

The Wildlife Society

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION

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KATHERINE EDWARDS, EDITOR



PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Back in March, I had the pleasure of participating as a quiz bowl judge and awards banquet keynote speaker at the 2013 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave hosted by North Carolina State University's Leopold Wildlife Club in Southern Pines, North Carolina. Over those two days, I saw some amazing students and had the opportunity to interact with many of the over 400 students and advisors in attendance. If you ever have the opportunity to attend a Conclave, take it. Whether you are a new graduate or an old veteran, you will come away inspired and recharged.

When the President of the Leopold Club asked me to speak, he gave me the latitude to talk about a topic of my choosing. I like those kinds of invitations. So I decided to do a little "preaching to the choir" and a little "stirring of the pot". As far as topics, I chose leadership. Why leadership? I believe we need new and innovative leadership to address the difficult resource conservation questions before us. With that in mind, I wanted to present some of my perspectives and challenge participants to think anew about their role in the leadership challenges of today and into the future. I now offer these challenges to each of you.

As you move through your career, I want you to consider leadership as your last, best opportunity to positively influence a particular conservation challenge.

So, what is leadership? First, leadership is a noun; it is an activity or quality. There is no such thing as a leader *per se*, but people have leadership skills and qualities. This may seem strange because we typically think of people when we think of leadership, but it is an important distinction. While at the Conclave, I asked a number of participants to tell me whose name first pops into their mind when they think of a leader. The obvious, and perhaps sentimental favorite, was Aldo Leopold. Others included Theodore Roosevelt and E.O. Wilson. To that list I would add Ding Darling, Gifford Pinchot,

Rachel Carson, Paul Errington, George Bird Grinnell, Alexander Wilson, John James Audubon, and Sam Hamilton, just to name a few. But, none of these persons were, or are, leaders. They were, and are, conservationists who exhibited strong leadership characteristics and skills. As a result, they have moved conservation forward in important and significant ways.

Leadership is about people, not accomplishments. It is not about names or titles or positions. Neither authority, nor responsibility, nor personnel management equate to leadership; although these may be avenues to allow you to apply leadership skills. Through successful leadership, we are able to address our aspirations and facilitate those of others.

Leadership comes at many junctures of our profession and in many forms. We often think of leadership in grandiose style, but leadership may come in large or small packages. Leadership can be loud or quiet; introverted or extroverted. Leadership can be applied in social and solitary situations, and can vary based on a person's natural strengths and temperament. We should think of ourselves as rubber bands. We are elastic and can stretch, but only so far.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

President's address	1
SE Section Rep. report	3
Committee reports	4
State reports	6
Business	24
Special Interest	25
Nominations	26
Meetings of interest	31

There are many theories and applications of leadership techniques, but be assured that leadership is a combination of will and skill. You must know yourself and be willing to put yourself out there. Leadership always meets resistance. Leadership requires passion. Take smart risks smartly. Realize that you may be wrong, but do not fear failure. Leadership requires you to go against the grain and to manage change. When people are resistant to change, they are fearful of loss. Leadership is about managing change through managing this fear of loss. Act confidently; think critically and rationally; anchor yourself in purpose. Be willing and able to use structured decision making in the face of incomplete information.

Leadership requires linguistic skills. Persons exhibiting leadership must be able to translate information among people who listen but often do not hear. This skill requires you to develop relationships. Leadership is about people and developing reciprocal trust. Those exhibiting leadership must be trusted and we must trust others. Otherwise, we have authoritative spans of control, not leadership. Along with trust comes inspiration. Through exhibiting leadership, conservationists inspire people to have conservation as a part of their daily lives almost without thought. Inspiration is arguably the most important outcome of leadership.

Leadership is founded upon the premise that change is good. It has been said that “history is the story of societal adaption to new realities across generations.”¹ New conservation realities are adaptive when they deal with values and emotions; otherwise they are technical. Leadership addresses adaptive challenges, not technical solutions. Because leadership facilitates change and challenges the status quo, persons applying leadership skills will disappoint some others. Leadership is about disappointing people at a rate they can absorb and still be supportive. Leadership requires you to act responsibly and control the temperature of an issue. In some cases, “stand on the balcony” and let the issue work itself; in other cases “get down on the dance floor” and increase or decrease the heat on an issue.

In addition to asking Conclave participants about persons who they thought have exhibited exceptional leadership, I asked about leadership qualities they thought most important. Interestingly, but not surprisingly, there were significant overlap in the answers.

I then was asked to describe my leadership style in five words. As I stated in my January 2013 address, I carry a card in my wallet that reads: To be a true professional, strive always to: practice visionary leadership; 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.²

Embracing these personal admonishments, to describe my leadership style in five words, I chose: strategic, adaptive, integrated, thoughtful, and inspirational.

These are some of my thoughts about leadership and ways that I try to practice good leadership to effect sound conservation and to benefit others. Whether I am successful or not, only time will tell. As I have challenged myself, I challenge each of you to think about how you can best use your leadership abilities to inspire others and further conservation. While our historical successes are many, our current and future challenges are daunting. We need conservationists who are willing to step up, and step out, into new leadership roles so that we can get on with the many tasks at hand. I hope that collectively you will be these conservationists.

¹Stark, R. 2013. The importance of adaptive leadership.

²Cobb, D.T. 2013. President’s Address. The Wildlife Society, Southeastern Section Newsletter. 55:1-3.

David T. Cobb
Southeastern Section of TWS, President



SOUTHEASTERN SECTION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

One of the most-oft cited clichés this time of year is that spring brings renewal. However, this is a cliché that I don't mind hearing, or experiencing. Spring really is an almost magical time. It seems that overnight, bare-limbed hardwood trees shrug off the cold of winter and burst forth in the promise of new life. Neotropical migrants begin their trip back to breeding grounds and nothing cheers up a backyard more than a radiant male cardinal staking his claim in the world. This morning, I have been watching a flock of cedar waxwings devour fruit from an ornamental yaupon outside my office window. Resident birds, such as my favorite denizen of the spring woods, wild turkeys, also begin the annual cycle of birth and renewal. Onto some news and information.

Sometime in the next couple of months, TWS members will receive their annual ballots. For SE Section members, we will be voting for a new Vice President of TWS. Also, there will be a vote for a bylaws change that will streamline and modernize our election process, specifically addressing electronic voting. I encourage each member to become informed about the VP candidates, read up on the proposed bylaws change, and then VOTE. If you have any questions or need follow-up about ballot items, please feel free to contact me.

Council held its March meeting in Washington, D.C. at the beginning of the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference. This was the first Council meeting with TWS's new Executive Director, **Ken Williams**. It was nice to meet with Ken and I look forward to working with him during my time on Council. A highlight of our deliberations was a visit by Dan Ashe, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I enjoyed hearing Dan's perspective on some issues facing all wildlife professionals and very much appreciate him taking the time to come in and speak to Council. I think this visit emphasizes the value that the USFWS, and other agencies, sees in TWS and our efforts as a science-based conservation organization.

In Ken's first address to Council, he provided a broad vision of TWS and specifically addressed the most pressing issues for the Society. As I mentioned in the January newsletter, returning TWS to firm financial footing is a priority at this time. Although we have made great strides in bringing alignment between spending and income, there is still a lot of work to do to overcome a multi-year legacy of lack of adequate financial control. Ken plans to work with staff and Council to find ways for TWS to work more efficiently and to generate additional revenue for TWS. TWS staff has already done a remarkable job of "doing more with less" and are to be commended for their continued strong work effort under trying financial times. These financial issues will be one of the primary topics when Council gets together for a 2 day strategic planning meeting scheduled for just prior to the annual meeting in Milwaukee this fall. Trust that staff and your Council are taking these financial issues very seriously and are actively seeking ways to continue to serve our members and the wildlife resource while maintaining a positive financial portfolio. You can go to <http://news.wildlife.org/the-wildlifer/the-wildlifer-2013-april/council-meeting-highlights-2/> to see highlights from the Council meeting, including the Policy Priorities for 2013.

I would be remiss to not congratulate and recognize the newest TWS staff employee. Our own **Dr. Katie Edwards**, a proud Mississippi State graduate, assumed the duties of Professional Development Coordinator with TWS. Katie replaces Shannon Pederson who left TWS to pursue a doctoral degree at the University of Maryland. As you should know, Katie has performed in an exemplary manner as our SE Section newsletter editor, something she is continuing to do even in her new job. So, congratulations to Katie on the new position and best wishes to Shannon as she pursues her degree.

FROM PAGE 3

I just wanted to cover a few other miscellaneous items before I close. First, if you subscribe to JWM and/or WSB, you should be receiving electronic notices when new issues are available. We have noted that some members are not receiving these notices. If you are not receiving them, please let me know so this can be addressed. Second, the annual TWS meeting will be Milwaukee during the first week of October. I expect another fantastic annual meeting and encourage you make plans to attend.

Finally, as you may know one of the programs that TWS was unable to internally fund in 2013 was the Leadership Institute. This is a very important program to help train young professionals who have been identified as future potential leaders in our profession. The support

of Dallas Safari Club, along with solicited support from Sections (including the SE Section), Chapters (thanks to the Mississippi State Chapter), and members will ensure this program takes place in 2013 with 10 participants. Read more at <http://news.wildlife.org/featured/dallas-safari-club-supports-twss-leadership-institute/>.

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!

Submitted by: Darren Miller
Southeastern Section Representative to TWS Council

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DEER COMMITTEE

Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting Successful in South Carolina

The 2013 Southeast Deer Study Group was hosted by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources in Greenville. Special thanks go to **Charles Ruth** for his leadership. The meeting was attended by 291 biologists and interested persons. There were 33 oral presentations, with a record-tying 23 student presentations, and 5 posters. **Michael Cherry** from the University of Georgia won the outstanding student oral presentation award. **Jacob Haus** from the University of Delaware won the outstanding student poster presentation award. The Career Achievement Award was not given this year. The 2014 conference will be hosted by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Submitted by: Steve Demarais
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STUDENT AWARDS COMMITTEE

NO NEWS REPORTED

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

NO NEWS REPORTED



COMMITTEE REPORTS

FROM PAGE 4

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. 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 26 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

ANNOUNCEMENT

TWS and Amazon.com

Hey Fans of The Wildlife Society: Now when you shop on Amazon, you can help support TWS by clicking on <http://wildlife.org/amazon>. TWS will earn a commission for everything you buy at Amazon at no extra charge to you. This is a great way to help support your Society.



Robert Pos, USFWS

STATE REPORTS

ALABAMA



Alabama Chapter TWS (ACTWS)

The ACTWS annual meeting was held March 13-14 in Auburn. The first day consisted of professional development training on social media and web tools to increase work efficiency. The second day consisted of technical presentations and the business meeting. Approximately 45 members and students were in attendance. The best Student Oral Presentation winner was **Clint McCoy**, Breeding season movements of male white-tailed deer: Do yearlings employ an alternative strategy? The best Student Poster Presentation winner was **Maureen McClintock**, Plasticity of incubation behavior: using nest microclimate to understand energetic tradeoffs of female Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*).

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

David Hayden was named 2012 Wildlife Biologist of the Year by SEAFWA. SEAFWA Wildlife Biologist of the Year is the organization's most prestigious award given annually to a single wildlife biologist from one of its member states. After graduating from Northwestern Louisiana State University in 1970 with a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Management, and Louisiana State University in 1972 with a Master of Science in Game Management, Hayden worked in private sector wildlife resource positions for 14 years prior to joining WFF. Hayden began his career with WFF in 1986 as a State Waterfowl and Wetland Biologist. During his tenure as State Waterfowl Biologist, David served in many capacities that greatly benefitted Alabama's waterfowl hunters and resources including providing technical assistance to countless landowners and clubs regarding management of waterfowl and wetland habitats. Hayden also coordinated Alabama's waterfowl research and management programs, including a large-scale wood duck nest box program, banding programs, and maintenance of banding records. Hayden was also instrumental in coordinating with Ducks Unlimited to implement several projects in Alabama that greatly benefitted waterfowl habitat

and hunting opportunities. In addition to state and regional waterfowl projects, Hayden has also represented Alabama on the Mississippi Flyway Council technical committee, a collaborative group of North American waterfowl managers. Hayden currently serves as Assistant Chief of the Wildlife Section for the WFF. Hayden, a 27-year WFF veteran, supervises the operations of 34 Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), two wildlife refuges, two wildlife sanctuaries, and 19 physically disabled hunter areas. Additionally, he performs numerous other duties that are required for the Wildlife Section to function smoothly, and he routinely provides guidance and direction to WFF staff members to assist them in accomplishing their duties. Hayden continues to serve on several regional and national committees that advocate for Alabama's wildlife resources.

Submitted by: Jim Schrenkel
Certified Wildlife Biologist®
WFF
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ARKANSAS



Arkansas Chapter

The Arkansas Chapter held their spring meeting on March 14 at the Potlatch Conservation Education Center in Casscoe, Arkansas. The meeting began with a field trip to White River National Wildlife Refuge. The field trip was led by **Jeff Denman**, Supervisory Forester, and **Jay Hitchcock**, Wildlife Biologist for the White River NWR. Participants were shown areas that are being managed with the use of timber treatments to achieve desired forest conditions. Following lunch, the group convened at the AGFC Potlatch Conservation Education Center at Cook's Lake for the afternoon session of scientific papers. The Chapter presented two awards to students who presented posters at the 2013 Arkansas State Science Fair in Conway on March 29th. The first place award went to **Madison Heflin** of Ridgway Christian School for her project, "Quack Attack", which focused on the relative efficiency of

STATE REPORTS

FROM PAGE 6

wooden and artificial calls. The second place award went to Lance Blocker of white Hall High School for "Hunters Beware: Does weather affect duck season."

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Jacob Bokker, Field Biologist in AGFC's Region 2, was recently named as the Commission's Wildlife Biologist of the Year for 2012. **Ray Holden**, the Natural Resource Program Technician for the Scott Henderson Gulf Mountain WMA received the Commission's Technician of the Year Award. **Joshua Massey** is a new wildlife technician (Region 1), **Mark Hutchings** is a new Field Biologist in Region 7. **David Covington** transferred from the Private Lands section to be the Field Biologist for Hurricane Lake WMA (and many others). **B. Lorne Green** has come on as a field biologist. **Jeff Lawson** was promoted from technician to field biologist at the Camden office. **Clint Johnson** was promoted from technician to Private Lands Biologist and will work out of the Mayflower office. **JP Fairhead** was promoted from Field Biologist to Biologist Program Specialist and assigned to work as the wild hog coordinator.

Submitted by: Blake Sasse
Nongame Mammal/Furbearer Program Leader
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Tim Bowman, USFWS

FLORIDA



Florida Chapter 2013 Spring Conference

The Florida Chapter of TWS (FTWS) held its spring conference in Melbourne Beach, Florida on April 10-12, 2013. The conference had a Symposium on Florida Grasshopper Sparrow Conservation; a Plenary Session on "Imperiled Species Conservation: Managing in the Face of Conflict" that covered python, raptors, Florida panther recovery and other issues; Poster Session; and other many professional technical and student presentations.

Several awards were given during the Banquet portion of the conference that included:

- 15th Annual Greater Everglades Student Memorial Scholarship \$2,000.00 – **Julie Perreau**, UF
- Paul Mohler Herptological Award – **Dr. Richard Seigel**
- Best Student Paper – **Jennifer Chastant**, FAU

President's special recognition awards:

- **Dale Crider**, Charter member, first Chapter President for extraordinary vision and dedication in establishing and then leading the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society.
- **Becky Bolt** for exemplary performance as Conservation Chair of the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society.
- **Hugh Boyter** for exemplary performance as a Conservation Committee member of the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society.
- **Mike Milleson** for masterful use of web-based technology.
- **Maria Zondervan** for exemplary performance as Program Chair of the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Also at the conference a special screening of the film "Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition" was shown, hosted by award-winning cinematographer, **Elam Stoltfus**. This film captures the 1000 miles-100 day trek by a team of biologist and naturalist across various habitat types of public and private land

STATE REPORTS

FROM PAGE 7

from the Florida Keys to the Okefenokee NWR. Many species of wildlife were filmed and there were several guest interviews from public and private officials about the success of Florida conservation and wildlife corridors..

Florida Chapter 2013 Executive Board 2013-2015

It was announced at the FTWS Spring Conference in Melbourne Beach, Florida the FTWS Executive Board for 2013-2015:

President – **Erin Meyers**, D.V.M.
President Elect – **Rebecca Bolt**
Past President – **Dale Gawlik**, Ph.D.
Treasurer – **Marsha Ward**
Secretary – **Stefanie Nagid**
Member-at-Large – **Holly Ober**, Ph.D.
Member-at-Large – **Larame Ferry**
Southeastern Representative – **Patrick Delaney**

You can read more about the new Executive Board at <http://www.fltws.org/executive-board/>



FLTWS President – Erin Meyers, D.V.M.

Prescribed Fire For Wildlife

Over 40 land managers successfully completed the “PRESCRIBED FIRE FOR WILDLIFE” at the Everglades Youth Camp at the JW Corbett WMA, in West Palm Beach, on March 18-21, 2013. The Florida Chapter was a co-sponsor of a training session for land managers, which examines wildlife habitat management opportunities associated with prescribed fire in Florida.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

FWC Updates Permit Guidelines As Gopher Tortoises Start Springtime Maneuvers

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) approved revisions to its gopher tortoise permitting guidelines April 18 at its meeting near Tallahassee. The guidelines are based on stakeholder input and designed to be consistent with the updated Gopher Tortoise Management Plan approved in September 2012.

Updated permitting guidelines provide adequate financial planning for the long-term management of gopher tortoise recipient sites, stipulations for the capture of tortoises for relocation when using a backhoe, and criteria to define when to suspend, revoke or not renew an authorized gopher tortoise agent permit.

Submitted by: Alan Alshouse
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Florida Southeastern Representative

GEORGIA



NO NEWS REPORTED

STATE REPORTS

FROM PAGE 8

KENTUCKY



Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR):

KDFWR lost two long-time supporters with the deaths of retired KDFWR division directors **Charles Bowers Jr.**, and **Earl Gray**. Bowers, worked for department for 32 years, 11 of them as director of the Fisheries Division. Gray retired after 34 years with the Law Enforcement Division, serving as its colonel from 1999 to 2002. Wildlife Division personnel have implemented a systematic survey of the Green River Lake WMA using GPS-enabled radio collars and remote cameras to document presence/absence of bobcats and identify occupancy patterns, habitat use, movement patterns, and survival. During 2012, 829 captive-spawned young-of-the-year Kentucky Arrow Darters were released into a stream within the Daniel Boone National Forest. All individuals were marked with high-visibility elastomer (VIE) tags prior to their release. Mark-recapture surveys in early 2013 resulted in the capture of 47 (5.7%) of the tagged fish. Most fish were found in pools (8-12 inches deep) with mixed-sized rock substrate with exposed areas of bedrock and often with marginal cover (e.g., undercut or tree roots); surveys will be conducted on a seasonal basis to monitor survival and movements. Anglers removed over 82,000 lbs of Asian carp from Kentucky and Barkley lakes in March as part of KDFWR's first "Carp Madness" tournament. The sportfish bycatch was very low and mortality essentially nonexistent. The tournament was a first effort toward establishing a force strong enough to manage Asian carp numbers in the lakes. Sgt. **David Kuhn** was selected as the 2012 Kentucky State Chapter NWTF Conservation Officer of the Year.

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

LOUISIANA



Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF)

The LDWF is pleased to report the continued effort of the re-introduction of whooping cranes to the state of Louisiana. The project is currently within its third year with a total of 40 cranes released within the Louisiana marshes. To date, 26 of these 40 birds released have survived. The current population is comprised of 15 females and 11 males.

Recently, a pair of reintroduced whooping cranes constructed a nest mound in an agricultural setting in southwestern Louisiana. The LDWF views this nest attempt as a positive first step for the whooping crane project and a sign that the birds are "practicing" adult nesting behavior. However, due to the young age of these birds, we do not anticipate the birds laying eggs at this nest platform. The reintroduction of the fourth cohort of cranes is tentatively scheduled for early winter 2013.

For more information on the historic re-introduction of whooping cranes to Louisiana, visit <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/wildlife/whooping-cranes>.

Submitted by Carrie Salyers
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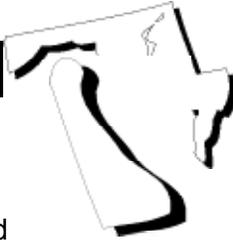


The photo entitled "Louisiana Whooping cranes" is a photo of two (male and female) of the reintroduced Louisiana whooping cranes. The photo was taken 4-19-13 by Carrie Salyers, LDWF.

STATE REPORTS

FROM PAGE 9

MARYLAND/DELAWARE

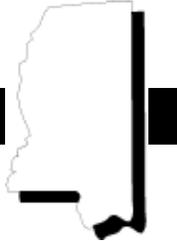


Maryland-Delaware Chapter

The Maryland-Delaware Chapter held its spring meeting at New Germany State Park in western Maryland on April 25 and 26. Chapter members were brought up to date on white-nose syndrome in bats in the mid-Atlantic region and learned of the minor impact re-introductions of river otters are having on fish rearing facilities in Pennsylvania. The chapter is planning to celebrate its upcoming 25th anniversary this fall.

Submitted by: Art Abrams
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MISSISSIPPI



Mississippi Chapter

Annual Fall Meeting Announcement and Call for Papers

The Mississippi Chapter TWS annual meeting will be held September 26-27th, 2013, at the Museum of Natural Science in Jackson. The Jackson Hilton will be the host hotel. Submissions of contributed papers and posters on topics of wildlife ecology, management, conservation, human dimensions, education, or policy are invited. Abstracts will not be published and authors are encouraged to submit their most recent work. Abstracts for research in progress will also be accepted.

Oral presenters will have 20 minutes (15 minute presentation followed by 5 minutes for questions). Poster presenters should plan to set-up posters beginning Thursday morning prior to Keynote address, and be prepared to present their information during the poster session from 6-7:30 pm Thursday evening.

Abstracts should be < 300 words, include a proper title, coauthor information including affiliation and address, and corresponding author contact information. All abstracts can be submitted via e-mail

attachment in Microsoft Word ® (.doc or .docx) or Adobe PDF format to **Jessica Tegt** at jtegt@cfr.msstate.edu with 'MSTWS Abstract' in the e-mail subject. The deadline for abstracts is June 1, 2013. Notifications will be given by June 30, 2013.

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP)

Staff Changes

Ed Penny will be moving from his position as Wildlife Bureau Director to assume the duties of Director of Conservation Programs. He will replace **Ron Seiss**, who recently retired from the agency and accepted a position with The Nature Conservancy. **Chad Dacus** will move up from Assistant Wildlife Bureau Director to replace Ed. **Chris McDonald** will move back to the Wildlife Bureau from his Outreach and Recruitment Coordinator position in Conservation Programs, replacing Chad as Assistant Director. **Brad Young**, Bear Program Leader, left MDWFP to replace **Cathy Shropshire**, the recently retired Executive Director of the Mississippi Wildlife Federation.

Mississippi State University (MSU)

MSU Waterfowl Program Receives National Award

MSU's waterfowl and wetlands science program was recently honored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The North American Waterfowl Management Plan, a program of the service's Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, gave the Blue-winged Teal Award to MSU's program because of its significant contributions to waterfowl, other wetland-associated migratory bird populations, and wetlands habitats.

Richard M. Kaminski, professor in MSU's Forest and Wildlife Research Center and College of Forest Resources, has dedicated his career to conserving and understanding wetland habitats and the birds that rely on their natural resources. He was named holder of the James C. Kennedy Endowed Chair in Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation in 2008. As chair, he leads MSU's award-winning waterfowl and wetlands science and conservation program.

STATE REPORTS

FROM PAGE 10

Kaminski and his colleagues are recognized as leaders in waterfowl and wetlands science education. Their studies have been instrumental in strengthening the science and importance of winter habitat conditions on waterfowl populations.

More than 40 MSU graduates work directly or indirectly to implement the North American Waterfowl Management Plan locally, nationally, and internationally. The MSU group has worked to ensure that the conservation priorities and strategies in the plan reflect contemporary science.

Thomas E. Moorman, director of science and public policy for Ducks Unlimited, Inc. complimented the 12 program graduates currently employed by the non-profit conservation organization. "The depth and breadth of Rick's former students is both remarkable and a testament to the MSU program," Moorman said. "His vision to ensure the future of waterfowl is possible through development of a cadre of professionals that provide exceptional service to our field."

MSU's program focuses on research and outreach as well as academics, carrying out the university's land-grant mission. "Rick and the MSU program have truly excelled at both the research and outreach side of their mission," said **John M. Eadie**, chair of the Department of Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology at the University of California-Davis. "Very little of their work sits dusty in file cabinets or buried in theses on library shelves."

Alumnus **Mike Brasher** nominated the waterfowl group for the award. Kaminski accepted the award on behalf of the program at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference on March 27 in Arlington, Virginia.

Ducks Unlimited

Staff Changes

Hunter Pridgen is the new Regional Director for Mississippi. Hunter hails from Greenwood and has been involved with DU as a volunteer since age 15. He graduated from Mississippi State University with a bachelor's degree in Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture and, while there, was the Area Chairman for the MSU Chapter. Hunter started April 1.

MDWFP Reaches \$1 Million Milestone

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 onto 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 present award to MDWFP Executive Director Sam Polles and Commission Chairman Jerry Munro.

STATE REPORTS

FROM PAGE 11

Youth Wetlands and Waterfowl Camp

The fourth annual Mississippi youth wetlands and waterfowl camp was a great success. Organized by the MDWFP, the camp provides youths ages 13-16 the opportunity to learn about wetlands ecology and waterfowl biology, hunting ethics, conservation, and waterfowl identification. The four-day camp took place at Gumbo Flats Lodge near Lambert, Mississippi. The 12 campers spent time on wildlife management areas viewing Ducks Unlimited and partner projects, watched waterfowl on Coldwater National Wildlife Refuge and were instructed in shotgunning and waterfowl hunting.

The camp includes classroom lessons on waterfowl identification, waterfowl annual life cycle, waterfowl habitat needs, conservation, and wetlands ecology. Hands-on learning through waterfowl dissection, invertebrate sampling, field observation, and retriever-training demonstrations from Wildrose Kennels culminated in a waterfowl hunt the final morning of the camp. During the camp, the youths

had the opportunity to try a variety of wild game and meet various wildlife and natural resources professionals and conservation-minded volunteers.

The goal of the camp is to present youths with an opportunity to learn about wetlands and waterfowl conservation and to try their hand at waterfowl hunting. Supported by a MDWFP Youth Participation Initiative grant, the campers are provided with waders, jackets, duck calls, and hats they keep, and provided with shotguns and shells to use during the camp as needed.

Photos free of charge – credit Justin Thayer - available at: <https://picasaweb.google.com/100636478859024905512/20122013YouthWaterfowlHuntingAndEducationCamp?authuser=0&authkey=Gv1sRgCPDMgvuXjqOuOw&feat=directlink>

Submitted by: Randy Spencer
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Youth Waterfowl Campers Learn Invertebrate Sampling Techniques (Photo courtesy of Justin Thayer).

NORTH CAROLINA



North Carolina Chapter (NCTWS)

The NCTWS held its 2013 Annual Meeting at the Eastern 4-H Environmental Education Conference Center, Columbia, NC, February 25-27, 2013. The meeting's theme was "Invasive Species: Challenges and Opportunities in Wildlife Conservation." Presentation topics reflected the theme as well as various other subjects on wildlife conservation and habitat management in North Carolina. Topics included feral hogs, nutria, armadillo, Mediterranean gecko, invasive plants, coyotes, house mice, prescribed fire, biofuels, American oystercatchers, Bachman's sparrows, vulture effigies, wild turkey, coastal water birds, and "The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation." The Program Committee is busy planning next year's meeting which will focus on ecological restoration. Visit www.nctws.org for upcoming details.

In 2016, North Carolina will host the annual TWS Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina. A steering committee will be finalized in the coming weeks and will begin planning the meeting with TWS.

Student Chapters

The North Carolina State University student chapter, the Leopold Wildlife Club, hosted the 2013 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave in Southern Pines, North Carolina, March 7-10. The event was a huge success, and the two North Carolina student chapters competing did extremely well. Congratulations go to Haywood Community College, who took third place overall and ranked in the top three in eight separate events. Congratulations also go to Western Carolina University, who ranked fifth overall, placing in five events. We are very proud of all our student chapters and recognize the hard work and dedication of students and faculty mentors alike.

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC)

This past winter, North Carolina became one of fifteen states participating in a large-scale Golden Eagle monitoring project. It is believed that Golden Eagle occurrence in the Appalachians is somewhat rare. This project will help biologists document winter distribution and habitat use. NCWRC field staff, agency partners, landowners, and volunteers installed 11 bait stations with motion-sensing cameras in the mountain and coastal regions. Stations were baited with road-killed deer staked to the ground. Cameras detected Golden Eagles at 5 mountain stations. The total number of Golden Eagles visiting these stations in North Carolina was estimated at 8-11. Besides documenting eagles (including bald eagles at a few stations), cameras recorded many other interesting wildlife interactions, particularly between bobcats and coyotes. At least 18 different species of mammals and birds were caught on camera visiting the stations, including a spotted skunk which represented a new county record in the mountains. For more information and photos, visit www.appalachianeagles.org.



Golden eagle over deer carcass at camera trap station in the North Carolina mountain region. Photo courtesy of the NCWRC.



FROM PAGE 13



Coyote and bobcat interaction over bait at golden eagle camera trap station in the North Carolina mountain region. Photo courtesy of the NCWRC.

USFS-National Forests in North Carolina

Efforts are underway to revise the long-term forest management plans for the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests in North Carolina. These plans will guide forest management and resource use for the next 10-15 years. The revision process includes a three-phase approach--assessment, planning, and monitoring—and will take several years to complete. Visit www.fs.usda.gov/detail/nfsnc/landmanagement/planning for updates and information on upcoming public meetings and other ways to get involved.

Submitted by: Lori Williams
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OKLAHOMA



Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

SAVE THE DATE!

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation invites you to the 67th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies at the Renaissance Hotel, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The Fisheries and Wildlife Sessions will include:

1. Oral presentations of manuscripts to be published in the peer-reviewed Journal of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.
2. Presentations submitted for oral presentation only, no publication requirement.
3. Poster Presentations.

Deadline for peer-reviewed manuscripts: June 7, 2013.

Deadline for non-peer reviewed presentations: July 1, 2013.

Visit <http://www.seafwa.org/conferences/2013/index.html> for more information.

Student Chapter Update

By: Jennifer Drooby

This past year the student chapter of The Wildlife Society has participated in a plethora of events. In the fall, we helped with the Oklahoma State University natural resource ecology and management department booth and volunteered for other events at the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation's (ODWC) Wildlife Expo. We had several field days to practice skills that we learned in class and out in the field, such as orienteering, telemetry, quail trapping, and different survey methods to measure density and abundance. Also, as an end of the semester/Christmas party, we had an invasive species costume party.

FROM PAGE 14

This spring has been even busier. We started off with helping with the National Society for Range Management meeting in Oklahoma City. In February we had our annual wild game dinner, Beast-feast, as a fundraiser for the chapter. We partnered with the Natural Resource Ecology and Management department and the Oklahoma Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Unit to host internationally known wildlife photographer **Tom Ulrich**, for a presentation of this work from the past year. The chapter had a booth set of that the Relay for Life event in Stillwater, this past April.

The student chapter has also been a part of two different surveys. The first is the deer browse survey at Lake McMurtry, to provide information to Lake McMurtry Friends as to whether or not the deer population could handle hunting pressure. Our data found that the population is at or just above carrying capacity. The second survey that we are helping to conduct is for Greater Prairie Chickens in Osage county, this is in partnership with the ODWC and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The new officer team is beginning to plan for next year and one of the exciting things we are looking forward to be going to the Southeastern Regional Wildlife Conclave, a competition of wildlife clubs throughout the region. It's been an exciting year and we are looking forward to another one.

Oklahoma Prescribed Burn Association

The Noble Foundation entered into a strategic relationship with the Oklahoma Prescribed Burn Association (OPBA) to advance the use of prescribed fire as a safe, economical and effective land management practice in Oklahoma.

To recognize the importance of land stewardship and the role of prescribed fire, the OPBA, the Noble Foundation and this strategic relationship were recognized in a special ceremony on the floor of the House of Representatives as part of the annual Conservation Day activities at the State Capitol in Oklahoma City.

The OPBA and the Noble Foundation, the largest independent nonprofit agricultural research organization in the United States, agreed that the Noble Foundation would provide essential support (resources and personnel) to enable the conduct of OPBA operations and programs. As part of this support, Russell Stevens, Noble Foundation wildlife and fisheries consultant, will serve as coordinator and acting head of the OPBA.

“The goals of the OPBA align with the Noble Foundation’s mission to promote responsible stewardship of the land,” said **Bill Buckner**, president and CEO of the Noble Foundation. “Prescribed burns are vital to ensuring the health and vitality of our native rangeland and farmlands, and Oklahoma is now poised to provide a comprehensive resource to our landowners.”

The OPBA was formally established as a nonprofit in early 2013 after two years of statewide meetings to gauge interest and garner support from all key organizations. The OPBA will establish, educate and assist a statewide network of local burn associations across Oklahoma. The new nonprofit will also serve to educate the public and policymakers about the need to use prescribed fire and the safety of this management practice.

“The formation of the OPBA is one of the most important steps to help landowners reclaim the Oklahoma landscape naturally,” said **John Weir**, research associate with Oklahoma State University Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management. “The OPBA will provide landowners with a clearinghouse of information, training and funding opportunities to help them safely and effectively apply fire to their lands.



SOUTH CAROLINA



The Nature Conservancy

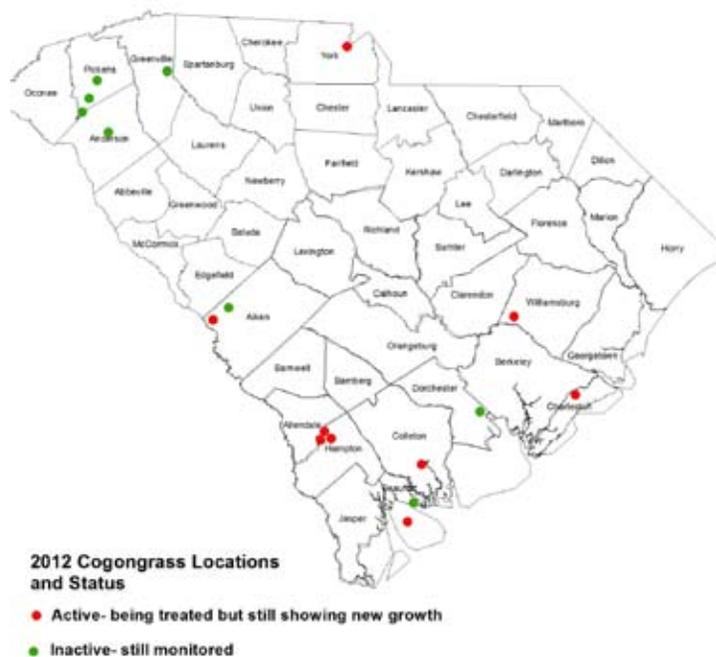
The Nature Conservancy is requesting volunteers for the 2013 Cogongrass Survey. Cogongrass is often called one of the world's worst weeds. It is a non-native invasive species that was imported from Asia. It was first used as packing material in shipping early in the 20th century. The plant became established in southern Alabama before the negative environmental impacts were fully understood. Cogongrass is now listed as a federal noxious weed and has spread throughout the Southeastern United States.

Cogongrass can be identified by the flower, or seed head, which blooms from the end of April to the middle of June. The flower is silvery white in color, cylindrical in shape, very soft and ranges in length from 2 to 8 inches. The seeds are light and fluffy, similar to the seeds on a mature dandelion. Cogongrass spreads through wind-blown seed and movement of rhizomes. Once established, it can choke out native plants and destroy sources of food for wildlife. Because Cogongrass burns hotter than native species, the potential for intense wildfire is much greater.



Cogongrass seed head. Photo by Steve Compton, DPI.

In 2007, a taskforce was formed in South Carolina which included Federal, State, non-profit organizations, and concerned citizens to survey and combat Cogongrass. In the spring when Cogongrass blooms, volunteers search roadsides, old nursery sites, nature preserves, and flea markets for Cogongrass. This taskforce has been extremely successful, having identified Cogongrass at approximately 35 sites in 12 South Carolina counties. Spot infestations of Cogongrass have been detected in Allendale, Anderson, Aiken, Beaufort, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Greenville, Williamsburg, Hampton, York, and Pickens Counties. Of the 35 sites, approximately 15 have been Cogongrass free for 2 or more years post treatment. Continuation of these annual surveys may help to keep cogongrass from spreading in South Carolina.



The Cogongrass Taskforce is asking for volunteers to help with the 2013 survey during the months of April through June.

Training materials for identification and surveys can be found on the Cogongrass website: <http://www.clemson.edu/cafls/cogongrass>.

STATE REPORTS

FROM PAGE 16

If you think you've found a location with Cogongrass, do not dig or disturb the site. Call DPI (864-646-2140) or report the location on the form provided on the Clemson Cogongrass Website.

Submitted by: Nicole Chadwick Hawkins
SC Chapter TWS,
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Roadside Cogongrass in Hampton County. Photo by Fred Singleton, DPI.

TENNESSEE



Tennessee Chapter

The Tennessee Chapter of the Wildlife Society held its 36th annual conference at Paris Landing State Park March 5-7th. The title of the conference was "Wildlife Management and Conservation in Changing Times". The first day of the conference featured 9 student presentations. **Teresa Moody's** paper titled "Skinks Contribute to the low risk of Lyme Disease in Tennessee" was awarded the outstanding student paper award. Teresa is a MS candidate at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. The second day of the conference highlighted 10 wildlife professionals covering a variety of topics including; Alternative Roost Sites for Bats, NWR expansion in TN, Wildlife Impacts of Wind Farms, and Climate Trends in TN.

The charity auction and banquet raised more than \$1,100 to benefit the chapter's student scholarship fund. The conference concluded with the annual business meeting.

Swicegood Completes Internship With TWRA

Amber Swicegood completed a Volunteer Internship with the TWRA in April. Amber's work focused wetland management and reforestation on WMA's in west TN. Amber is a Junior at Haywood Community College.



Amber Swicegood completes internship in wetland management and reforestation.

Submitted by: Patrick Lemons
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VIRGINIA



Virginia Chapter

The 2013 Annual winter meeting was held February 12-13 at the Skelton 4-H Center at Smith Mountain Lake. We had great attendance. Thanks to everyone who participated.

FROM PAGE 17

US Fish and Wildlife Service Restoring Dismal Swamp Hydrology

Seven water control structures were recently installed on drainage ditches in Great Dismal Swamp NWR. The ditches were dug by previous landowners to aid logging operations that occurred in the swamp before the refuge was established in 1976. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service worked with multiple partners to secure funding for the structures, including: The Nature Conservancy of Virginia, Albemarle Pamlico National Estuarine Program, VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Norfolk Southern, Ducks Unlimited, North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Dismal Swamp State Park.

The structures will allow land managers to more closely approximate natural hydrologic conditions by raising water levels in 30 miles of ditches. This will help reduce drainage from approximately 5000 acres of peat soils in the Great Dismal Swamp NWR and 6500 acres of peat in the Dismal Swamp State Park of North Carolina. Raising water levels will help restore forested wetland vegetation, expand migratory bird habitat, and help reduce the risk of severe peat fires.

Radford Student Chapter

The Radford University student chapter of the Wildlife Society (RUTWS) has been staying busy for the past few months and is continuing to pick up the pace with this spring semester. In November, RUTWS had 22 volunteers assist with a Claytor Lake Mussel Rescue. Each November, electric utility company AEP decreases the water level at Claytor Lake by several feet to allow dock owners time to clean up around and repair their structures which leaves mussels open for desiccation or open predation. RUTWS helped “rescue” the mussels by throwing them back into the water and saved almost 2,000 mussels in a matter of 2 days. We also had a guest speaker, **Carol Zokaites** come speak to us about Project Underground (karst [cave] education – a national program) and her current work with White-nose Syndrome in bats. This was a great educational experience for our members!

Our attendance to the annual VATWS state conference was a great experience and we had

fourteen students in total partake in the meeting. Three students (**John Huth**, **Devon Silva**, and **Nikohl Miller**) gave oral presentations and four students (**Kelsey Townsend**, **Melissa Whistleman**, **Dorothy Landgren**, and **Laken Cooper**) presented posters at this meeting. Sophomore **Brenna Hyzy** was elected as the student representative for the state chapter for the 2013-2014 term. Senior **John Huth** was the 2013 winner of the student wildlife scholarship from the Virginia Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Our schedule this spring semester was full, and included our main event of the year: Bioblitz on April 13. Bioblitz is a day spent educating the general public about the environment and the native inhabitants. There, members of Radford University, a Virginia Tech grad student, and multiple Virginia Master Naturalists stepped up and really helped us out. They demonstrated surveying techniques and provided us all with a hands-on educational experience!

We also assisted with Radford’s Roosting Fest on March 23 at Bisset Park, and assisted on April 20 with the garlic mustard clean-up at the Cascades. We are happy with all that we’ve accomplished this spring, and look forward to participating in wildlife events at the local and state level.

Virginia Tech Student Chapter

The Virginia Tech Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society attended the Southeastern Regional TWS Conclave this spring hosted by the University of North Carolina. Twenty Virginia Tech students attended, which was the most we have ever had attend conclave. TWS members competed in multiple events including Quizbowl, canoeing, orienteering, obstacle course, lab practical, radio telemetry, turkey calling, dendrology, as well as photography and art contests. Virginia Tech TWS members placed second in Field Photography and drawing and third for lab practical. We appreciate the Virginia Chapter’s generous contribution to our attendance and look forwards to sharing more of what we did during conclave at the State meeting next year.

Submitted by: David Bishop
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STATE REPORTS

FROM PAGE 18

DUCKS UNLIMITED

Staff Changes

Joe Fifer is a new engineering intern with DU. Joe is a North Little Rock native and earned his B.S. in civil engineering from the University of Arkansas. He was previously a civil superintendant on a large water treatment plant in San Bruno, California, and worked as a field engineer on the IHNC Sector Gate project in New Orleans. His experience also includes the construction of hurricane protection levees in Chalmette, LA and the widening project on the Huey P. Long Bridge in New Orleans. Joe's engineering and construction experience will greatly enhance the engineering efforts out of the Lafayette Field Station.

Hunter Pridgen is the new Regional Director for Mississippi. Hunter hails from Greenwood and has been involved with DU as a volunteer since age 15. He graduated from Mississippi State University with a bachelor's degree in Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture and, while there, was the Area Chairman for the MSU Chapter. Hunter started April 1.

Awards

At the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Arlington, VA, three of Ducks Unlimited's finest were recognized with very special awards. **Gary Taylor** (Director, Governmental Affairs), **Ken Babcock** (Senior Director of Conservation) and **Jim Ringelman** (Director of Conservation Programs in the Great Plains) were presented with the highest level award from The Wildlife Management Institute, the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, respectively. This recognition demonstrates in a material way the caliber of people we have here at DU. These highly competitive awards come from peers who value the work these individuals and the organization does.

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

Alabama

Alabama Biologist Recognized

David Hayden has been named 2012 Wildlife Biologist of the Year by the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA). Hayden currently serves as Assistant Chief of the Wildlife Section for the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF). SEAFWA Wildlife Biologist of the Year is the organization's most prestigious award given annually to a single wildlife biologist from one of its member states.

Hayden, a 27-year WFF veteran, supervises the operations of 34 Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), two wildlife refuges, two wildlife sanctuaries, and 19 physically disabled hunter areas. Hayden began his career with WFF in 1986 as a State Waterfowl and Wetland Biologist.

During his tenure as State Waterfowl Biologist, David served in many capacities that greatly benefitted Alabama's waterfowl hunters and resources including providing technical assistance to countless landowners and clubs regarding management of waterfowl and wetland habitats. Hayden also coordinated Alabama's waterfowl research and management programs, including a large-scale wood duck nest box program, banding programs, and maintenance of banding records. Hayden was also instrumental in coordinating with Ducks Unlimited to implement several projects in Alabama that greatly benefitted waterfowl habitat and hunting opportunities.

Lowndes WMA Enhancement

DU is partnering with the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (ADWFF) to expand and enhance Lowndes County Wildlife



USFWS

Management Area near Montgomery. The purchase of 1,400 acres of frequently flooded wetland habitat along the Alabama River expanded the WMA and waterfowl hunting opportunities for the public. To improve the previously unmanaged habitat, an aerial application of herbicide will be required. In some areas of the new acquisition, woody vegetation is choking out important waterfowl foods and restricting hunter access. The herbicide application will promote waterfowl food plants and ease access for hunters.

Georgia

Arrowhead Project Dedication

Ducks Unlimited, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and several community partners gathered in April to celebrate the completion of a wetland enhancement project on Arrowhead Wildlife Management Area.

The partners were awarded nearly \$40,000 for a wetland restoration project at the DNR-managed complex north of Rome in Floyd County. Through this grant, DU and its partners enhanced a seven-acre wetland that will be managed for waterfowl and used by the Arrowhead Environmental Education Center for outdoor education.

DU's other partners in this project included J. Supply Company, Kerry Brown, Sunbelt Turf Farms and Neely Raper. These partners contributed a total of \$41,840 in construction materials to complete this project. The wetland restoration grant was awarded through the Five Star Restoration Program, which began in 1999 as a partnership between the National

Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), National Association of Counties, the Wildlife Habitat Council and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"Five Star is possible because of a unique collaboration with our public, private and corporate funders," said **Jeff Trandahl**, executive director of the NFWF.

Mississippi

Youth Wetlands and Waterfowl Camp

The fourth annual Mississippi youth wetlands and waterfowl camp was a great success. Organized by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, the camp provides youths ages 13-16 the opportunity to learn about wetlands ecology and waterfowl biology, hunting ethics, conservation and waterfowl identification. The four-day camp took place at Gumbo Flats Lodge near Lambert, Mississippi. The 12 campers spent time on wildlife management areas viewing Ducks Unlimited and partner projects, watched waterfowl on Coldwater National Wildlife Refuge and were instructed in shotgunning and waterfowl hunting.



Partners gather to celebrate completion of a wetland restoration project on Arrowhead WMA.

FROM PAGE 20

The camp includes classroom lessons on waterfowl identification, waterfowl annual life cycle, waterfowl habitat needs, conservation and wetlands ecology. Hands-on learning through waterfowl dissection, invertebrate sampling, field observation and retriever-training demonstrations from Wildrose Kennels culminates in a waterfowl hunt the final morning of the camp. During the camp, the youths have the opportunity to try a variety of wild game and meet various wildlife and natural resources professionals and conservation-minded volunteers.

The goal of the camp is to present youths with an opportunity to learn about wetlands and waterfowl conservation and to try their hand at waterfowl hunting. Supported by a MDWFP Youth Participation Initiative grant, the campers are provided with waders, jackets, duck calls and hats they keep, and provided with shotguns and shells to use during the camp as needed.

Photos free of charge – credit Justin Thayer - available at: <https://picasaweb.google.com/100636478859024905512/20122013YouthWaterfowlHuntingAndEducationCamp?authuser=0&authkey=Gv1sRgCPDMgvuXjqOuOw&feat=directlink>

South Carolina

Santee NWR Project Complete

DU and USFWS partners recently completed a project to improve waterfowl habitat on the Pine Island Unit of the Santee National Wildlife Refuge. Santee NWR covers 18 miles along the northern shore of Lake Marion and protects 15,095 acres in four units. The Pine Island Unit includes three interconnected impoundments which staff were unable to adequately manage with an existing pump. The inability to dewater the area caused encroachment of aquatic invasive plants, mortality of hardwood mast trees in the greentree areas and invasion by undesirable upland vegetation in drier areas in the impoundments. This project replaced the existing pump, created an independent water delivery reservoir at the pump and installed multiple new water control structures, resulting in five separate impoundments which can be independently flooded. Match funds from Santee Cooper supported the control of invasive aquatic plants altering habitat in adjacent property on the lake.



New water control structures will improve management capabilities on waterfowl impoundments at Santee NWR.

Bear Island WMA

Ducks Unlimited is wrapping up its last project to complete the Lowcountry Wetlands Initiative Phase 2 NAWCA grant. A project on Bear Island Wildlife Management Area in Colleton County will improve management capabilities on more than 2,400 acres of wetland impoundments. Water control structures will be installed from March to May 2013. Bear Island WMA, owned by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, is managed to provide quality habitat for wintering waterfowl and other wetland wildlife, including threatened and endangered species such as woodstorks and bald eagles; to provide habitat for upland game and nongame species; and to provide recreational opportunities, including hunting. This project will benefit shorebirds, wading birds, waterfowl and other wetland-dependent species.



Wooden spillway box (aka. Wooden riser) at Bear Island WMA enhances water management capabilities.

Tennessee

DU Volunteers Tour Projects

On a tour organized by Regional Director **Jimbo Robinson**, approximately 40 DU staff and volunteers spent six hours on March 2 touring several projects DU developed in partnership with Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) on White Lake Refuge, Bogota and Thorny Wildlife Management Areas near Dyersburg, Tennessee. The tour gave DU volunteers a chance to see first-hand how their fundraising efforts are translated into habitat on the ground. Participants traveled together on a tour bus, which provided a great opportunity for discussion on various DU topics along the way. Attendees saw several hundred acres of DU-funded bottom-land hardwood reforestation on Thorny WMA and witnessed the results of DU engineering expertise in the construction of moist-soil units at White Lake Refuge and Bogota WMA. They also visited the Dyersburg office of TWRA and met Area Manager **Jason Maxedon**. Jason attended the tour and provided information on the areas and management practices. Besides great habitat and the fruits of their labors, the group also saw several hundred ducks using the DU projects.

North Carolina

Great Dismal Swamp

Ducks Unlimited worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to enhance wetland habitat on Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge is located in southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina and consists of more than 112,000 acres of forested wetlands. Lake Drummond, the largest natural lake in Virginia at 3,100 acres, is located in the heart of the swamp. Through this project, the construction of two weirs will aid in the control and suppression of wildfires and improve wetland habitat on more than 3,700 acres in North Carolina and more than 5,800 acres in Virginia.

Virginia

Mason Neck Dedication

A group of organizations came together on March 14 to celebrate an excellent partnership that enhanced habitat at Mason Neck State Park for waterfowl and other migratory birds. The project was led by Ducks Unlimited; staffed by Mason Neck State Park, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) and the Department of Culture and Natural Resources; funded by a grant from Dominion Virginia Power for \$25,000; and supported by volunteers from Dominion and the Boy Scouts.

Mason Neck is located in southern Fairfax County, adjacent to Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge, the Potomac River and Belmont and Occoquan bays. All are critical areas for migrating and wintering waterfowl. This project not only provides important food resources for waterfowl, but also aids in flood retention, groundwater recharge and reduces soil erosion—all of which improve the overall health of the Chesapeake Bay. DU was represented at the dedication by staff members **Chip Heaps**, **Peter Churchbourne**, and **Jamie Rader**.

FROM PAGE 22

Arkansas

Cache River New NAWCA Grant

As part of the on-going effort to improve wetland habitat on the Cache River National Wildlife Refuge, DU recently received a NAWCA grant supporting further enhancements to the Dixie Farms Hunt Unit and the Plunkett Rest Area. Addition of new levees and water control structures will finalize restoration efforts on the Plunkett Rest Area, a critical habitat resource for waterfowl. The additional work on Dixie Farms Hunt Unit will enhance moist-soil management capacity and increase hunting opportunities.

Arkansas Greenwing Camp

Eighteen youths attended this year's Arkansas Greenwing Camp hosted at DU First Vice President **George Dunklin's** Five Oaks Lodge near Stuttgart, Arkansas. The camp is put on by Ducks Unlimited and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission to provide youths the opportunity to learn about waterfowl, their habitat needs and their annual life cycle. The importance of habitat conservation is a focus of the camp, with particular emphasis on Arkansas' wintering habitats. Waterfowl hunting traditions and

hunting's role in conservation are also discussed. This year's class was composed of 12 boys and 6 girls.

Southwest Conservation Unit – LA, OK, TX, NM

Louisiana

Carencro Bayou Project

DU now has full funding for the Carencro Bayou project in southeast Louisiana, thanks to grants from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), Conoco Phillips and the state of Louisiana. The freshwater introduction project will restore freshwater and sediment inputs to more than 1,500 acres of coastal marsh in Terrebonne Parish. 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 control salinity and maximize flow of fresh water.



DU First VP George Dunklin Jr. (right) with some of the 2013 Arkansas Greenwing Camp participants after a successful hunt

STATE REPORTS

FROM PAGE 23

Bayou L'Ours Terracing Project

A marsh terracing project in Lafourche Parish will begin in spring 2013. The Bayou L'Ours terracing project will enhance approximately 400 acres of coastal marsh just east of Golden Meadow. Through the construction of approximately 20,000 linear feet of terraces, DU and partners will slow wind and wave erosion to allow for marsh vegetation establishment. Project funding is provided by Conoco Phillips, Restore or Retreat and Lafourche Parish Government.

NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

National Wild Turkey Symposium

The first National Wild Turkey Symposium was held in Memphis, Tenn., in 1959, and has been held every 5 years since. It provides a forum for wild turkey researchers to present and share the results of their current research. The 11th National Wild Turkey Symposium will be held in January 2016 in Tucson, AZ. Please see the next page for more information.

Oklahoma

No news reported

Submitted by: Andi Cooper
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BUSINESS

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Elise Smith, USFWS



FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

11th National Wild Turkey Symposium

January 2016, Tucson, AZ

The National Wild Turkey Symposium seeks original research and synthesis papers on the ecology and management of wild turkeys for presentation at the Symposium and publication in the Proceedings. The Symposium occurs every 5 years and brings together state, federal and private wild turkey researchers, land managers, and enthusiasts to exchange ideas relative to ensuring sustainability of the wild turkey resource.

Contributed papers will be peer-reviewed. Submissions can include presentation of original results, case studies, and review articles of pertinent topics. The proposed areas of emphasis for the Symposium include: understanding the future of wild turkey habitat; delivery of science to affect policy; science behind hunter recruitment and retention; and maintaining sustainable wild turkey populations.

Process: Authors are asked to submit an abstract by 20 September 2013. The abstract is limited to 300 words, not including the title, author(s), and author(s) affiliation(s). The abstract must include contact information for the corresponding author. Submit abstracts to: darren.miller@weyerhaeuser.com with "Wild Turkey Symposium abstract" in the email subject line. An Editorial Board will review all submitted abstracts and authors of selected abstracts will be asked to submit a full manuscript for consideration. Authors of accepted manuscripts are expected to present their work at the Symposium in Tucson. The Proceedings will be available at or soon after the Symposium.

Key Dates:

- Abstracts due Sept. 20, 2013
- Manuscripts invited Nov. 15, 2013
- Initial manuscripts submission due Aug. 8, 2014

For more Information: Please direct questions to the Symposium Editor: **Dr. Darren A. Miller**, Weyerhaeuser Company, P.O. Box 2288, Columbus, MS, 39704; (662) 245-5249; darren.miller@weyerhaeuser.com.

Please feel free to distribute this Call for Papers to appropriate contacts.

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**.



Steve Hillebrand, USFWS

NOMINATIONS

FROM PAGE 26

Student Chapter of the Year Award

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

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 student chapter receives 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

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**.



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY **ANNUAL CONFERENCE - MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN**



NOMINATIONS

FROM PAGE 27

Wildlife Management Excellence Award

The nomination form for the 2013 Wildlife Management Excellence Award (WMEA) can be found on page 29 of this newsletter. Each year during our annual meeting, the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society (SETWS) presents the WMEA to recognize excellence in wildlife management activities carried out within the member states of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

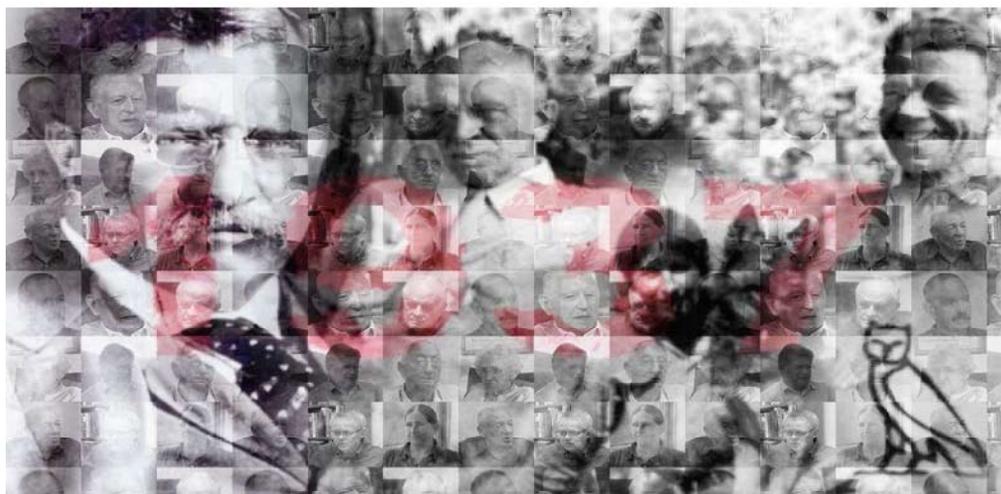
Persons making nominations must be current members of the SETWS; however, nominees need not be members. Nominations may include either an individual or group and evaluation of nominees will be based upon a single management achievement, not a "lifetime service" that has been accomplished in the field of wildlife management. Examples of management achievements worthy of the award include activities such as an exceptional break-through in bringing back an endangered species, the rapid (over a few years) development of a management area due to an individual or group effort, a major effort in stopping a particularly environmentally damaging project or an extension education effort that results in substantial and measurable change in private landowner acreage set aside for wildlife use.

Nominations should be submitted following the nomination format and will be reviewed by a five-member committee. The committee is seeking nominations of individuals or groups who have performed "above and beyond" in their nominated category with good quantitative data to support the nomination. The deadline for nominations is **5 August 2013**. The recipient will be presented with the Wildlife Management Excellence Award at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society.

Your participation is vital to the awards programs of the SETWS and is greatly appreciated. We all are aware of the multitude of deserving individuals and groups within our essential profession. As such, please take the time to nominate these deserving folks. Thank you for your time and dedication to wildlife conservation.

Sincerely,
Wib L. Owen, Chair
Wildlife Management Excellence Award Committee

COWCH



Celebrating Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage

NOMINATIONS

FROM PAGE 28

Wildlife Management Excellence Award Nomination Form

I. Date:

II. Nominee contact information:

“Name”
“Title and Agency”
“Address”
“Phone”
“Email”

III. Nominating contact information:

“Name”
“Title and Agency”
“Address”
“Phone”
“Email”

IV. Descriptive title of achievement:

V. Quantitative information on the achievement:

Please provide a short description of the nominee’s achievement in the following categories where applicable. The information may be attached on additional pages or inserted where appropriate as an electronic file.

- 1) Conservation and management benefits
 - a) Species influenced
 - b) Area (acreage) influenced
 - c) Regional impacts
 - d) Other
- 2) Educational benefits
 - a) Target audiences
 - b) Estimated size of audience reached
 - c) Other
- 3) Scientific contributions
 - a) Dissemination of information through reports, manuals, publications or other media
 - b) Influence on management policies
 - c) Other
- 4) Brief description of economic benefits

VI. Quantitative Information on the Achievement

VII. Narrative Description of the Achievement (1-page)

VIII. Letters of support (2-3)

Please submit nominee(s) by mail or e-mail to:

Wib L. Owen, Chair; Wildlife Management Excellence Award; 1109 Woodbrook Way, Garner, NC 27529;
Tel: (919)779-6091; Email: wib.owen@southernforests.org

Wildlife Management Excellence Award

**Nominate a deserving individual
or group today!**

**Deadline for nominations is
August 5, 2013!**

MEETINGS OF INTEREST



CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

67th Annual Southeastern Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Conference

Crossroads in Conservation

Sunday, October 13 - Tuesday, October 16

Renaissance Hotel Oklahoma City - Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Call for Presentations - *manuscript deadline extended*

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation invites you to the 67th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

The Fisheries & Wildlife sessions will include:

1. Oral presentations of manuscripts to be published in the peer-reviewed Journal of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
2. Presentations submitted for oral presentation only, no publication requirement
3. Poster presentations

Presentations on all aspects of terrestrial and aquatic fish and wildlife resource management, culture and research will be considered. Case histories are encouraged. If you are interested in submitting a presentation in another area (administration & licensing, law enforcement, legal), please contact the track chair directly with your submission. **The deadline for peer-reviewed manuscripts is June 7; the deadline for non-peer reviewed presentations is July 1.**

www.SEAFWA.org

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

FROM PAGE 30

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/>

National Bobwhite Technical Committee Meeting

Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center
Roanoke, Virginia

July 23 - 26, 2013

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

AUGUST

98th Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America

Minneapolis, Minnesota

August 4 - 9, 2013

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



Laura Perlick, USFWS

OCTOBER

The Wildlife Society Annual Conference 2013

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

October 5 - 10, 2013

<http://wildlifesociety.org/>

SEAFWA Conference

Renaissance Oklahoma City Convention Center
Hotel and Spa

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

October 13 - 16, 2013

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



Bill Buchanan, USFWS

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