

The Wildlife Society

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION



MAY 2015 VOLUME 57, NUMBER 2
KATHERINE EDWARDS, EDITOR

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Greetings from West Tennessee!

As the spring semester winds down here at UT Martin, my mind turns to turkeys and stream fishing for smallmouth bass, but also to recollections of the Southeastern Wildlife Student Conclave in March. Virginia Tech did a great job hosting this year's event – way to go, guys! They really set the bar for Eastern Kentucky University next spring.

There are many joys associated with presiding over the great Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society. For me, record-keeping is not at the top of the list. However, at Tennessee's State Chapter TWS meeting in March, I came into possession of eight well-aged boxes full of the historical records of the Southeastern Section (a thanks to **Billy Minser** for keeping them safe for many years!). My plan is to have a student scan these documents into electronic format to insure the safe maintenance of this important part of the history of SE-TWS of which so many of you have been a part. So, students...any takers? Speaking of paperwork, since last fall a draft Strategic Plan has been available for SE-TWS member feedback, with the intent of incorporating member comments beginning this summer. So, this is the last call for your input! State Chapters, committees, individuals, please take a look at the draft of this document that we hope will guide the priorities and actions of our section in upcoming years and provide me with your opinions, suggestions for additions or deletions, etc. You may access the document on the Section website at: <http://drupal.wildlife.org/SE/home>.

As you read this newsletter, please be aware of the opportunities presented to nominate deserving individuals for awards this year. In particular, the Southeastern Wildlife Management Excellence Award and

the C. W. Watson Lifetime Achievement Award are two of our Section's most prestigious honors. Nominations are being accepted now, and the awards will be given at the 2015 Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Conference, November 1-4, in Asheville, North Carolina. Also, any student chapter wishing to be considered for Southeastern Student Chapter of the Year Award should follow the nomination procedure described herein. Also, anyone with questions regarding manuscripts, presentations or posters for the SEAFWA Annual Conference should consult the website (<http://www.seafwa.org/conferences/2015/html/call.shtml>) or contact this year's Associate Editor for Wildlife, **Dr. James Martin** (706-542-8509, jmart22@uga.edu).

I'll end with a word of thanks to **Steve Rockwood**, 2010-2011 SE-TWS President. In his final President's address in the September 2011 newsletter, Steve discussed his work with SEAFWA and AFS to finalize the online SEAFWA journal. That work is coming to fruition: see Steve's message on the following page, and be sure to check it out on the SEAFWA website!

Eric Pelren
President, Southeastern Section TWS

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SEAFWA'S ON-LINE JOURNAL

It has been a long time coming but after several years of wrangling behind the scenes and working with SEAFWA partners (Southern Division of American Fisheries Society and Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society), SEAFWA launched the first publication of its new on-line journal. The "Journal of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies" inaugural year (2014) represents a collection of peer-reviewed fish and wildlife manuscripts presented during the fall 2013 SEAFWA conference in Oklahoma City, OK. Publication of the Journal will occur in the spring, following the fall conference. Thus, manuscripts presented at SEAFWA's 2014 conference in Destin, FL will be published in spring/early summer of this year.

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SOUTHEASTERN SECTION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

I hope each of you have had some time to enjoy the spring weather. I know it has been exceptionally rainy for many of us across the southeastern U.S., but maybe you found a few dry, sunny days to witness the annual rebirth of all things green and growing. It never ceases to amaze me how the landscape seems brown and drab one day, and then full of life the next. Nature is incredible.

Between this time and last, I attended the March TWS Council meeting, held in Omaha, Nebraska. Actually, it was quite the travel whirlwind in March as I went from the joint regional bat working group meeting in St. Louis, to Omaha, and then to Roanoke, Virginia for the Southeastern Section Student Conclave. And, as tiring as it was, I am always inspired by the passion and dedication of professionals and students to our wildlife resources. The energy of over 400 spirited wildlife students is hard to ignore! Kudos to Virginia Tech wildlifers for putting on an exceptional Conclave and congratulations to University of Tennessee at Knoxville for taking home first place honors!

At the March Council meeting, we spent considerable time reviewing budgets in detail. Due to the new TWS fiscal year (July to June each year), the March meeting is when Council approves the budget for the next fiscal year (July 2015 – June 2016). Staff members did a great job of breaking down our current budget situation and projections for the future. The budget is in a state of a remarkable turnaround from a few years ago. The emphasis has been on making conservative estimates of revenue, using that to project reasonable spending levels, building in contingencies, and working to rebuild our

reserve fund. Since 2011, the annual equity position of TWS has changed from -28% to +18% in 2014. During the same time frame, TWS net income per year increased from -\$306K to +\$219K. This turnaround indicates that TWS is on a growth track and that the austerity measures implemented by Council in 2012 are working well. Although most of the news was encouraging, including new approaches to leveraging TWS's financial and intellectual resources, membership is an area of concern.

In 2014, membership was at 9,283 members, a drop of 6.8% and a loss of 626 members since 2013. Although membership at the time of the Council meeting was down to 8,820, indications are that the membership decline is leveling out. For example, during the first 2 months of 2015, declines have been less than 4%, compared to 7% during the same time last year. Staff spent time at the Council meeting to talk about 3 factors being used to grow our membership: (1) creating an improved value proposition (what you get for being a TWS member); (2) increased frequency of engagement with members and (3) a year-round focus on engaging non-members and turning them into members. I just want to mention 2 of these changes that I feel are most important. First, beginning in 2016, *The Wildlife Professional*, TWS's member magazine, will be published 6 times/year instead of just 4 times/year. Although the amount of actual content will change very little, this will provide new information in the hands of members on a more frequent basis. Second, is launching of the Wildlife Partners program. This program provides a limited set of TWS benefits for free to those that have not been members of TWS to hopefully entice them to join TWS.

Just a week after the initial launch, TWS had 135 Wildlife Partners, including more than 100 wildlife profession and students. If you know someone that you feel would be interested in joining TWS, please alert them to this program.

Part of TWS's growth model is to organize development opportunities. To that end, TWS hired **Chuck Shively** to be the new TWS Development Manager. We were not able to meet Chuck in Omaha, but he is an avid outdoorsman and hunter and will work to connect with TWS members while attracting corporate partners and foundations to TWS. This includes building on the very successful "The 1,000" campaign (to date, this campaign has raised \$97,500 for TWS!), furthering agency support such as that provided by USDA Wildlife Services and USGS, and furthering the TWS Foundation discussions.

As you may know, my term as your Section Representative is rapidly coming to a close. However, the Executive Committee of the Southeastern Section of TWS has provided 2 excellent nominees and I know that either of them will be fantastic with a role on Council. I am pleased that **Dr. L. Mike Conner** and **Mrs. E.J. Williams** have graciously agreed to run for the Council slot. I have known both of these fine wildlife professionals for 20 – 25 years, have had the distinct pleasure on working with both of them on a number of projects, and I know that they

have the best interest of TWS, the resource, and of the Section, at heart. It will indeed be a difficult choice when it comes time to cast a ballot for one of these candidates. However, I do want to strongly encourage you to take the time to learn more about Mike and E.J. and then vote for your future representation. And, I want to wish both Mike and E.J. the best of luck in the upcoming election!!

Finally, a brief word about the TWS Conferences. The 2015 conference will be held in Winnipeg, Canada during October 18-22. The conference website is functional (www.twsconference.org/) and more content will be loaded as information becomes available. The new website will be much more robust than past websites, including better ways for members to get the information they need. In 2016, the conference will be held in our Section – in Raleigh, NC. I know the North Carolina Arrangements Committee is already hard at work to bring the conference to reality. If any of you are asked to help, I strongly encourage you to lend a hand.

That's it for now. As always, if there is something I can do for you, please do not hesitate to contact me!

*Darren Miller, Southeastern Section
Representative to TWS Council
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STUDENT AWARDS COMMITTEE

Upcoming SEAFWA Student Presentation and Student Poster Awards

The Southeastern Section of TWS annually recognizes the best student presentation and poster given at the SEAFWA Conference. To be eligible to receive this award, a student must have graduated within one year prior to the meeting and be presenting research at the conference conducted as a student. If you have or know of students presenting in the wildlife technical session or will be presenting a poster at the upcoming 69th Annual SEAFWA Conference to be held in Asheville, NC, please encourage them to participate. If you are a student who will be giving a presentation or poster at SEAFWA, be sure to indicate that when you submit your abstract (<http://www.seafwa.org/conferences/2015/html/call.shtml>). The deadline for submitting general oral presentations and posters is June 30, 2015. The winning students will be recognized at SEAFWA and will be presented an award (a plaque and \$100 for best poster and \$200 for best presentation).

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 Southeastern Section of TWS annually recognizes at SEAFWA a student chapter in its section. Student chapters are invited to nominate themselves for the award. The SETWS provides a plaque and a \$1,000.00 cash award to the student chapter of the year based on the chapter's involvement in activities that advance their members professional development and the goals of TWS. The SETWS uses the same application form as TWS, which is available at: <http://wildlife.org/get-involved/awards/chapter-of-the-year-award-and-student-chapter-of-the-year-award/>. The application should

be submitted via email (materials should be sent as a single PDF file) to Awards@wildlife.org by June 30, 2015, with a subject line: SETWS Student Chapter Award.

Andy Madison, Chair, SETWS Student Awards Committee, amadison@uu.edu

2015 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave

On March 12-15, 2015, The Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society at Virginia Tech (VTTWS) hosted the 2015 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave. Twenty-two student Chapters of TWS from across the Southeastern region gathered at the W.E. Skelton 4H Educational Conference Center in Wirtz, Virginia for three days of intense competition, educational workshops, and professional networking.

Conclave, a much-anticipated annual event, provides a venue for scholarship, sportsmanship, team building among the regional student Chapters. Participants endure physical and mental challenges both as individuals and teams as they compete to earn points for their school. The awards banquet on the final night of Conclave recognizes the various individual competition winners and rewards the top three overall Chapters.

At this year's Conclave the Team Competition tested each Chapter's overall biological and wildlife knowledge as each team rotated between stations and faced a multitude of questions and completed relevant field tasks, including mammal trap set-up, animal track and insect identification, labelling immobilization equipment, and animal ID from remote photographs. Individual competitions Friday afternoon included archery, canoeing, fly-casting, orienteering, riflery, and dendrology. Participants also submitted entries for several Fine Arts categories, including photography, drawing, poetry, sculpture, and free-form art.

The Quiz Bowl took place Friday and Saturday mornings, with teams of four competing in an intense, jeopardy-style competition. The University of

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Georgia took home the coveted Quiz Bowl Trophy, while the University of Tennessee at Knoxville placed second, and Mississippi State University placed third.

Participants also had the opportunity to attend fifteen different workshops on Saturday afternoon, led by either Virginia Tech faculty or wildlife professionals from various agencies and organizations. The workshops included a falconry demonstration, a venison cooking workshop, a field trip to the Virginia Tech Black Bear Research Center, camera trapping and coyote trapping workshops, and a rocket netting demonstration led by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Saturday's awards banquet recognized Frostburg State University as the Third Place Overall winner and the University of Georgia as the Second Place Overall winner. In a very close competition, the

University of Tennessee at Knoxville earned the title of this year's First Place Overall winner for the Southeastern Wildlife Conclave.

The 2015 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave would not have been possible without the support and dedication of its volunteers. Approximately 40 Virginia Tech students and staff sacrificed all or part of their Spring Break to help plan and run the event. The 4-H Center staff contributed invaluable support, assisting VTTWS in every way possible. The event was a huge success and Virginia Tech is looking forward to attending the 2016 Southeastern Conclave when Eastern Kentucky University hosts next year's event.

*Marcella Kelly
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University of Tennessee Knoxville – first place overall winner of the Southeastern Wildlife Conclave

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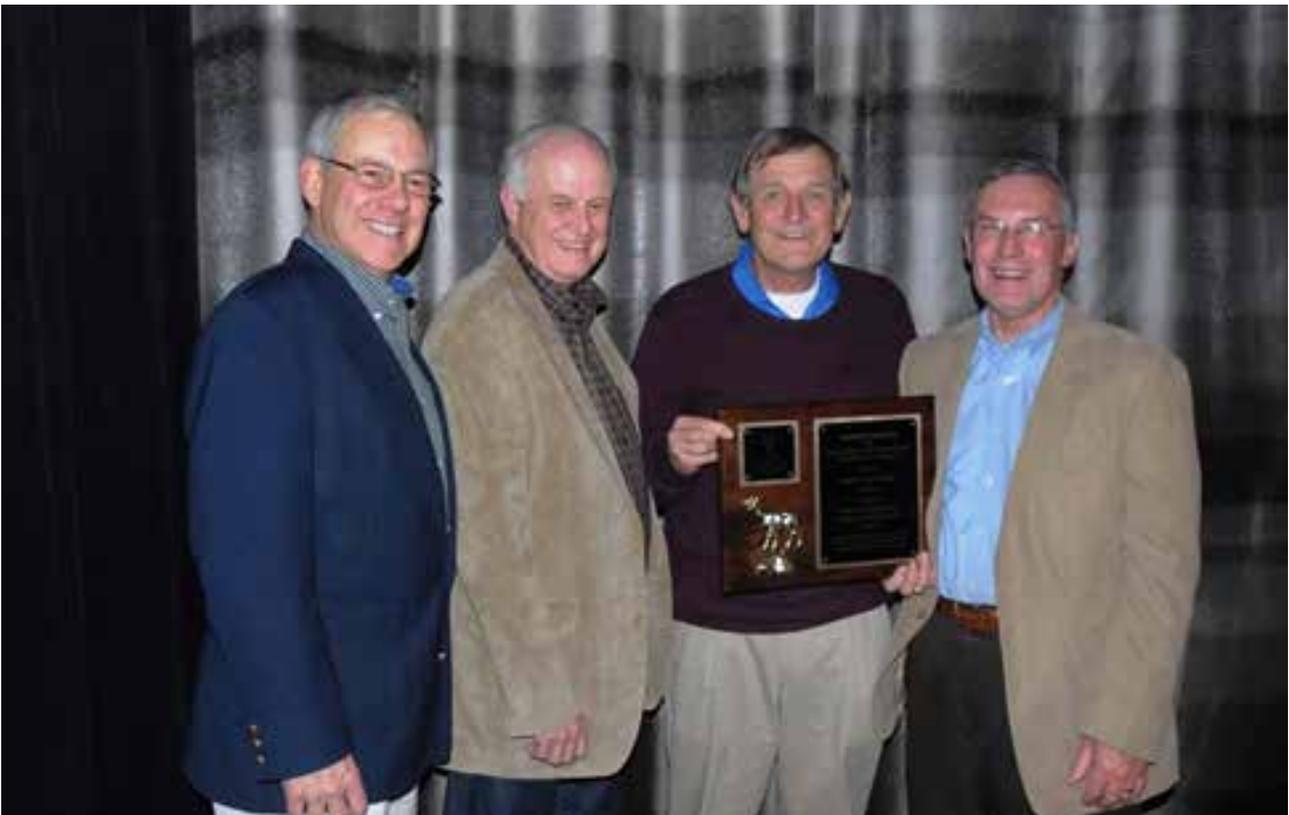
DEER COMMITTEE

Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting Successful in Arkansas, Despite Winter Storm

The 2015 Southeast Deer Study Group was hosted by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Special thanks go to **Cory Gray**, Deer Program Coordinator for his leadership for the meeting, which had 327 registrants. **Larry Castle**, Director of Technical Programs with Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks received the Career Achievement Award. **Eric Michel**, a graduate student from Mississippi State University won the outstanding student oral presentation award, while **Lindsay D. Roberts** from Texas A&M University – Kingsville, won the outstanding student poster presentation award. The 2016 conference will be hosted by North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission on February 15-18 at Great Wolf Lodge in Concord.

Steve Demarais

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Recipient of the SE Deer Study Group's Career Achievement Award, Larry Castle (R) pictured with Deer Committee Chair, Steve Demarais (L) and former recipients, Dave Guynn and Harry Jacobson.



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ALABAMA



Alabama Chapter

The 2015 annual meeting was held March 26-27 at Lake Guntersville State Park. On the 26th, we had presentations on Wildlife Diseases - Research Updates and Management for our Professional Development Program from Alabama DCNR (ADCNR), Georgia DCNR, AU (AU), and USDA Wildlife Services. On the 27th, we had numerous presentations from State Parks District Superintendent, AU, Alabama A&M University, Jacksonville State University, and the University of West Georgia.

Student Presentation winner: **Mercedes Bartkovich**, Alabama A&M; Estimating Breeding Origins and Sex-related Stopover Patterns of Four Migrant Songbird Species in Northern Alabama Using Stable Isotope and Molecular Methods.

Student Poster Winner: **John Draper**, School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences, Auburn University (AU); Black Bears In North Eastern Alabama.

Wes Stone instated as Chapter President. Newly elected officers are: President Elect- **Amy Silvano** with AU, Past President- **Elizabeth Johnson** with Alabama Wildlife Federation, Secretary Treasurer – **Christine Easterwood**, Biologist with US Army Redstone Arsenal, and Member At Large – **Eric Spadgenske** with the USFWS.

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Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries

Recent Wildlife Section Retirements: **Fred Pringle**, Biologist Aide Sr at the former Fred T. Stimpson Wildlife Sanctuary, retired on February 28 after almost 50 years of service to the State of Alabama. Fred was instrumental in Alabama's deer and turkey restocking efforts from his initial employment in 1965

through retirement. His efforts benefitted turkey restoration efforts in many other states as well. He was a recipient of NWTF's Joe Kurz Wildlife Manager of the Year award. Activities at the sanctuary were modified about 10 years ago to include youth hunting opportunities and the name was changed to the Fred T. Stimpson Community Hunting Area. Fred embraced the changes and worked well with youth to provide them with quality hunting experiences. He and his wife now reside just a few miles down the road in Jackson, AL.

Mike Sievering, Alabama's furbearer biologist, also retired on February 28 after 30 years of service to the State of Alabama. Mike will continue to serve Alabama's furbearer resources in a part time role beginning on June 1, 2015. He plans to continue conducting the highly successful youth trapping workshops and has already scheduled 10 events for the upcoming trapping season.

James "Jinks" Altieri, Regional Hunter Education Coordinator in South Alabama, retired on March 31 after more than 30 years of service to the State of Alabama. Jinks began his career with the Alabama Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit before being employed as a Conservation Enforcement Officer with the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. He became involved in hunter education and other outreach programs in 1995.

Avid Turkey Hunter Survey: The Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division began an avid hunter survey during the 2014 spring turkey season. Approximately 100 avid hunters provided data for our agency to utilize in the first annual wild turkey report entitled Full Fans & Sharp Spurs. The publication provides information on gobbling trends, audible and visual turkey observations and harvest. The publication is available for downloading at www.outdooralabama.com/wild-turkey. Several hundred individuals are participating in the survey for the 2015 spring turkey season.

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US Forest Service

Carl Petrick Named New Forest Supervisor for the National Forests in Alabama

The Southern Region of the USFS welcomes **Carl Petrick**, formerly of Tallahassee, Fla., to the Regional Leadership Team. Petrick was selected as forest supervisor of the National Forests in Alabama. December was his first month of duty in Montgomery, in this new leadership capacity.

“Carl is a great addition to our Regional Leadership Team,” Acting Regional Forester **Ken Arney** said. “Many of our employees and partners in Alabama have already met Carl. He will be a strong leader with expertise in game species management and longleaf pine management—a great fit for Alabama.” Petrick worked for 29 years as a federal land manager in Florida. Most recently he worked in Tallahassee as the natural resources staff officer for the National Forests in Florida, where he gained extensive experience in fish and wildlife management, forest management and forest planning.

Petrick began his federal career at Tyndall Air Force Base as a wildlife technician/biologist and enforcement officer. Petrick then worked as Chief of fish and wildlife management at Eglin Air Force Base until 2003.



Carl Petrick

Petrick has always enjoyed hunting and fishing, along with physical fitness and college football. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in wildlife management from AU. While attending Auburn, Petrick worked for the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission during the fall quarters.

After graduating from Auburn in 1984, he attended the Pensacola Police Academy to obtain his state law enforcement credentials. Petrick has three sons: Kyle, 24; Erik, 20; and Alex, 18.

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USGS

Turkey Research in Alabama

In response to perceived declines in the number and productivity of eastern wild turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*) in Alabama during the last decade, the Alabama Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (Unit) at AU and the ADCNR initiated a comprehensive, long-term study of aimed at informing harvest management decisions. The project is funded by ADCNR, Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration, AU, USGS, and the Alabama Chapter of the NWF. In this project, Unit staff and graduate students will be capturing and marking turkeys with radio-transmitters and leg bands to measure movement, survival and production in three important landscapes. The landscapes are the hardwood forests and fertile valleys of the southwestern Appalachians, the mixed pine and hardwood near the fall line, and the industrial pines in the coastal plain. These areas were chosen for study not only because of the differences in habitat, but because of the potential differences in the rates that affect the size, structure, and sustainability their turkey populations. The research results will be used to develop monitoring tools and improve forecasts of turkey populations for all areas of the state.

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ARKANSAS



Arkansas Chapter

The Chapter held its annual meeting on April 9th. The meeting began with a tour of the Maumelle Wildlife Management Area. Following lunch, the group convened at the University of Arkansas (UA) Cooperative Extension Service Auditorium in Little Rock for the plenary session and business meeting. The business meeting was led by President **Allison Fowler**. **Dr. Rachael Urbanek**, Secretary-Treasurer, presented the fall meeting minutes. Rachael reviewed the chapter financial report and membership report and these reports were also approved. Rachael also explained the new Student Professional Development Fund that was created by the Board at the executive meeting in December 2014. The members approved a change in the bylaws to require the chapter to only hold one meeting a year rather than two. This will allow greater flexibility and allow ARTWS to have occasional multi-day meetings once a year instead of 2 one-day meetings. Members also elected a President-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer. **Dr. Tom Risch** from ASU ran uncontested for President-Elect and all 26 votes were in his favor. Similarly, **Clint Johnson** from AGFC ran uncontested for Secretary-Treasurer and all 26 votes were in his favor. Dr. Risch will become President in Spring 2017 and Clint will take over Dr. Urbanek's responsibilities of Secretary-Treasurer in July 2015. Clint will be assuming his officer role early because Rachael has accepted a new job and will be leaving the state of Arkansas.

Arkansas State University Student Chapter

The chapter currently has 43 members and they participated in conclave and finished 11th place overall. They are continuing to maintain their 1-mile stretch of road for trash clean-up and that members participated in an ASU Earth Day exhibit, a clean-up at the ASU biological station, and a sports show.

Arkansas Tech University Student Chapter

The chapter has approximately 50 members and continues to conduct service at Bearcat Hollow and they sold out of 150 tickets to their 3rd annual Beast Feast in which they raised \$13,000. The chapter members also have decided that they will no longer participate in a highway trash pick-up and instead are seeking to cooperate with the Army Corp of Engineers to maintain a trash pick-up at Bona Dea Sanctuary, an urban wetland complex park adjacent to Tech. Tech students also participated in conclave in which they placed 12th overall and had 4 individual winners in the obstacle course, drawing, poetry, and goose calling.

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

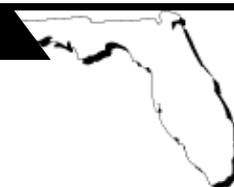
Two new wildlife technicians have been hired recently; **Paul Dunham** will work out of the Russellville office and **Hunter Johnson** will work out of the Brinkley office.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Erin Knoll, of the Conway Ecological Service Field Office, has transferred to Anchorage, Alaska.

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FLORIDA



NO NEWS REPORTED



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GEORGIA



Georgia DNR, Wildlife Resources Division

DNR Scientist Earns National Award for Conserving Amphibians, Reptiles

Amphibians and reptiles benefited when **John Jensen** abandoned a geology degree and returned to school to study biology. The switch led Jensen to a nearly 19-year career as a Georgia Department of Natural Resources biologist, and recently earned him national recognition for his work conserving species varying from gopher tortoises to eastern indigo snakes, a realm of wildlife sometimes overlooked and often under-appreciated.

Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation named Jensen as the 2015 recipient of the Alison Haskell Award for Excellence in Herpetofaunal Conservation. Presented Tuesday at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Omaha, Neb., the award honors a person in North America who shows extraordinary commitment to conserving reptiles, amphibians and their habitats.

Jensen, a herpetologist and senior biologist with the DNR Wildlife Resources Division's Nongame Conservation Section, was noted for efforts that included promoting law changes protecting native freshwater turtles, forging herp-focused conservation partnerships, and starting and coordinating a citizen-science project that mapped the distribution of amphibians and reptiles in Georgia.

The award is named in memory of **Alison Haskell**, a noted herpetologist and the first federal agencies coordinator for Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation.



John Jensen holding an eastern indigo snake (photo by Joe Abene)

Georgia Golden Eagle Added to Project Tracking Appalachian 'Ghosts'

A high-tech research project helped along by a middle Georgia hunt club recently began tracking one of the state's most rare raptors – a golden eagle.

Project partners including West Virginia University, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Cellular Tracking Technologies and Devil's Backbone Hunting Club teamed to catch the young eagle at a "bait" pile Feb. 15 and attach a tracking device. The club's 4,700-acre lease borders Sprewell Bluff Wildlife Management Area near Thomaston.

The 5-year-old eagle is the first caught in Georgia for the effort that has documented eastern North America's golden eagles and their migration routes since 2006. Initially aimed at exploring the threats



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wind turbine sites pose to the continent's largest bird of prey, the work has expanded from Pennsylvania and West Virginia to as far south as Alabama as scientists learned that the eagles don't always migrate to and from Canada along Appalachian Mountain ridges. Some fly through the Midwest, according to project leader **Dr. Tricia Miller** of West Virginia University.

Jim Ozier (DNR Nongame) contacted Miller about trying to catch a golden eagle for the project and The Environmental Resources Network, or TERN, friends group of the Nongame Conservation Section, provided a grant to buy two transmitters.

The local hunt club helped provide a sight, build a blind and keep the bait pile freshly stocked using road killed animals.

The hard work paid off Feb. 15. Just after sunrise, Miller and Cellular Tracking Technologies' **Michael Lanzone**, Miller's husband and developer of the transmitters, used a net propelled by .22-rifle blanks to capture the eagle. Blood samples revealed the lowest lead levels Miller has seen in a golden eagle. Raptors can suffer lead poisoning from eating carrion killed by lead shot, and lead poisoning is another focus of the Appalachian eagles project. The Georgia eagle was one of eight caught and fitted with transmitters in the South this year.

Miller will return next winter and Ozier will keep the second transmitter for use then. The hunt club continued checking the cameras until all eagles had left. And Miller and project partners have monitored the Devil's Backbone bird on its migration to Canada, and continue to watch for new insights into golden eagles in Georgia and across the eastern U.S.

Multi-Agency Two-Year Study on Coyotes Begins in 2015

A new multi-agency study will help answer many coyote-related questions, including determining what types of resources, such as prey availability and hiding cover, are important to coyotes when establishing territories.

"We know that coyotes play a critical role in ecological communities," says project coordinator **Joseph Hinton**, a University of Georgia post-doctoral researcher. "But, they are a relatively new predator to Georgia that rapidly colonized the state. Their populations vary from one area of the state to the next, so we want to study their movements over large areas to see where they eventually establish territories. Once we understand why coyotes are more successful in certain areas than others, we can provide better advice on coyote management efforts."

Starting this past January, trappers contracted by the University of Georgia began capturing and radio-collaring coyotes in Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina. This process will be repeated in January-February for each year of the project and will include approximately 180 coyotes. The iridium satellite radio-collars will record locations of coyotes every four hours for up to two years.



Coyote with radio collar
(photo by Joseph Hinton)

In addition to the radio collaring, DNA samples will be taken from captured coyotes and sent for genetic analysis allowing researchers to compare how related coyotes in Georgia may be to coyotes in other states. Populations in other states that are closely related could be a continued source of immigrant

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coyotes into the state. This information may be of particular use for wildlife managers as they could potentially predict the benefit of coyote trapping efforts and help further manage those populations.

Agencies involved in this project include the University of Georgia, Princeton University, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

For more information on the project, visit the Deer Research Laboratory at the University of Georgia webpage (<http://www.ugadeerresearch.org/>) or contact project coordinator Joseph Hinton (jhinton@uga.edu). For more information on coyotes in Georgia, visit www.georgiawildlife.com/nuisancewildlife.

Changes to Seasonal Trout Streams for Georgia

In March 2015, the Board of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources voted to lift the seasonal restriction on approximately 1,600 miles of trout waters. This will allow year-round trout fishing on all of Georgia's designated trout waters. Amended rules go into effect on April 21, 2015.

The initial effort behind this change was in response to repeated annual requests from Georgia anglers to add more streams to the list of year-round waters. Prior to publicly scoping this idea, staff reviewed available scientific literature, agency studies, and trout population data from Georgia and neighboring states. There was good evidence showing no significant difference in populations that had gone from seasonal to year-round designations. When electrofishing data on wild trout streams was compared to long-term sampling programs, there were no significant population differences in year-to-year comparisons between similar-sized seasonal and year-round streams.

Simply stated, there is no known scientific basis for requiring a closed season to protect spawning trout

in the southern Appalachians. This is why all of Georgia's neighboring states (South Carolina, North Carolina, and Tennessee) already allow year-round fishing on their own wild trout streams. This is a benefit to anglers who have the opportunity to fish for these trout in the fall and winter without a negative impact on stream populations. The biggest apparent drawback to removing seasonal designations was the loss of the opening day tradition, specifically related to heavily-stocked streams.

A public scoping process began in fall 2014, engaging trout anglers and a number of organized groups including most Georgia Trout Unlimited chapters, the Georgia Women Fly Fishers, the Atlanta Fly Fishing Club, and North Georgia Trout Online. Public meetings, a survey of trout anglers, and public hearings were included in this effort, with responses received from more than 7,000 anglers indicating strong (74%) public support for this proposal.

Georgia will continue to monitor wild trout stream populations in North Georgia as has been done for decades.

For more information on trout fishing in Georgia, visit www.georgiawildlife.com/fishing/trout.

Fans Flock to Nest and Other Wildlife Cams

While the film industry ramps up in Georgia, an even wilder take on this visual medium -- wildlife cams -- is attracting increasing attention around the state.

Berry College's eagle nest cam, which logged millions of views last winter, produced two eaglets this year, plus millions of views and more than 100,000 Facebook fans. The northwest Georgia school upgraded its setup for the 2015 nesting season, and again shared the stream with Georgia DNR's Wildlife Resources Division, helping raise awareness of the bald eagles and conservation of these and other nongame species.

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New this year, the world also followed great horned owls nesting in a former eagle nest at The Landings, near Savannah. The cam, sponsored by Skidaway Audubon and others and carried by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, was installed last summer to feature eagles. But only one eagle returned and the owls settled in, prompting project leaders to change plans and providing viewers live-stream of another fascinating raptor, a stream that DNR also helped share.

In Atlanta, DNR began live-streaming a peregrine falcon nest on SunTrust Plaza Tower in March, as the agency has for the past several springs. This nest cam is a partnership with the law firm McKenna Long & Aldridge and The Environmental Resources Network, or TERN, friends group of Wildlife Resources' Nongame Conservation Section. Three eyases had hatched by mid-April, with more viewers tuning in to watch the fast growth of Atlanta's fastest-flying family.

Meanwhile, viewers hooked on fish were clicking the underwater cam at the Go Fish Education Center in Perry to check out largemouth bass, longnose gar and other native aquatic life. The aquarium cam, sponsored by the Georgia Natural Resources Foundation and the Go Fish Center, is set in the center's largest tank, which represents live in a Piedmont region reservoir and provides outreach to a segment of viewers interested in fishing and wildlife.



Great horned owls
www.landingsbirdcam.com

These cams are accessible at www.georgiawildlife.com/cams and at the individual operator sites, including www.berry.edu/eaglecam, www.landings-birdcam.com and www.gofisheducationcenter.com/GoFishCam.

Melissa Cummings
Melissa.Cummings@dnr.ga.gov

Wiregrass Ecological Associates

Wiregrass Ecological Associates is pleased to announce that **Austin Carroll** has joined our team. Mr. Carroll is a Certified Wildlife Biologist, Certified Senior Ecologist, as well as a Registered Forester and Certified Burner. He is also recognized by the FAA as a Qualified Airport Wildlife Biologist. Mr. Carroll holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from Mississippi State and an M.B.A. from the University of Florida. Most recently, Mr. Carroll served in Tallahassee, Florida as Program Manager of the Southeastern EcoSciences Group and National Aviation and Environmental Sciences Lead for Atkins, an international consulting firm.

Wiregrass Ecological Associates (WEA), formerly The Wildlife Company, is located in Bainbridge, Georgia and is a subsidiary of Southern Forestry Consultants. WEA offers a wide variety of natural resources services including rare species management, wildlife damage assessment, environmental permitting, and game management.

KENTUCKY



Kentucky Chapter

The Kentucky Chapter was unable to convene its 2015 annual meeting during the customary February time slot due to adverse weather. The meeting will be held in September 2015 at Natural Bridge State Resort Park in Slade, KY, as planned originally. Our keynote speaker will be **Jeff Sloan**, Project Leader for USGS National Unmanned Aircraft System project office in Denver, CO, who will discuss the use of drones in wildlife management.

STATE REPORTS

Kentucky Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Resources (KDFWR)

Since 2007, KDFWR has released more than 20,000 juvenile lake sturgeon in the Cumberland River and Big South Fork in an effort to restore the species to its former range. Sampling was conducted on the Cumberland River this winter to assess the success of the program. A total of 54 lake sturgeon were collected, with fish ranging from 18-35 inches; four year classes were represented in the sample. A winter sampling effort will be conducted in December 2015 to assess the stocking success in the Big South Fork.

KDFWR hosted a series of public meetings seeking public input about forest management and restoration of woodland game species. Department officials will use the public input to build the framework of a long-term plan to boost populations of grouse and other forest game species in the eastern part of the state. Wisconsin and the Rocky Mt. Elk Foundation are partnering with KDFWR to help fund the habitat work. Kentucky has agreed to supply Wisconsin with 150 elk over the next five years.

A new report, "Road to Recovery", detailing progress at the halfway point of KDFWR's 10 year plan to boost quail populations in the state, was published and made available to the public (http://fw.ky.gov/Documents/quail_benchmarkreport2015.pdf).

In an effort to determine if current regulations adequately protect paddlefish, KDFWR launched an on-line questionnaire designed to seek input from those who bow fish or snag for paddle fish in the Commonwealth.

Chuck Elliott
Charles.Elliott@eku.edu

LOUISIANA



Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF)

Robert Love, LDWF division administrator, was recently awarded the Governor's Award for Conservationist of the year by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. Love, who manages the Coastal and Nongame Resources Division, was recognized for leading the department's biologist team involved with the reintroduction of the whooping crane to Louisiana.

Louisiana State University

Two new wildlife faculty join LSU School of Renewable Natural Resources. **Dr. Bret Collier's** research has focused on wildlife ecology and management of game species, with most of his efforts leaning toward estimating population size and relating wildlife movements to habitat selection. Bret teaches courses in wildlife management techniques and wildlife population dynamics and has an active study abroad program where he takes LSU students to Swaziland to study African wildlife each August. **Dr. Kevin Ringleman's** research focuses on waterfowl ecology



left to right – LDWF Secretary Robert Barham, Robert "Bob" Love, LWF President Barney Callahan

STATE REPORTS

and management. Kevin is currently developing local projects to study white-fronted goose diets, fulvous whistling-duck nesting ecology, and the impacts of the Deepwater Horizon spill on scaup population. He is also doing some work on the breeding grounds, assessing how the booming oil and gas development in the prairies is affecting the fall flight of waterfowl. Kevin teaches courses in wildlife management, behavioral ecology and waterfowl biology.

Jeff Duguay
jduguay@wlf.la.gov

MARYLAND/DELAWARE

NO NEWS REPORTED

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Chapter

Annual Meeting
September 24-25th, 2015
Mississippi Museum of Natural Science
Jackson, MS

Please plan to join us September 24-25 at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson for the 2015 Mississippi Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting. We especially look forward to this year's meeting because the theme addresses a topic of great importance to all wildlife professionals, Preparing Wildlife Professionals for a Changing World.

The wildlife profession is rapidly changing, and so are the stakeholders that we serve. While the traditional, game-animal-focused field biologist niche disappears, the skills and techniques to serve that role are still needed. Yet increasingly few new graduates have them, largely due to a shift in their own connections to nature. Policy, communications, and

interdisciplinary studies are necessarily gaining ground in academia, but at a slower pace than needed to truly prepare the next generation of wildlife professionals for all they must face. The time of focusing on protecting and restoring game species populations is gone. Numbers of both users and managers interested in non-consumptive uses and non-game species are growing. In addition to traditional habitat management, wildlife managers must now deal with increasing invasive species, the blurring lines between wildlife and livestock, dramatically changing demographics of user groups, a decreasing personal understanding of hunting and trapping, urban wildlife interactions, and ever-changing policies enacted by people who seldom understand the ramifications on wildlife and their habitats.

How can we prepare graduates with the tools they need for this changing profession? What skills do employers find lacking? How do current professionals adapt to their changing roles? This year's Mississippi Chapter of The Wildlife Society meeting will focus on trying to address some of these questions. The meeting will feature a keynote address by **Dr. Mark Ryan**, Director of the School of Natural Resources at the University of Missouri. We will also hear presentations on a variety of wildlife related research as well as status updates from Mississippi conservation organizations, agencies, and companies.

The presentations, poster session, panel discussion, business meeting, and Thursday evening social will all be at the Museum of Natural Science. The always popular after-social social will be at our conference hotel, Hilton-Jackson (1001 East County Line Road, Jackson, MS, 39211, phone 601-957-2800) where a block of 20 rooms has been reserved at a group rate of \$83.00/night for Thursday, September 24, 2015. Reservations should be made by September 3, 2015, to insure room rate and availability. Guests may call 1-888-263-0524 toll free and request the MS Wildlife Society block.

We hope you'll join us in Jackson for thought provoking discussions, educational presentations, and networking opportunities.

STATE REPORTS

Southeast Deer Study Group Awards

Larry Castle, Director of Technical Programs with Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks received the Career Achievement Award at the 2015 Southeast Deer Study. **Eric Michel**, a graduate student from Mississippi State University won the outstanding student oral presentation award at the meeting and was followed in second place by **Caleb Hinton**, also a MSU graduate student. Eric won a plaque and \$500 while Caleb won \$300.

USDA APHIS Wildlife Services

Scott Watson has been hired as the Aquaculture Technician for USDA APHIS Wildlife Service's Mississippi Program. Scott replaces **Carson Nelson**, who moved in to the program's newly created feral swine coordinator position back in November. The program has also hired **Jonathan Lewis** as their wildlife disease biologist. Jonathan replaces **Jay Cumbee**, who relocated to the South Carolina Wildlife Services program back in October.

Mark McConnell
mccconnell0409@gmail.com



From left, Bronson Strickland, Caleb Hinton, Eric Michel and Steve Demarais at the 38th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Deer Study Group.

NORTH CAROLINA



NO NEWS REPORTED

OKLAHOMA



NO NEWS REPORTED

SOUTH CAROLINA



South Carolina Chapter

Spring has sprung and SC wildlifers are busy in the field; meanwhile, the SC legislature is in session as we speak. TWS is watching a couple of bills including the Trespasser Responsibility bill (H3266) and the Deer Quota bill (S. 454). The trespasser responsibility bill intends to provide greater protections to landowners from liability of trespassers on their property. The deer quota bill intends to instate a statewide bag limit and tagging program for harvesting deer. There are also a few bills related to wild turkeys and dog hunting that have been proposed. TWS has been quietly watching these bills develop and awaits the outcome of voting at the end of this legislative session.

Our next board meeting is on June 2nd, and we will be considering a joint meeting with the Georgia chapter this fall.

Ben Powell
bpowel2@clemson.edu

STATE REPORTS

TENNESSEE



Tennessee Chapter

The Tennessee Chapter of The Wildlife Society held their annual meeting March 4-6, 2015 at the Edge-water Hotel and Conference Center in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Although wintery weather covered much of the state, approximately 130 professionals and students from Tennessee and beyond gathered to celebrate wildlife conservation in the Volunteer State. Wednesday afternoon's Student Presentation session showcased graduate and undergraduate re-search. Congratulations to **Jordan Nanney**, M.S. student at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, who was awarded the 2015 Best Student Presentation Award for his talk entitled "Is there any benefit to fertilizing white oaks for mast and forage?". Following the student presentations, attendees enjoyed a "high-country" crawfish boil and the first ever TN-TWS poster session, which highlighted research and the activities of several university student chapters from across the state.



Jordan Nanney (right), M.S. student at UT-Knoxville, accepts the 2015 TN-TWS Outstanding Student Presentation Award from Dr. Steven Hayslette, TN-TWS SE Section Representative.



Attendees at the 2015 TN-TWS Meeting enjoy crawfish and more at the opening-night poster social.

STATE REPORTS

For Thursday's Professional Presentation session, the TN-TWS chapter adopted an "author-submitted" format rather than the "invited speaker" format used in the past. The result was a full day of interesting presentations dealing with a wide variety of topics, including population demographics, human dimensions, habitat management, wildlife diseases, and more. Thursday evening's banquet and auction offered attendees a chance to unwind, socialize, and bid on wildlife-related items to raise funds for the chapter. Thanks to our master auctioneer **Clint Borum** for making the evening a huge success, raising more than \$2,200 for chapter activities! At the banquet, the chapter also awarded the first annual TN-TWS Undergraduate Scholarship to **Brant Luker**, a junior at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Congratulations, Brant!



Brant Luker (right) of UT-Martin accepts the 2015 TN-TWS Undergraduate Scholarship Award from Dr. Emma Willcox, TN-TWS Board Member-at-Large.

Friday's activities included a morning business meeting and an afternoon Student Career Workshop, in which representatives from various wildlife-related agencies and organizations spoke to student attendees about careers in their organizations and afterward interacted with students informally at a student/professional mixer.

Thanks to all who helped make the 2015 TN-TWS meeting a huge success!

Steven Hayslette, Tennessee Tech University
shayslette@tntech.edu

VIRGINIA



Virginia Chapter

On February 10-11 the Virginia Chapter of TWS held their annual meeting at the Natural Bridge Hotel in Natural Bridge, VA. The Hotel and grounds, built aside a famous geological rock formation that was cherished and owned by Thomas Jefferson in the late 1770s through early 1800s, is undergoing renovations but provided a wonderful newly-refurbished conference room and amenities, all while staying within state per-diem spending limits! Approximately 115 attendees, 40 of which were students, enjoyed the two-day conference. The diverse crowd of students and professionals heard presentations and discussions, with the conference's theme being "Human Dimensions of Wildlife Management and Conservation." With student attendance soaring in the past couple years, things are growing around the state Chapter in Virginia!

Aaron Proctor, VA TWS Chapter President
aaron.proctor@dgif.virginia.gov



STATE REPORTS

DUCKS UNLIMITED

Staff Changes

Alonda McCarty is the new regional biologist in our Lafayette, La. office. Alonda will primarily be responsible for private lands work with the Louisiana Waterfowl Project South but will also be involved with the NAWCA grant process. Alonda is a native of Florida and has been in Louisiana for the past three years working on her Master's degree at LSU.

Awards

Wetland Conservation Achievement Awards

DU announced the winners of the 2015 Wetland Conservation Achievement Awards during the 80th annual North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, held in Omaha, Neb. in March. The awards were presented in six categories and recognized individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the conservation and restoration of North America's wetlands and waterfowl.

Senior Federal Official: Congressman **Rob Wittman**,

US Representative from Virginia

Federal Agency Employee: **Dr. Fred Johnson**,
United States Geological Survey - Florida

State/Provincial Agency Employee: **David Norris**,

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Research / Technical: **Dr. Gary Hepp**, Auburn
University

Conservation / Private Citizen: **Mo Buder**, Missouri
Communications: **Hal Herring**, Montana

50 Years of Support for Canadian Conservation

During the annual North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in March DU recognized Louisiana, South Carolina and Ohio state agencies for their record of contributing to the Association

of Fish and Wildlife (AFWA) state contributions to Canada program for 50 years. The three states have actively participated in the program since its establishment in 1965 and contributed a combined total of nearly \$17 million toward conservation of waterfowl breeding grounds in Canada.

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

Mississippi

6th Annual Youth Camp

The 6th annual DU/MDWFP youth camp was held January 29-Feb 1. Fourteen teenage boys are now DU Greenwing members and have a better understanding of hunting and conservation. This year the camp moved to public facilities on Leroy Percy State Park and Muscadine Wildlife Management Area and was a huge success thanks to tremendous staff effort from MDWFP and DU. In addition to learning about waterfowl biology, hunting's role in conservation and wetlands ecology in the classroom, the campers are instructed in the field on waterfowl identification, shooting skills and safety, wetland management and hunting.

North Carolina

Texas Plantation

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission purchased Texas Plantation LLC in January and will incorporate the property into JM Futch Game Land. The property is under a conservation easement held by Wetlands America Trust. DU and NCWRC are collaborating on enhancement plans to improve habitat function for waterfowl, shorebirds and wading birds. Plans include nearly \$1.8 million in improvements to permit independent control of six wetland complex units. DU and NCWRC are seeking funding for the multi-stage restoration and enhancement work to open this new public land to waterfowl hunting.



STATE REPORTS

South Carolina

Barrier Island Restoration

DU has initiated restoration efforts on two barrier islands in coastal South Carolina. Capers Island State Heritage Preserve is a classic, undeveloped barrier island owned by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and located about 15 miles north of Charleston between Dewees Island and the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge. The island lies about three miles from the mainland, is approximately three miles in length, and is only accessible by boat. DU will improve wetland function to the impoundment on the island through the installation of a water control structure with tidal gates and bulkheads. DU will enhance the embankment infrastructure and the internal canal system as well. These improvements will provide the SCDNR an opportunity to utilize the diurnal tide cycles to flush nutrient and marine species into this predominantly stagnant system.

Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) stretches for 22 miles along the coast of South Carolina. Restoration work on Bulls Island will be done by installing a new cross dike and associated water control structures across Jacks Creek. The existing dike is continually impacted by erosion as a result of shifting tidal currents that remove sand and sediments from the beachfront and wave action from the Atlantic Ocean. These two new, independent impoundments will increase management capabilities and diversity of habitat available for many beachfront shorebird species. These species have experienced dramatic beach habitat loss primarily due to development.

Lake Emily Enhancement

DU recently completed habitat enhancement on Bonneau Ferry Wildlife Management Area's Lake Emily Unit. Through installation of three water control structures and two embankments,

DU enhanced 74 acres of managed moist-soil and semi-permanent wetland impoundments. DU installed several emergency spillways to address management issues jeopardizing infrastructure and correct the problems that caused crop losses three of the last five years. The unit is a youth/adult waterfowl hunting area.



Before: Lake Emily embankments were dominated with trees and inadequate elevation for maximum capacity.



After: Refurbished embankments and emergency spillways will alleviate management problems.

STATE REPORTS

Virginia

Princess Anne WMA

Construction has begun on improvements to the 1,500-acre Princess Anne Wildlife Management Area in Virginia. Located on Back Bay in southeastern Virginia, the WMA's mix of marshes, fallow and cultivated fields, narrow freshwater impoundments and pine woodland is home to numerous species of wildlife, waterfowl and shorebirds. DU will restore 199 acres of manageable habitat on the Whitehurst and Beasley tracts through installation of two new pump stations and corresponding water control structures.

Southwest Conservation Unit – LA, OK, TX, NM

Oklahoma

Drummond Flat Expansion

On Feb 27th, **Alan Stacey** representing DU/Wetlands America Trust was the successful bidder at a public auction for a 22-acre parcel at Drummond Flat in northwest Oklahoma. This parcel was the only inholding at the Drummond Flat Wildlife Management Area and ODWC requested DU's assistance in securing it. ODWC will purchase the parcel from WAT.

Louisiana

Island Road Terracing Project

Construction and planting of 60,000 linear feet of marsh terraces in Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana is wrapping up. Approximately 799 acres of coastal marsh adjacent to Pointe aux Chenes WMA will be restored through the Island Road Terracing Project. Marsh terraces are a common restoration features in coastal Louisiana. Using soil from the site, long linear segments of marsh are created. The segments are aligned to reduce wave energy and thus, erosion of existing shoreline. The reduced wave energy creates calm water and suitable conditions for the growth of submerged aquatic vegetation, a vital waterfowl food and important cover for vertebrate and invertebrate aquatic organisms. Funding partners include North American Wetlands Conservation Council, Terrebonne Parish Consolidate Government, Louisiana Land and Exploration, Lafourche Parish Government, United Houma Nation, Bayou Grace, Restore and Retreat and Ducks Unlimited.



Steve Hillebrand, USFWS

STATE REPORTS

Lost Lake

Low Land Construction is in the process of fabricating the Living Shoreline Solutions Wave Attenuation Device (WADs) DU will place for the Lost Lake shoreline protection project. Fabrication of the WADs began in early January, and all 420 should be ready by early summer. Placement of the WADs along the southern rim of the Lost Lake shoreline in Terrebonne Parish will begin later this spring – late April or May. This erosion control project, funded by the ConocoPhillips Company, is scheduled for completion by June 30, 2015.

Andi Cooper
acooper@ducks.org



Living shoreline site visit 1.27.2015 036.jpg - DU Engineer Joe Fifer (l) with Sterling Robicheux of Low Land construction next to a wave attenuation device (WAD).

2014-15 Southeastern Section Officers

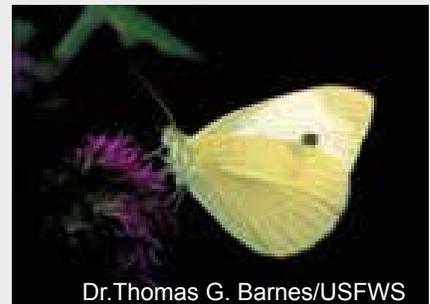
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darren.miller@weyerhaeuser.com



Dr. Thomas G. Barnes/USFWS

NOMINATIONS

C.W. Watson Award

Nominations are being sought for the 2015 Clarence W. Watson Award. This annual award will be presented at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Conference in Asheville, NC, November 1-4. 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 (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. Issue or opportunity with which nominee was involved
- B. Action nominee took to address issue 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: **Bob Ziehmer**, Department of Conservation, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102; Bob.Ziehmer@mdc.mo.gov; (573) 522-4115 ext. 3212; as soon as possible but no later than **August 15, 2015**.



NOMINATIONS

2015 Wildlife Management Excellence Award

Dear Fellow Wildlife/Resource Manager:

Below is the nomination form for the 2015 Wildlife Management Excellence Award (WMEA). 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 (on the next page) and will be reviewed by a five-member committee. The committee is seeking nominations of individuals other groups who have performed "above and beyond" in their nominated category with good quantitative data to support the nomination. The deadline for nominations is **1 August 2015**. 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,

Dr. Christopher S. DePerno, Chair
Wildlife Management Excellence Award Committee



Steve Hillebrand, USFWS

NOMINATIONS

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 **Christopher S. DePerno**, Chair; Wildlife Management Excellence Award; North Carolina State University, Turner House, Box 7646, Raleigh, NC 27695; Tel: (919)513-7559; Email: chris_deperno@ncsu.edu

NOMINATIONS

SETWS 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 Southeastern Section of TWS annually recognizes at SEAFWA a student chapter in its section. Student chapters are invited to nominate themselves for the award. The SETWS provides a plaque and a \$1,000.00 cash award to the student chapter of the year based on the chapter's involvement in activities that advance their members professional development and the goals of TWS. The SETWS uses the same application form as TWS, which is available at: <http://wildlife.org/get-involved/awards/chapter-of-the-year-award-and-student-chapter-of-the-year-award/>. The application should be submitted via email (materials should be sent as a single PDF file) to Awards@wildlife.org by **June 30, 2015**, with a subject line: **SETWS Student Chapter Award**.

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

69th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Call for Manuscripts, Symposia and Abstracts Deadlines WWW.SEAFWA.ORG/CONFERENCES/2015

The host committee of the 69th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies invites you to present your research in Asheville, NC.

Abstract submissions for peer-reviewed manuscripts, symposia, general oral presentations will be based on 20 minute presentation that includes time for the presentation and questions. All oral presenters are expected to deliver PowerPoint presentations. Poster abstracts are also being accepted.

Submission Deadlines

Peer-reviewed manuscripts: June 15, 2015

Abstracts for general oral presentations and posters: June 30, 2015



Related Meeting Requests

Southeastern Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies committees and working groups, universities, organizations, agencies, and others interested in holding a meeting, workshop or social function in association with the conference should submit the meeting request form by August 1, 2015. Please note: space is limited.

Save the Date

The 69th annual conference will be held in downtown Asheville, North Carolina and hosted by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. Asheville is a vibrant, progressive city with lots of great restaurants, brew pubs, shopping and attractions. The Biltmore Estate is a short 15 minute drive from the downtown area, and there are many opportunities for outdoor recreation just a short drive from the hotel. Conference registration will open in August, 2015.

The host hotel is the Renaissance Asheville; overnight accommodations are available to conference participants for discounted rate of \$135/night if reserved by October 7, 2015.

MEETINGS OF INTEREST



“The North American Model and Wild Turkey Conservation and Management”
Hosted by the Arizona Game & Fish Department and The National Wild Turkey Federation.

<http://www.nwtfarizona.org/11th-national-wild-turkey-symposium.html>



MEETINGS OF INTEREST



Shortleaf Pine
INITIATIVE
RESTORING AN AMERICAN FOREST LEGACY



SAVE THE DATE!

3rd Biennial Shortleaf Pine Conference

September 22-24, 2015

Knoxville, TN

More details to follow...



2015 International Conference on Ecology & Transportation (ICOET)

www.icoet.net

Raleigh, North Carolina, USA

September 20-24, 2015

ICOET is a multi-disciplinary conference addressing ecological issues related to transportation systems. Professionals in transportation planning and development, wildlife biology and related scientific study, engineering and infrastructure design, construction and operations, policy and administration, and natural resource conservation are invited to present and attend. ICOET enables knowledge sharing of current research information, quality applications, and best practices that can enhance both the project development process and the ecological sustainability of transportation systems.

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

JUNE

Third International Symposium on Ranaviruses
May 29 - June 1, 2015

5th Florida Marine Mammal Conference
June 2-4, 2015

Hosted by the University of Florida
Gainesville, FL
<http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aeh/index.html>

JULY

**2015 Meeting of American Society of
Ichthyologists & Herpetologists**
July 15-19, 2015

Grand Sierra Resort & Casino
Reno, Nevada
<http://www.dce.k-state.edu/conf/jointmeeting/>

SEPTEMBER

2015 AFWA Annual Meeting

September 12-17, 2015
Hosted by the Arizona Game & Fish Department
Tucson, AZ
www.afwaannualmeeting.org

**2015 International Conference on Ecology &
Transportation (ICOET)**

September 20-24, 2015
Raleigh, North Carolina
www.icoet.net

3rd Biennial Shortleaf Pine Conference

September 22-24, 2015
Knoxville, TN
<http://www.shortleafpine.net/events/3rd-biennial-shortleaf-pine-conference>

OCTOBER

TWS Annual Conference

October 17-21, 2015
Winnipeg, Manitoba
<http://wildlife.org/network/conferences-network/>

NOVEMBER

SEAFWA 2015 Conference

November 1-5, 2015
Renaissance Hotel
Asheville, North Carolina
<http://seafwa.org/conferences/2015/index.html>



JANUARY 2016

Eleventh National Wild Turkey Symposium

January 5-7, 2016
Tucson, AZ
<http://www.nwtfarizona.org/11th-national-wild-turkey-symposium.html>

FEBRUARY 2016

2016 Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting

February 15-18, 2016
Concord, NC
<http://sedsg.com/index.asp>

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
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