Cave on this refuge one night. Participants also mist netted and harp trapped at Key Cave NWR one night. Unfortunately, only one red bat (*Lasiurus borealis*) was captured during the mist netting despite numerous net set-ups. Twenty-two gray bats (*Myotis grisescens*) were captured at Cave Springs Cave (CSC) and one tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) was captured at Key Cave (KC) during harp trapping. All bats were wing (uropatagium) punched and the very small piece of tissue will be sent to the American Museum of Natural History. Tissue is collected to preserve unique genetic information about these bat species for future researchers. All bats were released after being examined. Other portions of the Alabama Bat Blitz included training and a meeting of the Alabama Bat Working Group. Participants learned about and participated in decontamination protocols to prevent the spread of White-nose Syndrome in bats. **Bill Gates** provided training on Acoustic Monitoring Surveys and explained the protocols used by the USFWS, Wildlife Service and USFS for conducting Summer Acoustic Driving Surveys.



“USFS Biologist **Allison Cochran** (right) shows Auburn University students a red bat netted at 2012 Bat Blitz.”

During these surveys biologists and volunteers drive a designated route and record bat echolocation calls with Anabat Acoustic Monitoring Equipment in efforts to determine species presence/absence and long-term trends in bat abundance. These agencies are always looking for volunteers to assist with this monitoring effort in the summer months.

Who is the ABWG?

The Alabama Bat Working Group was formed in February 2009 to bring together individuals, organizations, and agencies interested in conserving the state’s bat species. In summer 2009, the group formed a committee known as the Alabama White-nose Syndrome (WNS) Management Team to develop a management strategy for this fungal pathogen and its deadly effects. WNS has killed up to 100% of hibernating bats in some caves in the Northeast and has been spreading rapidly south since 2006. White-nose Syndrome was documented in Alabama during the 2011/2012 winter survey season. For more information on the ABWG visit <http://alabamabatwg.wordpress.com/>

Submitted by: Jim Schrenkel,
Certified Wildlife Biologist®
WFF
jim.schrenkel@al.usda.gov

ARKANSAS



Arkansas Chapter

The fall meeting of the Arkansas chapter was held September 13, 2012 at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville with a field trip to the Frog Bayou Wildlife Management Area. A reception celebrating the 40th anniversary of the chapter was held at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies annual meeting held in Hot Springs in October.

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Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Cory Gray returned to the Deer Program Coordinator position in April and **Ralph Meeker** was hired to be the Assistant Deer Program Coordinator in June.

As part of the reorganization of the Wildlife Management Division, in April all private lands biologists were consolidated in a new section under the leadership of **David Long**.

David Covington is the new Field Biologist on Hurricane Lake WMA and will supervise all field activities for Hurricane Lake, Black Swamp, U of A Pine Tree, Departee Creek and Buck Island WMAs. **Blake Vail** was hired as the technician for Sheffield Nelson Dagmar and Prairie Bayou WMAs. **Josh Green** was hired as the new technician for Rex Hancock Black Swamp, U of A Pine Tree Experimental Station and Buck Island WMAs. **Johnny Waldrup** was promoted from technician to Field Biologist supervising all field activities on Dagmar, Holland Bottoms, Prairie Bayou and Cypress Bayou. **JJ Abernathy** was hired to be the new technician for Holland Bottoms and Cypress Bayou.

Region 4 Supervisor **Brady Baker** is now a Wildlife Officer in Ouachita County and **Susan Nimmo** was promoted to that position. **Brandon Jacobs** was hired as a new private lands biologist focusing on the Deer Management Assistance Program and **Jeffrey Lawson** was hired as a part-time technician.

Longtime AGFC biologists **Wayne Kelley** and **Charles Self** retired this year.

US Forest Service

Ouachita National Forest Poteau Ranger District employee **Warren Montague** received the USFS Southern Region Honors Award in November 2011 for his outstanding work associated with shortleaf-pine bluestem ecosystem restoration and red-cockaded woodpecker recovery efforts. "While I'm pleased that Warren was recognized with an award, what I am most proud of is what he accomplished on the land with respect to the restoration and recovery efforts," noted Ouachita National Forest Supervisor **Norman Wagoner**. "Warren's exceptional work in the recovery of the red-cockaded woodpecker started in 1978 and has resulted in the population increasing from 32 adult birds in 1990 to 137 adult birds in 2010. He championed the recovery of this small Ouachita Mountain population when others might have been content to allow it to fade from the area."

Sarah Thompson, USFS Ouachita National Forest. Sarah will be the wildlife biologist on the Jessieville/Winona/Fourche District after she recently completed her Master's work from ASU. Sarah also has received two prestigious honors-she was asked to be the newest trustee for the Arkansas Audubon Society Trust and was named the ASU Environmental Sciences Student of the Year.

Steve Cole has taken **Larry Hedrick's** position as Integrated Resources Staff Officer for the Ouachita National Forest.



"Ouachita National Forest" Photo Credit: USFS

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Universities

Idun Guenther received the 2012 Student Conservationist of the Year Award from the Arkansas Wildlife Federation. Guenther completed her master's degree in wildlife biology at Arkansas Tech in 2011. Some of Guenther's conservation efforts include three field seasons of small mammal study in the Ozark Mountains as well as restoration of native grasslands along the Buffalo River. She is currently employed as a wildlife biologist for West Virginia University Research Corporation.

This fall, Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia began offering a new Bachelor of Science program with an emphasis on Wildlife Biology and Conservation. Graduates will meet the educational requirements for the TWS Associate Wildlife Biologist certification.



“**Tyler Pittman** (right), Doctoral Research Assistant at the University of Arkansas Fayetteville, receiving the SEAFWA Best Student Poster Award at the meeting in Hot Springs this fall.”

Submitted by: Blake Sasse,
dbsasse@agfc.state.ar.us

FLORIDA



State Chapter

Florida Chapter of TWS 2013 Spring Conference

The Florida Chapter of TWS (FTWS) is holding its spring conference in Melbourne, Florida on April 10-12, 2013. The Plenary Theme will be “Imperiled Species Conservation: Managing in the Face of Conflict” and many other hot Florida topics. Attendees will learn about issues and current management of imperiled species such the snail kite, Florida grasshopper sparrow, wood stork, Florida panther and sea turtles. Also, you will be able to familiarize yourself with the latest strategies for overcoming the hurdles of simultaneously managing for multiple listed species; the conflicts and considerations of hydrological manipulation; and the challenges on managing with prescribed fire. There will be a special presentation by **Joe Guthrie** about the Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition and a screening of **Elam Stoltzfus**' documentary film about the expedition. Go to the FTWS website for upcoming information and registration at: <http://www.fltw.org/>

Prescribed Fire For Wildlife

The Florida Chapter is co-sponsor of an upcoming training session for land managers, which examines wildlife habitat management opportunities associated with prescribed fire in Florida. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and South Florida Water Management District will host “PRESCRIBED FIRE FOR WILDLIFE” at the Everglades Youth Camp, West Palm Beach, March 18-21, 2013. This training combines classroom lectures, panel discussions, and field exercises on the JW Corbett WMA covering a variety of wildlife and habitats. It includes sections addressing how ignition plans can be developed and implemented to meet specific wildlife objectives while minimizing risk. A full agenda and registration info will be available on the chapter website: <http://www.fltw.org/>

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Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission to Hold 2013 Python Challenge™

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is holding a month-long Burmese python removal competition on state lands in south Florida. The general public and individuals previously permitted by the state to remove pythons will compete separately for cash prizes for the longest and most pythons harvested. While the state already allows the take of pythons during hunting seasons within four wildlife management areas, very few pythons are reported by hunters. The primary goal of the 2013 Python Challenge is to educate the public about Burmese pythons in Florida and how people can help limit the impact of this and other invasive species. Along with this educational component, FWC will gauge the effectiveness of using an incentive-based model as one tool to address an invasive species management problem. All pythons surrendered towards this competition will be collected by The University of Florida. Data collected from the pythons including capture information and biological data will help inform managers on the status of Burmese pythons on state lands and options for managing them. Also, evaluations will be conducted to determine whether events like python challenges and lionfish derbies increase awareness of invasive species. For more information or to register as a contestant, please go to <http://www.pythonchallenge.org/>.



“Burmese python” Photo Credit : Pat Lynch - South Florida Water Management District

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Deepwater Horizon Funds Will Be Used to Benefit Florida’s Panhandle

The State of Florida will receive \$10 million in the form of land acquisitions and stormwater management projects under a June 18 Consent Decree between MOEX Offshore 2007 LLC and the U.S. Department of Justice.

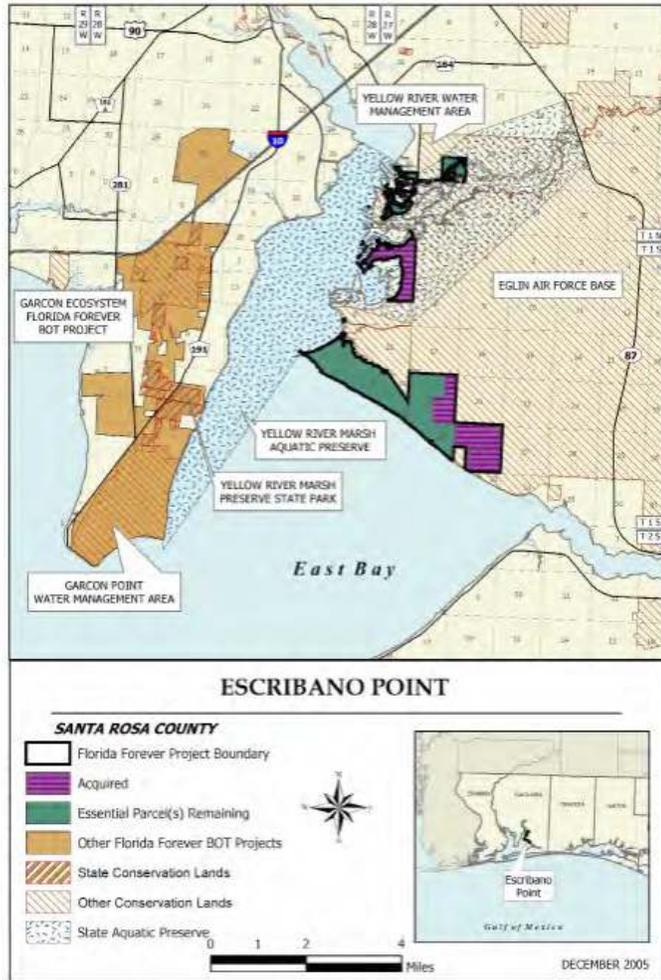
The Florida Department of Environmental Protection will oversee the expenditure of \$5 million on stormwater retrofit projects. These projects will take place in different locations throughout Bay, Okaloosa and Santa Rosa counties. The other \$5 million is being utilized by The Trust for Public Land to acquire conservation easements and/or fee simple titles to environmentally sensitive lands around the Panhandle, including Escribano Point. Escribano Point will be managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The Florida Attorney General’s office played an instrumental role in securing this relief, consistent with its role in representing the Department of Environmental Protection on oil spill related matters.

The acquisition of Escribano Point will provide an additional five miles of protected shoreline along Blackwater Bay and East Bay, thereby contributing towards the water quality flowing into Pensacola Bay and the Gulf of Mexico and providing a buffer to local bases. The Yellow River Marsh Aquatic Preserve located in Blackwater Bay will also benefit by additional protection of surface water runoff helping to protect some of the last remaining grassbeds and oyster bars found in the Pensacola Bay System.

MOEX Offshore was a 10 percent non-operating investor in the lease on the Macondo well at the time of the Deepwater Horizon spill and is the first entity to resolve civil penalty claims. This recovery does not affect any outstanding claims the State may have against any other responsible party, including BP.

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For information directly related to Florida's response and restoration activities relating to the Deepwater Horizon spill visit <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deep-waterhorizon/default.htm>.

Submitted by: Alan Alshouse,
aalshouse@cfl.rr.com
Florida Southeastern Representative

GEORGIA

University of West Georgia

Dr. Andrew Edelman has recently joined the faculty of the Department of Biology at the University of West Georgia. He received his M.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from the University of Arizona (2004) and his Ph.D. in Biology from the University of New Mexico (2010)

and completed his post-doctoral research at the University of Wyoming. His research focuses on ecology, conservation, and management of terrestrial vertebrates, particularly small mammals. He is actively seeking motivated master's and undergraduate students to join his research group. For more information, visit Dr. Edelman's website at <https://sites.google.com/site/andrewjedelman/> or contact him at aedelman@westga.edu.

Submitted by: JC Griffin,
jcgriffin933@gmail.com

KENTUCKY

Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR)

KDFWR has installed and maintains peregrine falcon nest boxes at many locations throughout the Commonwealth. A total of 12 falcon territories were documented within Kentucky during the 2012 nesting season. All nests were located in manmade structures. Nine nests were successful; fledging a total of 30 young. KDFWR conducted an Introduction to Deer Hunting course in the urban Louisville area. The workshop was comprised of two evening classroom sessions and one full-day workshop. The course was advertised via social media and local contacts, and quickly maxed out at 30 participants. Participants represented a variety of backgrounds, but all were interested in learning how to obtain their own locally grown, free-ranging meat through hunting. For the first time since 2009, when bear hunting became a reality in Kentucky, hunters met the annual quota of 10 bears. The last bear checked in set a new state record by tipping the scales at 410 pounds... field dressed. **Dr. Monte McGregor** was selected as the Kentucky Naturalist of the Year by the Kentucky Society of Naturalists. Monte has worked with Kentucky's aquatic resources for over 10 years and has been responsible, along with a tremendous staff, for overseeing the development and construction of the KDFWR's Center for Mollusk Conservation.

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Boating Law Administrator **Mike Fields** retired from the department after 25 years of service. KDFWR conservation officer **Travis Neal** was chosen by his peers as the recipient of the 2011 Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) Officer of the Year for Kentucky; and **Daniel Richardson** was selected as Kentucky's Waterfowl Protection Officer of the Year by the Mississippi Flyway Council Law Enforcement Committee.

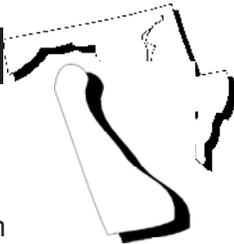
Submitted by: Chuck Elliott,
Charles.Elliott@eku.edu

LOUISIANA



NO NEWS REPORTED

MARYLAND/DELAWARE



Maryland-Delaware Chapter

The Maryland-Delaware Chapter held its fall meeting at the Robinson Nature Center in Columbia, MD. **Marnie Pepper** assumed the presidency and **Jon Klimstra** became past president. Invasive species were the theme of the fall meeting and an encouraging update was provided on the nutria control project being implemented by APHIS on the Delmarva peninsula. After a decade of trapping and hunting, sometimes with the use of detection dogs, nutria are considered nearly eliminated from the Blackwater NWR. Nutria consume the root mat that anchor tidal marshes and previous to control measures, were a contributing factor in the conversion of 8000 acres of Blackwater marshland to open water. The soft footing of the marshlands provided significant challenges to the APHIS techs, who now, where allowed, are expanding their efforts onto private lands on the Delmarva. Native muskrats are returning to areas cleared of nutria. It is unknown, however, whether the lost marshlands can regenerate.

Submitted by: Art Abrams,
Art.Abrams@ARS.USDA.GOV

MISSISSIPPI



Mississippi State University

Ecology and Conservation of North American Waterfowl

The Ecology and Conservation of North American Waterfowl (ECNAW), a joint conference of the North American Duck Symposium, the North American Arctic Goose Conference, and the International Sea Duck Conference is being held January 27-31, 2013. ECNAW will be among the largest and most comprehensive waterfowl symposiums ever convened in North America. Waterfowl biologists and managers from all over the world will be in attendance. **Drs. Rick Kaminski** and **Brian Davis** of Mississippi State University will host the event at The Peabody Hotel in Memphis, TN. Memphis has a diversity of attractions within the downtown area, including the Peabody ducks. The symposium also offers field tours of the Mississippi Alluvial Valley hosted by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. For more information on ECNAW please visit the conference website at: <http://www.northamericanducksymposium.org/>.

Partnering for Wetlands Education: University of Tennessee-Knoxville and Mississippi State University

The University of Tennessee-Knoxville (UT) and Mississippi State University (MSU) have forged an educational and enjoyable partnership, focused on students enrolled in the UT Wetlands Ecology and Management course (WFS 340). Since 2004, **Dr. Matthew Gray** of the Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries (UT) and 1995 MSU alumnus, has taught a two-week course in wetlands ecology and management, primarily geared for undergraduates.

Dr. Gray initiates the course at UT during the first five days, covering pertinent topics such as how to identify and classify wetlands, waterbird and wetland plant ID, wetland restoration and construction, and other important topics. During the second week of class, Dr. Gray chauffeurs his students in UT vans

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to MSU and nearby Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge. Students actually camp at the refuge for the duration of their four-day stay. In Mississippi, Dr. Gray provides a myriad of outdoor educational activities for his students. **Drs. Brian Davis** and **Rick Kaminski** accompany Dr. Gray and UT students to the refuge to visit seasonally flooded wetland impoundments (moist-soil units) and bottomland hardwood forests; there, they discuss plant ecology and management, hydrology and seasonal management, waterfowl use of wetlands, and other ecological and conservation issues. Additionally, **Drs. Jeanne Jones** (MSU) and **Darren Miller** (Weyerhaeuser, Inc.) expose students to more plant ecology, and non-game species and management, including visiting bat roosts beneath roadway overpasses and in bottomland hardwoods.

During the last full day of the students' visit, Drs. Davis and Kaminski and their graduate students provide presentations to the UT students on waterfowl wintering ecology and conservation, plus overviews of MSU graduate student research. After

the lectures, students visit with MSU and Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP) scientists and staff who introduce them to the captive wildlife facility at MSU. There, students learn techniques for capture and husbandry of white-tailed deer, use of tranquilizer guns, and other activities important to this aspect of wildlife ecology and management. The Mississippi component of the course is culminated at the refuge with an outdoor cookout, bonfire, and concert by local artists. Overall, this class provides unique experiences for this next generation of natural resources scientists and stewards. Dr. Gray concludes his course with various assignments and an exam, with many of the questions stemming from things learned during their trip to Mississippi. Indeed, this is a unique experience between two universities and state and federal agencies in each state. The blend of field and classroom experiences undoubtedly remains with students throughout their careers.



“University of Tennessee-Knoxville (UT) and Mississippi State University (MSU) partner for a two-week course in wetlands ecology and management.”

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Regional Interest

John Gwaltney of Forestry Suppliers has developed a great new tool for resource managers. He and his wife travel all over the Southeast pursuing a hobby that includes identifying habitats, photographing wildflowers, and posting information in a practical resource for native plant identification, *Southeasternflora.com*. This website provides a wealth of plant identification information that is both comprehensive and easy to use. Whether you are a student or professional, this site is an invaluable resource that is only a mouse click away.

Southeasternflora.com helps identify native or naturalized plants in the southeastern United States. Begun in the summer of 2005, the site covers more than 1,480 trees, shrubs, vines, and herbaceous plants with over 27,500 photographs. Because it is a work in progress, new plants and improved photographs are being added as found.

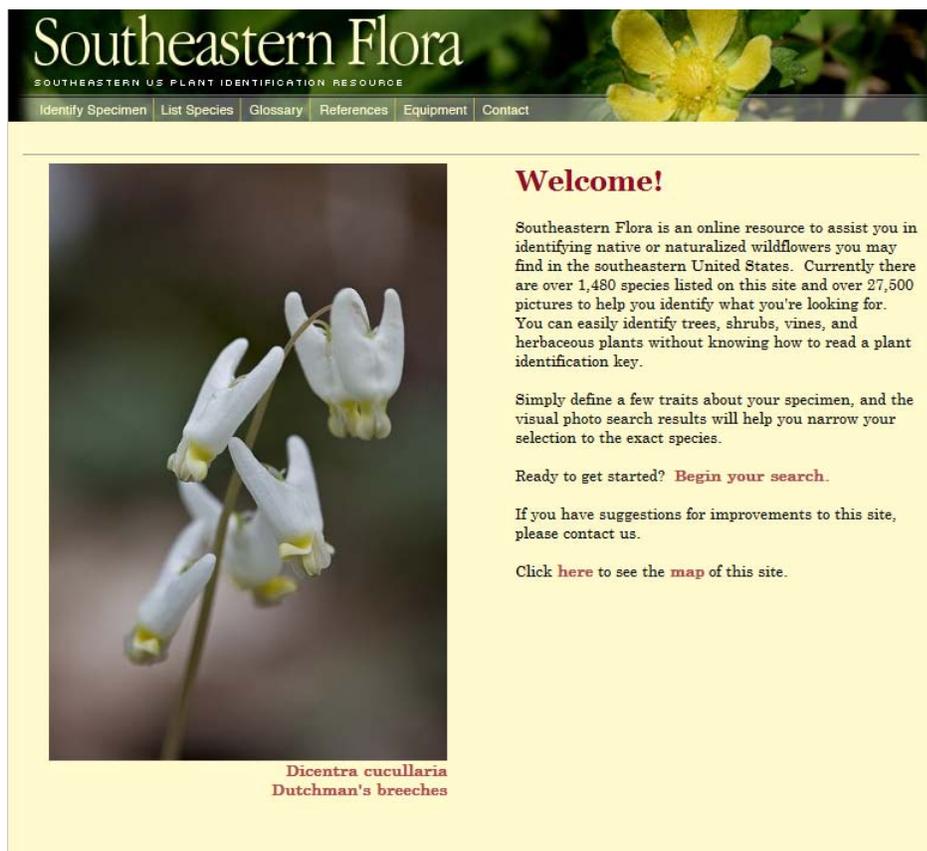
In the past, resources for plant identification were limited mostly to plant keys or field guides. Botanical keys are too technical to be used without some training. Field guides are restricted by paper and ink and are limited in what they can show. Although they usually have good descriptions and photographs, there may only be one view of each plant shown. Some plants need only one photo since nothing else looks like it. However, other plants need more detail and closer inspection to distinguish between species with a similar appearance. Since *Southeasternflora.com* is not limited to a certain number of photographs, it can show the distinguishing characteristics.

Although there are many informative websites with good descriptions and photographs to help confirm the identification of a plant, most do not help identify the plant in question. *Southeasternflora.com* was created to help users identify their plant specimens. By simply identifying the flower color, the user is given a thumbnail photograph of all plants that match the criteria provided. If a thumbnail

resembles the specimen, one simply clicks the thumbnail for the page for that plant. On that page, more detailed photographs will illustrate different parts of the plant from various views and angles. Some will show the different leaves of the plant whereas others may show the stem in some detail. Some even highlight distinguishing characteristics such as thorns or spines, fruit, hairs, bark, etc.

Another valuable feature that appears for some plants on *Southeasternflora.com* is the addition of plant notes to help further distinguish similar species. These notes may include information about blooming time, the number of flowers in a particular part of the plant, whether a plant has a distinctive fragrance when the leaf is crushed, or some other feature that cannot be photographed or might be missed upon a first inspection. Keep in mind that it is always a good idea to use several references to accurately identify specimens.

Submitted by: Randy Spencer,
RandyS@mdwfp.state.ms.us



Southeastern Flora
SOUTHEASTERN US PLANT IDENTIFICATION RESOURCE

Identify Specimen | List Species | Glossary | References | Equipment | Contact

Welcome!

Southeastern Flora is an online resource to assist you in identifying native or naturalized wildflowers you may find in the southeastern United States. Currently there are over 1,480 species listed on this site and over 27,500 pictures to help you identify what you're looking for. You can easily identify trees, shrubs, vines, and herbaceous plants without knowing how to read a plant identification key.

Simply define a few traits about your specimen, and the visual photo search results will help you narrow your selection to the exact species.

Ready to get started? [Begin your search.](#)

If you have suggestions for improvements to this site, please contact us.

Click [here](#) to see the [map](#) of this site.



Dicentra cucullaria
Dutchman's breeches

NORTH CAROLINA



North Carolina Chapter of The Wildlife Society (NCTWS)

The NCTWS Program Committee will hold its 2013 Annual Meeting at the Eastern 4-H Environmental Education Conference Center (www.eastern4H-center.org), Columbia, NC, February 25-27, 2013. The theme of the meeting will focus on invasive and exotic species. The meeting will be held jointly with North Carolina Partners in Flight (NCPIF). Visit www.nctws.org for meeting and registration information.

It's official! In 2016, North Carolina will host its first ever TWS Conference. No details are available at this time other than the host city will be Raleigh, North Carolina. A steering committee is forming and will begin planning with TWS in the coming months.

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC)

Among the approved proposals to the state's 2013-2014 hunting, fishing, and trapping regulations are changes that reflect a growing need for more hunting opportunities for youth. Starting spring 2013, new regulations allow an adult to accompany more than one youth during the Spring Youth-Only Wild Turkey Season. Also, the NCWRC approved a proposal to set this season at one full week from the first Saturday in April through the following Friday; the bag limit for this entire week is one bird.

North Carolina experienced an outbreak of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD), spread by *Culicoides* midges, in local white-tailed deer populations from at least 29 counties in the state's western region. A small number of these counties suffered the bulk of reported deer mortality (close to 600 dead deer in Caldwell County alone). Biologists estimate as much as 50% of the deer population in Caldwell, Wilkes, and Surry Counties may have been affected, and it could take several years for those populations to rebound.

Working with the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS), biologists collected tissue from deer in the hardest hit areas and determined a particularly virulent strain of EHD virus subtype 2 was the culprit. For information on EHD in North Carolina, visit: <http://www.ncwildlife.org/Portals/0/Hunting/Documents/HemorrhagicDisease2012.pdf> and the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study at: <http://www.vet.uga.edu/scwds/pdfs/HD.pdf>.



“**Danny Ray**, NCWRC District 8 Biologist, collects white-tailed deer tissue sample to test for EHD. Photo courtesy of NCWRC.”

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North Carolina State University (NCSU)

North Carolina State University's student chapter, the Leopold Wildlife Club, is scheduled to host the Southeastern Wildlife Conclave, March 7-10, 2013, in the Sandhills region of the state. NCSU faculty and students are excited about the opportunity to showcase the University's Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology Program and the fantastic natural resources of the state, but the undertaking is a large and complex one that requires significant financial and manpower resources. Initial planning for the 2013 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave has begun, and the Southern Pines Hampton Inn and Conference Center has been reserved as the central location of the event. Camp Millstone 4-H Center will host the field events (shotgun, archery, canoeing, fly fishing, dendrology, nature photography, and team competition) and field trips will be to nearby destinations in the Sandhills (e.g., Weymouth Woods Nature Preserve, Sandhills Game Land).

North Carolina Forest Service (NCFS)

NCFS will host S130, S190, & L180 Wildland Firefighter Training and Wildland Fire Behavior at the North Carolina Prescribed Fire Training Center, Montgomery Community College, Troy, North Carolina, Building 100, Room 105, January 28 – February 1, 2013. This course of study will provide the entry level training necessary to become qualified as a Type 2 wildland firefighter. It will be an introduction to wildland fire behavior as it relates to fuels, weather, and topography. Additionally, it will provide training in basic firefighter skills. There is no charge for the class. A minimal charge of \$13.95 will be made for student workbooks, handbooks, and guides that will be the property of the student. There will be a class limit of 25 students. Visit www.ncforestservice.gov for more information.

North Carolina Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (NCPARC)

North Carolina Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (www.ncparc.org) will be joining forces with the North Carolina Herpetological Society (www.ncherps.org) for a joint meeting in the spring of 2013! The meeting will be held at the North Carolina Zoo in Asheboro on the dates of April 19-21, 2013. We are calling this meeting the "1st North Carolina Congress of Herpetology," so expect to hear talks ranging on all facets of reptiles and amphibians in the state and region. More information regarding the agenda, lodging, and meals will be available soon. Plan on joining us in April!

Audubon North Carolina

Audubon North Carolina has released a new edition of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) of North Carolina (available online at www.ncaudubonblog.org). This full-color publication contains detailed descriptions of 96 sites (4.9 million acres) that represent North Carolina's most critical bird habitats. IBAs provide essential habitat for one or more species of birds at some time during their annual cycle, including breeding, migration, and wintering periods. IBA data (including GIS data) are updated regularly and can be found at the Audubon NC blog site and on the U.S. IBA website (www.web4.audubon.org/bird/iba). IBAs are available for volunteers to adopt and monitor; contact Audubon North Carolina if interested: www.nc.audubon.org/adopt-important-bird-area.

Submitted by: Lori Williams,
lori.williams@ncwildlife.org

OKLAHOMA

NO NEWS REPORTED



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SOUTH CAROLINA



South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR)

SC Dept. of Natural Resources hired **Brittany Waller** as a wildlife biologist. She will be working out of the Florence, South Carolina office. Brittany received a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology from Clemson University and a Master of Science degree in Wildlife Science from Mississippi State University. Her thesis research pertained to den-site selection by black bears in Mississippi. Brittany will be primarily responsible for the development, implementation and supervision of management and research activities in Region 2 Unit A including wildlife habitat development, public hunting programs, wildlife population surveys, environmental assessments, and prescribed burning.

Submitted by: Nicole Chadwick Hawkins,
SC Chapter TWS, Nicole.chadwick@us.army.mil



Photo Credit: Steve Hillebrand, USFWS

TENNESSEE



Carl Wirwa Retires After 36 Years of Service

Carl Wirwa has retired after 36 years of service to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Carl's TWRA career began as a Wildlife Officer in 1977. He became an Area Manager in 1993 where he served until October 31, 2012. Carl has been responsible for the management of over 25,000

acres of wildlife management areas in Dyer, Crockett, Gibson, Lauderdale and Fayette counties in West Tennessee.

During his tenure as Area Manager, Carl had a vision for a new approach to wetland management that focused on putting habitat first. Bringing his vision to life, Carl worked with a team of TWRA employees where the end result was 2 new management areas (Bogota and Thorny Cypress) and significant additions to Moss Island and Tumbleweed WMA's. However, these areas were only the canvas for his management paint brush that included hydrological restoration that restored function to altered wetlands, followed by more than 4,000 acres of reforestation. But the crown jewel was 700 acres of intensively managed wetlands and a novel approach to waterfowl hunting that afforded both excellent habitat for waterfowl and duck hunters with a quality hunting experience.

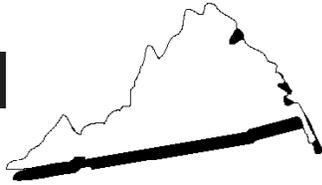
From managing duck populations to improving migratory bird habitat, Carl has served on the front-lines to make a difference for the environment, for wildlife and for recreation enthusiasts of all ages.



"**Carl Wirwa**, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, retires after 36 years of service."

Submitted by: Patrick Lemons,
Patrick.Lemons@tn.gov

VIRGINIA



State Chapter News

The 2013 Annual winter meeting will be held February 12-13 at the Skelton 4-H Center at Smith Mountain Lake.

Conservation Review Committee

Since the last newsletter went out, the Conservation Review Committee sent two letters to federal legislators regarding important conservation programs. First, the Chapter submitted a letter in July to both US senators from Virginia expressing our concerns over proposed cuts to wildlife management funding in the House's Interior and Environment Appropriations bill. The House proposed to cut \$30.66 million from the State Wildlife Grants from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to state wildlife agencies, \$48.25 million from the National Wildlife Refuge System's operational and maintenance budget, and \$3.8 million from the U.S. Geological Survey's Cooperative Research Unit Program. Our letter urged the Senate to restore these programs to full funding. Second, the Committee drafted a letter that was sent to all 11 US congressmen in Virginia urging them and their House colleagues to bring the 2012 Farm Bill to the House floor for a vote before the current bill expired on September 30 and to support the bill. The Senate had previously passed a farm bill, but the House has yet to act, and will probably not do so until later this year or early next year. In Virginia, approximately 3,000 acres of habitat - ranging from crop field borders to wetlands to sustainably managed forests - are developed for wildlife each year through Farm Bill programs. These habitats also safeguard water quality (e.g., drinking, Chesapeake Bay) and provide green spaces that enhance citizens' quality of life.

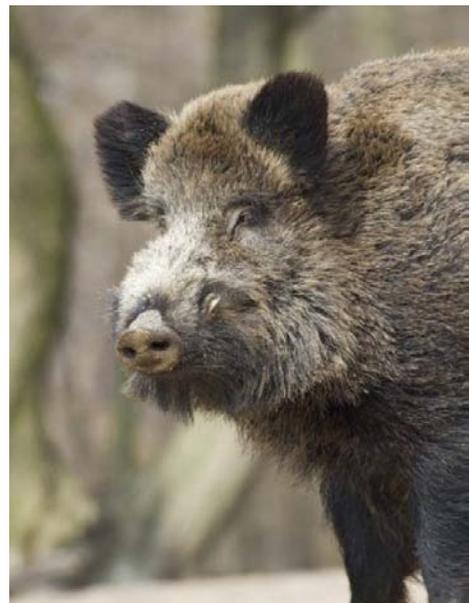
Submitted by: Nelson Lafon

State Wildlife Agency

Feral Hog Committee

A newly-formed Feral Hog Committee was formed in Virginia in the summer of 2011 to address the growing problem of suspect feral hogs appearing in new areas in Virginia. Comprised by staff from USDA-WS, USDA-NRCS, Virginia Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), and the VDGIF, this committee will hold its 4th meeting in late October. Early tasks of the committee has been on improved communication across agencies as well as building a good information and education effort to get the word out about feral hogs.

In August, VDGIF staff held a series of four public informational meetings in areas of the state that have feral populations of hogs. The focus of these were to provide information on feral swine, the risks they pose to our natural resources as well as the health of pets, livestock, and humans, and what other states have done to address hogs. The meetings were well attended, with a majority of attendees and comments being against feral swine establishment in Virginia. Committee staff is continually getting asked to present to various groups regarding swine, so support is growing. Any questions or requests about feral hogs in Virginia can be directed to VA-TWS member and VDGIF wildlife biologist **Aaron Proctor**, aaron.proctor@dgif.virginia.gov



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USDA-WS

Nutria Project

Nutria surveys will be conducted by staff from the Chesapeake Bay Nutria Eradication Project (CBNEP). CBNEP is a partnership of government agencies, private organizations, and landowners who have combined efforts to protect wetland habitats from the damaging effects of nutria. This extremely successful partnership includes the USFWS, USDA Wildlife Services program, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Delaware Natural Resources and Environmental Control, and VDGIF. In addition to these agencies, nearly 500 landowners have provided critical support to the program by providing access to their privately owned marshes.

Project partners will seek information from outdoor enthusiasts who may have sighted nutria and will conduct surveys in the bayside marshes and waterways to look for evidence of nutria. If nutria populations are found, biologists will try to determine the extent of infestation and work with local authorities and landowners to review options for managing the problem.

Information for landowners and a nutria identification brochure is available by visiting: <http://www.fws.gov/chesapeakeanutriaproject/>

More information on nutria in Virginia can be found at the following link: <http://www.cmiweb.org/nutria/ReportaNutria.asp?Report=Project>

A toll-free line is available for reporting nutria on the Eastern Shore at 1-877-463-6497.

Submitted by: Scott Barras



NRCS

There are still lots of questions to be answered about what the Farm Bill will hold in the next couple of years, especially regarding the conservation programs. Virginia NRCS has committed to providing money specifically for improving wildlife habitat, but we don't have the details about which program it will be under or how much money will be available. If you are working with private landowners that are considering applying for financial assistance, encourage them to keep asking questions to the local USDA Service Center and stay involved.

VA NRCS and DGIF have extended the agreement for funding the 5 Private Land Wildlife Biologists through the Fall of 2014. This locks in the positions for a solid 2 years and provides a little stability in these uncertain economic times. I mentioned last month that we hired **Justin Folks** for the Farmville position, but he has elected to move to the Verona office after **Debbie Wright** resigned. Debbie made a lot of wonderful contacts and left some big shoes for Justin to fill, but he has hit the ground running and is maintaining the momentum that Debbie started. Thank you Debbie for all of your hard work while you were with us and we wish you the best in your new endeavors. We will again be hiring a new person in the next month or so to fill the Farmville position, so be ready to welcome another new face into the fold.

Submitted by: Galon Hall

Radford Student Chapter

The Radford University student chapter of The Wildlife Society (RUTWS) has had an excellent start to this new school year – at 31 members to date, this is our largest student group in our short history.

Our outreach efforts have been successful, and included two clean-ups. The first was a Claytor Lake clean-up (September 11 Day of Service), and the second was a New River clean-up. At the latter, a number of new and returning members showed up, and we all had a blast floating down the river in canoes while scooping trash out of the river and

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picking it out of trees. These both were successful days and a great way to help our new members bond while helping out our environment.

Our research efforts have been successful as well. In September, some of our members participated in spotlighting surveys at the Radford Arsenal, helping biologist **Len Diloia** to estimate deer numbers ahead of the planned hunts. They will pick up with this surveying effort again in January when the hunting weekends are completed on the property. RUTWS members are also working at the Arsenal to complete quail and songbird surveys (wrapping up in October) and wildlife camera surveys (through next spring).

Other events have included: RUTWS former president **Meghan Stump** (USDA Forest Service) talked to our club about internships and volunteer opportunities on the National Forest, a behind-the-scenes trip to the Mill Mountain Zoo, and a bat surveying demo for the Town of Blacksburg.

We are excited for the events we've planned this year, and are especially excited about the influx of new members. We have a number of speakers and events planned for the fall semester, and look forward to attending the state chapter's annual meeting in February.

Virginia Tech Student Chapter

The Virginia Tech Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society had a great start this fall. Lots of new and returning members came together to present their summer adventures to the society. From travels to Alaska, Hawaii, Ecuador and Africa, and jobs ranging from field technicians, to rehabilitation internships and a role on a nature TV show, they helped give the rest of the society an idea of what wildlife opportunities await them in their future.

The society is continuing camera trapping research at Mountain Lake Biological Station. Wildlife members check the cameras each week to help gather data on coyote and bobcat abundance at the station. They also learn that black bears are really curious about the strange cameras and are not afraid to investigate.

Cathy Bodinof Jachowski presented her study of eastern hellbenders and environmental stressors to the society. Then, the society had a friendly game of wildlife trivia to help the members who are representing Virginia Tech at the National TWS Convention quiz-bowl tournament in Portland, Oregon. Faculty and graduate students competed against the rest of the society to keep everyone on their toes.

On a trip to Hanging Rock Observatory in Monroe County, WV, The Wildlife Society met renowned bird experts **Bill Hilton Jr.** (director of Hilton Pond Center) and **Bill Thompson III** (editor of Bird Watcher's Digest). They spent the day watching the hawk migration from the observatory.

Society members visited Margaret Beeks Elementary and spoke to third graders about animal adaptations and helped volunteer on research projects ranging from salamander sampling to coyote scat collecting and small mammal trapping. So far it has been an amazing year for the society, and there are many speakers and wildlife events planned in the near future.

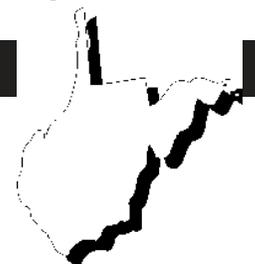
Submitted by: David Bishop (VA newsletter editor), david_bishop@fws.gov



Photo Credit: USFWS

WEST VIRGINIA

NO NEWS REPORTED



DUCKS UNLIMITED

Staff Changes

Mike Mitchell began Aug. 20 as the new GIS/RS analyst in the Southern Regional Office. Mike comes to us from Texas A&M – Kingsville, where he recently completed his master's degree focusing on "Evaluating Waterfowl Foraging Values of Freshwater Wetlands in South Texas and Delineating Coastal Marsh Types of the Texas Coast." Mike is a native of Michigan, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Ecology and Management from Michigan Technological University. In addition to his education, Mike worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a GIS specialist at Mingo National Wildlife Refuge. Mike will play an integral role in helping move our regional conservation planning efforts forward and we look forward to his contributions to Team DU.

Ashlee Ellis started Sept. 17 as the Southern Region's governmental affairs representative. Ashlee has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Tennessee and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Memphis School of Law. Ashlee has experience as deputy finance director for the Tennessee Republican Party, and she has served in several capacities for various Tennessee political campaigns, ranging from campaign manager to finance committee member and fundraising consultant. Ashlee comes to DU from Wells, Moore, Simmons, Edwards and Wilbanks PLLC, where she was a practicing litigation attorney. During her interview, Ashlee indicated her desire to get back into public policy and government affairs work with an organization that has a mission with which she can make a difference. We are confident she has found just that.

Kirby Brown started with DU on Oct. 1 as the new Texas conservation outreach specialist. Kirby has a bachelor's degree in Political Science and a master's degree in Wildlife Science from Texas A&M University. Prior to coming to DU, Kirby was senior vice president of public policy for the Texas Wildlife Association and served as their executive president from 2002 to 2009. He worked for the

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department from 1977 to 2002, as manager of J.D. Murphree WMA and program director for private lands enhancement and public hunting.

Kirby's extensive experience with waterfowl management, private landowners throughout Texas and in aspects of conservation public policy and water issues in Texas will be of great value to DU as we ramp up our efforts to represent the water and habitat requirements of waterfowl and wetland wildlife. Based out of Austin, Kirby will work closely with all Texas staff to communicate our conservation efforts to members and waterfowl hunters; to help inform policy makers, water suppliers and water users about the water requirements of waterfowl; and to engage DU in innovative efforts to expand water supply in coastal Texas for waterfowl, industry, agriculture and people.

Awards

Tom Moorman, Ph.D., Ducks Unlimited director of science and public policy, is The Wildlife Society's (TWS) 2012 Jim McDonough Award recipient. Moorman received the award at the TWS annual conference in Portland, Oregon, on October 15. The Jim McDonough Award recognizes certified wildlife biologists known among colleagues as solid contributors to wildlife management, but who so far may not have received major awards, citations or prominent recognition.

Southeast Conservation Unit – AR, MS, AL, TN, FL, GA, NC, SC, VA

Alabama

The Chuck Sharp Annual Scholarship - Alabama

With the untimely passing of **Chuck Sharp** on March 11, 2012, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Auburn University and Ducks Unlimited all lost a tremendous friend and colleague.

Charles (Chuck) Ray Sharp was a wildlife biologist for ADCNR for more than 29 years. He served as state waterfowl project leader and division technical representative to the Mississippi Flyway Council. In his position on the Gulf Coast Joint Venture board,

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Sharp worked closely with DU and other partners to accomplish the goals and objectives of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Chuck was also a former Alabama DU state chairman and Life Sponsor.

To honor Chuck's dedication to conservation, DU is establishing a scholarship at his alma mater, Auburn University. The Chuck Sharp Annual Scholarship will support a student focused on waterfowl, wetland or wildlife studies at Auburn. To contribute to this endeavor, please contact DU Director of Development **Shawn Battison** at sbattison@ducks.org.

Georgia

Georgia Habitat Restoration Project Completed

Ducks Unlimited, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and several community partners were awarded nearly \$40,000 for a wetland restoration project at a DNR-managed complex in Floyd County, north of Rome. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, National Association of Counties and Wildlife Habitat Council awarded the grant through the Five Star Restoration Program, which began in 1999 as a partnership among the three organizations and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

DU enhanced a 7-acre wetland at Arrowhead Wildlife Management Area, which will be managed for waterfowl while providing long-term outdoor education opportunities for the Arrowhead Environmental Education Center. Volunteers from several local groups benefited from personal interaction via designated community work days that incorporated hands-on conservation and restoration activities. Project partners included J. Supply Company, Vellano Bros. Inc., Kerry Brown, Hugh Glidewell, Sunbelt Turf Farms, Neely Raper Lumber, Ducks Unlimited and GDNR. The partners contributed \$41,840 in matching funds to complete the project.



"Arrowhead WMA project complete 2012."

Arkansas

Annual Partnership Dinner - Arkansas

DU volunteers and staff hosted Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) commissioners and key staff at the annual partner dinner on October 24. This event honors the strong partnership DU shares with AGFC, supporting wetlands conservation work in Arkansas and Canada. The event was well attended, with commissioners describing it as one of the highlights of their year. DU board members **George Dunklin** and **Steve Cook** (also an AGFC commissioner) were in attendance, as well as DU Arkansas State Chairman **William Hamill** and **Dave Kustersky** from DU Canada.

Black Swamp WMA - Arkansas

DU, NAWCC and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission have partnered to restore hydrology on approximately 125 acres at Lee Leblanc Rest Area on Black Swamp Wildlife Management Area in east-central Arkansas. Black Swamp WMA is situated adjacent to Cache River NWR, providing a large block of important bottomland hardwood forest and moist-soil managed habitats. Restoration efforts include new water control structures, a new electric pump and power line.

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WRP Enhancements – Arkansas

DU and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service have partnered to design enhancement plans for three popular wildlife management areas in Arkansas: Raft Creek, Bell Slough and Frog Bayou. DU provided engineering designs for underground irrigation systems and pumps to improve water-management capability and moist-soil-habitat enhancement. DU has been working with NRCS for several years to help secure funding for this important habitat work. Restoration work will begin in 2013.

Mississippi

MDWFP Reaches \$1 million Milestone - Mississippi

DU Southern Region Director **Curtis Hopkins**, Regional Biologist **Tim Willis** and DU Canada Manager of State Grants **Dave Kustersky** attended the October Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks Commission meeting to present MDWFP with an award for reaching the \$1 million mark in state grant contributions for waterfowl habitat enhancement on the Canadian prairies. MDWFP annually allocates a portion of Mississippi waterfowl stamp funds for important wetland and nesting habitat conservation on the waterfowl breeding grounds of southern Canada. Funds are directed to areas known to produce high proportions of ducks that migrate to Mississippi each winter. This year, DU was awarded \$100,000 for continued work in Saskatchewan.



“(l-r) DU representatives **Tim Willis**, **Dave Kustersky** and **Curtis Hopkins** with MDWFP Executive Director **Sam Polles** and Commission Chairman **Jerry Munro**. Photo by MDWFP.”

Indianola WMA Enhancements – Mississippi

Beginning in early 2013, DU will work with MDWFP to enhance approximately 131 acres on the West Complex of Indianola Wildlife Management Area, the state’s newest WMA. Approximately 1,000 acres of moist-soil and forested wetland habitat will be managed for waterfowl and will offer new public hunting opportunities in the Mississippi Delta. Funding for this restoration work was secured by MDWFP through the State Wildlife Incentive Grant Program.

South Carolina

South Carolina Lowcountry Wetlands Initiative

Ducks Unlimited and our partners, as part of the South Carolina Lowcountry Wetlands Initiative (SCLCWI), received our third North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant in September for protection and enhancement of more than 7,300 acres of diverse wildlife habitat in Berkeley, Colleton, Georgetown, Hampton and Jasper counties. Partners contributed more than \$4 million in matching funds on top of the \$1 million federal grant.

DU established the South Carolina Lowcountry Initiative more than 20 years ago to curtail the continuing loss of important wetland habitat. Today, the initiative is a nationally recognized wetlands conservation effort that covers 3 million acres across 14 coastal counties in cooperation with the goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Phase III of the initiative builds on the successes of two previous grants, for a combined conservation delivery of more than \$16.4 million and 21,000 acres.

Phase III construction, beginning in the summer of 2013, will include projects on ACE Basin and Savannah national wildlife refuges and Bonneau Ferry and Palachucola wildlife management areas. Partners include DU, Wetlands America Trust, SCDNR and USFWS.

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North Carolina

New ID/IQ Projects – North Carolina

USFWS partners with Ducks Unlimited to make improvements to national wildlife refuges through a program called ID/IQ (Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity). Recently, two projects were approved for approximately \$1 million in conservation work at two refuges in North Carolina: Pea Island and Lake Mattamuskeet national wildlife refuges.

Pea Island NWR was historically used for market waterfowl hunting and now hosts concentrations of ducks, geese, swans and other migratory birds seasonally on more than 1,000 acres of managed waterfowl impoundments. DU will repair a 150-foot breach in a dike caused by Hurricane Irene, replace water control structure and make other infrastructure improvements to enhance nearly 500 acres of wetland habitat. Construction on this project will wrap up in February 2013.

Lake Mattamuskeet NWR is home to North Carolina's largest natural lake and hosts significant wintering populations of ducks, geese and tundra swans. Enhancement of two existing water control structures on the 40,000-acre lake will impact a large portion of the surrounding flooded habitat, improving management capabilities to optimize conditions for waterfowl. Construction should begin on this project in July 2013.



“DU works to repair a dike breach caused by Hurricane Irene on Pea Island NWR.”

Tennessee

Partners Program – Tennessee

The Tennessee Partners Program (TPP) is a joint effort between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Tennessee Department of Agriculture, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and Ducks Unlimited to provide guidance and water control structures to private landowners for the purposes of managing wintering waterfowl habitat. Landowners commit to managing their property to benefit waterfowl for 10 years in exchange for management infrastructure cost-share. Recently, the USFWS committed \$10,000 and the TN Dept. of Ag committed \$30,000 for FY13. The TPP is a five-year agreement between the partners, but funding is allocated on an annual basis.

Old Hickory WMA - Tennessee

DU received a \$55,000 grant for work on Old Hickory Wildlife Management Area in central Tennessee. The project will improve waterfowl management capabilities on the WMA's impoundments. Of the 6,000-acre WMA, most is heavily managed for waterfowl hunting. There are patches of hardwood forest (oak, hickory and maple) and riparian forest (black willow and sycamore) along the lake's shoreline. These forested areas are mixed with cropland that is flooded for waterfowl in winter.

Virginia

VDGIF to Support Canadian Habitat Projects – Virginia

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Ducks Unlimited in September to join the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies State Grants Program. The agreement was signed at the first DU Virginia Granders Society Event outside Richmond on the banks of the James River. Chief Conservation Officer **Paul Schmidt** signed on behalf of Ducks Unlimited.

“This is Virginia's inaugural participation in the state grants program, which funds North American Waterfowl Management Plan habitat projects in

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Canada,” Schmidt said. “We are very pleased to have them as a partner in waterfowl habitat conservation in Canada.”

Virginia will contribute \$25,000 a year for five years to fund habitat projects in eastern Canada. As with all state grant contributions, their donation will be matched by DU and leveraged through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, resulting in at least \$100,000 a year for conservation projects. Conservation efforts will begin in the eastern portion of Canada and focus on habitats important to American black ducks that stage and breed in this area and winter in Virginia.



“DU’s CCO **Paul Schmidt** (left) and VDGIF Executive Director **Bob Duncan** sign the MOA to begin Virginia’s state grant contributions.” Photo by jasonhubbard.com

Southwest Conservation Unit – LA, OK, TX, NM

Louisiana

White Lake WCA Shoreline Protection Project – Louisiana

The White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area (WCA) in Vermillion Parish is owned and managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and includes approximately 71,000 acres of fresh marsh habitat. The Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) traverses White Lake WCA for approximately 12 miles, creating approximately 24 miles of shoreline within the area when it was constructed.

In order to maintain the hydrologic integrity of the adjacent marshes, spoil banks and a complex network of levees have been used to manage the area. The shoreline protection project scheduled for completion this winter will enhance approximately 1,250 acres of wetlands adjacent to the GIWW by constructing rock breakwaters along the waterway. These structures will protect the highest-priority shorelines identified by LDWF staff from further erosion and saltwater intrusion into the marsh.

The area is the site of two releases of endangered whooping cranes and provides vital habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds. Without this project, the threat of significant degradation and possible abandonment of the “Breakwater Tract” is likely. Furthermore, the likelihood of additional degradation to adjacent fresh and intermediate marsh tracts is high without this project. Project partners include the North American Wetlands Conservation Commission, LDWF, DU, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Zuschlag Family Foundation, Stuller Family Foundation and Irene W. and C.B. Pennington Foundation.

St. Louis Canal – Louisiana

DU engineers and Apache Corporation staff are working together in Lafourche Parish to survey the first freshwater-introduction project initiated by the Southern Region team. Partially funded by Louisiana’s Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, the St. Louis Canal project will direct fresh water into coastal marshes suffering from saltwater intrusion. The project will benefit an estimated 3,500 acres of coastal wetlands, including a portion of Pointe-aux-Chenes Wildlife Management Area.

Carencro Bayou – Louisiana

DU submitted a \$250,000 proposal to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) for a freshwater-introduction project in southeast Louisiana that will restore freshwater and sediment inputs to more than 1,500 acres of coastal marsh in Terrebonne Parish. If approved, six miles of existing canals will be used to convey fresh water, nutrients and sediments from the Atchafalaya River and Bayou Penchant into the project area. A water control structure will be designed and installed to

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control salinity and maximize flow of fresh water. Project partners include DU, the Louisiana Land and Exploration Company and NOAA.

Ouachita WMA Project Complete – Louisiana

DU and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) recently wrapped up a project to improve water management capabilities on more than 1,100 acres on Ouachita Wildlife Management Area near Monroe. DU installed a new pump capable of delivering 16,000 gallons per minute, which will provide reliable water to green-tree-reservoir, agricultural and moist-soil habitats managed for waterfowl and open to public hunting. Partners included DU, LDWF, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Conoco Phillips.

DU Offers Pump Efficiency Testing – Louisiana

As part of DU's Rice Stewardship Program, staff has been trained to conduct irrigation pump efficiency tests for rice producers. Testing the efficiency of water delivery will help producers make the wisest and most economical decisions for their farming operation and make certain that rice agriculture continues to provide vital managed wetland habitat for millions of waterfowl. DU is partnering with NRCS and others through the Rice Stewardship Program to ensure the long-term sustainability of rice agriculture by increasing farm profitability through the stewardship of land, water and wildlife resources. Improving the sustainability of ricelands is important for the waterfowl and people who depend on them for their livelihood, protection and recreation.

Oklahoma

Waurika WMA Enhancements – Oklahoma

A three-part project is underway to improve more than 300 acres of waterfowl habitat on Waurika Wildlife Management Area in southern Oklahoma. DU is wrapping up a project involving the installation of a new pump to improve water management capabilities on moist-soil and plant-and-flood units. Construction on stream restoration and moist-soil unit enhancement projects should begin soon. The stream restoration project will restore the natural, meandering

course of Little Beaver Creek to retain local groundwater levels, as well as enhancing 35 acres of adjacent wetlands. The moist-soil enhancement project will improve more than 100 acres of habitat for migrating and wintering waterfowl. These three projects will improve public hunting opportunities on Waurika WMA.

Submitted by: Andi Cooper,
acooper@ducks.org



Photo Credit: Steve Hillebrand, USFWS

**NATIONAL WILD TURKEY
FEDERATION**

NO NEWS REPORTED

BUSINESS

**Minutes from the Fall Business Meeting
of the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society
Tuesday, 9 October 2012
Austin Hotel and Conference Center
Hot Springs, Arkansas**

I. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions – David Cobb

The fall business meeting was called to order at 3:10pm.

II. Approval of 2011 Business Meeting Minutes

James Earl Kenamer moved that the minutes be accepted. The motion was seconded by **Jim Miller** and passed unanimously.

III. Reports

SETWS section representative - **David Cobb** summarized **Darren Miller's** Section Representative report. The entire report was presented as an appendix to the minutes.

Secretary/Treasurer - **Mike Conner** informed membership that we had closed our account with Merrill Lynch and had opened an account with Regions as charged by the Executive Board fall meeting of 2011. A complete finance reported was presented as an appendix to the minutes.

Associate Editor Wildlife – **Emma Wilcox** provided the report on behalf of Bill Guiliano. Nine full manuscripts were submitted, and 7 of these were accepted. There were 23 abstract only submissions for consideration of oral presentation and all were accepted. There were 9 poster presentations; all were accepted, but 2 were withdrawn.

Steve Rockwood asked if there would be an advantage to extending the submission date for abstract only submissions and asked if we would be better off with a 2-year term for AE. There was some discussion of these ideas, but no motion resulted.

Student Awards – **Kelly Douglass** stated that there were 4 student posters, but one was withdrawn. There were 9 student presentations but only 8 of those actually occurred. Kelly also stated that a student chapter of the year had been identified. Best student paper, best student poster, and student chapter of the year will be announced at the awards banquet.

C. W. Watson Award – **Mark Smith** indicated that a recipient for this year's award had been identified and would be announced at the award banquet. Mark also encouraged us to nominate worthy individuals for this award.

Deer Committee – No report

Endangered Species Committee – No report

Wetlands Wildlife Committee - **Steve Rockwood** indicated that the committee was planning on commenting on 3 pieces of legislation.

BUSINESS

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Minorities in Natural Resources Committee- **Steve Rockwood** stated that there will be a new SEAFWA Human Resources Committee and that MINRC will exist as a subcommittee within this new committee.

Wildlife Excellence Award- **David Cobb** provided an update on behalf of Wib Owens. There were 3 nominations and a recipient will be announced at the awards banquet.

Publications Committee- No report. **David Cobb** requested a volunteer to chair this committee.

Newsletter Editor, Webmaster- **Katie Edwards** was absent but presented a written report. The report was included as an appendix to the minutes. Tim Ivey suggested having state agencies post job announcements in the newsletter as incentive for students to join SETWS.

David Hayden moved that all reports be approved. This was seconded by **Steve Rockwood**, and the motion passed.

IV. Old Business

SEAFWA publications - **Steve Rockwood** informed the membership that the SEAFWA directors had voted to change the title of the proceedings. The new title will be "Journal of the Southeastern Association of Fisheries and Wildlife Agencies". The new publication will exist online and will only contain peer-reviewed articles. Other materials that are often presented at the annual SEAFWA meeting will still be published electronically as a proceedings. We discussed encouraging colleagues to submit manuscripts to the newly renamed journal. An announcement and call for papers will be placed in the SETWS newsletter and Steve Rockwood will prepare a newsletter article detailing the change and encouraging submission of research articles. Steve suggested that SETWS be prepared to provide funds to assist with the change to the new format.

Committee Restructuring- **David Cobb** stated that he wanted to get SETWS committees active again and would be working toward that end. Tim Ivey suggested using the existing bylaws to help accomplish this. Committees are responsible for providing their reports to the President prior to our meeting. Jim Byford mentioned that Lovett Williams provided a standard operating procedures document for committees a number of years ago and suggested that we look to this document for guidance. Some group discussion followed.

V. New Business

Strategic Plan - **David Cobb** asked if we needed a strategic plan and informed membership that the Executive Board voted to form an ad hoc committee to determine if we needed a strategic plan and if so, how we should go about developing a plan. **Eric Pelren** will chair this committee. The committee will be made up of **E. J. Williams, Mark Smith, Jim Miller, and Joe Walsh**. Jim Miller suggested the TWS strategic plan as a good place to start. The charge to this committee is to review the TWS strategic plan and the SETWS bylaws and then make a report and recommendation to the Executive Board. David Cobb will send the TWS plan and SETWS bylaws to the committee. Eric Pelren will have the report and recommendation prepared in time for the spring phone meeting of the Executive Board.

2013 Conclave- **David Cobb** announced that the 2013 conclave would be held in North Carolina and that **Chris Moorman** had requested \$1,000.00 for conclave, and this request was approved by Executive committee David suggested that if we would like to help out with conclave to contact Chris Moorman. **Eric Pelren** stated that conclave has grown to about 400 – 500 people and that they had considered limiting the number of students.

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Joint SETWS/AFS meeting – **David Cobb** announced that he was suggesting that a joint session of SETWS and AFS be held at the 2014 SEAFWA meeting in FL. The session will address the North American model for fish and wildlife conservation. David will write up the concept and submit to **Nick Wiley** for his support. If support is granted we will move forward with planning.

Cervid Farming issue- **Jim Miller** stated that 10 states had introduced legislation taking deer farming from the wildlife agency and placing it under the Ag department. There was some discussion of the Texas law that prohibits importing white-tailed deer into the state. If this law would have prohibited export as well, the deer farming issue would be much diminished. Jim is meeting with TWS council to encourage them to pursue a technical review and position statement on the cervid farming issue. Jim has a draft article on the topic that is to be published in The Wildlife Professional. There was some discussion of how the deer breeding issue: 1) violates the doctrine that deer are a public resource, 2) there are disease issues associated with transporting deer, and 3) there are also fair chase issues that may be violated.

There was also discussion that legislators are listening to the groups that are proposing the deer breeding legislation. The legislation generally implies that deer breeding provides help for farmers. As such, educating lawmakers will be key in defeating legislative attempts. **David Cobb** pointed out that keeping deer breeding and marketing regulations underneath the authority of state wildlife agencies does not imply that these activities will remain illegal as state agencies are subject to political pressures.

Gary Moody moved that SETWS encourage TWS to initiate a technical review of cervid farming and develop a position statement based on this review. **Steve Rockwood** seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Closing Remarks- **Jim Miller** noted that there were four up-coming CLFT training events. December 3 – 7 at Max McGraw in Illinois, December 17-21 at the NCTC in West Virginia, February 4 – 8 at Wildlife Farms in Arkansas, and March 4 – 8 at Charlie Elliot Center in Georgia.

David Cobb presented a plaque to **Emma Wilcox** for their service as Wildlife Assistant Editor.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:50pm.

**Executive Board Business Meeting of the Southeastern Section
The Wildlife Society
October 7, 2012
Hot Springs Arkansas**

I. Welcome, introductions, and call to order.

President **David Cobb** called the meeting to order at 3:15pm. Members present were **David Cobb, Mike Conner, Eric Pelren,** and **Steve Rockwood**. Guests present were **Jim Miller, Joe Walsh,** and **Kelly Douglass**.

II. Reports

A. Southeastern Section Representative report- **David Cobb** read the report submitted by **Darren Miller**. The written report in its entirety is below. **Eric Pelren** moved to accept the report, **Steve Rockwood** seconded and the motion passed.

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SOUTHEASTERN SECTION REPRESENTATIVE REPORT
SUBMITTED TO Dr. David Cobb, President, Southeastern Section TWS
SUBMITTED BY: Dr. Darren Miller, Southeastern Section Representative to TWS Council
DATE: October 5, 2012

First, my sincere apologies for not being able to attend the 2012 Southeastern Section TWS annual meeting, held in association with the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Part of my absence from the meeting is due to 3 days of Council meetings in Portland, OR beginning on Oct. 11, 2012. This, plus a meeting in Seattle, WA on Oct. 10 created an unavoidable conflict for the SEAFWA meeting.

PRIMARY UPDATES FOR THE MEMBERSHIP

1. As most of you are aware, TWS is in the process of selecting a replacement for recently department TWS ED/CEO **Dr. Michael Hutchins**. Dr. Hutchins left TWS to move on to another stage in his career and life. We should all be very appreciative for the leadership Dr. Hutchins displayed while at TWS which resulting in significant improvements in membership, program delivery, outreach, and member services. Please join me in wishing Dr. Hutchins the best of luck in the future.

As for as the search, the Executive Committee, with a student representative and a past Council member, have already screened over 30 applicants. The Committee is further considering 4 candidates and 3 of these candidates will be present at the TWS Annual Conference. The applicant names are confidential for now at the applicants' requests.

2. The annual conference is being held Oct. 13-17, 2012 in Portland, OR. This meeting will be used to celebrate the 75th anniversary of TWS. As part of this celebration, the Fall 2012 issue of The Wildlife Professional, which many of you should have already received, is dedicated to the past, present, and future of TWS. It includes a complimentary copy of "Opportunity for All", the DVD that outlines the conservation story here in North America. This DVD version was remade with a special introductory segment from TWS. Enjoy and share!!

3. At the annual conference, Council will be voting to approve 3 new technical reviews: The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, Effects of Bioenergy Production on Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat, and Ungulate Management in the National Parks of the United States and Canada. These reviews will be of tremendous value to TWS members. Work continues also on a prescribed fire technical review. Speaking of annual meetings, Council will be voting to approve Raleigh, NC as the 2016 TWS annual conference, bringing the conference back to the southeastern U.S. (last time was Miami in 2008). Between now and then, conferences will be held in Milwaukee (2013), Pittsburgh (2014), and Winnipeg (2015).

4. An entire extra day of Council meetings has been scheduled in Portland, OR specifically to address TWS finances. As TWS continues to grow and attempt to expand influence on wildlife policy and the scientific basis of wildlife management, we must continue to find revenue sources to meet financial needs. We will be reviewing the past several years of financial data for the Society and working toward a financially sustainable future for TWS.

5. Also at the Annual Conference, several SE Section members will be receiving recognition. However, TWS keeps the recipients confidential until after the meeting, so y'all are just going to have to wait! However, I can report (approved at the March Council meeting) that the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network will be receiving the TWS Group Achievement Award.

6. As of the end of Sept. 2012, TWS will set a membership record for the third year in a row. As of Sept. 18, membership was 10,680 and is expected to reach 11,000 by end of 2012. However, the dues increase that was recently passed by the membership may impact the final number. This approved dues increase of \$10 for regular/family members and \$5 for students was the first substantial dues increase since 1997.

7. TWS social networking continues to grow. You can “like” TWS on Facebook (over 6,700 to date have done so), follow TWS on Twitter, and join the TWS LinkedIn Group. Members should also check out the revised TWS website.

8. To reiterate my 2 consistent pleas to members: (1) If you do not subscribe to Wildlife Society Bulletin and like the content of the journal, please subscribe; (2) Comment on Position Statements as individuals, Chapters, or as a Section. These statements define TWS as an organization and it is critical that we get membership input. Availability of positions statements for comment are emailed to all TWS members and announced on the website. Current position statements are available on the TWS website under the “Policy” tab. Get involved!!

If you have any questions or comments, please contact **Darren Miller** (darren.miller@weyerhaeuser.com; 662-245-5249).

B. Secretary/Treasurer Report- **Mike Conner** announced that the bank account had been changed from Merrill Lynch to Regions bank and noted that this transfer took much longer than expected. As a result, a request was made to the parent chapter TWS to have new reimbursement checks issued for deposit. As per phone discussion with **Shannon Pederson**, TWS will issue a new reimbursement check. **Steve Rockwood** moved to accept the report, **Eric Pelren** seconded and the motion passed.

C. Associate Editor for Wildlife Report- **David Cobb** read the report submitted by **Bill Giuliano**.

D. Wildlife Management Excellence Award- **David Cobb** provided the report on behalf of **Wib Owen**. This year’s winner was **Benjy Strobe**.

E. Student Awards- **David Cobb** announced that **Brian Dorr** had stepped down as chair of this committee and announced that **Kelly Douglass** was the new Student Awards Chair. Kelley Douglass stated that there were 9 student presentations and 2 student posters presented this year. Winning presenters will be announced at the SEAFWA awards banquet.

F. Publications Awards- No report. David suggested that a new chair of this committee was needed.

G. C.W. Watson Award- No report.

III. Other Business

A. **Steve Rockwood** reported that the SEAFWA directors were considering a proposal to change the name of the SEAFWA proceedings and to move to an electronic format for dissemination of articles. It was suggested that dropping the word “proceedings” from the title of the publication may increase submission of articles because many faculty at research institutions do not receive appropriate credit for publishing in the proceedings. Articles, abstracts, and supplementary material that are not peer-reviewed will not be placed in the new electronic journal. Rather, these latter items will still be published under the “proceedings” title. Steve pointed out that we should be prepared to help fund the transition from the current publication venue to that of the new e-journal. Steve Rockwood moved that the Executive Board encourage the SEAFWA directors to adopt the change in publication name and format, Eric Pelren amended the motion to include a suggested title “The Southeastern Journal of Fisheries and Wildlife Management” The amended motion passed.

B. **Steve Rockwood** suggested that having a graph of the SETWS financial balance over time would be helpful.

C. **Steve Rockwood** asked if the section should have an operating budget or perhaps a strategic plan. He suggested that we check our existing files to determine if documents addressing these ideas exist before bringing this idea to SETWS.

D. **David Cobb** pointed out that we had contributed \$250.00 to the national meeting in support of WOW. It was pointed out that there was no request from the parent society to support the 2012 meeting.

E. **David Cobb** stated that he would be working get SETWS committees to become more active. **Steve Rockwood** recommended that SETWS have a member on each of the SEAFWA committees to serve as a liaison between SETWS and SEAFWA committees. **Joe Walsh** suggested looking at committee models used by other organizations to determine if those models may apply in our case.

F. **David Cobb** asked the Executive Board's opinion of holding a joint session between SETWS and the American Fisheries Society during the 2013 SEAFWA meeting. He suggested that the theme of the session would be "The North American Model of Fish and Wildlife Management". He proposed a half-day session that would highlight history of the model, its current state, and where we are headed. The session would consist of both invited presentations and submissions.

It was discussed that holding the meeting in 2013 may not provide adequate time for planning and that moving the session to the 2014 meeting would make the event much more logistically feasible. It was concluded that David would talk to **Nick Wiley** to determine if he would be interested in supporting such a session.

IV. Other items

Jim Miller provided an update on deer breeding legislation. Some sort of deer breeding legislation was introduced in a number of state legislatures during the past year. In all cases the legislation amounted to moving a public trust into private control. Deer breeding is 'sold' to lawmakers as a tool to help increase income for small farmers. Jim's analyses of the cost of getting into this business suggest that profits are highly exaggerated and that startup costs are great. Opportunities for profit are absent, and Jim suggests that most landowners will lose money if enticed into this business. Jim likened the deer breeding business to that of the emu /ostrich industry that was once so popular. Jim suggested that most people do not understand the magnitude of the problems that deer breeding businesses could cause. Jim has been encouraging The Wildlife Society to develop a technical review and position statement on this issue. He will speak to council about this in the upcoming 2012 TWS meeting. It does appear that council will put together a committee to work on developing this technical report. Jim suggested that if you wanted to be involved with the technical committee that you should inform TWS council. Jim also mentioned that he prepared an article for The Wildlife Professional on deer breeding, and this article should appear in print this winter.

V. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:02pm.



BUSINESS

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**Secretary/Treasurer Report for
December 31, 2011 to October 3, 2012
Submitted by: Mike Conner,
SE Section Secretary/Treasurer**

Beginning Balance (12/31/11)	\$9,542.50
Deposits	\$702.81
Debits	\$(1,232.59)
Ending Balance (10/3/12)	\$9,012.72

DEPOSITS

Item	Amount
TWS Reimbursement (dues rebates)	\$680.00
Member dues	\$10.00
Member dues	\$10.00
Checking account interest	\$2.81
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$702.81

DEBITS

Item	Amount
Steve Rockwood (reimbursement)	\$72.30
SE Partners in Flight	\$250.00
SE Bat Diversity Network	\$250.00
Brandon's Inc. Award Plaque	\$55.00
Brandon's Inc. Award Plaque	\$61.15
SE Prairie Symposium Support	\$250.00
TWS Sponsor A Student	\$10.00
Checks/Checking Fees	\$34.14
TWS, WOW Support	\$250.00
TOTAL DEBITS	\$1,232.59

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SPECIAL INTEREST

A Call to Action for Wildlife Professionals Jim Miller

If you are not already aware of the threat of recent legislative proposals or introduced legislative Bills in your states to expand the exploitation of public trust wildlife resources via deer breeding/deer farming, and the potential impacts (biologically, socially, and economically) you are encouraged to read the Winter Issue of The Wildlife Professional (TWP) magazine from The Wildlife Society. Specifically, read the article titled "A Growing Threat--How Deer Breeding Could Put Public Trust Wildlife At Risk" and decide individually and collectively, if this is an issue worthy of wildlife professionals taking action to strongly oppose. This issue and the growing threat may best be framed by the fact that although legislation promoting deer breeding was introduced several years ago in just one or two states, in 2012, similar legislation was either proposed or introduced in 10 states in 2012 (GA; IN; MS; MO; NJ; NY; NC; OH; TN; and WV) under the guise of promoting economic development. Unfortunately, in these depressed economic times some legislators seem to be gullible to any suggestion of economic development without appropriate research or consideration of the short- or long-term impacts, and unfortunately some of them do not wish to be bothered by factual information about the negative impacts to wildlife conservation or to a fair-chase hunting heritage that 80 % of the public currently supports. Unfortunately, the proponents of deer-breeding and those legislators who support it fail to recognize or acknowledge that recent figures from the recent National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation (FWS) report that 13.7 Million hunters expended \$33.7 Billion on fair-chase hunting in 2011. Yet they would ignore these significant economic impacts to promote a pyramid scheme that would benefit a very few private deer breeders/farmers and concurrently pose a serious threat to the future of fair-chase hunting that is supported by 80% of American's.

This growing push/coercion by the deer breeding proponents to have legislation introduced that would allow expansion of such operations continues even in the face of progressively increasing confirmation of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), now confirmed in 22 states within the United States, two Canadian Provinces, and in other nations, with many of these confirmations being traced to animals from captive cervid facilities (deer breeding pens/deer farms/captive hunting operations). Unfortunately, although CWD, Bovine Tuberculosis (BT) and other infectious diseases transmission that would be exacerbated by inter-and interstate transportation of cervids is a critical concern, equally of concern is the transfer of authority for public trust wildlife resources from respective state and federal wildlife agencies to Departments of Agriculture or State veterinarians such proposed legislation would effect. The impact of further privatizing public trust wildlife resources for individual gain that such proposed legislation would allow, directly violates the principles of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, which calls for the science-based management of wildlife held in public trust for the benefit of present and future generations. Any further expansion of deer breeding and farming of captive cervids (including those shot within restricted captive facilities) into states currently prohibiting such facilities also threatens to critically erode public support for fair-chase hunting, our hunting heritage, funding for wildlife conservation, wildlife health, and the essential principles of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, widely admired throughout the world as the most successful model of wildlife restoration and management.

TWS Members should be aware that The Wildlife Society currently has an ad hoc Committee appointed recently by TWS President, **Dr. Wini Kessler**, chaired by **Dr. Darren Miller**, Southeastern Section Representative to TWS Council which includes other Section Representatives to Council as well as knowledgeable members from across North America. This ad hoc Committee has been given a charge that encompasses seven concerns related to the deer breeding issue that the committee will be trying to address during the next few months. In addition at the 2012 SEAFWA Conference in October, considerable discussion about the deer breeding threats took place in the SE Section Executive Committee meeting, and the issue was highlighted in a brief presentation at the SE Section Business meeting. In addition to the article in the Winter Issue of TWP mentioned above, the Policy Affairs Staff of The Wildlife Society is developing a Fact Sheet on Deer Breeding that should be available to all members in the near future. Hopefully, these accumulated information sources from TWS as well as that from other conservation organizations such as the National Wildlife Federation and its State Affiliates, the Quality

SPECIAL INTEREST

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Deer Management Association, and others who have publicly expressed concern about deer breeding/farming will provide wildlife professionals and others with sufficient factual information that can be used to effectively oppose any new legislation that might be proposed or introduced by respective state legislatures in 2013 and beyond. This is not an issue that wildlife professionals can afford to be apathetic about. To quote the final sentence in the TWP article "If we are complacent, our profession will lose, those who follow us will lose, wildlife will lose, and our hunting heritage could be lost forever." I do not believe that is a legacy we want to leave that reflected our commitment to wise stewardship.

James E. Miller
Prof. Emeritus
Dept. Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquac.
Mississippi State University
MS State, MS 39762-9690
Ph: (662) 325-2619
Fax: 662-325-8750



Photo Credit: USFWS

2013 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave

hosted by

**North Carolina State University
Leopold Wildlife Club**

March 7-10, 2013

Southern Pines, North Carolina

The Wildlife Society (TWS) student chapters host regional conclaves each year to provide college students with valuable hands-on training in wildlife management and conservation. Activities include field trips, field competitions, game-calling competitions, quiz bowl, art and photography contests, guest speakers, and many opportunities for professional development.

The Southeastern Wildlife Conclave promotes networking and cooperation among students, faculty, and wildlife professionals.

For information on registration, lodging, schedule, events and field trips, please visit <http://cnr.ncsu.edu/fer/wildlifeconclave/>

Registration deadline: February 23, 2013

Contact:

Dr. Christopher Moorman

Coordinator - Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology Program

Phone: 919-515-5578

Fax: 919-515-5110

Email: chris_moorman@ncsu.edu

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Awards 2012

C.W. Watson (SEAFWA)

David Whitehurst, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

Wildlife Management Excellence

Benjy Strope, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

SEAFWA Publication of the Year

Michael Byrne, Michael Chamberlain, and Frederick Kimmel; "Seasonal Space Use and Habitat Selection of Female Wild Turkeys in Louisiana Bottomland Forest" published in 2011 Proceedings

Best Student Chapter

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (GA)

Best Student Presentation

Courtney A. Tye (University of Florida); "Fox Squirrel (*Sciurus niger*) Distribution and Habitat Selection in Florida"

Best Poster Presentation

H.T. Pittman (Clemson University); "Using Nestling Feathers to Assess Spatial and Temporal Concentrations of Mercury in Bald Eagles at Voyageurs National Park, Minnesota, USA"

Wildlife Biologist of the Year

David C. Hayden, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

TWS Distinguished Service Award

Ed Hackett, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (retired)

Diversity Award

Career Discovery Internship Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Caesar Kleberg Award for Excellence in Applied Wildlife Research

Michael Pelton, University of Tennessee (retired)

Aldo Leopold Memorial Award (National)

Daniel J. Decker, Cornell University



"**Benjy Strope**, WMEA recipient, with SETWS President David Cobb."



"**Courtney Tye**, best student presentation award recipient, with SETWS President David Cobb."



"**H.T. Pittman**, best student poster award recipient, with SETWS President David Cobb."

Photo Credits: Mike Wintroath, Arkansas Game and Fish.

NOMINATIONS

C.W. Watson Award

Nominations are being sought for the 2013 Clarence W. Watson Award. This annual award will be presented at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Conference in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, October 13-16, 2013. The Clarence W. Watson Award is the most prestigious award given in the Southeast and is presented to the career individual who, in the opinion of the Award Committee, has made the greatest contribution to wildlife or fish conservation during the previous year or years. Consideration includes research, administration, law enforcement, I&E, wildlife management, fish management, teachers, and students. Preference is given to nominees in the Southeast. The award is a mounted bronze plaque presented jointly by the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society, the Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society, and the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. All Southeastern fish and wildlife conservationists and other interested persons are encouraged to nominate worthy candidates. Nominations should be submitted in the format shown below and should include complete information on the candidate's background; i.e., education, training, noteworthy accomplishments, and particularly, the achievement(s) for which the nomination is being made. The nomination should include, but not be limited to, a description of the accomplishment(s), application in the state and region concerned, time involved, and the amount of aid received from associates. Furnish as much information as possible to aid the committee in making the selection. A previously unselected nominee may be resubmitted each year.

NOMINATION FORMAT

- I. Background Information
 - A. Name
 - B. Birthdate
 - C. Education
 - D. Employment History

- II. Accomplishment(s)* and application of accomplishment(s) upon which the Award should be made
 - A. Problem or opportunity with which nominee was involved.
 - B. Action nominee took to solve problem or capitalize on opportunity.
 - C. Results (accomplishments) of nominee's actions.

*The C.W. Watson Award may be given for accomplishing a single item or a series of different non-related items. But the award is given to a nominee who has contributed the most to any of the appropriate areas of fish and wildlife conservation. Emphasis is on contribution, not tenure. Those making nominations are requested to insure that they explain clearly what was accomplished and how it contributed.

Selection will be based on specific accomplishment(s) and other information included in the letter of nomination. Nominations should be sent to: **Mark D. Smith**, School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, 3301 Forestry and Wildlife Sciences Building, 602 Duncan Drive, Auburn University, AL 36849; mds0007@auburn.edu; 334-844-8099 as soon as possible but no later than August 15, 2013.



NOMINATIONS

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Aldo Leopold Memorial Award

The highest honor bestowed by The Wildlife Society is the Aldo Leopold Memorial Award for distinguished service to wildlife conservation. The basic selection criterion is the significance of an individual's contribution(s) to the wildlife field. Recipients receive a medal, plaque, and honorary membership in The Wildlife Society.

Following Aldo Leopold's death in April 1948, there was much sentiment within The Wildlife Society for establishing an award medal in his memory.

President Storer instructed the Awards Committee to develop a proposal for presentation at the annual meeting in 1949. The report was approved by the membership and published in *The Journal of Wildlife Management* (13[3]:331, 1949).

The next year, sculptor Gifford MacGregor Proctor was commissioned to design and execute models for a suitable medal in bronze bearing a likeness of Aldo Leopold on the obverse. Although the art work was not ready, the first medal was awarded to J.N. Darling at the Society's 1950 meeting in San Francisco. Models were finished that year and dies were cast early in 1951. After the 1951 meeting, one medal was presented privately to Mrs. Aldo Leopold as a token of friendship and respect. An engraved medal was sent (a year late) to J.N. Darling, and a second annual presentation was made to Carl D. Shoemaker.

Criteria

1. The nominee should have a well-established and distinguished career that has been of undoubted significance to the cause of wildlife conservation.
2. The award is given only to an individual.
3. Nominee must be living.

Nomination Instructions

Nominations consist of a statement emphasizing the basis for determining "distinguished service to wildlife conservation," a detailed resume, and no more than five supporting letters. Email all materials as a single PDF file to yanin@wildlife.org by March 15, 2013.

Caesar Kleberg Award for Excellence in Applied Wildlife Research

This award recognizes those who have distinguished themselves in applied wildlife research. While the Aldo Leopold Award recognizes individuals for much broader contributions and is truly a lifetime achievement award, the Caesar Kleberg Award is focused on those whose body of work, in both inquiry and discovery, has resulted in application of management and conservation "on the ground". The award is presented each year at the TWS Annual Conference and in addition to an award plaque and commemorative medal, it includes conference registration, travel expenses, and a small honorarium.

Caesar Kleberg was one of the great conservationists of his time. Born in Cuero, Texas, in 1873, he went to work for his uncle, Bob Kleberg, Jr., on the King Ranch at the age of 27. Distressed at what he saw, wildlife being decimated by unregulated hunting, Caesar set rules for hunting on the ranch as early as 1912. He served for 20 years on the Game, Fish, and Oyster Commission (the precursor to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department), and as a member of this body, was effective in stopping all hunting of wild turkeys in the state to promote their conservation. Subsequently, he enlisted the help and support of private landowners to work at restoration efforts for deer, turkey and quail.

NOMINATIONS

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Before his death in 1946, he personally drafted his will to create the Caesar Kleberg Foundation for Wildlife Conservation. Over the past 60 years, his Foundation has given in excess of \$40 million to wildlife research projects across the globe. It has created endowed positions at San Diego State, Texas Tech, Texas A&M - College Station, and Texas A&M - Kingsville. In 1981, it founded and created the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute. In 2007, the Foundation made a substantial gift to The Wildlife Society to endow this award.

Criteria

1. The nominee must have been a member of The Wildlife Society for much of his or her career.
2. The nominee must have a sustained record of productivity in applied wildlife research. This award is intended to honor an individual's record of applied research over a substantial period of time, rather than accomplishments involving a single research endeavor. The research must have had direct context and value for managing or conserving wildlife resources, with a focus on vertebrate species excluding fish. Any intellectual endeavors that result in acquired knowledge about wildlife and physical, biological, or social processes that affect wildlife are eligible for this award.
3. The nominee's research responds to or has potential application to high-priority needs in wildlife management and conservation.
4. Applications from nominee's research are realizing significant improvements in wildlife management or conservation, on-the-ground management practices, or wildlife policies, either by the researcher, wildlife managers, policy-makers, or other applied scientists or practitioners.
5. The nominee has a national or international reputation for excellence in applied wildlife research. Heads of research organizations may be eligible for the award if they were intellectually involved in the research; i.e., contributed to the experimental design, analysis, and/or application of said research.

The award is not intended to honor the outstanding career accomplishments of research administrators or practitioners of wildlife management or conservation, for whom the Leopold Award is a better fit.

Nomination Instructions

Nomination letters should include:

1. The nominee's point of contact with phone numbers and e-mail address,
2. Name and affiliation of nominee,
3. Nomination statement,
4. Nominee's curriculum vitae, and
5. Names and contact information for at least five references.

Materials for consideration should include a nomination statement that clearly outlines the nominee's contributions to applied wildlife research, completely covering each of the five selection criteria listed above. The nomination statement must provide an explicit link between the nominee's career and a cumulative track record relative to wildlife research findings, recognized success, and application of results that have high importance in the field of conservation and/or wildlife management. While a list of publications is useful, that alone will be insufficient.

Email all materials as a single PDF file to yanin@wildlife.org by March 15, 2013.



NOMINATIONS

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TWS Chapter and Student Chapter of the Year Awards

Active and effective chapters and student chapters are needed to achieve The Wildlife Society's goals, many of which are best addressed at the state/provincial or local level. Chapters and student chapters also strengthen the Society's membership recruitment and retention efforts by providing opportunities for member involvement in Society activities. The Chapter and Student Chapter of the Year awards pay tribute to and recognize exceptional achievements by these important units of The Wildlife Society.

Chapters and student chapters are invited to nominate themselves for the award. The chapters receiving the award are not eligible to apply for the recognition in the following year. The winning chapter and student chapter receive a special certificate at the Society's annual conference award ceremony and their names are added to a permanent plaque on display at the Society's headquarters. Student chapters also receive a \$1,000 travel grant to send a student delegation to the annual conference.

Nomination Instructions

Chapter of the Year Award

Chapters are invited to nominate themselves for the award by completing the Chapter of the Year Application Form. Email all materials as a single PDF file to yanin@wildlife.org by March 15, 2013.

Student Chapter of the Year Award

Student chapters are invited to nominate themselves for the award by completing the Student Chapter of the Year Application Form. Email all materials as a single PDF file to yanin@wildlife.org by June 30, 2013.

Distinguished Service Award

The Wildlife Society Distinguished Service Award is designed to recognize TWS members who have made a long-term commitment to the Society based on membership longevity and TWS service. The member is someone who is/was "always there" and could be counted on to serve the chapter, section, or international organization. The award recognizes individuals who have worked throughout their careers in a variety of ways to further the mission of the Society.

Criteria

1. Nominees must have been parent TWS member for at least 20 years. If membership is not continuous, evidence of membership longevity must be provided. The intent is to recognize candidates while they are still active TWS members.
2. Award nominees must have served TWS in such a way that furthers the goals of TWS. Examples of service are chapter, section, or international board member or officer; served in a significant manner to keep a chapter active or reactivate a chapter; consistent attendance of, at least, chapter meetings; dependable member to support chapter, section, and/or national activities such as, review EIS reports, positions statements, etc.; chapter, section, parent, or international committee chairperson or member; assist or organize chapter, section, or international conferences or special meetings, programs, training seminars, etc.; as appropriate, testify at hearings, etc. Basically, a collective commitment to TWS goals and activities.

Any TWS member or members, chapter, section, or working group may submit nominations or self-nomination. Nominations are to be submitted to the executive committee of the nominee's section. Only one award will be made per section per year.

NOMINATIONS

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The recipient will be provided an award lapel pin and certificate, to be given during the Awards Ceremony at the TWS Annual Conference.

Nomination Instructions

Nominations should include:

1. Name, address, phone number, email, and affiliation of nominee;
2. A one-page nomination statement that clearly outlines the nominee's contributions to The Wildlife Society;
3. Nominee's resume; and
4. Signed statements of endorsement from three endorsers.

Email all materials as a single PDF file to the executive committee of the nominee's section by March 15, 2013. The SETWS officers are listed on the SETWS website and in this newsletter.

Diversity Award

This award recognizes an individual or organization for outstanding efforts in promoting ethnic and gender diversity in the natural resource professions, especially wildlife conservation and education. Recognized activities may focus on encouraging ethnic and gender diversity in the workforce, academic enrollment, or organizational membership.

Criteria

Both individuals and organizations are eligible for the award. Individuals include anyone participating in a natural resource field. Organizations include public agencies, institutions of higher education, companies, and non-governmental organizations.

Evaluation criteria for individuals are as follows:

1. Leadership
2. Innovation
3. Tangible Results

Evaluation criteria for organizations are as follows:

1. Innovation and Creativity
2. Resource Investment
3. Overcoming Challenges and Obstacles
4. Sustained Efforts
5. Tangible Results

Nomination Instructions

Nominations may be self-nominated or submitted by a second party. Include both a letter of nomination and at least one letter of support from another source.

Email all materials as a single PDF file to both **Jeanne Jones** at jjones@cfr.msstate.edu and **Yanin Walker** at yanin@wildlife.org by March 15, 2013. Include contact information for the primary nominator and for the supporting reference(s).

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

FEBRUARY

2013 SBDN/Colloquium on Conservation of Mammals Meeting

Fall Creek Falls State Park
Pikeville, Tennessee

February 14 - 15, 2013

http://sbdn.org/2013_meeting.html

37th Annual NWF Convention and Sport Show

Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center
Nashville, Tennessee

February 14 - 17, 2013

http://www.nwtf.org/special_events/convention.html

SEPARC 2013 Annual Meeting

Hickory Knob State Park
McCormick, South Carolina

February 21 - 24, 2013

<http://www.separc.org/meetings/annual-meeting>

2013 Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting

Hyatt Regency
Greenville, South Carolina

February 24 - 26, 2013

<http://dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/deer/study/>

MARCH

2013 Southeastern Wildlife Student Conclave

North Carolina State University
Leopold Wildlife Club
Southern Pines, North Carolina

March 7 - 10, 2013

<http://cnr.ncsu.edu/fer/wildlifeconclave/>

78th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference

Crystal Gateway Marriott
Arlington, Virginia

March 25 - 30, 2013

http://www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=348&Itemid=61

MAY

76th DU Convention

Hilton Portland
Portland, Oregon

May 22 - 26, 2013

<http://www.ducks.org/events/National-Convention>

JULY

2013 Meeting of American Society of Ichthyologists & Herpetologists

Albuquerque Convention Center
Albuquerque, New Mexico

July 10 - 15, 2013

<http://www.dce.k-state.edu/conf/jointmeeting/>

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

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JULY

National Bobwhite Technical Committee Meeting

Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center
Roanoke, Virginia

July 23 - 26, 2013

<http://www.cpe.vt.edu/nbtc/>

OCTOBER

The Wildlife Society Annual Conference 2013

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

October 5 - 9, 2013

<http://wildlife.org/conferences/future-conferences>

SEAFWA Conference

Renaissance Oklahoma City Convention Center
Hotel and Spa

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

October 13 - 16, 2013

<http://seafwa.org/index.php>

AUGUST

98th Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America

Minneapolis, Minnesota

August 4 - 9, 2013

<http://www.esa.org/minneapolis/#>



“Little River National Wildlife Refuge, Oklahoma”
Photo Credit: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Tennessee Chapter of The Wildlife Society - 2013 Annual Meeting Announcement

“Wildlife Management and Conservation in Changing Times”

Paris Landing State Park, March 5 - March 7, 2013

Paris Landing State Park

16055 Hwy 79 N. | Buchanan, TN 38222-4109
Office: 731-641-4465 | Toll Free: 1-800-250-8614
Inn / Reservations: 731-642-4311

Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, March 5	1 pm – 5 pm	Student Papers
	6 pm – 10 pm	Social
Wednesday, March 6	9 am – 4 pm	Presentations
	6 pm – 10 pm	Banquet/Auction (Please bring auction items!)
Thursday, March 7	8 am – Noon	Business Meeting

Meeting Costs

- Standard Room rates are \$68 + tax per night.
- A block of rooms is reserved until February 1 for this meeting.
- The Registration fee will be:
 - o \$25 REGULAR
 - o \$10 STUDENT
- Banquet tickets will be about \$10.
- Dues are \$10 for professionals each year; \$5 for students

Call for Student Papers

Students who have completed research projects (or at least significant results) are encouraged to deliver a talk (15-minute PowerPoint presentation). Please submit abstracts (250-word maximum) to Dr. Matt Gray by January 31, 2013.

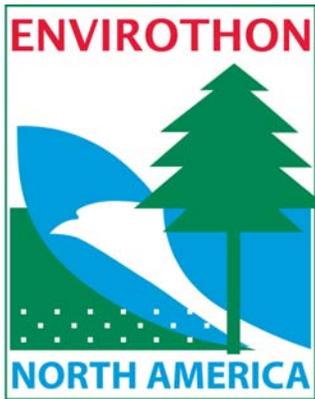
Matthew J. Gray, Ph.D.
Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries
University of Tennessee
274 Ellington Plant Sciences Building
Knoxville, TN 37996-4563
865.974.2740 [ofc] mgray11@utk.edu
865.974.4714 [fax]

Wildlife Professional of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Award.

Tennessee’s Wildlife Professional of the Year Award is presented at the TWS Annual Meeting to an individual or group who has made outstanding contributions in advancing the aims of professional wildlife management in Tennessee during the previous year. The Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to an individual or group who has made outstanding contributions in advancing the aims of professional wildlife management in Tennessee over the course of their career.

Deadline: January 31, 2013. If you know of someone or a group who deserves this prestigious honor, please submit the nomination electronically immediately to:

Tim White
PO Box 40747
Nashville, TN 37204
Timothy.White@tn.gov
615-781-6620



The North American Envirothon (NAE) is North America's Largest High School Environmental Education Competition. Created in Pennsylvania, the competition celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2012. With 45 states and 10 Canadian provinces competing annually, the competition reaches over 500,000 students and advisors each year.

Students compete on 5 member teams in areas of Wildlife, Forestry, Soils & Land Use, Aquatic Ecology and a Current subject (that changes each year). Examples of "Current" subjects are 2012: Low Impact Development, 2013 Rangeland Management and 2014 Sustainable Agriculture/Locally Grown. Students compete at the regional, state/provincial and North American levels. In addition to written exams (completed in the field), students are tested with hands-on components such as pelt/skull ID, tree ID, water quality measurements and soil classification among others. At the North American level, teams are given an entire day to develop an oral presentation regarding the current issue; students then present in front of a panel of judges and are evaluated on their knowledge and presentation skills.

The 2014 North American Envirothon Competition will be held in Athens, GA at the University of Georgia. This event has never been hosted in the state of Georgia in its 25-year existence. It is a highly prestigious honor to host this competition and we are hoping to make the state of Georgia very proud as we welcome students and advisors from all over North America. The event coordinators are Dr. Terry Seehorn and Josh Seehorn. Dr. Seehorn founded the Georgia Envirothon in 1995 and currently serves on the NAE Executive Board of Directors as the education committee chair. Josh Seehorn is a former Envirothon competitor who earned his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Wildlife and Fisheries respectively, and currently serves as the Vice-Chair of the Georgia Envirothon. The Georgia Envirothon is cooperating with the North American Envirothon in hosting the 2014 competition.

Current supporters of the North American Envirothon include Canon USA, the National Association of Conservation Districts, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service among others. In order for Envirothon to expand and succeed it is critical that we involve more organizations and partners as we continue to influence and shape the next generation of natural resource managers and users. We are hoping to diversify our sponsorships and connect with new groups who would like to work with us to accomplish our mission and shape our future.

The North American Envirothon is seeking financial partnerships, media promotion opportunities, and individuals who are interested in helping the competition succeed, grow and continue to impact thousands of students for many years to come. For more information about the North American Envirothon (www.envirothon.org) or the Georgia Envirothon (www.georgiaenvirothon.org), please visit the websites. If you would like to communicate with Josh (706.490.4845) or Terry (706.490.3758) directly, please call or e-mail them at 2014envirothon@gmail.com. Please consider investing in the 2014 North American Competition that will be held in Athens, GA from July 20-24, 2014. Please also consider extending your generosity to help perpetuate this successful and extremely critical form of education into the near and distant future. Thank you so much for your time and interest.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society Membership Application

New Renewal Change of Address

_____ Number of years (multiple year membership)

(please print)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

PHONE _____

For new memberships or renewals, please enclose a check for \$10.00 per year (students: \$6.00) payable to Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society with this application and send to:

Dr. L. Mike Conner, Secretary-Treasurer
Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society
Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center
3988 Jones Center Drive
Newton, GA 39870
mike.conner@jonesctr.org