

The Wildlife Society

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION



JANUARY 2016 VOLUME 58, NUMBER 1
KATHERINE EDWARDS, EDITOR

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

My how time flies! It seems like only yesterday I began my service as President-elect and here I am now tasked with the privilege of introducing to you our new officers. Please welcome **Mike Mengak**, President-elect, and **Susan Rupp**, Secretary-Treasurer, to the SETWS Executive Board. Back in October at the National TWS meeting in Manitoba **Mike Conner** was installed as our Representative to Council. A big thanks goes to outgoing President **Eric Pelren** for his impeccable service over the past two years in moving the Section forward and who now transitions to Past-President and to former Secretary-Treasurer Mike Conner for keeping the books in order. One person we all owe a great deal of gratitude is **Darren Miller** who served two terms (6 years) as our Representative to Council. Darren did an excellent job representing our Section and worked tirelessly to effect positive change at the national level. A special thanks is due to stalwarts **Billy Minser** and **Bruce Leopold** for assembling a win-win slate of candidates and finally to all those who took the time to vote.

We (the Executive Board) have a few tasks at hand for the coming months. First, we will be completing the Strategic Plan for the Section this year that former President Pelren initiated. I will be following up with State Chapter Presidents in the coming month or so to solicit final input....which is very much needed! Although we are not in any danger of bankruptcy, our yearly balance has been on a slight but steady decline over the past several years. As such, we're currently working to develop a budget and short- and long-term financial goals to guide the allocation of our limited funds. We'll also be exploring opportunities for generating new income. We've been experiencing a few hiccups here and there over the past several years in the manuscript submission and review process for the *Journal of the Southeastern*

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (JSEAFWA, formerly the Proceedings). During the next month I will be working with Associate Editors (Wildlife and Fisheries) and SEAFWA Executive Secretary **Curtis Hopkins** to identify where communications breakdowns have been occurring and to develop a written set of procedural guidelines that will survive yearly transitions of Associate Editors and host states. We'll be sure to keep you posted on our progress.

And finally, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the Executive Board members with suggestions or ideas on how the Section can better serve its membership and Chapters (both State and Student). Send us an email, give us a call, or grab a hold of us at Conclave or State Chapter, SEAFWA, or the National TWS meetings. We would love to hear from you.

On behalf of the Executive Board, thank you for placing your trust in us and we look forward to serving you in the coming years.

Mark Smith
President, Southeastern Section TWS

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SOUTHEASTERN SECTION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Greetings Fellow Wildlifers!

This is my first quarterly report as your new Section Representative. To **Darren Miller**, thank you for your dedication and service as our previous Representative. As a newbie on TWS Council, I am in the process of learning how Council works and how I can best represent the members of the Southeastern Section. As a first step, I have begun contacting Chapter officers to make sure there is adequate communication between TWS and various Chapters within the Southeast.

I attended my first Council meeting at the annual conference in Winnipeg. The Winnipeg conference was well attended with 1,564 registrants -- the second greatest number of registrants in the history of the conference. Similar to the Pittsburgh conference, approximately half of attendees were students. The interest and enthusiasm shown by students at the annual conferences are both encouraging and contagious!

During the Winnipeg meeting The Wildlife Society President, **Gary Potts**, announced that the theme of his presidency is Expanding the Partnership. A recent survey of TWS membership will be used as the foundation for strengthening linkages between The Wildlife Society and state, provincial, and federal agencies. President Potts will focus his personal attention on the Association of Fisheries and Wildlife Agencies and he challenged Section Representatives to outreach to Chapters within their sections. Be on the lookout for an article by President Potts in *The Wildlife Professional* on his theme of expanding the partnership. Next year's annual conference will have an opening plenary on this theme. Finally, increasing communications and member benefits are included in this partnership theme.

Also during this meeting, certification changes were announced. These changes exempt certification applicants from core coursework based on exceptional experience. A new certification email address has been established to receive inquiries about certification. Any emails regarding certification should be directed to certification@wildlife.org.

The 2016 annual TWS conference returns to the Southeast and will be held October 15-19, 2016 in Raleigh, North Carolina. This conference is already shaping up to be one of the best ever, so I hope to see you there. For those who like to plan well in advance, the 2017 conference will be September 23-27, 2017 in Albuquerque, NM.

The deadlines associated with awards nominations are quickly approaching. We are fortunate to have many highly qualified wildlife professionals in the Southeastern Section and I encourage you to consider nominating folks for these awards. A description of TWS awards and instructions for nominating can be found in this newsletter and on the TWS website <http://wildlife.org/get-involved/awards/>.

As I write, I can't help but wonder how many of our membership have been affected by the recent storms that swept through the Southeast. It is my hope that you all weathered the storms well and that you had a safe and prosperous 2015.

I look forward to serving as your Representative. I encourage you to contact me with any questions or concerns regarding The Wildlife Society. My email is mconner@jonesctr.org.

Take care and have a great 2016.

Mike Conner
Southeastern Section Representative



COMMITTEE REPORTS

JOINT SETWS/SEAFWA WETLANDS WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

Wetlands Wildlife Committee Report

Asheville, North Carolina, November 1, 2015
Chaired by: **Stephen V. Rockwood** (FL)

Committee Members Attending: **Joe Fuller** (NC), **Jerry Holden** (DU), **Andi Cooper** (DU), **Jud Easterwood** (AL), **Tim Willis** (DU), **Craig LeSchack** (DU), **Kirby Brown** (DU), **Emily Cope** (SC), **Andrew Schmidt** (AFWA), **David Cox** (AL), **Craig LeSchack** (DU), **Henry Sansing** (USFWS), **Cynthia Edwards**, **Gray Anderson** (TN), **Buddy Baker** (SC), **Toby Hairston** (USDA), **Gunter Guy** (AL)

Discussion Items:

- BP Settlement Update – **Gunter Guy** updated the committee on the proposed \$20.8 billion BP settlement recently announced. Briefly, this includes \$5.5 billion in civil claims under the Clean Water Act, a total of \$8.1 billion for natural resources damages claims under the Oil Pollution Act, and \$5.9 billion in economic damages. The remainder includes claims for injuries and reimbursement for assessment and response costs, etc. Gunter also briefed the committee on how the National Fish and Wildlife Federation will administer the \$2.544 billion received for restoring/enhancing natural resources of the Gulf Coast that were impacted by the spill. Known as the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, NFWF has supported 73 projects totaling \$480 million and is currently working closely with key state and federal resource agencies to select future projects.

- Clean Water Act – **Steve Rockwood** informed the Committee that the proposed new rule went into effect in late August and there have been 22 legal challenges, 11 in the District court and 11 in the appellate court. Additionally, seven states have filed a motion in support of the rule. While under judicial review, many conservationists continue to urge Congress to support the Clean Water Rule and not to roll back protections.

- Avian Influenza Update – **Toby Hairston** (USDA) briefed the committee on USDA's increased surveillance plan due to the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) from the Pacific Flyway to the North Central States. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources recently detected HPAI H5 and H5N2 in Canada Geese in suburban Detroit, Michigan and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources recently reported detection of HPAI H5 in a black-capped chickadee in Ramsey County, Minnesota. These recent detections have occurred on the heels of USDA's July 10, 2015 Implementation Plan for HPAI Surveillance in Waterfowl in the US. Mr. Hairston reiterated the USDA will remain in close collaboration with state and tribal fish and wildlife agencies.

- Farming on Refuges – **Steve Rockwood** led a discussion on behalf of **Jen Schaeffer** on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service internal policy banning the use of neonicotinoids and genetically modified crops on refuges beginning in January 2016. In the southeast, farming on refuges provides approximately 44,000 acres of crops for waterfowl and other wildlife. This policy change raises questions on whether or not refuges will be able to achieve existing habitat objectives established in the refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan for providing adequate forage

70th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Sunday, October 16 - Wednesday, October 19, 2016 • Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Hosted by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the 70th Annual Conference, "Conserving Vital Habitats" will be held at the Hilton Hotel in the arts and entertainment district of downtown Baton Rouge, Louisiana, along the Mississippi River. The Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center was inducted into the Historic Hotels of America in November 2014 and is the only historical hotel in the city. While staying at the Hilton, guests will enjoy easy access to the Shaw Art Center, USS Kid & Naval Museum, LSU, Louisiana Old State Capitol, and all that downtown Baton Rouge has to offer.

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habitat and sanctuary to support waterfowl and other priority migratory birds. The committee will continue to monitor this policy and its potential impacts to migratory bird management.

- Farm Bill Update – **Andrew Schmidt** (AFWA) introduced himself as AFWA's new Farm Bill Coordinator and provided the committee with an update on the various Farm Bill programs (i.e., ACEP, RCPP, EQUIP). Of particular interest was the re-linking of conservation compliance as it applies to crop insurance under the 2014 Farm Bill.

Presentations:

- **Tim Willis**, DU – Ducks Unlimited Southern Region Programs
- **Joe Fuller**, NC - North Carolina's Waterfowl and Wetlands Program

Action Items and Recommendations: Continue to monitor activities associated with Farming on Refuges and its impacts to migratory bird management.

Committee Chair: Stephen V. Rockwood,
Steve.Rockwood@MyFWC.com

DEER COMMITTEE

Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission will host the 2016 Southeast Deer Study Group meeting February 15-17, 2016 at Great Wolf Lodge in Concord, North Carolina.

This will be the 39th annual meeting of deer biologists, managers, researchers and enthusiasts. This conference will consist of the latest research in deer biology and management. Deer biologists, researchers, and managers come together to discuss the latest findings and experiences to further hone their skills for managing one of most important game species in the southeast. Please visit <http://www.sedsg.com/> for more information.

Committee Chair: Steve Demarais,
sdemarais@cfr.msstate.edu

C.W. WATSON AWARD COMMITTEE

Todd Holbrook Named C. W. Watson Award Winner

ASHEVILLE, N.C. – Nov. 5, 2015 – The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies named **Herman Todd Holbrook** of Conyers, Georgia the 2015 C. W. Watson Award winner at their annual meeting in Asheville this week. This award is the highest honor bestowed by the Association.

“Todd Holbrook has proven himself a highly productive wildlife resource manager at all levels from field biologist to deputy commissioner of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources,” said SEAFWA President **Bob Ziehmer**. “In addition to the services rendered in Georgia, his involvement with human dimensions research has left a lasting impact on wildlife management throughout the nation.”

Holbrook is a master at integrating social science into wildlife management. He was one of the first to pay attention to what hunters and anglers wanted and worked within the parameters of sound wildlife-management to better the sport and the resource on numerous occasions. For example, he led the development of Georgia's first statewide deer management plan through an extensive public participation process.

“Todd was also one of the first wildlife professionals to recognize the declining trend in hunter participation,” Ziehmer said “He developed models to explain and predict the trends which enabled state wildlife agencies, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other conservation groups to develop programs that focused on retaining and recruiting hunters and anglers.”

As one of the original members of the board of directors for Responsive Management, Holbrook was instrumental in providing early guidance and support for what has become the leading research firm for many agencies and outdoor organizations. Responsive Management is an internationally

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recognized public opinion and attitude survey research firm specializing in natural resource and outdoor recreation issues.

Under his direction, the GDNR has addressed several important and hotly debated issues surrounding wildlife management through ground-breaking methods now being considered and adopted by other state agencies. For example, the GDNR has instituted a permitting system for the use of dogs to hunt deer and developed an innovative system to address the need for nonconsumptive public land users to contribute to the financial demands of wildlife habitat management. Holbrook's vision and leadership were instrumental in developing and implementing these programs.

The C.W. Watson award 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. This award is 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.

After 27 years with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Holbrook retired and now serves as the president of the Georgia Wildlife Federation.

Media contact: Andi Cooper,
Cooper.andi@gmail.com

Committee Chair: Craig Harper, charper@utk.edu

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Best Paper Award

The Best Paper Award was presented at the 69th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Fish and Wildlife Agencies in Asheville, NC, November 1-4, 2015. A total of 26 wildlife manuscripts that were published in the 2015 *Journal of Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies* were reviewed and scored by committee members.

Jeremy J. Flinn, Stephen Demaris, Bronson K. Strickland, Kenneth L. Gee, Stephen L. Webb, Phillip D. Jones, and Harry A. Jacobson were recognized at the SEAFWA banquet for having the highest composite score, and received a plaque for their manuscript entitled "Estimating Age and Antler Traits of Photographed Male White-tailed Deer."

Committee Chair: John Stanton,
John_Stanton@fws.gov

STUDENT AWARDS COMMITTEE

The following awards were presented at the 69th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Fish and Wildlife Agencies in Asheville, NC.

Student Presentation Award

Jordan Nanney, with the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, was recognized at the SEAFWA banquet for his presentation entitled "Influences of prescribed fire and herbicide applications on forage availability for cervids in the Cumberland Mountains, TN."

Student Poster Award

Lacey Rucker, with Alabama A&M University, was recognized at the SEAFWA banquet for her poster entitled "Amphibian use of road ruts as breeding wetlands located in upland hardwood forests on the mid Cumberland Plateau."

Student Chapter Award

Student chapters in the SETWS are evaluated by independent judges on an overall application package including professionalism and involvement in research education, management, stewardship, and outreach to name a few categories. This year, the Virginia Tech Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society was recognized as the Student Chapter of the Year for their outstanding service to their members and SETWS.

Committee Chair: Andy Madison,
amadison@uu.edu

STATE REPORTS

ALABAMA



Alabama Chapter

The Alabama Chapter of The Wildlife Society held a phone conference on 24 September, 2015. Various topics were covered, including planning for the 2016 meeting to be held at the Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center in Conecuh National Forest, AL on April 14 - 15.

Shannon Allen, shannon.allen.1@us.af.mil

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

After 30 years of service to the Wildlife Section **Ray Metzler** has decided to retire. Ray has accomplished so much for the betterment of the Division during his career. Ray began working in the Wildlife Section in 1986 at the Wolf Creek Wildlife Management Area in what was the District III office at the time in the picturesque surroundings of Walker County. In 1993, Ray was promoted to a Biologist III/Hunter Education Coordinator and transferred to the Montgomery office. During this time he received national recognition with the International Hunter Education Associations (IHEA) "Innovations in Technology" Award. This award is given to a group or a member of industry that exhibited outstanding support of the IHEA and furthering its mission of developing better ways of educating young hunter through technological advances. Ray received this recognition with the development of the CD Rom Hunter Education delivery program. Ray was also responsible for supervising the development of Alabama's National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP), which has proven to be an extremely successful program in Alabama, with over 200 schools participating in the program statewide at that time.

In 2011 Ray was promoted to Assistant Chief. Although with this promotion came more responsibility and the challenge of becoming the Federal Aid Coordinator for the state's wildlife grants, managing research projects and contracts with cooperators, he remained active with the Hunter Education Program.

He has continued to teach classes, assist with archery ranges and NASP events. Ray's energy, hard work and always projecting a positive image have made him an outstanding employee and representative for the Department. Ray has had a great career here but after 30 years he is ready to start a new chapter in life and we wish him the very BEST!

Marisa Lee Futral, Marisa.Futral@dcnr.alabama.gov

Alabama's eleventh community archery park held its grand opening on August 4, at Oak Mountain State Park. The Oak Mountain State Park Community Archery Park is located within the park on Findley Drive near The Oaks golf course.

Alabama's twelfth community archery park held its grand opening on August 20, in Elba, Ala. The Elba Community Archery Park is located within Hawkins Williams Park, 300 Champ McCullough Dr., Elba, Ala., 36323.

The archery parks will be open year-round during daylight hours for recreational shooting, competitive tournaments and outdoor educational programming. The facilities include an eight-target adult range from 15 to 50 yards, an eight-target youth range of 5 to 20 yards and a four-target range of 10 to 40 yards. The parks also feature a 12-foot shooting platform for bowhunters to practice shooting from an elevated position.



ALDCNR's twelve Archery Parks are open year-round during daylight hours.

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US Forest Service

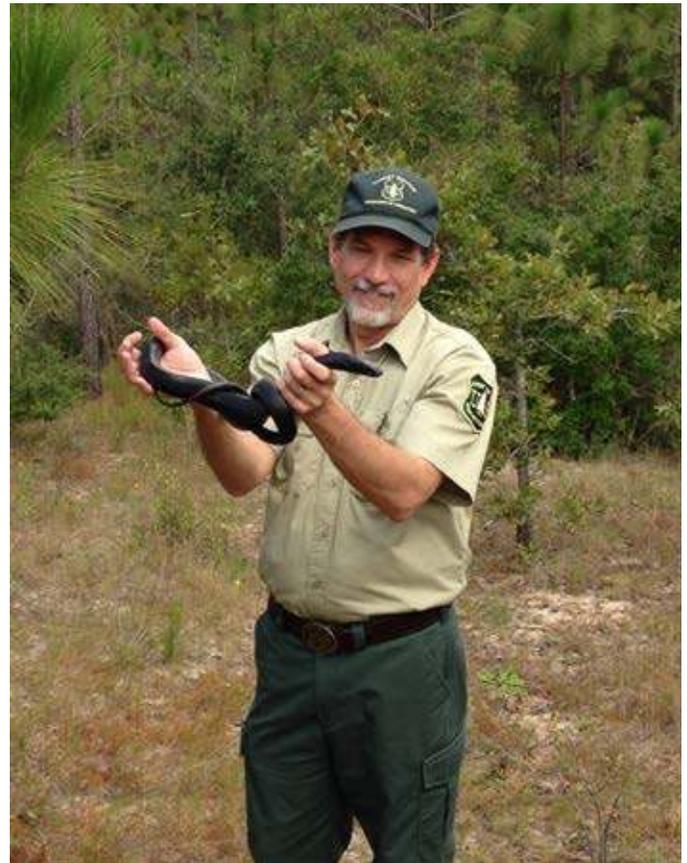
Feral pig control efforts (using camera recon. and whole-sounder trapping protocols) are still ongoing on the Bankhead, Oakmulgee, Tuskegee and Shoal Creek Districts (in cooperation with ADCNR and APHIS Wildlife Services). Although we are trapping many individuals it is still a huge challenge and we have a long way to go.



Feral pig control efforts.

Two golden eagles that were GPS tagged on the Shoal Creek Ranger District (Talladega NF) last winter as part of the Eastern golden eagle cooperative study have checked back in. They are making their way back south from Canada. One of the birds, a 6 year old female, spent the summer on an island in Hudson Bay off the coast of Quebec.

The Conecuh District has been working cooperatively with the local Quail Forever Chapter to plant and maintain supplemental food plots and restore native grasses in wildlife openings for bobwhites on the National Forest. The Eastern indigo snake repatriation project is still ongoing there.



Eastern Indigo snake repatriation in the Conecuh District.

Apply Now for the 2016 TWS Leadership Institute

The Wildlife Society is currently accepting applications for its Leadership Institute. The Institute's goal is to facilitate the development of new leaders within TWS and the wildlife profession. The Institute will recruit 10-15 promising early-career professionals for a series of intensive activities and mentoring relationships. The focus will be on exposing the participants to the inner workings of TWS and increasing the number of active leaders in TWS and the wildlife profession. Application deadline is March 21, 2016. Please visit <http://wildlife.org/next-generation/leadership-institute/> for more information.

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The Talladega District is busy expanding its Red-cockaded woodpecker habitats. After beginning repatriation in 2008, the district was up to 13 active clusters this past spring and we just moved 7 more pairs from Eglin AFB this fall.



Red-cockaded woodpecker from the Talladega District.

Upcoming Events: (Lots of “Blitzes”)

We have a lot of upcoming RCW work on the Oakmulgee Ranger District. With 110 active clusters, the Oakmulgee population is the largest in Alabama. To revitalize the population and bring improved habitats online for RCW expansion, we plan to install approximately 300-400 artificial cavities over the next 2-3 years, with the first big “RCW insert blitz” occurring in late January-early February. Following that, in the early spring we will be conducting an “RCW inventory blitz” where we’ll visit and collect data from all known clusters. We are asking for student and partner support during this survey effort and in future RCW work on the Oakmulgee. If interested contact the Oakmulgee Ranger District or Montgomery FS Office.

We’ll be accelerating habitat work (via timber harvest, prescribed burning, invasive plant control, and hardwood midstory removal) on the Tuskegee Ranger District in preparation for RCW repatriation there within the next few years.

We are also happy to be hosting the SBDN Regional 2016 “Bat Blitz” on the Shoal Creek Ranger District this summer, July 24-28. Lodging for the event will be at Cheaha State Park. This blitz will expand and complement the ongoing studies there and help answer questions regarding bat communities in fire-maintained open pinelands. There’ll also be a public education component the first evening of the event. Lots of partner participation is expected.

Other than that, we are gearing up for prescribed burning season forest-wide which will really kick off after the holidays. As was the case in the past 2 years, we are planning to have another 100,000 acre prescribed burning season in 2016.

Ryan Shurette, gshurette@fs.fed.us

ARKANSAS



Arkansas Chapter

We are pleased to announce the date for the annual Arkansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society meeting as March 3-4, 2016 at the C.A. Vines 4-H Center in Little Rock. A draft agenda, registration and call for abstracts will be coming soon, but please mark your calendars and join us for two days of presentations and networking with wildlife professionals from around the state. This is a different format than you may have been involved with in the past and we plan on having many interesting talks, a social, and even more opportunities for networking between professionals and students.

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

In cooperation with The Ross Foundation, the agency recently established the 18,300 acre Jack Mountain Wildlife Management Area near Hot Springs.

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Ted Zawislak was selected to be the Supervisor for the Private Lands Program on November 19th. **Craig Davis**, Natural Resource Program Technician on the Petit Jean River WMA recently earned TWS Associate Wildlife Biologist certification.

Arkansas Tech Student Chapter

Our most successful event this past semester was the inception of Fall Field Days in which current freshmen in the Fisheries and Wildlife Science program are taken into the field to teach them techniques valuable to their future success as conservationists, with the intent to retain them in the fisheries and wildlife science major. Historically, we have an average of 60-70 freshmen each fall, with about 20 remaining in the program after their first year, so it was our goal to increase the retention rate. The first field day included an obstacle course, reptile handling, and small mammal/trap identification. The second field day was composed of backpack shocking, seining, and fish identification with food and games following each event. They were a huge success, with well over 100 attendees total! The chapter participated in Bow Jam at Holla Bend NWR with over 20 ATU students volunteering and 158 elementary kids learning how to shoot a bow, and receiving a bow to take home. ATU students also participated in our annual trip to the Bearcat Hollow WMA, with 30

students volunteering to do stream clean up, field clean up, and gate installations. The chapter also worked in cooperation with USACE to do the bi-annual trash pick-up on Lake Front Dr. in Russellville, AR which prevented hundreds of pounds of waste from being washed out into Lake Dardanelle.

Our last event was held at Bona Dea Trails, where we had over 30 volunteers removing invasive species, mainly privet, along the trails to improve wildlife habitat. We also had a few volunteers help out at Snakes and Stars, an event designed to introduce elementary students to reptiles and proper techniques in handling and safety. Our last, event of the semester, was helping the CADDIS Fly Fishers Club in trout day at Pleasant View Park in Russellville.

Arkansas State University Student Chapter

This past semester the chapter conducted outreach to local schools regarding wildlife and some invasive species and have had two alumni give presentations about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service role in Arkansas and environment consulting. The chapter assisted in operations at the Cache River NWR deer check station and cleaned the chapters Adopt-a-Highway mile section within Jonesboro. The chapter currently has nearly 90 student members.



Arkansas Tech Student Chapter members picking up trash near Lake Dardanelle.

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University of Arkansas at Fayetteville Student Chapter

The chapter has had an amazing semester and have grown our membership from 14 to 33 members. Guest speakers at meetings have included an employee from USDA Wildlife Services and the diversity recruiter from the Southeastern region of the USFWS. Members helped with a creek cleanup on campus and collected biological data for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission at the McIlroy Madison County WMA quota deer hunt. To finish off such an amazing semester, the chapter rented a Skybox for the Mississippi State vs Arkansas football game and had representatives from the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville, University of Arkansas-Monticello, Arkansas Tech University, Arkansas State University, and the Mississippi State University student chapters of The Wildlife Society.

Blake Sasse, Blake.Sasse@agfc.ar.gov



University of Arkansas at Fayetteville Student Chapter collecting deer biological data at the McIlroy Madison County Wildlife Management Area.

FLORIDA



NO NEWS REPORTED

Position Statement Review: TWS Seeks Member Input

Two new position statements have been drafted by the TWS Council Subcommittee titled "Invasive & Feral Species" and "Energy Development & Wildlife". These position statements were consolidated from several related position statements to allow for a simpler, more streamlined approach to related issues and to provide a more clear expression of TWS' positions. These consolidated statements are now for a 60-day TWS member review, per Council's direction. TWS Members can review the draft statements at www.wildlife.org/position-statements and send all comments and suggested edits to Caroline Murphy, Government Affairs Associate, caroline.murphy@wildlife.org. Comments are due by March 6, 2016.

STATE REPORTS

GEORGIA



Georgia DNR,
Wildlife Resources Division

Todd Holbrook Receives National Recognition

Todd Holbrook recently was honored by the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) with the prestigious C.W. Watson Award. This is the highest honor given to a wildlife professional by SEAFWA.

Holbrook, formerly Assistant Director of the Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division as well as Deputy Commissioner for Georgia DNR, was recognized for a lifetime of work that will continue to make a difference for generations to come.

Todd is a second generation wildlife biologist to receive this award. His late father, **Duff Holbrook**, received this award in 1988.

Tracking Mottled Ducks

Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division's Game Management Section recently worked with the University of Georgia to place satellite telemetry transmitters on mottled ducks as part of a cooperative research project.

The transmitters will record the locations of the mottled ducks and electronically send the GPS locations via satellites. The data is used to analyze mottled duck movements, habitat use and survival rates. The study can assist in creating and managing preferred mottled duck habitat, and help sustain and grow the coastal mottled duck population.



L to R: **Ed Carter** (Director, TN); **Todd Holbrook** (retired from GA WRD); **Dan Forster** (Director, GA).

STATE REPORTS

Deadly Disease for Snakes

A disease deadly to snakes has reared its ugly head again in Georgia. A brown watersnake marred with scabbing and other symptoms characteristic of Snake Fungal Disease was found in a Bulloch County swamp in August. The Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study later confirmed the snake had *Ophidiomyces ophiodiicola*, the fungus associated with what most call SFD.

Earlier in the year, an eastern indigo snake in south-central Georgia also tested positive. That makes three free-ranging snakes in Georgia documented with SFD. The first was a mud snake caught at the same swamp near Statesboro as the watersnake in summer 2014. A volunteer with The Orianne Society, a non-profit focused on conserving imperiled snakes, found both.

Snake fungal disease is a severe dermatitis that causes scabs, crusty scales, abnormal molting and other skin inflammation. First reported in a captive black rat snake from Sparta in 2006, SFD has been documented in at least eight species and a growing number of wild snakes in the eastern U.S. and Midwest.

DNR and others are encouraging herp enthusiasts statewide to report suspicious sightings. Dr. **Jessica McGuire** of DNR is hoping that “as herpers become more aware of it, we’ll find out more.” Senior wildlife biologist **John Jensen** of the Nongame Conservation Section said the discovery of a second infected species at the Bulloch County site suggests “that potentially the spores of this fungus are present in the environment, not only on the animal.”

The disease is largely a mystery, in part because snakes are cryptic species. While SFD has been likened to white-nose syndrome, an emerging disease devastating bats in the U.S. and Canada, some question that comparison, noting that the scope of the impact and whether or not the disease is new are unknown.

Teaching Conservation Rewarded

A Locust Grove teacher’s vision of turning students into nature explorers earned a \$1,000 teaching conservation grant from Georgia DNR’s Nongame Conservation Section. The annual grant, funded by nongame friends group TERN, goes to a third-through fifth-grade public or private school teacher in Georgia who demonstrates exceptional energy and innovation in teaching life sciences. **Melanie Hartfield**, a fifth-grade science and social studies teacher at Unity Grove Elementary, was picked for her proposal in which students will catalog wildlife on school grounds, create an e-book about the findings and even teach third-graders about the environment.

Teachers and students can explore wildlife and art through Georgia’s 26th annual Give Wildlife a Chance Poster Contest. Sponsored by the nongame friends group TERN and coordinated by Georgia DNR’s Nongame Conservation Section and the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, the contest encourages kindergarten through 5th-graders to explore the outdoors and their artistic interests. State-level entries are due by April 8. More details at www.georgiawildlife.com/postercontest.

Andrew Edelman, aedelman@westga.edu



STATE REPORTS

KENTUCKY



Kentucky Chapter

Bats and Forest Management in a Changing Environment: A Workshop/Training for Land Managers

Hosted by: Kentucky Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Carl Perkins Conference Center
Eastern Kentucky University
Richmond, KY
Thursday, March 3, 2016

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has listed the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) as a Threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) according to an interim 4(d) rule that became effective on May 4, 2015. This species joins Kentucky's three other federally listed bat species, the Indiana (*M. sodalis*), gray (*M. grisescens*), and Virginia big-eared (*Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus*) bats, all of which are Endangered. The Kentucky Chapter has organized this workshop/training to help land managers better understand the implications of these and potential future bat listings on forest habitat management. The information will be geared toward wildlife biologists, foresters, and other land managers who need to understand how ESA listings will affect management activities on the lands they manage, and how it compares to current regulatory requirements and guidance for the Indiana bat.

Registration: Professionals \$20, Students \$5.

Continuing Education Credits: Five (5) continuing education contact hours have been approved by SAF for Certified Foresters & by TWS for Certified/Associate Wildlife Biologists.

For more information, please contact: **L. Scott Harp**, President (Leroy.Harp@ky.gov) or **Zak Danks**, Secretary (zachary.danks@ky.usda.gov).

Zak Danks, zachary.danks@ky.usda.gov

LOUISIANA



Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Scott Durham has been promoted to Director, Education & Private Lands. **Jonathan Bordelon** has been promoted to the Program Manager for the Deer Program and **Jimmy Ernst** has accepted the DMAP Coordinator position.

LDWF will be hosting the 70th Annual SEAFWA Conference in downtown Baton Rouge, October 16-19, 2016. Please visit seafwa.org for more information

Jeff Duguay, jduguay@wlf.la.gov

MARYLAND/DELAWARE



NO NEWS REPORTED

MISSISSIPPI



NO NEWS REPORTED

NORTH CAROLINA



NO NEWS REPORTED

STATE REPORTS

OKLAHOMA



NO NEWS REPORTED

SOUTH CAROLINA



NO NEWS REPORTED

TENNESSEE



University of Tennessee - Knoxville

New Online Continuing Education Course on Ranaviruses Offered

The Global Ranavirus Consortium (GRC) is pleased to announce an online continuing education (CE) / professional development course on ranaviruses. This course is open to ALL professionals and students. Over 20 ranavirus experts from around the globe will contribute to instruction. The course will meet on Wednesdays (3 February – 20 April 2016) from 9:05 – 12:05 hours (Eastern Time, New York, USA). To facilitate global participation, all lectures will be recorded in real-time (video of presentations and audio by instructors and participants) using free interactive software (Zoom, <https://zoom.us/support/download>), and recordings made available on an iTunes website. The course fee is \$250 for GRC members and \$300 for non-members. The GRC will use these funds to support future professional development activities.

More information is available on the GRC website: <http://www.ranavirus.org>

A draft syllabus and advertisement flyer can be found at:

<http://fwf.ag.utk.edu/mgray/ranavirus/course/GRC-DraftCourseSyllabus.pdf>

<http://fwf.ag.utk.edu/mgray/ranavirus/course/GRC-RanavirusCourseFlyer2016.pdf>

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. **Matthew Gray** (University of Tennessee, mgray11@utk.edu).

Lincoln Memorial University

The Lincoln Memorial University Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society has been involved in several projects over the past few months throughout Claiborne County and surrounding communities. In the fall, the society took part in the “Batty About Bats” program at the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park in which volunteers helped with mist netting throughout the cave system. Also, the society headed a trail cleanup at the Pine Mountain State Park, as well as a trail cleanup at the Mountain Hollow Farm in which an interactive nature trail was created. The LMU Wildlife Society has been very involved with the Claiborne County chapter of the Girl Scouts, participating in a blue bird house construction project, trunk-or-treat, and a holiday craft bazaar. Several members of the society attended the Knap-in and Primitive Skills Festival at the Cove Lake State Park in which attendees were taught primitive survival skills and techniques. Recently, the society hosted a taxidermy demonstration led by a local taxidermist and volunteered at a local deer processing station.

Steven Hayslette, shayslette@tntech.edu



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VIRGINIA



Virginia Chapter

The Virginia Chapter will be hosting our annual Winter Meeting at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House and Conference Center February 23-24, 2016. We are excited to announce our theme will be our chapter itself; titled “A Look in the Mirror: Chapter Check-up Time.” The efforts of any cause require careful thought and consideration into assuring that all work performed is as efficient, successful, and impacting as absolutely possible. Anything less leads to reduced effectiveness and wasted effort. Virginia TWS is no different, and therefore we thought it a very opportune time to perform a chapter “health check.” How are we doing? Where are we strong? Where are we weak? What exactly are we supposed to be doing? What needs to be done better? How should we do the work we do? How do we make people care about only wildlife, but The Wildlife Society? How do we stay relevant? Are we relevant? Why am I not CWB certified? These are all questions that we are excited to crack open and discuss in our 2016 Winter Meeting. We will also be discussing the results of our Chapter’s first membership survey in 8 years. It should be a very engaging and interactive meeting for us. We need engaging discussion from both students and professionals alike. We hope to see you there!

Aaron Proctor, aaron.proctor@dgif.virginia.gov

DUCKS UNLIMITED

Staff Changes

As of September 21, **Justin Park** is the new conservation land coordinator for the South Atlantic Field Office. Justin is responsible for our current easement portfolio and guiding the development, selection, prioritization and delivery of future conservation easement projects. Justin is the primary landowner contact for regional conservation easement activities. Justin holds a Juris Doctor, Master of Studies in Environmental Law degree from Vermont Law School and was employed with the Georgia-Alabama Land Trust (GALT) since 2008. While at the GALT, Justin held various positions including staff attorney, in-lieu fee program developer and manager, site protection project manager for wetland/stream restoration sites, interim deputy director and land protection director. Justin and his family reside in Charleston, South Carolina.

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

Arkansas

White River NWR Improved – Arkansas

As part of a recent NAWCA grant (MAV Protection, Restoration and Enhancement II) awarded to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC), DU will work with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to restore roughly 90 acres of emergent wetland habitat on the Turner Tract at White River National Wildlife Refuge. The Turner Tract is a recently acquired agricultural property adjacent to the waterfowl hunt area on the South Unit of the refuge. Currently, the refuge is using a poorly functioning water control structure that is only capable of flooding a small portion of the tract. Through the improvement and building of a new levee system and the



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addition of new water control structures, the FWS will be able to properly manage almost 90 acres of shallow water habitat for moist soil and flooded agriculture habitat. Construction will be completed in time to provide important habitat for migratory waterfowl this fall.

Work at Dry Lake on the White River NWR will begin shortly. Construction was delayed because of high river levels. This enhancement work will impact about 120 acres of emergent wetland to be managed as moist soil habitat. The construction work at Dry Lake will consist of building new levees and installing new water control structures, new water well and associated underground piping. This project will allow White River NWR staff to provide early shallow water on the refuge for early migrants as well as provide new moist soil habitat in dryer years.

Mitigation Project Nears Completion - Arkansas

Ducks Unlimited has been working with Magellan Pipeline Company, LP, to deliver a permittee-responsible mitigation project adjacent to the Raft Creek Wildlife Management Area in White County. Hydrology restoration work is complete on the 120-acre parcel, and reforestation work should be completed in February. The parcel will eventually be transferred to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission with a portion of it developed as a moist soil unit managed for waterfowl.

Louisiana Dewey Wills WMA Enhancement

Ducks Unlimited and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries recently completed a wetland enhancement project on Dewey Wills Wildlife Management Area in LaSalle Parish, Louisiana, approximately 20 miles northeast of Alexandria. DU engineers oversaw all survey, design and construction management for the project, which consisted of constructing about three miles of levees and installing six water control structures and other drainage features. The project restored 3,000 acres

of forested wetland habitat to increase foraging opportunities for wintering waterfowl and mimic natural seasonal flooding regimes. Partners on the project included DU, LDWF, Wetlands America Trust, Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, North American Wetlands Conservation Council and others.

Ducks Unlimited and partners will dedicate this project to **Warren Coco**, DU Diamond Sponsor in Perpetuity member and long-time supporter. Warren is the owner of Go-Devil Manufacturers of Louisiana and has donated many Go-Devil engines and boat, engine and trailer packages, and other product to DU events for nearly three decades.

The latest Louisiana Legacy Greenwings will also be recognized with their names on a cairn erected at the site. A Legacy Greenwing membership is a youth membership for age 17 and younger for \$200, a one-time fee that ensures DU membership through age 21.

Mississippi Coldwater River NWR – Mississippi

After nearly a year of delays due to Cultural Resource concerns, the project to improve Coldwater National Wildlife Refuge is complete. Partnering with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, DU repaired existing levees and added a new levee while installing new water control structures and a well with underground piping. The work enhanced 263 acres that can now be managed for emergent wetland habitat in an important area for wintering waterfowl. This area will provide additional hunting opportunities in the storied Mississippi Delta. Funding for this restoration project was provided by Wetlands America Trust past president and current trustee **Jim Kennedy**.

Indianola WMA – Mississippi

Ducks Unlimited completed a three-phase project to restore wetlands on Mississippi's newest wildlife management area, Indianola WMA. Infrastructure improvements to the 180-acre North Unit completed nearly 700 acres of restoration work on three units.

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Restoration of the abandoned catfish ponds near Indianola, Mississippi included installing underground piping, refurbishing levees and installing water control structures to aid in habitat management for waterfowl. This project has added tremendous public waterfowl hunting opportunities in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley. Partners on the project included the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, the North American Wetlands Conservation Council, Wetlands America Trust, DU, the Audubon Society, the Walker Foundation and Cypress Brake Tree Farms.

South Carolina Wateree River Dedication

DU Regional Biologist **Emily Purcell** attended a dedication event for the Wateree River Heritage Preserve and Wildlife Management Area in November. The area will provide hunting, fishing, and general outdoor recreational access to the public. DU

partnered with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Haile Gold Mine, the Wildlife & Sportfish Restoration Act, SC Department of Archives and History, and the US Army Corps of Engineers for the creation of the Wateree River Heritage Preserve as part of the Haile Gold Mine Mitigation Project. Ducks Unlimited held an easement on the majority of the Cook's Mountain property, and through the Haile Gold Mine Mitigation Plan added additional acreage to the easement to protect the entirety of Cook's Mountain. SCDNR acquired ownership of the area through the mitigation plan and included it in the Heritage Preserve.

Land Protection Progress

Ducks Unlimited closed on 6,786 acres of conservation easements in South Carolina in Fiscal Year 2015. This adds significantly to the permanent



Partners gathered to celebrate the establishment of the Wateree River Heritage Preserve and Wildlife Management Area.

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protection of some of the Lowcountry's best habitats. We anticipate closing on another 3,769 acres by December and have an additional 4,736 acres awaiting funding approvals from the South Carolina Conservation Bank and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. Our conservation efforts are enriched by the dedication and support from partners and landowners who are committed to preserving this vital Lowcountry landscape for generations.

Tennessee Two WMA Improvements Planned - Tennessee

Working with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), DU has secured North American Wetlands Conservation Act funding to make improvements to Eagle Lake and Tully wildlife management areas in western Tennessee. John Tully WMA is a 15,500-acre area in Lauderdale County in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley. Work will begin there this summer to enhance 410 acres of emergent marsh/agricultural wetlands in managed impoundments. Construction will subdivide larger impoundments into smaller, more manageable units and improve water management capabilities by installing new levees and new water control structures.

On Eagle Lake WMA, grant funds will be used to enhance 117 acres of palustrine emergent marsh on several shallow water impoundments and 40 acres of forested wetlands (reforested bottomland hardwoods) on the 2,488-acre WMA in Shelby County. Construction will install three water control structures and replace underground piping from two existing wells.

First Mitigation Credits Sold

Ducks Unlimited, Inc. and the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TNDOT) reached an agreement in September that will allow TNDOT to fulfill its future wetland mitigation requirements throughout the Wolf River watershed by using credits generated at DU's Mt. Tena Creek Mitigation Bank.

The Mt. Tena Creek Mitigation Bank operated by Ducks Unlimited, Inc. was approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation in 2014. Since that time Ducks Unlimited engineers and biologists have restored over 70 acres of bottomland hardwood forest, including planting approximately 35,000 native trees on the site's former agricultural fields. The restored wetlands will improve water quality in the Memphis region. The restored wetlands will increase recharge to the Memphis Sands aquifer and filter runoff before it reaches the Wolf River and its tributaries. In the future Ducks Unlimited hopes that the property will become part of the adjacent Wolf River State Natural Area.

Virginia VDGIF Takes a Trip to Canada

Ducks Unlimited and Ducks Unlimited Canada hosted staff from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) for a project tour in September. The tour was held in Quebec where VDGIF directs their State Grants funding in support of habitat conservation along the St. Lawrence River for breeding and staging waterfowl. Attending on behalf of VDGIF were Dr. **Gary Costanzo**, Migratory Game Bird Program Leader, and **Sergio Harding**, Nongame Bird Conservation Biologist. The department joined the State Grants Program three years ago and this trip gave them an opportunity to learn about the challenges and opportunities facing waterfowl in this part of Canada.



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In addition to looking at conservation projects that VDGIF supported, a dedication was held to recognize the agency for their participation in this important international conservation partnership. The VDGIF is currently in the fourth year of a five-year agreement to provide \$125,000 to the State Grants Program. They are the only state agency that currently gives nongame funds as part of their annual contribution recognizing that the projects DU works on in Quebec provide habitat for many species of migratory birds that come to Virginia.

Southwest Conservation Unit – South LA, OK, TX, NM

Oklahoma Drummond Flats Expanded

Last February **Alan Stacey**, representing DU/Wetlands America Trust was the successful bidder at a public auction for a 22-acre parcel at Drummond Flats in northwest Oklahoma. Drummond Flats WMA covers 4,653 acres in western Garfield County in

north central Oklahoma. It is a historic overflow basin at the confluence of Turkey Creek, Elm Creek, and Salt Creek, and is predominately wetland habitat with some surrounding upland habitat. This parcel was the only inholding at the Drummond Flats Wildlife Management Area and ODWC requested DU's assistance in securing it. The parcel officially went to ODWC at the end of August, expanding the WMA and eliminating the potential for habitat disturbances inside this important waterfowl area.

Louisiana Pass-a-Loutre WMA Enhancement - Louisiana

Ducks Unlimited and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) are partnering on a project to improve habitat and ensure system sustainability on Pass-a-Loutre Wildlife Management Area. Pass-a-Loutre WMA is in the extreme southeast portion the bird-foot delta near the mouth of the Mississippi River and adjacent to the 48,800 acre Delta National Wildlife Refuge. DU will clean two existing crevasses and use the dredged material to create two remote bird nesting islands. Crevasses



(from left to right) are: (L-R) **Craig LeShack** (DU), **Sergio Harding** (VDGIF), **Gary Costanzo** (VDGIF), **Rejean Dumas** (Quebec Dept. of Forests, Wildlife & Parks), **Deanne Drouillard** (DUC) and **Andre Michaud** (DUC).

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capture the land creation potential of the Mississippi River by enhancing and diverting sediment and nutrient laden water into areas experiencing marsh loss and/or saltwater intrusion. Cleaning the two existing crevasses on South Pass will restore this land building capability to more than 1,500 acres of intermediate marsh and shallow flats. The sediment removed from the crevasses will be used to create two five-acre barrier islands for nesting colonial seabirds such as terns and black-skimmers. We anticipate the project will also naturally create approximately 10 acres of emergent marsh over the next 30 years. The project is part of a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant matched by DU, LDWF and the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

Rockefeller Refuge Dedication - Louisiana

More than 75 friends and family of Louisiana conservationist **Tom Hess** gathered at Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge in October to dedicate a restoration project in his honor. Ducks Unlimited and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries partnered to enhance 6,800 acres of coastal marsh on the state refuge in southwest Louisiana.

"It is with great memories of Tom that we dedicate this work to improve management of Price Lake Marsh," said DU Director of Operations **Tom Moorman**, who worked with Hess on Rockefeller Refuge. "Tom was a great friend and colleague who took me under his wing and taught me so much about the Louisiana marsh. He called Rockefeller the center of the duck universe, and we all want to keep it that way."

Hess, who passed away in 2014, was born in Wilmington, Del., where he learned to hunt and fish and developed his passion for the outdoors. He was hired in 1972 as a biologist assistant at Rockefeller. Being a wildlife biologist allowed him the opportunity to work with bald eagles and brown pelicans and to be part of the whooping crane's reintroduction to southwest Louisiana, but his main passion was for ducks. He concluded his career as program manager of Rockefeller Refuge.

The \$1.4 million project restored water management capabilities to the Price Lake Unit of the refuge and expanded the fishing pier for better public access. This project was completed as part of Ducks Unlimited's Gulf Coast Initiative. Funding partners include LDWF, DU, Chevron U.S.A. and the Stuller Family Foundation.



DU & LDWF staff & Chevron Hess Dedication.jpg - Ducks Unlimited, Chevron and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries staff celebrate the completion of the Tom Hess restoration project.

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Three Projects Dedicated in Terrebonne Parish - Louisiana

Nearly 50 people gathered to celebrate the completion of three coastal restoration projects in November at the Falgout Canal Marina in Theriot, La. Ducks Unlimited, ConocoPhillips, Apache Louisiana Minerals LLC, the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and the North American Wetlands Conservation Council restored more than 2,500 coastal acres through the Liner Canal, Carencro Bayou and Lost Lake projects.

The Liner Canal project was on the parish's desired list for several years, but a lack of funding delayed the project, which will benefit hundreds of acres of fresh and intermediate marsh by increasing freshwater flow into an area severely threatened by saltwater intrusion.

The Lost Lake project created a living shoreline using wave attenuation devices (WADs) designed by Living Shoreline Solutions and fabricated by Lowland Construction Company. The WADs create a shoreline protection feature that can be moved and reused once the eroding coastal marsh stabilizes and fills in behind the structure.

Funded by grants from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, ConocoPhillips and the state of Louisiana, the Carencro Bayou freshwater introduction project restored freshwater and sediment inputs to more than 1,500 acres of coastal marsh in Terrebonne Parish. A water control structure was installed to control salinity and maximize the flow of fresh water from the Atchafalaya River and Bayou Penchant.

Fresh water introduction projects like this can dramatically improve waterfowl foraging habitat. More importantly, they restore the system processes that can maintain and grow coastal marsh to provide lasting benefits.

In addition to Ducks Unlimited's Gulf Coast Initiative sponsors, ConocoPhillips, Apache Louisiana Minerals LLC, Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, NOAA and NAWCC, partners on the projects included Terrebonne Parish, the Moore-Odom Wildlife Foundation and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Andi Cooper, acooper@ducks.org



Partners and sponsors for the three coastal restoration projects gathered in front of the sign at Falgout Canal Marina.

BUSINESS

SECRETARY-TREASURER REPORT January 1, 2015 to October 26, 2015

Submitted by: Mike Conner, SE Section Secretary/Treasurer

Beginning Balance (01/01/15)	\$6,777.01
Deposits	\$4976.00
Debits	\$(5,761.83)
Ending Balance (10/26/15)	\$5,991.18

DEPOSITS

Item	Amount
TWS Reimbursement (dues rebates)	\$2,740.00
TWS Reimbursement (dues rebates)	\$2,236.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$4,976.00

DEBITS

Item	Amount
HTC WG bought forward from 2014	\$256.00
Eastern Black Bear Workshop	\$500.00
Kelly Douglass (Card Stock)	\$5.83
U. Del (N Am Duck Symposium)	\$500.00
TWS (2015 Conf. support)	\$500.00
SEAFWA (Student Mixer)	\$1,000.00
Katie Edwards (Newsletter)	\$1,500.00
EKU (Conclave Support)	\$1,000.00
Bailee West (Document scanning, UTM)	\$500.00
TOTAL DEBITS	\$5,761.83

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USFWS, Frank Doyle

BUSINESS

**MINUTES FROM THE FALL BUSINESS MEETING
OF THE SOUTHEASTERN SECTION OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
Tuesday, 3 November 2015
Asheville, NC**

I. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions – Eric Pelren

The fall business meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm.

II. Approval of 2014 Business Meeting Minutes

Minutes were read by Mike Conner and unanimously approved.

III. Reports

SETWS Section Representative - Mike Conner gave the Section Representative report.

1. 5th International Wildlife Management Congress was held in Sapporo, Japan. It included a strong hunting and conservation theme. There were over 1,500 participants from over 40 countries.
2. Budget – tracking well. TWS improved net asset position by 21% and ended up fiscal year (now July – June) with \$211K surplus. This surplus is being used to shore up financial footing. \$2.5M budget for 2015-2016 with a goal of \$203K surplus. Council voted in Oct. to release \$385K for fiscal year based on TWS meeting financial targets.
3. TWS added new staff members (Chuck Shively, Development Manager; Keith Norris, Government Affairs Director).
4. The Winnipeg Conference was a success with over 1,600 attendees. Next conference will be in our Section – Raleigh, NC – be prepared to help if asked. Darren Miller is the Program Committee Chair. The 2017 Conference will be held in Albuquerque and 2018 Conference in Baltimore. In 2019, there will be a Joint Conference in association with the American Fisheries Society in Reno.
5. Gary Potts is now President of TWS. He will focus on partnerships and agency involvement and this will be reflected at the Annual Conference.
6. This year's annual conference overlaps SEAFWA completely. This issue has been discussed and hopefully conflicts will be avoided in the future.
7. The Wildlife Professional will have 6 issues/year beginning in 2016 with no increase in cost.
8. The 1,000 raised over \$104,000 last year. Please consider contributing.
9. Currently there are over 9,800 members. Membership decline appears to be over and now emphasis will be on growing the membership. TWS plans to grow by 3% next year. A full 21% of TWS members are from the Southeastern Section. There is much opportunity to grow Section membership.
10. Tell nonmembers about the TWS Partners program. This is a free but restricted access to some member benefits. It can be accessed via the TWS website (www.wildlife.org/wildlifepartners).

BUSINESS

11. Several SE section wildlifera received TWS awards – Eric Hellgren, SE Section Fellow; Bob Warren, Aldo Leopold Medal (2014), Randy Spencer (MS) – TWS Distinguished Service Award. Please nominate deserving colleagues for these awards. This is especially important given 2016 meeting in Raleigh. J. Ding Darling art award was approved by Council and TWS will need nominees.

Secretary/Treasurer - Mike Conner provided the account balance and informed membership that our audit suggested financials were in order. A complete finance report is attached as an appendix to the minutes. Mike pointed out that there was a declining trend in the financial report. Steve Rockwood reminded membership that \$2500.00 may be needed to pay SEAFWA for webpage design.

Audit Committee - Eric Pelren gave report. All is in order.

Associate Editor Wildlife – Eric Pelren provided report for James Martin. 35 manuscripts were submitted, 10 were withdrawn. 23 were accepted. Todd Steury will serve as the 2016 AE.

Student Awards – Eric Pelren reported for Andy Madison. Eric Pelren will announce winner at the awards banquet.

C. W. Watson Award – Eric Pelren reported for Craig Harper. Winner to be announced at the Awards Banquet.

Deer Committee – Eric Pelren reported for Steve Demarais. This year's SEDSG meeting was hosted by Arkansas Game and Fish with 327 registrants. Larry Castle received the Career Achievement Award. Lindsey Roberts, Texas A&M-Kingsville, won outstanding student presentation. The 2016 meeting will be held Feb 15 – 18 at Great Wolf Lodge in Concord, NC.

Endangered Species and Non-game Wildlife Committee – Jeanne Jones reported. She is trying to pull together a committee of specialists working on multiple taxa of non-game. See Jeanne or Darren Miller if interested in serving of this committee.

Fur Resources Committee- Colleen Olfenbuttel reported. Stated that a “Trapping Matters” workshop was offered at this year's SEAFWA. The Fur Resources Committee meets every year. Georgia will be hosting the next meeting.

Wetlands Wildlife Committee - Steve Rockwood reported. He encouraged students to attend committee meetings. He stated that the final BP settlement was approximately \$20B. The clean water act with new language defining wetlands was approved in August. Avian Flu was discovered in the Pacific and Central Flyways. The committee is watching for impacts on farming on refuges and suggests there will be a ban on GMOs and Neonicotinoids on refuges.

Editorial Advisory Board for The Wildlife Professional- Eric Pelren reported for Joe McGlincy. He has participated in numerous conference calls and has reviewed several papers. TWP will be going from 4 to 6 issues per year.

Minorities in Natural Resources Committee- Jeanne Jones gave report. She encouraged participation.

Wildlife Management Excellence Award- Eric Pelren reported for Chris DePerno. There were no nominees.

Publications Committee- Eric Pelren reported for John Staten. They reviewed 26 manuscripts and the best paper award will be announced at the awards banquet.

BUSINESS

Newsletter Editor, Webmaster- Katie Edwards provided report. The SETWS website is live on TWS. Reiterated that Katie is staying on as newsletter editor/webmaster. Katie will provide updates to the website as needed.

TWP Editorial Advisory Board - Eric Pelren stated that TWP asked for a representative from each section to serve. Joe McGlincy agreed to serve as our SETWS member.

Membership Committee- No report.

Nominating Committee- Mark Smith reported. Stated that we had an excellent slate of nominees.

Conservation Affairs Committee Eric Pelren reported for William Moore. A bylaws change is needed to make this an official committee. Darren Miller is working on a proposed change.

Susan Rupp suggested that we add a student representative to the SETWS Executive Board. Vanessa Lane added that perhaps each state could have a student representative to SETWS. Darren Miller said that we should encourage a student from the SE section to consider becoming a student representative to TWS Council.

Keith Norris described the Conservation Affairs Committees and Conservation Affairs Network. The overall purpose is to provide greater linkages between TWS, Sections, and Chapters.

SEAFWA Liaison - Steve Rockwood reported. SEAFWA will be developing a webpage. He stated SETWS promised up to \$2500 in support if needed. He stated that there was much concern over the submission process with regard to abstracts and full papers.

Vanessa Lane suggest that SEAFWA registration should include a checkbox for those willing to serve as judges and that we could use survey monkey to help the Student Awards Chair coordinate judges.

Strategic Planning - Eric Pelren reported. A skeleton framework is available on the internet. Please provide feedback. This will be passed on to Mark Smith for further action. Darren Miller suggested that this would be a great way for students to get involved at the section level.

IV. Other Business

Strategic Plan- Eric Pelren provided a template to Mark Smith for further action if needed.

Historic Records- We have many boxes of records and some have been digitized. We may need to decide what is relevant to digitize and discard remaining records.

Bylaws- Darren Miller is working on suggested changes for bylaws. Once the Executive Board reviews these suggested changes, they will be announced to the membership for a vote.

Keith Norris explained the Wildlife Partners program. It is a mechanism to allow non-TWS members to experience some of the benefits of membership. He also announced that American University was providing discounts to TWS members. Finally, he mentioned that there were new certification guidelines that allowed for experience to substitute for shortfalls in coursework.

Colleen Olfenbuttel offered to answer questions regarding the 2016 TWS meeting in NC.

BUSINESS

Darren Miller presented the Distinguished Service Award to Randy Spencer.

Election Results- Mark Smith announced that Billy Minser and Bruce Leopold served on the nominating committee. Voting ended November 2. Approximately 100 ballots were received. Mike Mengak is President Elect and Susan Rupp is Secretary-Treasurer.

Eric Pelren presented Darren Miller with an award for service as Southeastern Section Rep.

Eric Pelren presented Mike Conner with an award for service as SETWS Secretary-Treasurer

Eric Pelren gave Mark Smith the podium. Mark encouraged members to contact him if needed.

Mark Smith presented Eric Pelren with an award for service as Southeastern TWS President.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.



Southeastern Section TWS Executive Board (from left to right): President Mark Smith, Immediate Past-President Eric Pelren, President-elect Mike Mengak, Southeastern Section Representative to Council Mike Conner, and Secretary-Treasurer Susan Rupp.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

**Southeastern Section TWS Business Meeting
November 3, 2015, Asheville, NC**



Eric Pelren (left) was recognized for outstanding service as President by Mark Smith (right).



Darren Miller (left) was recognized for outstanding service as Southeastern Section Representative to Council by Eric Pelren (right).



Mike Conner (right) was recognized for outstanding service as Secretary-Treasurer by Eric Pelren (left).



Randy Spencer (left) was presented the Distinguished Service Award by Eric Pelren (right).

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



Eric Pelren presented the award for Student Chapter of the Year to the Virginia Tech Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society at the 69th Annual SEAFWA Conference.

The Wildlife Society Partners

Partner support is essential to the advancement of The Wildlife Society, our missions and program initiatives. Their financial contributions allow us to provide better services and unique member benefits ranging from contributed website and magazine content to discounted products and services. They help us progress issues that are vital to the growth of our Society, ensuring that TWS remains the preeminent voice in wildlife science, management and conservation for generations to come. We thank them for their commitment, and encourage you to consider utilizing the many services they provide to members in support of wildlife, the profession and our Society. To learn more about The Wildlife Society's partnership program email Chuck Shively, Development Manager, at chuck.shively@wildlife.org.

NOMINATIONS

Aldo Leopold Award

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

This is an opportunity for you to participate in identifying and recognizing an individual who has made an enduring contribution to wildlife conservation. You are encouraged to consider individuals not only from our traditional professional realm, but also those who bring their skills and talents to wildlife conservation from across society and across the world. Each nomination should include a statement emphasizing the basis for determining "distinguished service to wildlife conservation," a detailed resume, and no more than five supporting letters. Nominations of unsuccessful candidates remain in the candidate pool for a maximum of three years, unless the individual is re-nominated. The award is not given posthumously.

Please assist this year's committee by submitting materials via email to Awards@wildlife.org. The nomination and complete supporting documentation should be sent as a single PDF file by May 1, 2016.

Fellows Program

The Fellows Program recognizes members who have distinguished themselves through exceptional service to our profession. A maximum of two TWS Fellows per Section may be appointed annually, with an annual Society-wide total not to exceed 10, by vote of Council at the March meeting. Nominations can come from Sections, Chapters, or individual TWS members.

Nominations must use the Fellows Program application form (on the TWS web site).

The nominee meets the following criteria:

- must be a TWS member (current) for at least 10 years;
- must be active in TWS at Chapter, Section, or international level;
- must have a distinguished professional record that includes significant contributions to wildlife resources and the profession.

TWS Fellows will be appointed for life and will be encouraged to engage in outreach and other activities that will benefit and promote TWS and the wildlife profession. Fellow appointments will be announced at the Society's Annual Conference, and recipients will be presented with a pin and a certificate. Please assist this year's committee by submitting materials via email to Awards@wildlife.org. The materials should be sent as a single PDF file. Nominations must be received by February 15, 2016.

Barriers and Bridges in Reconnecting Natural Resources Science and Management Workshop

The Wildlife Society is working with several partners to host a workshop titled Barriers and Bridges in Reconnecting Natural Resources Science and Management, which will examine the complicated relationship between natural resources science and management. This workshop will take place from 1:00pm-5:00pm on Tuesday, March 15 at the 81st North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. All interested parties are encouraged to attend and engage in discussions.

NOMINATIONS

Distinguished Service Award

The Wildlife Society Distinguished Service Award (TWSDSA) is designed to recognize TWS members who have made a long-term commitment to the Society based on membership longevity and TWS service. The award recognizes individuals who have worked throughout their careers in a variety of ways to further the mission of the Society but have not been previously recognized with other TWS awards. The nominee should be someone who is/was “always there” and could be counted on to serve the Chapter, Section, or International organization. This award is not intended to continue to recognize members that have already received other TWS awards.

Criteria

Nominees must have been a parent TWS member for at least 20 years. If membership is not continuous, evidence of membership longevity must be provided. The intent is to recognize candidates while they are still active TWS members.

TWSDSA nominees must have served TWS in such a way that furthers the goals of TWS. Examples of service are Chapter, Section, or International Board member or Officer; served in a significant manner to keep a Chapter active or to reactivate a Chapter; consistent attendance of, at least, Chapter meetings; dependable member to support Chapter, Section, and/or international activities such as review of EIS reports, positions statements, etc.; Chapter, Section, parent, or international committee chairperson or member; assist or organize Chapter, Section, or international conferences or special meetings, programs, training seminars, etc.; as appropriate, testify at hearings, etc. Basically, a collective commitment to TWS goals and activities.

Nomination Procedures

Any TWS member or members, Chapter, Section, or Working Group may submit nominations or self-nomination. Only one Distinguished Service Award will be awarded per Section per year.

Nomination should include:

1. Name, address, phone numbers, e-mail address, and affiliation of nominee
2. A one-page nomination statement that clearly outlines the nominee’s contributions to The Wildlife Society.
3. Nominee’s curriculum vitae, and
4. Signed statements of endorsement from three endorsers.

Nominations are to be submitted to the TWS Section Executive Committee (<http://wildlife.org/subunits/sections>) by May 1, 2016.



NOMINATIONS

Excellence in Wildlife Education Award

In 2010, The Wildlife Society Council asked the College and University Wildlife Education Working Group to establish the criteria, nomination procedures, and a selection mechanism for an Excellence in Wildlife Education Award. In addition to honoring individual faculty members, the award will celebrate exemplary teaching and contribute to the improvement of wildlife education. Eligible faculty will be actively engaged in undergraduate and/or graduate, wildlife-related education.

Criteria:

Nominees will be evaluated on the basis of a dossier documenting outstanding contributions to wildlife education. The dossier should provide specific evidence of outstanding performance in one or more—not necessarily all—of the 5 categories listed below:

1. **Teaching:** direct contact with students in courses and programs and in co-curricular activities. Teaching activities include instructing groups of students in classes, seminars, and laboratories; and supervising individual activities, such as practicums, internships, field-learning experiences, tutorials, performances, exhibitions, and independent study - including supervision of undergraduate and graduate research projects. Evidence of, at least, campus-level recognition of teaching excellence is desirable.
2. **Advising:** activities that aid individual students with course and major selection, career plans, and personal development, especially in ways that go beyond formal curricular advising; and those that provide guidance to student organizations or groups. Documentation should include information about accessibility to students, which ordinarily includes but is not limited to office availability. Evidence of recognition by the individual's institution of the nominees advising excellence is desirable.
3. **Research Activities related to teaching and learning:** such activities should be documented and discussed in terms of the relationship between these activities and the nominee's contributions to wildlife education. Peer-refereed publications related to education are desirable.
4. **Academic Program Development:** such activities that contribute to the planning, design, or development of improvements in wildlife education. Contributions in this area might include new courses or a cluster of courses, and valuable programmatic innovations of any kind.
5. **Educational Leadership:** extra-programmatic activities of any kind and at any level that constitute leadership and contribute substantially to wildlife education. Examples may include presenting papers, holding a position such as national or regional officer or program chair in a professional association, or being a member of a college committee which impacts the student educational experience.

Nomination Procedure:

An electronic copy of nomination dossiers should be forwarded to TWS headquarters at Awards@wildlife.org by May 1, 2016. The primary responsibility for the success of this awards program rests with the nominator who solicits the assistance of the nominee and support letter writers to complete the dossier.

NOMINATIONS

Organization and Presentation of Dossiers:

To maintain a similar format among dossiers and facilitate efficient review, brevity is encouraged in assembling materials. Use 12-point font, one-inch margins, and 1.5 line spacing in preparing materials. Each dossier should be organized according to the following guidelines:

1. Cover page with the nominee's name and college, name of nominator, and note that the nomination is for the Excellence in Wildlife Education Award.
2. A statement by the nominator of no more than 3 pages, presenting the full case for the nomination as well as summarizing the dossier, with specific reference to the criteria listed in these guidelines. This statement forms the basis of the nomination and is extremely important for the review process. The nominator should describe the nominee's qualifications and other relevant criteria, focusing on specific details. The aim of this statement is to set out a convincing case for the nominee's outstanding contributions to wildlife education.
3. Personal statement by the candidate of no more than 2 pages addressing the criteria of the award and their impact on student learning.
4. The candidate's curriculum vitae of no more than 3 pages organized according to the following rubric:
 - a. Education
 - b. Courses Taught
 - c. Course, Program, and Curricular Development
 - d. Service/Outreach/Engagement activities (related to teaching and learning)
 - e. Publications and Grants (related to teaching and learning)
 - f. Awards and Recognitions (related to teaching and learning)
5. A numerical overview of student evaluations from courses taught in the last 5 years. Up to 1 additional page of assessment of student learning can be included.
6. Four supporting letters; one from the nominee's supervisor (if the supervisor is also the nominator, an additional letter can be included from either a colleague or student), one from a colleague, and 2 from former students. In all cases, letter writers are encouraged to cite specific examples in support of the case.

Special Recognition Service Award

The Special Recognition Service Award honors any person (doesn't have to be a member of TWS) or group that has made an outstanding contribution to the wildlife profession; the general areas of wildlife conservation, management, or science; or a specific area of endeavor, species, community, ecosystem, region, etc. Contributions over the short or long term are eligible for nomination for a Special Recognition Service Award.

Nominations should include:

- nominee's full name, present position, address, and phone number;
- nominator's and endorser's names, addresses, and phone numbers;
- a clear and concise statement justifying the nomination, including the specific nature, time, and place of the nominee's outstanding service and accomplishments. Address such criteria as difficulty, insight, scope, importance, acceptance, application, value, impact, and geographic scope of contributions;
- at least three signed statements of endorsement.

Please assist this year's committee by submitting nomination materials via email to Awards@wildlife.org. The materials should be sent as a single PDF file by May 1, 2016.

NOMINATIONS

Donald H. Rusch Memorial Game Bird Research Scholarship

The Donald H. Rusch Memorial Game Bird Research Scholarship was established to honor the memory of Don Rusch and to continue his legacy by contributing to studies of game bird biology. Don was an avid hunter and angler with a keen interest in all aspects of game bird biology and conservation. He advocated the wise use of our wildlife resources, and emphasized the importance of scientific research to improve our understanding of wildlife populations and their conservation.

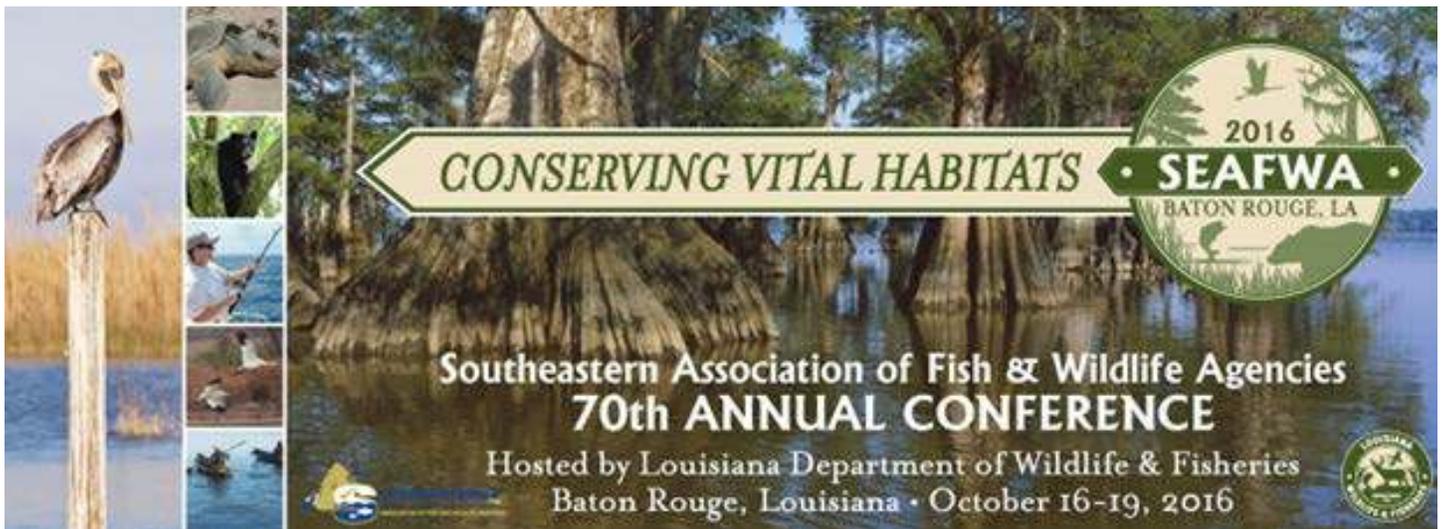
The award is presented annually to a graduate student studying any aspect of upland game bird or waterfowl biology and management. This year only Master's degree candidates in wildlife biology, zoology, ecology, or a related discipline at a university in North America, and must be a member of TWS are eligible.

Awards are based primarily upon project merit, but also consider the candidate's academic achievement, field experience, and career interests. Research projects must be endorsed by the candidate's academic advisor. The award is intended to benefit students who show promise as wildlife educators, researchers, or managers. A \$2,000 scholarship will be presented at the Society's Annual Conference.

The nomination should include:

- a cover letter indicating what influenced the applicant's entry into the wildlife field, philosophy of the importance of hunting personally and professionally, and future career interests. Also submit a brief project description addressing the rationale for the study, the experimental methods, other cooperators and support, and estimated term of study (maximum 3 pages double-spaced);
- a resume, including list of presentations and publications, and grade-point average (maximum 2 pages);
- and a letter of support from the student's academic advisor. The letter should address the need for and the significance of the research, as well as provide a candid appraisal of the student.

Please assist this year's committee by submitting materials via email to Awards@wildlife.org. The materials should be sent as a single PDF file no later than May 1, 2016.



NOMINATIONS

Caesar Kleberg Award for Excellence in Applied Wildlife Research

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

Award Criteria

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

The award is not intended to honor the outstanding career accomplishments of research administrators or practitioners of wildlife management or conservation, for whom the Leopold Award is a better fit. A nominee’s eligibility for the Kleberg Award will not be affected by other awards received from The Wildlife Society (e.g., Leopold Award, Honorary Member, and TWS Fellow).

Nomination letters should include:

1. the nominee’s point of contact with phone numbers and e-mail address,
2. name and affiliation of nominee,
3. nomination statement,
4. nominee’s curriculum vitae, and
5. names and contact information for at least five references.

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

Submission

Send one (1) PDF file of the complete nomination package to Awards@wildlife.org by May 1, 2016.

NOMINATIONS

Diversity Award

Are you or is someone you know involved in efforts to positively affect the gender and ethnic diversity of our profession and related fields? If so, TWS wants to recognize these important contributions to the future of wildlife conservation. The diversity award is intended to recognize individuals or organizations for their outstanding efforts in promoting ethnic and gender diversity in the natural resource-related professions, especially wildlife conservation and education. The award recognizes and honors promotion of and support for diversity in the workforce, academic enrollment, or organizational membership.

The main letter of nomination should address how the nominee has excelled in one or more of the following pursuits:

- Demonstrated leadership in promoting diversity
- Demonstrated innovation in design and implementation of diversity programs
- Achieved tangible results (e.g., recruitment, mentoring, funding, program implementation)
- And may also include other relevant factors to further describe the impact and contribution of the nominee's accomplishments and the value of their efforts towards furthering diversity.

Nominations can be submitted by a second party or can be self-nominated. Packages should include a letter of nomination and at least one letter of support from another source. Please include contact information for the primary nominator and for the supporting reference(s). The nomination and complete supporting documentation should be sent as a single PDF file to Awards@wildlife.org. Nominations are due by May 1, 2016.

Conservation Education Award

The Wildlife Society is accepting nominations for the 2015 Conservation Education Award in the category of "Audio-Visual Works." The award may be given to an artist, photographer, lecturer, radio commentator, songwriter, film producer, computer programmer, or other creative worker whose accomplishments are outstanding in the dissemination of conservation knowledge to the public. The recipient can also be a group of people. Materials for consideration include, but are not limited to, paintings, photographs, television shows or appearances, movies, educational or music videos, songs, audio recordings, or computer-program technologies as appropriate recipients of this category. Typically materials for the audio-visual category should be a stand-alone product, such that it does not supplement a writing or program. Materials should be sent as one PDF file via email to Awards@wildlife.org by May 1, 2016.

TWS Wildlife Publication Awards

The Wildlife Society's Publication Awards Committee is now accepting nominations for the 2015 Wildlife Publication Awards. Works recognized by this award of excellence are scientific writing characterized by originality of research or thought and a high scholastic standard in the manner of presentation. Awards are given in the following categories: article, monograph, book, and editorship. Works published in 2013, 2014, and 2015 are eligible. To submit a nomination, send a cover letter explaining why the work deserves an award along with a copy of the publication to each committee member by March 1, 2016. Contact information for committee members can be found at <http://wildlife.org/get-involved/awards/>.

NOMINATIONS

Chapter and Student Chapter of the Year Awards

The Wildlife Society annually presents the Chapter of the Year and Student Chapter of the Year Awards to encourage and recognize exceptional achievements by TWS Chapters. Winning chapters receive a plaque 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.

Chapters and student chapters are invited to nominate themselves for the award by completing the application form on the TWS website (<http://wildlife.org/get-involved/awards/>). Please assist this year's committee by submitting materials via email as a single PDF file to Awards@wildlife.org by May 1, 2016.

Student Chapter Advisor of the Year Award

The Student Chapter Advisor of the Year Award recognizes exceptional mentorship by TWS student chapter advisors. Active and effective student chapters are needed to achieve The Wildlife Society's goals and the advisor is the backbone of the chapter. Recipients receive a plaque. The award is presented annually to one student chapter advisor for exemplary contributions to the development of young professionals. Student chapters are invited to nominate their advisor for the award by completing the application form on the TWS web site. Please assist this year's committee by submitting materials via email to Awards@wildlife.org. The materials should be sent as a single PDF file by May 1, 2016.

Group Achievement Award

The Wildlife Society's Group Achievement Award recognizes an organization or group that accomplishes outstanding achievements to benefit wildlife consistent with advancing the objectives of The Wildlife Society. The organization or group selected for the award can be a private, state, or federal institution. Past award winners have included: the Quality Deer Management Association, the Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society, the Wyoming Chapter of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Oregon's 4-H Wildlife Stewards Program, and the U.S. Furbearer Conservation Technical Working Group of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Nominations, with no more than 3 letters of support attached, should describe the group, its objectives, number of members, and provide a concise statement of accomplishments within the past 3 years. Please assist this year's committee by submitting materials via email to Awards@wildlife.org. The materials should be sent as a single PDF file by February 15, 2016.

TWS Southeastern Wildlife Conclave

Eastern Kentucky University's (EKU) Student Chapter of TWS will be hosting the 2016 TWS Southeastern Conclave on March 17-20, 2016 on EKU's campus. Student chapters of The Wildlife Society gather from across the southeastern region of the U.S. to participate in competitions and training. Activities include art and photography contests, a quiz bowl, game-calling competitions, a team competition, individual competitions, guest speakers, entertainment, and field trips. Conclave is a valuable professional development opportunity. Students network with other students, faculty members, and wildlife professionals while developing new knowledge and skills. For more information visit <http://wildlifeconclave.eku.edu/>.

NOMINATIONS

Honorary Membership

Honorary Membership in The Wildlife Society is intended to recognize continuous outstanding service in any area or areas of concern to the Society. Any practicing or retired wildlife professional who is a member of TWS and has made continuous valuable contributions to the wildlife profession over a long period of time is eligible for nomination.

Nominations should include:

- nominee's full name, present position, address, and phone number;
- nominator's and endorser's names, addresses, and phone numbers;
- a clear and concise statement justifying the nomination, including the specific nature, time, and place of the nominee's outstanding service and accomplishments (address such criteria as difficulty, insight, scope, importance, acceptance, application, value, impact, and geographic scope of contributions);
- at least 3 signed statements of endorsement.

Please assist this year's committee by submitting materials via email to Awards@wildlife.org. The nomination materials should be sent as a single PDF file by May 1, 2016.

Jim McDonough Award

Do you know a hard-working biologist who has made a significant contribution to the wildlife profession? Has that person received little recognition for his/her contribution? If so, you need to nominate him/her for the Jim McDonough Award.

This award was created to recognize Certified Wildlife Biologists who are members of The Wildlife Society at chapter, section, and Society levels. Nominees for the Jim McDonough Award are biologists recognized by fellow workers as solid contributors to wildlife management, but who so far may have eluded receipt of major awards, citations, or prominent recognition.

Criteria for this award are:

- must be a member of The Wildlife Society, including active membership status in the respective Section and Chapter, if any, in which that individual resides;
- must be a Certified Wildlife Biologist; and
- is a person who has made or is making a significant contribution to the wildlife profession. The individual must have made, or still be making, contributions that reflect well on professional wildlife biologists through program implementation and/or development of new techniques, procedures, or approaches.

A plaque and monetary award of up to \$500 will be presented at the TWS annual conference.

Nominations should include the nominee's full name, present position, address, and phone number, plus nominator's and endorser's names, addresses, phone numbers, and a clear and concise statement justifying each nomination. Please assist this year's committee by submitting materials via email to Awards@wildlife.org. The nomination materials should be sent as a single PDF file by May 1, 2016.

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

FEBRUARY 2016

NWTF National Convention & Sport Show

February 11-14, 2016
Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center
Nashville, TN
<http://www.nwtf.org/convention>

2016 Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting

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

21th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network and 26th Colloquium on the Conservation of Mammals in the Southeastern U.S

February 18-19, 2016
Lake Guntersville State Park, AL
<http://sbdn.org/upcoming-meeting/>

2016 SEPARC Annual Meeting

February 18-21, 2016
Camp McDowell, Nauvoo, AL
<http://www.separc.org/home>

MARCH 2016

81st North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference

March 13-18, 2016
Wyndham Grand Hotel
Pittsburgh, PA
<http://www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org/>

JUNE 2016

79th DU National Convention

June 1-5, 2016
Anchorage, AK
<http://www.ducks.org/events/National-Convention>

JULY 2016

American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists Annual Meeting

July 6-10, 2016
New Orleans, LA
<http://www.asih.org/meetings>

AUGUST 2016

Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting

August 7-12, 2016
Fort Lauderdale, FL
<http://www.esa.org/esa/meetings/annual-meeting/>

SEPTEMBER 2016

2016 AFWA Annual Meeting

September 11-14, 2016
Marriott Philadelphia Downtown
Philadelphia, PA
<http://www.fishwildlife.org/index.php>

OCTOBER 2016

70th SEAFWA Conference

October 16-19, 2016
Hilton Hotel
Baton Rouge, LA
<http://seafwa.org/conferences/2016/index.html>

23rd The Wildlife Society Annual Conference

October 15-19, 2016
Raleigh, NC
<http://wildlife.org/tws-23rd-annual-conference/>

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. Susan Rupp, Secretary-Treasurer
Owner/Lead Consultant
Enviroscapes Ecological Consulting, LLC
3937 Allison Ln. #103
Springdale, AR 72762
Phone (479) 340-7018