

## **2017 Conservation Affairs Committee Report**

Submitted by Scott Klopfer, Chair

The Conservation Review Committee was renamed to the Conservation Affairs Committee in response to a similar renaming at the National and Section levels. At the 2017 business meeting, the CAC was asked to look into two issues; the use of KAPUT as a feral hog toxicant and organized predator hunting contests.

Dr. Megan Kirchgessner drafted an issue statement that was reviewed by other members of the CAC and VATWS. During this process, KAPUT was pulled from the market and the final issue statement was shelved. No progress was made on the predator hunting issue.

The CAC completed a sign on to the American Prairie Conservation Act (S. 1913, H.R. 3939) at the request of the National Office. The bipartisan, bicameral American Prairies Conservation Act would enact a nationwide "Sodsaver" protection to reduce taxpayer-funded incentives to convert critical grassland resources to cropland.

The CAC attempted to compile all the contact information for staff charged with environmental issues from each representative and senator from Virginia. This effort is ongoing.

We are presently monitoring the Virginia Legislative session and will respond to specific legislation when it is identified. Presently there are no bills introduced that require our immediate attention.

We have been participating in quarterly conference calls for the Southeast region CAC (Chaired by Nelson Lafon). This forum provides an excellent opportunity to coordinate with other state chapters, the Southeast Section, and National offices.

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act (115th Congress H.R.4647) has been reintroduced. The legislation currently has 7 cosponsors (5 democrats, 2 republican). We will be drafting a letter to target some Virginia representatives and senators in an attempt to get them to sign on as cosponsors.