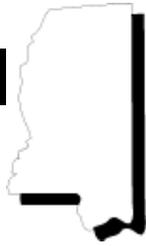


STATE REPORTS

MISSISSIPPI



Mississippi Chapter

Annual Meeting

Please plan to join us September 15-16 at Bost Extension Center on the campus of Mississippi State University for the 2016 Mississippi Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting. In this time of widespread budget and staffing challenges, we particularly look forward to this year's meeting because the theme addresses the topic of the great importance of Conservation Partnerships to all wildlife professionals.

Because wildlife are held in public trust, we are all equally responsible for their care. That care takes the form of habitat management on public and private lands across the continent. No one organization, individual, or agency can manage and conserve sufficient habitat for wildlife. As such, we must come together with funding, advocacy, and conservation delivery to meet the needs of North America's wildlife. Partnerships are the only way to achieve conservation at the scale necessary to ensure long-term success. This year's meeting will examine the diversity of those partnerships and their accomplishments.

The traditional membership of the Mississippi Chapter of The Wildlife Society has consisted of active biologists from many different organizations including academia, state and federal agencies, and NGOs. At our meeting last year, we discussed not only the need for expanding our inclusion of scientists and specialists in other organizations of biology, conservation, and management, but also recognized the need for getting the input of non-wildlifery. This may include folks like engineers, school teachers, politicians, or others whose interests and motivations are greatly different from our own.

With these ideas in mind we propose focusing our 2016 chapter meeting on partnerships that will help to improve and expand our wildlife conservation and management efforts in Mississippi and the region. What successes have you had? Where do you see the need for improvement and how do you propose we get there? Who is being left out of the conversation that needs to be included?

Please consider developing joint presentations with non-wildlifery to bring in new perspectives to our conversation. We look forward to your ideas and creativity in order to make this an energizing and informative meeting.

The presentations, poster session, panel discussion, and business meeting will be at the Bost Extension Center. The Thursday evening social will be at The Little Dooley in Starkville, featuring good food, drink, and possibly even a quiz bowl refresher. The always popular after-social social will be at our conference hotel, Comfort Suites Starkville (801 Russell Street, Starkville, MS, 39759, phone 662-324-9595) where a block of 25 rooms has been reserved at a group rate of \$89.00/night for Thursday, September 15, 2016. Reservations should be made by August 25, 2016, to insure room rate and availability. Request the "MS Chapter of The Wildlife Society" block. Guests may call the local number, above, or the Comfort Suites toll free number at 877-424-6423.

We hope you'll join us in Starkville for thought provoking discussions, educational presentations, networking opportunities, and a little fun, too.

Shelton Undergraduate Scholarship

The Mississippi Chapter of The Wildlife Society is pleased to announce the availability of a new academic scholarship for undergraduates engaged in natural resource and biological science courses of study. Please help us get the word out to undergraduate students that might be interested in applying. Application deadline is July 1, 2016.

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This scholarship shall be available for undergraduates in Mississippi colleges and universities who are enrolled in natural resource management or biological studies programs. Recipients shall demonstrate academic promise and professional society engagement. The scholarship will be for \$1,000, and annual scholarship availability will be determined by funding availability.

Qualification Requirements:

1. Current membership at student and state levels of The Wildlife Society.
2. Current overall GPA of 3.0 or greater.
3. Active engagement in the student chapter of TWS is required. Active engagement at state, section, and national levels is preferred.

Application Instructions:

1. Provide a cover letter that includes your name, contact information, hometown, major, school, class level, and GPA.
2. Provide a copy of your current transcripts.
3. Please list your leadership positions, committee memberships, and/or other activities within your student chapter of The Wildlife Society and any other TWS chapters or sections.
4. Essay: How do you plan to contribute to the natural resource management profession, and how will you use this funding to advance your education and/or professional development? (limit: 500 words)
5. Submit a letter of support for your application from the student chapter's faculty advisor in which he/she also addresses your chapter involvement.
6. Electronic submission of the completed application should be submitted to the current MS TWS President by July 1.

Notification:

Applications will be reviewed by the MS TWS Board, and the successful applicant will be selected by August 1 and notified by August 15. Public announcement of the successful applicant will occur at the following MS TWS annual meeting. The successful applicant should be present for that announcement.

Reporting:

The successful applicant will be required to attend the next (the year after the announcement) annual meeting of the MS Chapter of TWS and give a 10-minute presentation about a professional experience, internship, research experience, and/or their career goals.

Submit to MS TWS President – **Randy Spencer** at rs57610@gmail.com.

National Annual Conference Travel Grants

Travel grants will be granted to undergraduate students of the MS Chapter to offset costs of attending the annual national TWS conference to network and attend conference workshops and presentations. Travel grants will be awarded to a limited number of students based on available funding; applicants may request up to \$500.00.

Guidelines:

To be eligible, each student must submit their transcripts, resume and an essay describing why the applicant wishes to attend the conference.

Eligibility:

- A member of one of the TWS University chapters within Mississippi
- A member of the Mississippi Chapter of TWS
- A current undergraduate student pursuing a degree in wildlife management or other natural resource field
- Not a recipient of a MS Chapter student travel scholarship in the previous year.

Application:

- Resume and transcripts
- Projected conference travel expenses
- Budget showing any other potential travel award funding
- Include a copy of submitted poster or oral presentation abstract (if applicable)
- Student essay (350 words)

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Criteria:

- Quality of student essay
- TWS involvement
- The student's academic and other achievements relative to his or her progress in undergraduate program
- Student need

Application Submittals:

Should be sent to current MS TWS President:

Randy Spencer (rs57610@gmail.com).

Applications must be received by July 1 to be considered. Successful applicants will be notified of funding amount no later than August 1.

Chris Ayers, chris.ayers@msstate.edu

NORTH CAROLINA



NO NEWS REPORTED

OKLAHOMA



NO NEWS REPORTED

SOUTH CAROLINA



South Carolina Chapter

The South Carolina Chapter of The Wildlife Society held their annual meeting at Horry Georgetown Technical College (HGTC) on March 9, 2016 with 110 in attendance. Representatives of the student chapters of HGTC and Clemson University were present. Presentation topics included research on MacGillivray's seaside sparrow, eastern diamond-back rattlesnake, golden eagles, waterfowl, and effects of the recent flood event in the state on our coastal impoundments. A social was held afterwards with a tasty Lowcountry boil served to an enthusiastic (and hungry) crowd of 83! The following day, 23 people took a comprehensive tour of the Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center in adjacent Georgetown County to see the amazing work being done there to benefit wildlife and their habitats.

South Carolina DNR

State Wildlife Grants (SWG) for 2016

South Carolina received their yearly allocation of SWG funds and were able to support 8 projects this funding cycle. Projects include research on striped bass; water, shore, and seabirds; coastal plain reptiles and amphibians (i.e. gopher tortoise, pine snake, southern hognose, eastern diamond-back, gopher frog, flatwoods salamander); horseshoe crab; intertidal microbenthic invertebrates; and ribbed mussel. South Carolina is participating in a Competitive SWG grant entitled, "Cooperative Conservation of the Green Salamander in the Southeast United States". Other states involved include GA, MS, NC, TN, and VA.



USDA