

The Wildlife Society

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION



JANUARY 2018 VOLUME 60, NUMBER 1
KATHERINE EDWARDS, EDITOR

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Greetings and welcome to the latest edition of your SE section newsletter. As the first order of business, I would like to say "Thank You" to (now) Past-President **Mark Smith** and past Secretary-Treasurer **Susan Rupp**. Under their guidance, the SE Section is financially strong and well positioned for the next year. Also, welcome and congratulations to President-Elect **Ray Iglay** of Mississippi State University and Secretary-Treasurer **Kelly Douglass** of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. Finally, thank you to the members of the nominating committee and members who agreed to be nominated and to serve if elected. We had a strong slate of candidates and reasonably good voter participation in the recent Section election.

It is also important to extend a thank you to the committee chairs for their service to the Section in 2017. Soon, I will be contacting each of you to gauge your willingness to continue serving. However, if members have an interest in a committee – as member or chair – please contact me and let me know your interest.

As a status update, the Section finances are in good order with a current balance of about \$8,300 and a membership roster of approximately 715 people. The balance and roster reflect increases from January 2017. This positions the Section well for the upcoming year. **Mike Conner**, SE Section Representative to Council, is working with the TWS Headquarters to modify the membership renewal process so members will be prompted to renew their state and Section

membership when they renew at the national level. Historically, the SE Section has had the largest number of members in TWS but a low percentage in the Section. We are already seeing a benefit over 2017 as membership in the SE Section has increased from 568 in the fall to a current roster of 715 members. For comparison, there are approximately 2,000 members of TWS residing in the Southeast so we have plenty of room to improve and grow our Section membership. The Executive Board challenges you to encourage your colleagues to be sure to join the SE Section. Each of you – and especially State Chapter Officers – can promote the Section and help us to increase the Section membership.

I encourage each of you to read President **John McDonald's** column in the Nov/Dec issue of *The Wildlife Professional*. John does a great job of reflecting on the value of membership in TWS and each of us can become involved at various levels within the Society.

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The Section is asked to support the TWS national conference, the student conclave and other events. In the past, we have had to decline or limit our ability to support these requests due to our limited finances. With increased membership comes increased dues revenue and that enhances our ability to support important activities like the national conference and the very successful student conclave. The \$10 dues are very reasonable and with a few hundred more members we could enhance the support we provide to students and the next generation of TWS wildlife professionals. Whether you attended conclave or not, you have probably heard what a great experience it is for the 450-500 students who annually attend. It is expensive to host the event and it is a valuable endeavor for the Section to support to the extent that our treasury allows. This is only possible with your membership support.

In the past 2 years, we have revised the Section By-laws, worked on a strategic plan, and participated in conservation activities in the Section and at the national level. In 2018, we can look forward to new challenges to scientifically sound wildlife management. We must be diligent and professional in responding to challenges and requests for accurate information if approached by management agencies and government officials. Soon, field trials for a wild pig (feral swine) toxicant will begin in TX and AL. Invasive species, overabundant wildlife, climate change, threats to our hunting heritage and declines in hunting participation continue to challenge us. The challenge of recruiting the best and brightest students to undergraduate and graduate wildlife programs is always with us. As is finding jobs and internships if you are a student. As much as things change, some things stay the same.

We have a strong foundation in the SE Section, good people, solid finances and plenty to be optimistic about for 2018. I look forward to working with you and serving the Section members. Good luck for a very productive year.

Mike Mengak
President, Southeastern Section TWS



USFWS/NCTC Steve Hillebrand

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Happy New Year,

At the end of every year, many people tend to spend some time in reflection. As I think about this past year with regard to The Wildlife Society, a few things stand out. As December came to an end, we had almost 9,500 members, up nearly 5% from 2016. We had another annual meeting with over 1,800 in attendance with about half that number consisting of students. **Ed Thompson** became our new CEO following **Ken Williams'** retirement in the summer. An author survey was completed and Editors-in-Chief have already taken measures to improve the quality of our journals. TWS membership in the Southeast has continued to grow as well. We now have over 2,000 members living in Southeastern states making up over 20% of the total membership in TWS. This brings up another point.

Consider challenging TWS members in the Southeast to join the Southeastern Section of TWS. Only about one-third of TWS members living in the Southeast are members of SETWS. Membership fees are nominal, and the Section financially supports activities benefiting wildlife, wildlife biologists, and future wildlife biologists. Also, when you attend your state chapter meetings, encourage chapter members to join TWS and SETWS if they are not members. Many chapter members do not know about the benefits associated with being a member of TWS; share with them what TWS has meant to your

career and encourage them to join. One great way to introduce colleagues to TWS is through the Give Back program.

When a member renews their membership, they are given an option to nominate someone who is not a member of TWS to receive a free six-month membership in TWS – no strings attached. There is still a perception that the Give Back program is simply half off of an annual membership; this is not the case. Last year we had fewer than 700 people who took advantage of this program. Let's see if we can at least double that this year.

I know I mention this in almost every newsletter, but please nominate your colleagues for TWS awards. Most nominations are due May 1, so you have plenty of time to nominate someone. I know I harp on this, but I think we have among the very best wildlifers in the Southeast. In my mind, we should have people nominated for every award TWS has to offer. If I can assist with the nomination process, please feel free to contact me. A description of TWS awards can be found at <http://wildlife.org/engage/awards/>. Finally, I wish you all the best as we enter into 2018.

Have a great Year!

Mike Conner
Southeastern Section Representative



COMMITTEE REPORTS

DEER COMMITTEE

Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting

The 41st Annual Meeting of the Southeast Deer Study Group, hosted by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, will be held at the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel in Nashville, TN, Monday, February 19 - 21, 2018. The theme of this year's meeting will be "Stakeholder-focused, Science-based, and Data-driven: The Gold Standard for the State Deer Management System?".

The Southeast Deer Study Group provides an important forum for researchers and managers to share the latest research results, management strategies and discussions that can facilitate the timely identification of, and solutions to, problems relative to the management of white-tailed deer.

More information and registration can be found at sedg.com/index.asp/.

Committee Chair: Steve Shea
steve.shea@myfwc.com

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Best Paper Award

The Best Paper Award for the Wildlife Technical Session of the JSEAFWA went to **Gregory D. Balkcom** and **Bobby T. Bond**, for their 2017 paper titled "An Evaluation of Georgia's Public Mourning Dove Hunting Demand and Opportunity."

STUDENT AWARDS COMMITTEE

The following awards were presented at the 71st Annual Conference of the Southeastern Fish and Wildlife Agencies in Louisville, KY.

Student Presentation Award

John Yeiser, with the University of Georgia, was recognized at the SEAFWA banquet for his presentation entitled, "How Close is Close Enough? Spatially Targeted Land Enrollment Improves Private Land Conservation Success".

Student Poster Award

Charles Sanders, with North Carolina State University, was recognized at the SEAFWA banquet for his poster entitled, "Prevalence of *Toxoplasma gondii*, *Leptospira* spp., and *Parvovirus* spp. in North American river otter throughout North Carolina".

Student Chapter Award

Student chapters in the SETWS were 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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

C.W. WATSON AWARD COMMITTEE

C.W. Watson Award

The C. W. Watson Award Committee is responsible for the annual selection of the recipient of this award. The Committee is composed of a representation of the SEAFWA, the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society, and the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society. Members are appointed by the organizations represented for a three-year term, each member scheduled to serve as Chairman in their third year. Procedures and qualifications for nomination of recipients shall be as prescribed by the previously approved C. W. Watson Award criteria. This award shall be presented at the annual conference banquet by the Chairman of the Watson committee. See SEAFWA.org, Awards and Committees, as more information becomes available for the 2018 nominating process.

The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies named the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's former Southeast Regional Director **Cindy Dohner** the 2017 C. W. Watson Award winner at their annual meeting in Louisville, KY. For more information on the award recipient, please see pp. 45-46 in this newsletter.

Committee Chair (SETWS): Chuck Elliott
Charles.Elliott@eku.edu

WETLANDS WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

Wetlands Wildlife Committee Meeting

Sunday, October 29, 2017

Louisville, KY

Meeting convened: 1:00 PM

Chaired by: **Stephen V. Rockwood** (FL)

Committee Members and Guests Attending:

Doug Osborne (Univ. Ark.), **Amy Silvano** (AL), **Andi Cooper** (DU), **Dean Smith** (AFWA), **Gillie Croft** (Clemson Univ.), **Dave Kustersky** (DU Canada), **Cody Martin** (Univ. Ark), **Kameron Cole** (Univ. Ark), **Jacob Sas** (Univ. Ark), **Andrew Schmidt** (AFWA), **Koven Minor** (Univ. Ark.), **Nick Graves** (Univ. Ark.), **Jacob Schwantz** (Univ. Ark.), **Jeremy Ballard** (Univ. Ark), **Bob Sargent** (GA), **Daniel Oden** (Univ. Ark), **Jen Mock Schaeffer** (AFWA), **Rick Kaminski** (Clemson), **Craig LeSchack** (DU), **Nick Masto** (Clemson Univ.), **Diane Eggeman** (FL)

Scheduled Discussion Items:

- NAWMP 2018 – **Diane Eggeman** (FL) provided an update on the 2018 revision of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The 2018 revision will focus on linking objectives for waterfowl, habitat and people and incorporate information learned from the human dimensions surveys and the Future of Waterfowl Hunting II Workshop. The NAWMP revision is expected to be completed and released in September 2018.
- NAWCA (North American Wetlands Conservation Act) Support Letters – **Steve Rockwood** (FL) presented and discussed two separate draft letters supporting 1) the 5-year reauthorization of NAWCA, and 2) proposed NAWCA funding appropriation for FY 2018. After considerable discussion and minor editorial changes, the committee passed two separate motions asking the SEAFWA Directors and SETWS Executive Committee to approve and forward both letters in support of NAWCA.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 2018 Farm Bill Re-Authorization – **Andrew Schmidt** (AFWA) provided an update on Farm Bill activities and indicated the House and Senate Agriculture Committees are developing the frame work for re-authorizing the Farm Bill and continue to solicit input. Changes may include proposals to amend the Conservation Reserve Program, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, and the Sodsaver Programs. Both the House and Senate committees have expressed interest in re-authorizing the Farm Bill before it expires in September 2018. AFWA's 2018 Farm Bill Priorities can be viewed at <http://www.fishwildlife.org/index.php?section=comlist-1>.

- Clean Water Act and Waters of the U.S. – **Steve Rockwood** (FL) provided an update on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) proposal to roll back and rescind the Clean Water Rule and recodify the regulatory language that existed prior to 2015. The EPA and the COE have scheduled numerous public teleconferences on the proposal and will continue to receive written comments until late November 2017.

- Farming on Refuges – **Steve Rockwood** (FL) summarized the Farming on Refuges issue and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) internal policy banning the use of neonicotinoids and genetically modified crops on refuges beginning in January 2016. As a result of this ban, Region 5 Service staff developed a 5-year Strategic Action Plan for Waterfowl Management in the Southeast Region. This plan includes increasing waterfowl management efficiencies on refuges in the Southeast, hiring a Region 5 Waterfowl Biologist to help guide and assist refuges, and stepping down waterfowl population and habitat objectives.

Presentations:

- **Diane Eggeman** (FL) – 2018 NAWMP Update
- **Nick Masto** (Clemson Univ.) – Aerial Strip-Transsect Surveys of Waterfowl and Waterbirds in South Carolina: Summary and Revisions to 2016-2017 Surveys.
- **Gillie Croft** (Clemson Univ.) – Waterfowl and Other Bird Production from Nest Boxes in Coastal South Carolina.

Action Items and Recommendations: Continue to monitor activities associated with Clean Water Act and Farming on Refuges and its impacts to migratory bird management. Forward two recommendations to SEAFWA Directors and SE-TWS Executive Committee supporting 1) NAWCA re-authorization, and 2) FY 2018 NAWCA funding appropriation.

Meeting adjourned: 3:00 PM

Committee Chair: Stephen V. Rockwood
steve.rockwood@myfwc.com



USFWS/NCTC Lee Karney

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ALABAMA



SEAFWA Conference

Hosted by Alabama Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries, the 72nd Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies will be held from Sunday, October 21 - Wednesday, October 24, 2018 at the Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel in Mobile, Alabama.

The Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is a forum for the exchange of ideas and critical information regarding the management and protection of fish and wildlife resources primarily in the Southeast. The conference attracts over 500 representatives from state and federal agencies, citizen's organizations, universities, and private wildlife research groups, fisheries and wildlife scientists, agency enforcement personnel, and other natural resource related organizations.

Event information will be posted as it becomes available. In the meantime, mark your calendars! Visit www.seafwa.org/conference/overview/ for conference details.

SEAFWA Directors Spring Meeting

SEAFWA Directors will hold their 2018 Spring Meeting February 21-23 at the Dollarhide Hunting Club near Forkland, Alabama. If you would like to present a business item to the Directors, contact Curtis Hopkins, Executive Secretary, at crayhopkins@bellsouth.net. Look for earlier submission dates for manuscripts.

USDA APHIS Wildlife Services Toxic Bait Field Trials on Feral Swine

USDA's Wildlife Services is set to conduct sodium nitrite toxic bait field trials on free-roaming feral swine in Texas and Alabama this month after its National Wildlife Research Center received an experimental use permit from the Environmental Protection Agency in November.

NWRC researchers Drs. **Kurt VerCauteren** and **Nathan Snow** are working closely with WS operations in the two states to identify landowners willing to participate in the study. Three to nine feral swine sounders in each state will be targeted.

The permit is the result of years of collaborative research by WS and multiple private, state, federal and international partners. These field trials will help determine the effectiveness of the sodium nitrite toxic bait for removing feral swine sounders in natural settings, as well as any potential impacts to non-target wildlife.

The bait will be delivered using stations that take advantage of swine feeding behaviors and limit access by non-target wildlife. Following a period of acclimation to confirm feral swine are using the areas, a placebo bait will be replaced with the sodium nitrite toxic bait for two nights. At least 30 feral swine and no more than 30 raccoons in each state's study area will be radio-collared prior to baiting in order to monitor their movements and bait exposure. Nearby landowners will be notified and signs will be placed on bait stations and along roads leading into the study areas.

"Our captive studies have demonstrated that feral swine are sensitive to the sodium nitrite bait. Now we need to learn how well the bait and our

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Credit: USDA Wildlife Services

specially-designed bait stations do in natural settings with free-roaming feral swine and native wildlife,” notes VerCauteren. “If the field trials show sodium nitrite to be an effective and low risk toxic bait, this information will aid in our efforts toward final EPA registration.”

By **Larry Clark**, NWRC Director,
USDA APHIS Wildlife Services
TWS Media Release
<http://wildlife.org/>

ARKANSAS



Arkansas Chapter

On October 16th, the Chapter Executive Committee voted to oppose approval of the “Kaput” Feral Hog Bait in Arkansas due to the lack of research of potential impacts on non-target species and bioaccumulation in the food chain. This follows similar statements by the parent chapter at the national level.

The Chapter’s Annual Meeting will be March 1-2, 2018 at the C.A.Vines 4-H Center, in Ferndale near Little Rock. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Frank Rohwer, President of Delta Waterfowl.

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Jacob Bokker and **Kevin Ledford** received the 2017 George H. Dunklin Jr. Arkansas Waterfowl and Wetland Management Award in recognition of their work on the Steve N. Wilson Raft Creek WMA.

Submitted by: Blake Sasse



Jacob Bokker (middle left) and **Kevin Ledford** (middle right) receiving the 2017 George H. Dunklin Jr. Arkansas Waterfowl and Wetland Management Award from **George Dunklin** (right) and Wildlife Management Division Chief **Brad Carner** (left) at the November 17, 2017 Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Meeting. This was in recognition of their work on the Steve N. Wilson Raft Creek WMA.

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FLORIDA



Florida Chapter

The annual Spring Conference of the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society will take place April 11-13, 2018 at the Plantation on Crystal River (<http://www.plantationoncrystalriver.com/>). The theme of the conference will be “Managing Florida’s Coastal Resources”. Additional details will be forthcoming in future conference reminders as well as on our website (<http://www.fltws.org>). Mark your calendar today and start making plans to join us at the FLTWS 2018 Spring Conference!



GEORGIA



Georgia Chapter

Over 100 wildlife professionals and students from across the state attended the Georgia Chapter of TWS annual meeting in Covington on September 7–8. The meeting was successfully held at a new venue, the Georgia Wildlife Federation’s Alcovy Conservation Center. Twenty-two oral presentations and 11 posters were given covering a variety of topics related to game, nongame, endangered species, policy, habitat management, and more. Attendees enjoyed a delicious BBQ dinner catered by GA TWS member **Theron Menken**. **Erin Cork** received the Student Travel Award. Student presentation winners included **Camille Herteux** (1st place), **Michael Biggerstaff** (2nd place), **John Yeiser** (3rd place), **Ashely Lohr** and **Calvin Wakefield** (best graduate poster), and **Mattea Lewis** (best undergraduate poster).



Georgia Chapter student presentation winners **Camille Herteux** and **Mattea Lewis** (top) and student travel award winner **Erin Cork** with chapter president **Daymond Hughes** (bottom).

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Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College Student Chapter

ABAC Student Chapter of TWS, under the leadership of its officers **Chris Terrazas**, **Miranda Wilkinson**, and **Jacob Wilson**, has been very active this fall semester. Seventeen students attended the Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in October. They took full advantage of the networking opportunities available and some of them may have even found their summer job as a direct result! The chapter is very active in volunteering for educational and management activities in their region. They agreed to build 20 new American kestrel nest boxes for Georgia Department of Natural Resources Nongame Division this semester. In addition, they are building 50 wood duck nest boxes to assist in increasing waterfowl reproduction in the state. The chapter recently supplied over 40 volunteers to assist in the annual Jake's Day event at the Paradise Public Fishing Area and hosted an educational booth to teach the public about local flora and fauna. Student members also participated in quail covey call counts at Silverlake Wildlife Management Area.

University of Georgia Student Chapter

Founded in 1967, the UGA Student Chapter of TWS is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Starting with the first conclave in 1972, UGA has attended the Southeastern Student Conclave annually. Historically, UGA has done very well at student conclaves and national conferences. Student members look forward to representing The Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources and The University of Georgia each year. UGA has hosted the Southeastern Student Conclave in 1980, 1990, and 2007.

Student members also enjoy networking with wildlife professionals and engaging with the local community. In September 2017, several members traveled to Covington, Georgia, for the annual Georgia Chapter of TWS Meeting. Additionally, five members of the UGA student chapter traveled to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to attend the 24th annual TWS conference. There the UGA team won the National Quiz Bowl competition for the second consecutive year. On October 21, UGA TWS participated in Sandy Creek Nature Center's annual "Scary



ABAC Student Chapter members hosted an educational booth during a Jake's Day event at Paradise Public Fishing Area.

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Spooky Slimy” event. The chapter provided animal specimens and student members were able to inspire local kids to take an interest in nature.

Submitted by: Andrew Edelman

KENTUCKY

NO NEWS REPORTED



Did you know?

The Wildlife Society endorses professional development and career advancement at various stages through its professional certification programs. The Certified Wildlife Biologist® and Associate Wildlife Biologist® designations validate a professional's completion of rigorous academic standards, educational background and demonstrated expertise in the art and science of applying the principles of ecology to the conservation and management of wildlife. Learn more about The Wildlife Society's professional certification programs at wildlife.org/certification-programs.



University of Georgia TWS Quiz Bowl Team.

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LOUISIANA



Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

LDWF and LSU will be collaboratively hosting the American Woodcock Wingbee at the campus of LSU in Baton Rouge, April 3-5, 2018. Annually biologists from around the country gather together to examine woodcock wings collected by hunters. The primary objective of the wing-collection survey is to provide data on the reproductive success of woodcock.

LDWF continues its monitoring efforts for CWD. To date LDWF has checked over 8,200 deer for CWD with no confirmed cases. LDWF will continue to monitor deer for CWD into the foreseeable future.

Submitted by: Jeff Duguay

MARYLAND/DELAWARE



MD-DE Chapter

SAVE THE DATE! The next MD-DE State Chapter Meeting will be April 26-27, 2018 at Redden State Forest in Georgetown, DE. Mark your calendars! The theme of the meeting will be "Shorebird Management."

TWS Southeastern Student Conclave

The 2018 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave will be hosted by the LSU Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society in Baton Rouge, LA, from March 24-27. 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. Each school can bring a total of 20 attendees which includes 19 students and 1 advisor. A block of rooms have been reserved at the LSU Lod Cook Hotel and Courtyard Marriot for the event. Registration is now open! Please visit <http://www.rnr.lsu.edu/TWSConclave2018/default.htm> for more information.



USFWS/NCTC Gene Nieminen

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MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Bat Working Group



First Annual Culvert Blitz

In an effort to begin monitoring winter populations of bats in Mississippi, the Working Group held the first annual culvert blitz January 14, 2017. Culverts were primarily associated with interstate highways and major (4-lane) state highways, with routes (typically consisting of 8 – 12 culverts) spread across the state.

Thirty volunteers ran 14 routes and checked 134 culverts. Sixty-four of the inspected culverts had bats present. Over 989 bats were found representing four species with the tri-colored bat accounting for about two-thirds of the observations (630 individuals). Other species

detected (in order of abundance) include south-eastern myotis, big brown bat, and Rafinesque's big-eared bat. The group plans to continue this blitz annually and is working to refine protocol and provide more formal training for the volunteers. Dates for the 2018 blitz are January 5 – 7. Contact the Mississippi Bat Working Group (msbats@hotmail.com) for more information.

Annual Meeting and Mist Net Event

The MBWG met for their 15th Annual Meeting at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson, Mississippi, on February 9. The morning was devoted to presentations on current research occurring in the state and updates on various monitoring activities. The afternoon agenda included a business meeting and discussion of upcoming events. **Amber Floyd** received the MBWG Service Award for her work setting up and maintaining the Group's website.



Left to right, top: volunteers measure culvert dimensions; south-eastern bats in crevice. Bottom: Rafinesque's big-eared bat; tri-colored bat.

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The 14th Annual Mist Net Event was held in Amite and Pike counties in south Mississippi. Twenty participants representing Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana gathered at Percy Quin State Park in McComb, Mississippi for two nights of mist netting. The group netted eight sites and captured twenty-one bats of three species. Species captured included evening bats, eastern red bats, and big brown bats. Thanks to all those who made this event possible, including our event sponsors, the Smith Family of Natchez and **Chester Martin** of Vicksburg. An extra “thank you” goes out to Chester Martin for providing artwork for the event t-shirt.

Bat Conservation Plan

Members of the MBWG, working with state biologists, began development of a “Bat Conservation Plan.” When completed, the plan will identify information gaps and hopefully be used to guide

funding to fill these gaps. Appendices within the plan will summarize life history information for each species within the state and provide county range maps.

Outreach and Education

Members of the group presented educational programs and invited talks throughout the state at schools, festivals and to various civic organizations, reaching over 1,000 individuals across the state. Additionally, the MBWG staffed booths at NatureFest (Jackson), Trace Wildlife Festival (Tupelo), the Choctaw Wildlife Festival (Philadelphia), and Park after Dark (Jackson).

Some highlights from 2017 include:

- Development of a Powerpoint presentation on bats for use by any MBWG member with the goal of increasing the number of people available to present programs to groups



The 14th Annual Mist Net Event was held in Amite and Pike counties in south Mississippi.

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- Construction of 5 single chamber bat houses by member **Deb Waz** available for use by the Museum of Natural Science Educators to increase their ability to provide bat programs to schools.
- Incorporation of a session on bats into the Human/Wildlife Conflicts class at Mississippi State University.

Members involved in education and outreach include: **Tami Hataway, Nicole Hodges, Jackie Kerr, Chester Martin, Becky Rosamond, Jason Ross, Kathy Shelton, Shea Staten, and Deb Waz.**

Other Items of Note

Chester Martin was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association (NMFWA) in Spokane, WA on March 9, 2017. He was part of the NMFWA founding body in 1983, served 5 terms on the NMFWA Board of Directors, was NMFWA President in 2003-2004, and founded the NMFWA Bat Working Group in 2001.

Mississippi State University is assisting The Birmingham Zoo (Birmingham, AL), in its efforts to better understand and inform the public about the ecology of bats within the greater Birmingham area. This project includes surveillance and habitat management for bats foraging and roosting on zoo grounds. Educational programs explaining ecological benefits of bats and their conservation in the southeastern United States are also key elements of this work.

State nongame biologist **Kathy Shelton** is working with a private landowner and other state and federal partners to gate Pitts Cave. Pitts Cave is home to the largest known maternal roost of southeastern bats in the state and provides wintering habitat for large numbers of tri-colored bats. This is the first gating project in recent history in the state.

Upcoming Events

MBWG Annual Meeting – Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, March 1, 2018.

Mist Net Event – location and date to be determined, Fall 2018

Watch our website (msbats.org) for updated information or follow us on Facebook!

Submitted by: Kathy Shelton

Fannye Cook Biography

Conservationist **Fannye Cook** (1889- 1964) was the most widely known scientist in Mississippi and was nationally known as the go-to person for biological information or wildlife specimens from the state. A new biography celebrates the environmentalist instrumental in the creation of the Mississippi Game and Fish Commission (now called the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks) and the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science. Fannye Cook served as director of the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science until her retirement in 1958. During her tenure, she published many bulletins, pamphlets, scientific papers, and the extensive book, *Freshwater Fishes of Mississippi*. More information is available at: <http://www.upress.state.ms.us/books/2085>

Weyerhaeuser Staff Change

In September 2017, Dr. **Daniel Greene** joined Weyerhaeuser's Southern Environmental Research Program, based in Columbus, MS. Daniel has been working throughout the southern U.S. for approximately 15 years. His previous work experiences include employment as an OPS Environmental Specialist with The Florida Park Service, Wildlife Biologist with the Florida

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Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, and Post-doctoral Researcher at a Climate Response Lab at Texas Tech University. Daniel's research interests include conservation and management of imperiled species, population ecology, wildlife-habitat relationships, and effects of climate change on wildlife. Daniel has a Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation from the University of Florida, M.S. in Forest Resources from The University of Georgia, and B.A. in Biology from Earlham College. He currently serves as the Secretary for the Florida Chapter of TWS and as an Awards Committee member for the Texas Chapter of TWS.

Submitted by: Darren Miller



Dr. **Daniel Greene** recently joined Weyerhaeuser's Southern Environmental Research Program.

NORTH CAROLINA



North Carolina Chapter 2018 Annual Meeting

By Jeff Marcus, President NCTWS

The North Carolina Chapter will hold its annual meeting February 27 – March 1 at Haw River State Park. This year there will be a strong emphasis on experiential learning and participant involvement. In addition to traditional talks, there will be several concurrent sessions with interactive training and discussion. You will have the opportunity to discuss use of social media in wildlife management and learn how to use new technologies such as acoustic recording devices and unmanned aerial vehicles. There will be lots of opportunities for networking and of course our ever popular auction and social. Please mark your calendars now to be part of this NCTWS Happening!

Legacy of Hosting the 23rd TWS Annual Conference Continues!

By Andrea Shipley & Kelly Douglass

As highlighted in the winter 2016 edition of the NC Wildlife, the NC Chapter broke several TWS conference records when we hosted the 23rd TWS Annual Conference last year, including being #1 in partnerships, sponsorships and exhibitors. The TWS Fundraising Committee, comprised of NC Chapter members, secured Bayer Bee Care and Caterpillar as year-round TWS Partners and, as a result, TWS gave the NC Chapter a bonus for securing these two partnerships. However, the legacy of our conference fundraising efforts didn't end in 2016. In July 2017, TWS gave \$3,000 to the NC Chapter as a continued benefit for securing both year-round partners. We would like to thank Bayer Bee Care

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and Caterpillar for their support of TWS and recognize the NC Chapter members who assisted in this accomplishment: **Scott Anderson** (Caterpillar), **John Ann Shearer** (Bayer Bee Care), **Graham Hanson** (Bayer Bee Care), and **Colleen Olfenbuttel** (Caterpillar and Bayer Bee Care). This contribution will help with the long-term financial sustainability of our Chapter, as well as help us pursue new opportunities for members! At the conclusion of the 2017 NCTWS Annual Meeting, the Executive Board directed that a committee be formed to research and recommend the proper fiscal management of the Chapter's growing finances. This unique situation arose due to several reasons (i.e., responsible stewardship of funds, fundraising during past NCTWS annual meetings), but most notably from TWS contributions (\$13,000) to the Chapter as a result of hosting the 2016 TWS Annual Conference and fundraising activity associated with that conference. Three board members volunteered to work on the committee: **Jamie Sasser**, current Past President, **Kelly Douglass**, previous Past President, and **Colleen Olfenbuttel**, current President-elect and previous Treasurer. The committee conducted a survey of all TWS subunits and met on four separate occasions outside of regular board meetings. As a result, the committee developed a number of recommendations that will greatly increase the future stability of NCTWS, while providing increased opportunities for NCTWS members. One recommendation, of which the committee is most proud, is to create three grant opportunities for NCTWS members starting in the 2018-2019 fiscal year. These grants include a TWS Annual Conference grant (1 offered), a Professional Development Grant (2 offered), and a Reduced NCTWS Annual Meeting Registration Grant (3 offered). More details about these grants and the other committee recommendations will be

released during the 2018 NCTWS Annual Meeting, in upcoming newsletters, and through the Chapter's email distribution list. Stay tuned!!

Submitted by: Deanna Noble

OKLAHOMA

NO NEWS REPORTED



SOUTH CAROLINA

Fall State Chapter Meeting

By John Kilgo, SC TWS President



The South Carolina Chapter of TWS held its annual meeting October 4, 2017 at Clemson University's Sandhill Research and Education Center. The program featured invited speakers during the morning session addressing the effects of climate change, particularly sea level rise, on wildlife habitat in the state, and offered student presentations during the afternoon session on various wildlife issues. Officers for 2018-2019 were elected and included **Billy Dukes** (President-Elect), **Wayne Harris** (Secretary-Treasurer), Dr. **David Jachowski** (Southeastern Section Representative), and **Beau Bauer**, **Jay Butfiloski**, and **Joachim Treptow** (Executive Board members). **Paul Johns** and **Gerald Moore** received the chapter's Lifetime Achievement Award, Dr. **Rickie Davis** received the Professional Wildlife Management Award, and **Will Gallman** received the Outstanding Undergraduate Award.

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South Carolina DNR

Tall Timbers Enter into Memorandum of Agreement for Bobwhite Restoration

By **Breck Carmichael**, SCDNR

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement for the establishment and operation of the South Carolina Bobwhite Funding Partnership (SCBFP). The SCBFP provides a vehicle for SCDNR, Tall Timbers, and others to work collaboratively to help fund, expedite and expand South Carolina bobwhite restoration and management through the SC Bobwhite Initiative (SCBI) and the Tall Timbers Carolina Regional Quail Project (CRQP).

The SCBI is a strategy to target habitat restoration to focal landscapes on both private and public lands. These restoration efforts benefit both quail and other grassland birds that utilize similar

habitats. It is a step-down plan for South Carolina's implementation of the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative.

Tall Timbers Research Station & Land Conservancy is a nonprofit organization focused on restoration of fire-dependent habitats to support high-density populations of wild bobwhites and associated wildlife species. Concurrent and in conjunction with the SCBI, Tall Timbers has been engaged with South Carolina private landowners in intensive bobwhite management and has recently begun expanding South Carolina efforts through the formal development of the CRQP. The SCBI and the CRQP are similar in that each program has objectives of restoring bobwhite habitat and populations to huntable levels across landscapes where restoration potential is high and constraints are low.

The SCBFP will establish an account where willing contributors can donate funds to be used exclusively in direct support of these programs. The Partnership will be governed by a seven-



SCDNR Director **Alvin Taylor** and Tall Timbers Board Member **Reggie Thackston**, sign the agreement on behalf of their organizations. Photo courtesy of The S.C. Bobwhite Initiative.

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member steering committee (co-chaired by SCDNR and Tall Timbers) that will assist in fundraising and oversee project funding.

“This is another step forward in our efforts to restore habitat and preserve the legacy and traditions of bird dogs and quail hunting for future generations,” said **Alvin Taylor**, SCDNR Director. “Bridging these two programs in South Carolina will produce synergy for bobwhite restoration and allow us to leverage funds towards one common goal,” said **Reggie Thackston**, Tall Timbers Board Member and Regional Gamebird Biologist.

The SC Bobwhite Funding Partnership MOA was signed at the Sept. 27, 2017, meeting of the South Carolina Quail Council, a state-federal-private partnership created in December 2014 to provide guidance and advocacy for quail and grassland bird restoration efforts in South Carolina.

Establishing a Breeding Population of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (*Picoides borealis*) on Donnelley Wildlife Management Area

By Caroline Causey, SCDNR

On September 28, 2017, 3 pairs of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were translocated from the Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge in Chesterfield County to Donnelley Wildlife Management Area in the Ace Basin of South Carolina. This 3-year project conducted by SCDNR is the first of its kind in South Carolina to reintroduce these endangered woodpeckers on suitable state lands. The project has shown considerable success since translocations began in the fall of 2016. Eight pairs were moved to Donnelley the first year and placed in recruitment clusters containing artificial cavities. The following spring revealed 5 potential breeding groups present, with a sixth forming after breeding concluded. These 5 potential breeding groups

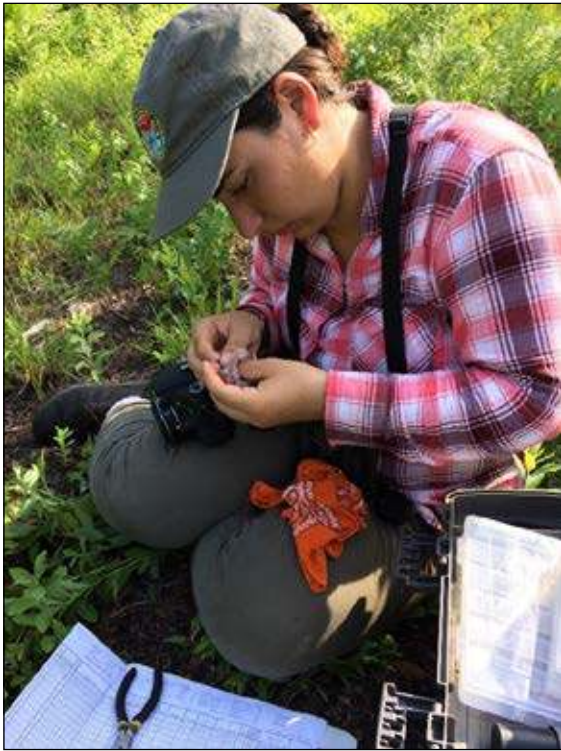
successfully hatched 3 nests. SCDNR biologists banded 5 nestlings total, of which 4 successfully fledged in early summer. These numbers were significant, considering the small population size and the fact that these second-year birds were attempting nesting for the first time. In addition to the breeding success in 2017, new cavity starts were found in 3 of the 9 clusters. Since all of the existing cavities at Donnelley are artificial inserts, excavating new cavities is the essential next step for these birds as their population grows. It is anticipated that this year's translocation of 3 additional pairs will further boost their numbers and contribute to the recovery of this endangered species.

In addition to the breeding success, SCDNR biologists detected movements between the Donnelley RCW population and 2 neighboring private lands populations, resulting in the formation of new potential breeding groups and contributing to greater genetic diversity.



Daniel Barrineau, Manager at Donnelley WMA displaying RCW nestlings.
Photo courtesy of Caroline Causey.

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Roxy Ohanyan, RCW Assistant, banding an RCW nestling. Photo courtesy of Caroline Causey.

Bob Perry Retirement

Bob Perry retired at the end of June after 39 years with SCDNR. He started as a field (waterfowl) biologist on the coast. His last position was in Columbia as Director of the Office of Environmental Programs. Retirement did not last long. In August, he started working part time with the Palustrine Group (<http://palustrinegroup.com/>) where he is a Senior Mitigation Strategist. He also started a single employee firm, Palmetto Natural Resources Management, where he specializes on privately owned waterfowl habitat management, wetlands conservation and environmental permitting.

Clemson University

Clemson University is offering a new online delivery option for its non-thesis Master of Science in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology degree. The degree program is targeted toward students with experience in natural resources who wish to enhance their professional degree skills. Students potentially include Federal and State Agency wildlife and fisheries employees, educators who wish to increase their knowledge about wildlife and fisheries biology, private industry professionals, and individuals with a variety of other natural resource backgrounds. The program is in a fully online format, allowing lectures to be available 24/7. Students who enroll in 2 courses a semester can complete the degree in as little as 2 years (3.5 years if 1 course is taken per semester). Most students start in the Fall semester, but new enrollees are also accepted in Spring and Summer semesters when space permits. We will be accepting application for Summer 2018 until February 28th. For more information (<http://www.clemson.edu/online/programs/wildlife-fisheries-biology.html>).

Submitted by: David Jachowski

Did you know?

There are 27 Working Groups active within The Wildlife Society, encompassing nearly all facets of the complex wildlife profession. Working groups are forums where TWS members with common professional interests can network, exchange information and promote science-based decision-making and management of wildlife and its habitats. Find out how you can join at wildlife.org/join/.

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TENNESSEE



Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

8th National Quail Symposium Held July 2017 in Knoxville, Tennessee

The Eighth National Quail Symposium, which drew approximately 300 quail experts, researchers, policy-makers, and natural resource managers from state, federal, and institutional entities from around the U.S., Canada, Latin America and Europe, was held July 24-29, 2017 in Knoxville, Tennessee.

The scientific conference is convened every five years and is the world's largest meeting of quail professionals. Quail 8, as it is known, was the first time the symposium was conducted in conjunction with the annual meeting of the National Bobwhite Technical Committee, the leading group of quail experts in the U.S. and the primary authors of the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative, headquartered at the University of Tennessee.

Hosted by UT and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Quail 8 featured the latest quail research findings, including plenary lectures, contributed presentations and peer-reviewed proceedings, and featured on-the-ground results of bobwhite response to management.



USFWS/NCTC Dave Menke

41st Annual Meeting of the Southeast Deer Study Group

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency will host the 41st Annual Meeting of the Southeast Deer Study Group at the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee; Monday, February 19, 2018 - Wednesday, February 21, 2018.

The Southeast Deer Study Group meets annually for researchers and managers to share the latest information on the most important wildlife species in North America. These meetings provide an important forum for the sharing of research results, management strategies, and discussions that can facilitate the timely identification of, and solutions to, problems relative to the management of white-tailed deer.

White-tailed deer researchers, managers, hunters, and enthusiasts from the Southeast and beyond are welcome and encouraged to attend. To learn more about the history of the meeting or to find proceedings from prior years you can visit the SEDSG's home website.

To find out specific information about the meeting you can visit the Host website at:

<https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1981894>

With the increasing trend of state wildlife agency deer management programs being subject to formal evaluations, including audits and lawsuits, we're focusing this year's conversation around what a defensible state deer management program entails. The plenary lineup is now available!

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The Southeast Deer Study Group was formed as a subcommittee of the Forest Game Committee of the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society. The Deer Subcommittee was given full committee status in November 1985 at the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society's annual business meeting. States participating regularly in the Southeast Deer Study Group include Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Cleveland State Community College

The Cleveland State CC student chapter has been busy over the last six months, logging over 995 volunteer hours across many activities. In May, June, and July, students assisted TWRA biologists in collecting bear hair from snare traps across southeast Tennessee. In August, we welcomed Dr. **Jenny Paul** as a new faculty member with the Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries program. Additionally, we hosted **Mike Studer**, state apiarist, as part of the Greg A. Vital Center for Natural Resources and Conservation (GVCNRC) seminar series. We also assisted with abomasal parasite counts at Yuchi and Enterprise South Nature Park WMA's. In September, we cooked for the Burgers & Badges event honoring first responders where they were also offered a free meal. In October, we manned checking stations in the Tellico district of Cherokee National Forest and also worked the Hunt for Warriors at Enterprise South Nature Park. We also set up an educational booth at the annual Bison Blessing at the Greg Vital buffalo farm. In November, we worked county checking stations at the opening day of muzzleloader and rifle seasons. Additionally, we hosted ten high-school teams for the first annual GVCNRC conservation skillathon. In December, we worked the Hunt for Warriors at Fall Creek Falls State Park. In January we will be working

the Crane Days Festival at Birchwood School and in May, we will be hosting students from New Mexico as part of the CSCC Swap program.

Submitted by: Steven Hayslette

VIRGINIA

Virginia Chapter



Join us for the Annual Meeting of the Virginia Chapter of The Wildlife Society, February 5th –7th, 2018, at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel and Conference Center, Staunton Virginia. The traditional winter meeting brings together biologists, private and public land managers, consulting organizations, educational institutions, student chapters, and other colleagues from across the Commonwealth. This year's Plenary Session theme, "Fired Up for Wildlife" seeks to present a balanced view of topics related to forestry and prescribed fire techniques used to create and sustain wildlife habitat in Virginia. We will also be offering professional development workshops, student and professional research presentations and posters, and organized student-professional mixers. It's shaping up to be a great meeting and we hope to see you there. Questions? Contact **Michael St. Germain**, President mstgerma@vt.edu or **Faren R Wolter**, President-Elect fwolter@vt.edu.



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Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

At SEAFWA 2017, **George C. Palmer** (Fisheries Biologist, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries) was honored as the “2017 Fisheries Biologist of the Year”. To read more about George and his career: http://www.seafwa.org/news/e_2062/News/2017/11/Virginia_Biologist_Honored_by_Regional_Peers.htm

Also at SEAFWA 2017, Conservation Police Officer **Timothy Dooley** was recognized as “Virginia’s SEAFWA Officer of the Year”.

Virginia Tech

At SEAFWA 2017, Dr. **Mark Smith** presented the Southeastern Section “Student Chapter of the Year” award to the Virginia Tech Student Chapter of TWS. Congratulations to the VT students and Dr. **Marcella Kelly** (faculty advisor).

Also at SEAFWA 2017, Dr. **Mark Ford**, VA Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Leader, was recognized for his outstanding work as Associate Editor for *Journal of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies*.

Dr. **Dean Stauffer**, Professor, Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation at Virginia Tech, was nationally recognized at The Wildlife Society annual meeting in Albuquerque, NM, and received the “Excellence in Wildlife Education” award for his lifelong commitment to quality teaching and mentorship of the next generation of fish and wildlife scientists and leaders.

Submitted by: Faren R. Wolter

DUCKS UNLIMITED

Staff Changes

Dr. **Aaron Pierce** joined DU in September as a new regional biologist for south Louisiana working out of our Lafayette field office. He will serve as the lead biologist for Louisiana Waterfowl Project South and will also help with other coastal restoration/management work such as NAW-CA projects. Aaron has a B.A. in biology from Hartwick College, a M.S. in ecology from Purdue University, and a Ph.D. in natural resources from University of Tennessee. He was most recently an associate professor and the graduate program coordinator at Nicholls State University in the Department of Biological Sciences. Aaron has been involved in coastal/bird/wetland research in Louisiana for approximately 10 years and is very familiar with coastal Louisiana.



Aaron Pierce joined DU as a new regional biologist for south Louisiana.

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Carter Coleman is the new regional engineer in the Richmond, Texas office. Originally from South Carolina, Carter graduated from the University of South Carolina and comes to DU from a private engineering company located in Austin, TX.



Carter Coleman is the new regional engineer in the Richmond, Texas office.

Will Cenac joined the DU team as a regional engineer for south Louisiana. Will is a registered professional engineer in Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from the University of Louisiana – Lafayette and a Master of Science degree in ocean/coastal engineering from Texas A&M University. His previous work

experience with an engineering consulting firm involved numerous coastal restoration projects, hydrologic studies and general civil projects in Louisiana. Will is a Louisiana native, resides in Lafayette and will work out of DU's office there.



Will Cenac joined the DU team as a regional engineer for south Louisiana.

Awards

Dr. Scott Manley Receives Top Flight Award

Ducks Unlimited Director of Conservation Innovation Dr. **Scott Manley** was presented with the DU Top Flight Award in December. Manley leads DU's Rice Stewardship efforts on the ground and in Washington, D.C. To date, DU has delivered 267,000 acres of conservation on ricelands and caused nearly \$70 million to flow to rice producers in DU's level 1 priority areas. Last year alone, the rice program exceeded \$20 million, with only six percent of these funds being non-public.



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“Scott is a visionary leader doing a great job as an administrator, fundraiser and policy agent for rice,” said Director **Jerry Holden, Jr.** “We’re pleased to acknowledge Scott’s outstanding job wearing many hats and ensuring the rice and ducks partnership is operating at truly impressive scales for producers and for waterfowl. His remarkable efforts to bring agricultural production and conservation closer together under the banner of rice will strengthen our efforts to support strong conservation titles in the pending Farm Bill.”

Without winter flooded ricelands in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley, Gulf Coast and California’s Central Valley, we will be unable to meet the objectives of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. As Scott says, “What’s good for rice is good for ducks.”

Curtis Hopkins Recognized Nationally

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan partners recognized DU’s retired Director of the Southern Region, Dr. **Curtis Hopkins**, as the 2017 National Blue-Winged Teal Award winner at the SEAFWA annual meeting in October. The award honors extraordinary commitment to conservation and the NAWMP.

“Curtis exemplifies commitment to the conservation of North American waterfowl,” said Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture Coordinator **Keith McKnight**. “His contributions to NAWMP are many, but can best be illustrated by the number of significant firsts he initiated and supported throughout his career.”

Working for the U.S. Forest Service, Dr. Hopkins initiated the first wood duck nest box program on Delta National Forest in the early



Current DU Director of the Southern Region **Jerry Holden, Jr.** (right) presents Dr. **Scott Manley** (left) with the DU Top Flight Award.

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1970s, and he was instrumental in developing initial plans for greentree reservoirs on the Forest. Hopkins went on to become DU's first private lands conservation director, during which time he prepared the first North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant proposal for private lands work in the duck-rich delta of Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. The profound influence of his early work in cooperation with private landowners reverberates through the efforts that continue to this day.

"**Curtis Hopkins** has been a dedicated conservationist for more than 40 years," DU Southern Region Director of Conservation Programs **Craig LeSchack** said as he presented the award. "His accomplishments for waterfowl, wetlands and natural resource conservation are long-lasting and extensive. But above all else, Curtis was a mentor to innumerable

coworkers, employees and young biologists through the years. His zeal for waterfowl and drive for conservation are overshadowed only by his genuine compassion for and interest in other people."

After retiring from DU in 2013, Dr. Hopkins accepted the role of Executive Secretary for SEAFWA, where he continues to serve waterfowl and wildlife resource conservation across the Southeast.

DU Chief Scientist Recognized by Alma Mater

DU Chief Scientist Dr. **Tom Moorman** was recognized with the State University of New York (SUNY) Notable Achievement Award in December. Moorman graduated from SUNY in 1991 with a Doctorate in Environmental and Forest Biology.



Current DU Director of the Southern Region **Jerry Holden, Jr.** (left) presents Dr. **Curtis Hopkins** (right) with the NAWMP Blue Winged Teal Award.

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SUNY recognized him for advancing waterfowl conservation science through his work at Ducks Unlimited, where he has held various positions for more than 25 years. As chief scientist, Moorman is involved in national and international conservation, science and policy issues, and is the lead science contact in DU's work on wetland protection and waterfowl research. His contributions include designing wetland restoration projects, developing conservation strategies and overseeing the acquisition of funding.

Moorman received numerous awards related to his impact on wetland and waterfowl ecology. As a student at SUNY, he received the Wilford A. Dence Fellowship, which recognizes a graduate student with an exemplary record and potential for a successful career in wildlife and fish biology and conservation. Dr. Moorman has certainly proven that was a well-bestowed recognition.

DU Biologist Recognized by USA Rice

DU Conservation Biologist **Kirby Brown** was the eighth recipient of the USA Rice Distinguished Conservation Achievement Award. He is the third DU-associated person (along with **George Dunklin** and **Scott Manley**) to receive this honor, demonstrating DU's commitment to Rice Stewardship and the industry's recognition of our efforts.

Leo LaGrande, California rice farmer and chairman of the USA Rice Farmers Conservation Committee, said, "Kirby came to DU in 2012 to help address resource concerns related to water for rice agriculture, habitat for waterfowl and other wetland-dependent wildlife, and inflows for coastal estuaries in Texas. He did so during a multi-year drought of record and in the face of rapid and unprecedented population growth.



Chairman of the USA Rice Farmers Conservation Committee **Leo LaGrande** (left) presented the award to **Kirby Brown** (right).

Kirby's contributions to the rice industry's conservation efforts have benefited natural resources and wildlife, and have also spurred growth and in turn a sense of well-being in our local, state, and national communities."

Before coming to DU, Brown also had distinguished careers at both the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Wildlife Association. LaGrande added, "Kirby has devoted his several careers to addressing conservation concerns with common-sense, partner-focused, win-win solutions."



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

Georgia

Flint River WMA Enhancement Project

DU and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GADNR) recently completed a 215-acre wetlands restoration project on Flint River Wildlife Management Area in Dooly County, GA. Ducks Unlimited partnered with the GADNR to plan and implement the restoration of 150 acres of wetlands and approximately 65 acres of adjacent hardwood forest. The project site was historically an emergent wetland and bottomland hardwood forest, but previous owners ditched, drained and cleared the site for agriculture. The site was converted to a loblolly pine forest in 1986. Since state acquisition in 1993, beaver dams have impounded water across the project site and on adjacent property during non-drought years. This inundation caused the pine trees to become stressed, with many dead or dying below the high-water mark at the site. Building on a history of partnership, GADNR approached DU to assist with restoration of this historic wetland. DU received a \$75,000-Small NAWCA grant for the project, including pine tree removal, wetland vegetation restoration, water control infrastructure installation and habitat management.

North Louisiana

Central Louisiana Public Land to be Improved

Most of the wetland habitat at Pomme de Terre Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is managed by two large structures that control the water

level on the forested and emergent habitat. These structures are not functioning properly, which prevents the state from managing the habitat effectively for wildlife. Ducks Unlimited will replace the two main structures and return proper habitat management capabilities to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, enhancing 1,054 acres of public wetland habitat.

The 6,434-acre Pomme de Terre WMA is in Avoyelles Parish, about six miles east of Moreauville, LA. It is a critical area for wildlife in the southern portion of the Mississippi Alluvial Valley, providing a mixture of mature bottomland hardwood, scrub shrub and emergent wetland habitat for a wide range of wetland-dependent wildlife species. The area is heavily used for waterfowl hunting, as well as for big and small game hunting during the fall, and for spring turkey hunting.



Failing structures are making it difficult for LDWF to manage habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife.

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Mississippi

Mississippi NWR Hunt Unit Improved

Ducks Unlimited finished a wetland restoration project at the Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge near Starkville, Mississippi, in October. The main water-control structure used to manage the Green Tree Reservoir No. 3 was failing, preventing proper water level management and creating a sink hole in the levee. GTR No.3 is the refuge's managed waterfowl hunt unit and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service addressed the failing infrastructure to keep their ability to flood this GTR for waterfowl and hunters.

DU worked with the refuge to remove the failing corrugated metal pipes from the concrete headwalls and replace them with heavy walled steel pipes. The construction took place during a two-week period in October and was completed in time for the refuge to flood the GTR for hunting season.

The 48,000-acre NWR is in Noxubee, Oktibeha, and Winston counties. The endangered red-cockaded woodpecker relies on the refuge for its existence in east-central Mississippi. Noxubee NWR is one of only four sites where the species can be seen in the state. Many neotropical migratory bird species benefit from the variety of habitats the refuge provides. Four GTRs, two large lakes, 16 small impoundments and assorted wetland areas provide important habitat for the wood stork, American alligator, bald eagle, and wintering waterfowl.

More than 150,000 refuge visitors annually participate in activities including fishing, hunting, hiking, wildlife photography, wildlife observation, environmental education and research.

The refuge serves as an outdoor classroom for Mississippi State University and other local educational institutions and allows small game hunting, deer hunting, waterfowl hunting and turkey hunting within state seasons, with certain limitations and regulations.



Noxubee NWR GTR No.3 new pipe on levee.

Virginia

Virginia Public Land Improvements Planned

DU, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF), is preparing to begin a two-phased project on Hog Island Wildlife Management Area in Surry County. Hog Island WMA, one of the primary waterfowl complexes and historic colonial areas in Virginia, is a 1,300-acre state game land across the James River from Williamsburg, Virginia.

The first phase will enhance 1,100 acres of managed tidal impoundments through the replacement of water control structures, removal of debris from existing canals and enhancement of embankments. These impoundments

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are publicly accessible for hunting. The second phase of this project will focus on shoreline stabilization along the James River. DU will construct breakwaters along the shoreline to decrease erosion from wave energy and protect and restore marsh vegetation.

Managed wetlands are critical to wildlife since a large portion of the original wetland acreage in the state has been lost, and wetland habitat throughout the state continues to decline. Waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds and other wetland dependent wildlife will greatly benefit from enhanced foraging and wintering habitat provided by this project.



Rock breakwaters will slow and reverse the shoreline erosion seen here.

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

South Louisiana

Rice Stewardship Going Strong in Louisiana

Ducks Unlimited Rice Stewardship staff have been hard at work performing pumping plant efficiency evaluations in 2017. More than 140 tests have been completed, thanks to seasoned

staff members **Keith Latiolais** and **Kyle Soileau** and the addition of two highly qualified rice specialists, **Biff Handy** and **Richard Hardee**. The tests help rice producers increase water use efficiency and minimize input costs. DU provides this service at no charge as part of our efforts to keep rice agriculture on the landscape. Winter flooded rice lands provide crucial habitat for waterfowl.

The pumping plant tests gather information on flow rate, fuel use and water pressure while an irrigation system is operating. Diesel engines are the common source of power, but other fuels used include natural gas, gasoline, propane and electricity. If an engine or electric motor with varying motor speed is used to drive the pump, the efficiency test is done at three different operating speeds. An efficiency rating is determined for each of the three test speeds and the most efficient operating speed is identified.

If the system is powered by a single-speed motor, only a single-efficiency rating is determined for the pumping plant system. The efficiency rating refers to a standard established in the National Pumping Plant Performance Criteria, or NPPPC, for all types of energy sources.

Once all the field data has been collected, it is evaluated according to the NPPPC, and a rating (or ratings) for the tested pumping plant system is made. An Evaluation Report is prepared for the farmer to help him or her interpret the results. These reports include both narrative and graphic information that present: 1) NPPPC Efficiency Rating(s), 2) pumping rates (gallons per minute), 3) energy costs to operate the system (per hour and per acre-inch), 4) rates at which fuel is burned by an engine, 5) projected annual operating costs, and 6) projected annual cost savings, assuming that changes are implemented to bring the system up to 100 percent of standard efficiency.

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Oklahoma

ODWC Opens New Hunting Areas on Drummond Flats WMA

A multi-year effort to expand Drummond Flats Wildlife Management Area is paying off for hunters. The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) opened the area to public access Sept. 1, for the start of dove season and it will remain open for waterfowl hunting.

"Ducks Unlimited works closely with ODWC to improve wetland habitat across Oklahoma," said DU Regional Director **Nathan Johnson**, who also worked as a wetland engineer for DU. "After several years of focusing on Drummond Flats, it feels good to secure the final pieces to make this historic wetland area whole."

Ducks Unlimited acquired 125 acres at Drummond Flats from willing sellers last year. This acreage represents the final two parcels within the footprint of the historic wetland basin, but ODWC hopes to expand the WMA further to buffer the wetlands.

"This is another great example of the terrific working relationship over the years between the ODWC and DU," said **Alan Peoples**, chief of wildlife for the ODWC. "It's a real win-win-win for the ducks, the habitat and for hunters."



In addition to Ducks Unlimited major sponsors who supported the Southern Prairies & Playas Initiative in Oklahoma, funding for the acquisition came from the Treeman Family Foundation and the Playa Lakes Joint Venture through a grant provided by ConocoPhillips.

The area will be leased to the ODWC and managed as part of the Drummond Flats WMA until budgets allow the state to purchase the properties. Future plans for habitat restoration and enhancement work are under consideration. Ducks Unlimited and ODWC are committed to making Drummond Flats WMA a premier waterfowl area in the Central Flyway.

Submitted by: Andi Cooper



The historic wetland basin is now fully under public ownership and will provide habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds as well as outdoor recreation opportunities for people.

BUSINESS

**Minutes from the Fall Business Meeting
of the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society
Tuesday, 31 October 2017
(Louisville, KY)**

I. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions – Mark Smith

The fall business meeting was called to order at 3:04 pm (Eastern)

II. Approval of Fall 2017 Business Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve, so moved.

III. Reports

Secretary/Treasurer – **Susan Rupp** provided the account balance and informed members that our financials were in order. Discussion about target financials and what we should and shouldn't support financially. Do members see the option to join SETWS? Could it be prompted?

Motion to accept treasury report; so moved.

SETWS section representative - **Mike Conner** gave the Section Representative report.

Give-back program: Many members do not know that they can GIFT a 6 month membership to a non-member of TWS. This is NOT a half-off offer. It is a full 6-month membership with no strings attached. Recipients will be contacted about joining for the remainder of the year, but they are not required to do so. Rather, this is an attempt by TWS to help non-members 'try before the buy'. Also, this year, the give back program has been extended to include students. In the past, students were not eligible, but they are now.

Journals: Please remind colleagues that Journals are part of the membership benefit. Surprisingly, many chapter members do not know this. Also, Council recently completed a survey of TWS journal authors. Responses were enlightening and Journal Editors are taking this opportunity to improve all of our journals in response to the Survey. Editor-in-Chief of JWM, **Paul Krausman**, had prepared a letter from the Editor to describe how JWM will address survey issues. **David Haukos** will do similarly for WSB. Krausman also reported that 9 people are contacted for every person who agrees to review a JWM manuscript! Please review if contacted and you feel qualified to review. Finally, EIC appointments have been increased from 2 to 3 years with an expectation of serving at least 2 terms if extension is agreeable to all parties.



BUSINESS

Conferences: The 25th TWS conference will be held in Cleveland, OH. Dates are Oct 7 - 11, 2018. Remember that our own **Darren Miller** will assume the Presidency at this meeting.

The 26th TWS conference will be held in Reno, NV. Sept 28 - Oct 3, 2019. This will be a joint meeting with AFS. We will have plenary sessions involving both organizations.

Nominations: Over 20% of all TWS Members reside in the Southeast. We should have people/groups nominated for all awards. Mike indicated he would be happy to assist with identifying candidates and preparing nomination package. Please spread the word.

SE TWS Membership: We have over 2000 TWS members who live in the SE, but only about 25% are members of SETWS. When members are contacted regarding renewal in TWS they will be encouraged to join Chapters and Sections at the same time

JSEAFWA Submissions – **Curtis Hopkins** (SEAFWA Executive Secretary) and **Gary Hepp** (JSEAFWA Editor) will meet with Mark to review submission guidelines again. Next SEAFWA meeting in Alabama. May 1st possible deadline, notification will be sent to authors. Even if a paper is rejected, the authors can still present (doesn't make a lot of sense and may need to figure this out). **Eric Pelren** asked about Editorial guidelines....**Mark Smith** said it will be in document. Target dates for submissions will be made clear. No proceedings anymore. SETWS is not responsible for proceedings or the new Journal. Host state is responsible for proceedings, but it has not happened since 2014. **Cindy Delaney** has all the abstracts. We need to close loop. Drop in Journal submissions this year, states given flexibility to design the program. Many getting away from paper submissions and move toward special symposia. Can you have a manuscript in proceedings and not in Journal? There is confusion. Biologists are still sending abstracts to **Gary Hepp** and not the Associate Editor for Wildlife.

SETWS Strategic Plan – **Eric Pelren** took what we do and are supposed to do according to by-laws as a starting point (i.e., working document). Value to strategic plan, immediate value to working document. Three-year goals for strategic plan? Need to decide timeline. Historically, some boards have been more active than others. Mark suggested 2 documents....one that outlines goals and another that is about the structure of SETWS (e.g., responsibilities of executive board positions, journal guidelines, etc.). Rolling 3-year plan? For example, Oct. 2017 goes through October 2020, next year add 2021, then next year add 2022.

Associate Editor for Wildlife – **Chris Comer** said they have had 15 submissions, rejected 3. **Mark Ford** and **Chris Comer** decided to split duties 50/50 this year. Chris will transition to Associate Editor for Wildlife next year.

Newsletter Editor/Webmaster – **Katie Edwards** could not be here, so Mark reported in her place. Encourage members to submit work, artwork, photos, research, awards, etc. Be timely in updates, if possible. On average, newsletters are running 42 pages total. Emailed to roughly 570 people.

BUSINESS

Carolyn Murphy from TWS – 2 major federal policy updates:

- Recovering America's Wildlife Act was introduced in last Congress. Ask for 1.3 billion in dedicated funding for state wildlife action plans. State and tribal wildlife grants are currently funded at \$60 million annually. Should be introduced to this Congress extremely soon! Monies coming from oil and gas royalties. After bill drops, looking to have a "fly-in" to meet with representatives about the bill. Conservation Affairs Network will continue updates.
- FY 2018 appropriations – Operating on a continuing resolution until December 8th. Put in budgets for agencies (BLM, USFWS, etc.) in early 2017. Will keep us updated through CAN as well.
- Western Burro and Horse Management – non-native feral species. Have federal protected status. Lack of funding, congressional appropriations, etc., have led to mismanagement. FY18 funding, looking to relax appropriations restrictions to allow euthanasia as an option. Passed house; will likely hit Senate in next week or two.

Also, Carolyn updated us on:

- Review of membership dues
- Policy library on membership portal that shows all the federal policy documents since 2010; asking for documents from state (Email: cmurphy@wildlife.org).

Audit Committee – **Mike Conner** reported. All funds present and accounted for since January 2016. **Mike Conner** and **Steve Rockwood** will draft report, sign, and send to Mark Smith.

Student Awards – **Andy Madison** reports. Normally had 4 nominations for Student Chapter of the Year....may have some confusion where to send nominations. Should send to Chair of Committee. Was in newsletter at least twice, but Andy only received one. Three nomination packages were sent to TWS.

- 9 student presentations at SEAFWA
- 5 student posters at SEAFWA

Difficulty in getting judges. Had to recruit right before presentations.

C. W. Watson Award – Had 11 nominations this year. Winner will be announced Tuesday night. Encouraging to hear we had so many nominees!

Deer Committee – **Mark Smith** reported on behalf of **Steve Demarais**. The 40th annual meeting was in Missouri, Dr. **Karl Miller** was recipient of Career Achievement Award for 2017. Dr. Demarais stepped down after 15 years and **Steve Shea** took over as Chair. **Bob Zagland** will be new students' awards coordinator. Continue to work on CWD. 41st meeting in Nashville, TN. Continues to be the premier deer management meeting.

BUSINESS

Steve Rockwood – Chair joint Wetlands Wildlife Committee (SETWS and SE Association of Fish and Wildlife Directors). Had committee meeting on Sunday afternoon. Talked about the NA Waterfowl Management plan update, update for 2018 Farm Bill and how it relates directly to wetlands (especially WRP), couple of presentations from Kennedy Foundation, update of farming on refuges (2016 banned use of GMOs and neonicotinoids), NA Wetlands Conservation Act – asked for re-authorization and funding at ~\$38+ million

Endangered Species and Non-Game Wildlife Committee – No report

Fur Resources Committee – **Colleen Olfenbutt** was not here, so **Mark Smith** reported. Have to meet charges of Wildlife Resource Committee.

Battle with EPA over Kaput for feral hogs - Eventually made to AFWA Policy Resources Committee – eventually culminated in letter to EPA to withdraw product. TWS also submitted letter. EPA has not changed stance. Both AFWA and TWS requested information sharing.

SEAFWA directors approved: 1) state oversight of damage control agents and 2) BMPs for rabies-vector species. Wildlife Damage Control Agents (SEAFWA webpage has approved documents)

Richard Rogers reported on 4 issues in need of research and asking for administrators to back:

1. Eastern spotted skunk conservation plan – WV only state that allows legal trapping. Concern is that nobody has good information on abundance/distribution. Feeling that distribution has contracted and abundance declined. Need data. There is a multi-state push for study.
2. Bobcats and otters – challenges to CITES by Wild Earth Guardian challenging export of bobcat/ otter pelts. In court now. E.A. has been prepared, but has been appealed. They are challenging the science, not the morality of trapping. If they win this, it will just embolden them. States want research to help in cause.
3. Coyote incentive programs, predator contest bans – Issue is with private ones.....Virginia had “Eastern Predator.....” People were upset with trucks full of coyotes and other predators. Encouraging policy or position statement. Media was only getting one side of story.
4. Muskrat decline – Anecdotal decline observed by trappers across wetland types. Prolific breeders, have lived in bad conditions before. Why declining? Probably habitat quality related. Predation? Water quality? Round-Up? Endocrine disruptors? **Tim Hiller** – Wildlife Ecology Institute came to working group meeting last May and came up with study design, but way too big and way too expensive. He is working to pair it down using wetland classification system and radio telemetry studies.

Mark Smith said we could help to support these causes as a scientific organization, but asked for the Committee to bring things to us and make specific requests for assistance.

BUSINESS

Wetlands Wildlife Committee – Will be given time at business meeting. Will have 2 recommendations to be submitted for vote. Will be asking SEAFWA to look through it. Executive Committee will review before Tuesday meeting.

Editorial Advisory Board for *The Wildlife Professional* – **Joe McGlincy**, Chair (but Mark reported). The EAB has 6 conference call/year to discuss each wildlife professional issue. Readers' survey was very positive, gave TWP high marks. They need good articles submitted – especially from Southeast - but contact Nancy Sasavage first.

Minorities in Natural Resources Committee – No report

Wildlife Management Excellence Award – No report

Publications Committee – No report

TWP Editorial Advisory Board – No report

Membership Committee – No report.

Nominating Committee – **Mike Mengak** reported that he had a hard time getting people to sit on committee. Also hard time getting nominees. Katie sent out another reminder today. Had 75 votes so far. Clear candidates selected. **Ray Igley** (President elect) and **Kelly Douglass** (secretary/treasurer).

Conservation Affairs Committee (CAC) – **Nelson Lafon** could not be here, but **Mark Smith** reported on his behalf. They have 13 member state chapters, but some states do not have individual CACs. Requested SETWS to sign off on Recovering America's Wildlife Act, which Mark did. Kaput feral hog bait – they have been in a lot of communications to keep people in the loop. Encourage people to get involved.

SEAFWA Liaison – **Steve Rockwood** reported. Had meeting with SEAFWA leaders about getting information out about SEAFWA journal. May request that Mark send letter to southeastern universities to make sure they know SEAFWA has journal. Number of publication had dropped to 15 this year. Also talked the need to clean up the SEAFWA website to make clear whether abstracts are reviewed or just journal submissions. Need to clarify direction of Proceedings as well.

Strategic Planning – By-laws changes....**Mark Smith** contacted **Darren Miller** to figure out the add-ins. Changing verbiage for where to hold business meeting.....but other changes by Darren that Mark does not fully understand.

IV. Other Business

Subunit collaboration meeting – Thought of having student representative on SE Section Board. Folks generally in favor, but would like thoughts from members of SETWS. For example, how would students

BUSINESS

be selected? At Conclave? Would we rotate position? A comment was made that we should be prepared to offer funding to help get the selected student to the annual meeting. If we wanted to provide support, would it come out of SETWS budget? Could the student “Skype” in to the meeting if budget is not there? If we rotate, we could have the student from the state that is hosting be on EB for year. **Mike Mengak** stated the need to get more members into section to help budget if we are to continue to provide financial support to students – on Executive Board, Conclave, etc.. What would the responsibilities be of the student if they are not voting member? Student voice into EB discussions, also allows EB to see what students are doing. Use Conclave as a way to exchange information among student chapters, funnel information to student rep on EB. **Mike Conner** suggested that first meeting with the student representative be in person at the SEAFWA meeting (as opposed to spring business meeting).

Mike Conner moved to add student representative to the Executive Board of the SE Section of TWS and that member be chosen based on the state that is hosting the SEAFWA meeting that year and that the student would be a non-voting member of the Executive Board.

Motion was seconded, voted on, and approved.

Congrats to **Eric Pelren** as a new Fellow of TWS.

Andy Madison announced student awards:

- Best Student presentation - **John Yeiser**
- Best Student paper – **Charles Sanders**
- Best Student Chapter of the Year – Virginia Tech

Mark presented plaque to **Mark Ford** for his service as Associate Editor of Wildlife on Proceedings.

Mark also presented plaque to Dr. **Steve Demarais** for his 15 years of service to the Deer Committee.

Results of Elections – Mengak

Had about 13.8% of chapter voted. Incoming President Elect – **Ray Iglay** and incoming secretary/treasurer is **Kelly Douglass**.

Mark handed over presidency to Dr. **Mike Mengak**.

Dr. Mengak presented plaque to Dr. Smith for his service as president. Also presented plaque to Dr. **Susan Rupp** for her service as secretary/treasurer.

Call to adjourn, seconded.....so moved.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

BUSINESS

SECRETARY-TREASURER REPORT

January 1, 2017 to October 29, 2017

Submitted by: Susan Rupp, SE Section Secretary/Treasurer

Beginning Balance (01/01/17)	\$5,606.32
Deposits	\$6,206.00
Debits	\$(-2,005.10)
Outstanding Checks (10/29/17)	\$(-1,500.00)
Ending Balance (10/29/17)	\$8,307.22

DEPOSITS

Item	Amount
TWS Reimbursement (dues rebates)	\$2,864.00
TWS Reimbursement (dues rebates)	\$832.00
TWS Reimbursement (dues rebates)	\$570.00
TWS Reimbursement (dues rebates)	\$1,908.00
Bank Credit Fee Refund	\$10.00
Membership Dues	\$10.00
Membership Dues	\$12.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$6,206.00

DEBITS

Item	Amount
MSU Student Chapter (conclave)	\$1,000.00
Dr. Andy Madison (Shipping reimbursement)	\$33.10
Dr. Mike Conner (separate HTCWG/SETWS acct.)	\$952.00
Membership Dues (bounced check)	\$10.00
Bank Fee for bounced check	\$10.00
TOTAL DEBITS	\$2,005.10

OUTSTANDING BILLS

Item	Amount
Newsletter/Webmaster (Katie Edwards – Check #1060)	\$1,500.00
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	\$1,500.00



BUSINESS

TWS Renews Five Position Statements

The Wildlife Society Council has recently renewed and updated five position statements that expired in October. TWS' position statements are one type of policy engagement document used to express the science-based position of The Wildlife Society's membership and influence policy issues. Position statements form a broad foundation used for developing more specific letters, comments, testimony, and issue statements.

The Wildlife Society's Position Statements are reviewed by Council every 5 years. An ad hoc committee of Council incorporated input from relevant TWS working groups and chapters to ensure these position statements incorporated up-to-date scientific information and conservation approaches.

- The U.S. Endangered Species Act
- Global Climate Change and Wildlife
- Firearms
- Livestock Grazing on Rangelands in the Western United States
- Lead in Ammunition and Fishing Tackle

These position statements and others can be read at: <http://wildlife.org/position-statements/>

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& Professor – Wildlife
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President-Elect:

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Assistant Research Professor
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Southeastern Section

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TWS Signs Letter Supporting Native Grassland Conservation

The Wildlife Society, alongside 10 TWS chapters and sections, has joined more than 150 conservation and agriculture organizations in a letter supporting the American Prairie Conservation Act (S.1913, H.R. 3939), which seeks to slow the conversion of native grasslands to croplands.

Introduced in both the Senate and the House on Oct. 4 by by Sens. John Thune, R-South Dakota; Amy Klobuchar, D-Minnesota; Mike Rounds, R-South Dakota; John Bennet, D-Colorado, and Reps. Kristi Noem, R-South Dakota and Tim Walz, D-Minnesota ...”, the bill would expand a regional “Sodsaver” program to a nationwide program as a provision in the upcoming 2018 Farm Bill. The current program, enacted by the 2014 Farm Bill, is only in effect in six states: Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota.

The “sodsaver” program helps ensure taxpayer dollars are not used to encourage grassland conversion by limiting crop insurance premium subsidies on land where native grasslands have been converted to insurable cropland. In addition to expanding the program to a nationwide initiative, the American Prairie Conservation Act would also close a loophole where producers are not subject to subsidy reductions for up to four years if a non-insurable crop is planted before an insured crop. The act would also require the U.S. Department of Agriculture to track and report changes in native grassland acreage by county. The 2014 Farm Bill only requires USDA to track changes in crop production.

The loss of grassland also reduces suitable habitat for ground-nesting birds across the country and the multitude of waterfowl species that breed in the prairie pothole region.

Both the Senate and House bills have been referred to committee. The goal is for this language to be wrapped into the 2018 Farm Bill, which is expected to be brought in front of Congress later in 2018. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the nationwide “Sodsaver” program will save taxpayers \$52 million over the next ten years.

TWS Sections and Chapters that signed on in support of this legislation include:

The Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society
The Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society
The California Bay Area Chapter of The Wildlife Society
The Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society
The Illinois Chapter of The Wildlife Society
The Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society
The Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society
The Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society
The Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society
The Virginia Chapter of The Wildlife Society

More information: <http://wildlife.org/tws-signs-letter-supporting-native-grassland-conservation/>

BUSINESS

Make TWS Journals Your Publishing Choice in 2018

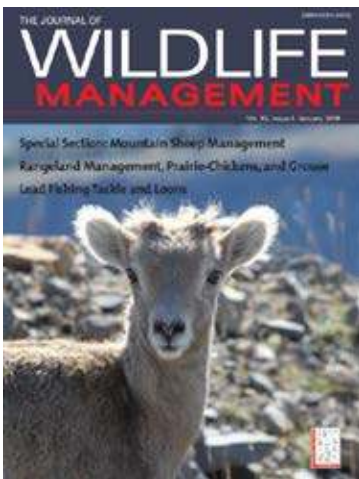
A lot of factors go into choosing where to publish your wildlife research findings. TWS wants to make our journals your first choice in 2018.

Here's what we are doing to encourage members to publish in one of the Society's three scholarly journals: *Journal of Wildlife Management*, *Wildlife Society Bulletin* and *Wildlife Monographs*.

Reduced Page Charges for Members

As a TWS member, you are eligible for **40 percent off** the standard page charges. In 2018, we have also eliminated all color page charges.

The following page charges and publication fees apply to all manuscripts, except Letters to the Editor, Invited Papers, and Book Reviews, that go into production after Jan. 1, 2018.



Journal of Wildlife Management

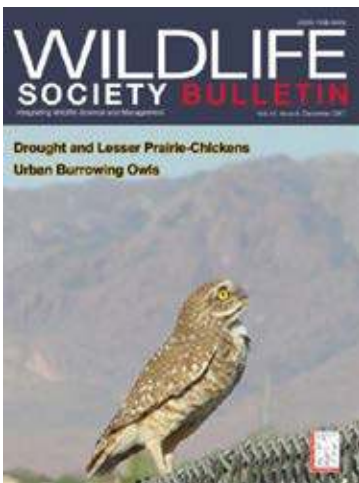
If any author is a member of The Wildlife Society:

- \$90 per published page for the first 8 pages
- \$150 for every page thereafter

If none of the authors are a member of The Wildlife Society:

- \$150 per page

Authors may choose to publish the manuscript under TWS' and Wiley's open-access option; the fee for publication is \$3,000 in lieu of page charges.



Wildlife Society Bulletin

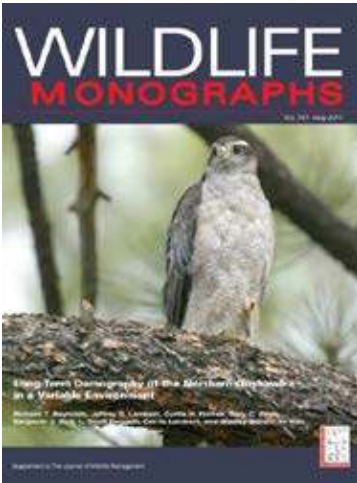
If any author is a member of The Wildlife Society:

- \$50 per published page for the first 10 pages
- \$80 for every page thereafter

If none of the authors is a member of The Wildlife Society:

- \$80 per page for the first 10 pages
- \$130 for every page thereafter

Authors may choose to publish the manuscript under TWS' and Wiley's open-access option; the fee for publication is \$3,000 in lieu of page charges.



Wildlife Monographs

Beginning Jan. 1, The Wildlife Society **reduced the publication fees for *Wildlife Monographs* from \$10,000 to \$7,500 and eliminated color page charges** to encourage authors to publish their work in this highly regarded journal. The journal's 2016 Impact Factor was 5.75 and it ranked number one of 162 publications in the zoology category and 12 of 153 in ecology.

And for the first time, we have created **an open-access option for *Wildlife Monographs***, which allows anyone to read the published paper in the Wiley Online Library. The publication fee for this option is \$10,000.

Streamlined Guidelines for Authors

We know author guidelines are no fun to read, so that's why the journal editors and editorial staff have revised the guidelines and put all information you need for quick-reference at the very beginning of the guidelines.

High Visibility

Your published work can be seen by 10,000 of your peers because all TWS members have online access to TWS journals. Plus Wiley offers tips for how to get more publicity for your published work. TWS also works with Wiley to promote newly published papers to world-wide media outlets.

And did you know that over 4,200 institutions subscribe to the *Journal of Wildlife Management/Wildlife Monographs* and more than 1,500 to the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*? This means that virtually the entire wildlife community can access your published work.

Supporting TWS' Strategic Plan

There's one more important reason to publish in TWS journals that members may not think of often. One of TWS' strategic themes is being a recognized and trusted organization for expertise on science-based wildlife management and conservation. When you publish with your Society, you are lending your support to our strategic plan.

With your help, we can grow the impact of TWS journals on achieving a positive impact on the sustainability of wildlife populations for future generations.

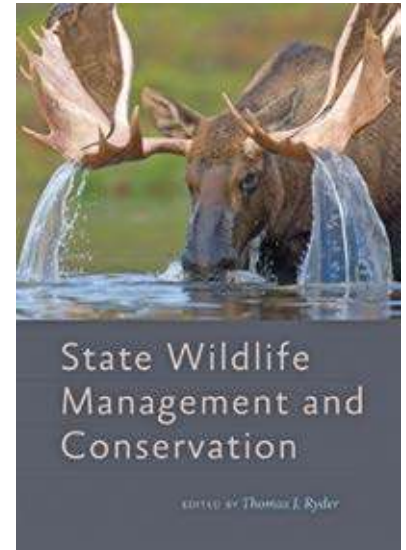
Nancy Sasavage

TWS Director of Publications and Communications and Editor-in-Chief of *The Wildlife Professional*

BUSINESS

**New from TWS and Johns Hopkins University Press
State Wildlife Management and Conservation
Edited by Thomas J. Ryder**

Are you thinking about a career with a state wildlife agency or already a seasoned professional working for one? Either way, this newest book in TWS' Wildlife Conservation and Management series, "State Wildlife Management and Conservation," is a must have. TWS Past President **Tom Ryder**, now retired after a long career with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, brings together wildlife leaders from practical, policy, and academic backgrounds to tell the story of state wildlife agencies, chronicling their efforts to restore and protect our nation's natural resources. With more than 40 contributors, the book provides a comprehensive, nationwide account of state management efforts. It will aid professors training the next generation of wildlife professionals, students hoping to enter the profession, and anyone working with wildlife to develop a more sophisticated understanding of what it means to be a state wildlife biologist. Order your copy now. TWS members receive a **30 percent discount** off the cover price of \$75.



**TWS 25TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SAVE THE DATE
CLEVELAND, OHIO | OCTOBER 7-11, 2018**

This year our conference travels to Cleveland, Ohio, to celebrate our 25 years of educational conferences. Each year our conference grows with more educational and networking sessions, and 2018 is no exception. We anticipate our biggest conference to date, as members from across North America gather to celebrate our 25th Annual Conference. Interested in presenting at next year's conference?

NOW OPEN: Call for Proposals
Call for Abstracts (Papers and Posters): Opens February 19 - April 22, 2018
<http://twconference.org/>



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Awards 2017

C.W. Watson (SEAFWA)
Cindy Dohner

SEAFWA Publication of the Year
Gregory D. Balkcom and Bobby T. Bond. An Evaluation of Georgia's Public Mourning Dove Hunting Demand and Opportunity.

SETWS Student Chapter of the Year
Virginia Tech

SETWS Best Student Presentation
John Yeiser. How Close is Close Enough? Spatially Targeted Land Enrollment Improves Private Land Conservation Success.

SETWS Best Poster Presentation
Charles Sanders. Prevalence of *Toxoplasma gondii*, *Leptospira* spp., and *Parvovirus* spp. in North American river otter throughout North Carolina.

National Blue-Winged Teal Award
Curtis Hopkins

SEAFWA Wildlife Biologist of the Year
Dan Gibbs, TWRA

SEAFWA Wildlife Officer of the Year
Brad Hasamear, ADCNR

TWS Excellence in Wildlife Education
Dean Stauffer, Virginia Tech

TWS Wildlife Publication Awards
Edited Book: David E. Andersen, David A. Buehler, Henry M. Streby. Golden-winged Warbler Ecology.

TWS Fellows
Roger Applegate, Eric Pelren



SETWS Immediate Past President **Mark Smith** (left) was recognized for his service by incoming SETWS President **Mike Mengak** (right).



SETWS Secretary-Treasurer Susan Rupp (left) was recognized for her service by SETWS President **Mike Mengak** (right).

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Cindy Dohner named C. W. Watson Award Winner

The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) named the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's former Southeast Regional Director Cindy Dohner the 2017 C. W. Watson Award winner. The award is the highest honor bestowed by the Association.

"Cindy has been a visionary in wildlife management and partnership engagement," said SEAFWA President **Alvin Taylor**. "Conservation leaders across the nation are looking at her groundbreaking efforts to establish a unified, all-encompassing plan for conservation in her region, and they are all looking for ways to follow her lead."

Named the Southeast Regional Director for the USFWS in 2009, Dohner oversaw the management of 130 national wildlife refuges, 14 national fish hatcheries, six migratory bird field offices, five fishery assistance offices, and 16 ecological services field offices.

During her eight years as RD, Dohner was instrumental in the establishment of the Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS), the first region-wide, partnership-directed, science-oriented, comprehensive conservation plan. The SECAS includes all wildlife habitat types, considers past, present, and future forecasts for climate change and urban growth, and includes cultural and socio-economic dimensions.

"The SECAS reflects the Southeast region's vision that all wildlife management agencies and conservation-focused partner organizations will work together to innovate, lead, and help the people of this region ensure the future of our natural resources," Taylor said.

Dohner has been instrumental in collaborating with the Department of Defense and other stakeholders to develop the first ever pre-listing conservation strategy for the entire range of the gopher tortoise. The gopher tortoise is a candidate species for the threatened and endangered species list found only in the longleaf pine savannah habitats of the southeast.



Cindy Dohner honored with the C.W. Watson Award.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

She served as the Department of the Interior authorized official and representative on the RESTORE Trustee Council in the aftermath of the Deepwater Horizon disaster. She led the nine-member Trustee Council's transition from start to finish while handling the largest Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) effort in the history of the U.S. Dohner also fostered creation of the seven Trustee Implementation Groups, which are responsible for setting priorities and developing restoration plans.

Dohner worked for the USFWS for 24 years in a number of positions. She also worked for three state agencies, two other federal agencies, and in the private sector. She has a bachelor's degree in marine biology and a master's in fisheries and aquaculture.

SEAFWA Media Release, <http://www.seafwa.org/news/>

SEAFWA 2017 Wildlife Biologist of the Year

The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) named **Dan Gibbs** the 2017 Wildlife Biologist of the Year. Gibbs is the Bear Program Leader for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA).

Gibbs established an on-line bear reporting system on the TWRA website so the public can report bear sightings, which adds to the information TWRA bases its bear management decisions. He works closely with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Cherokee National Forest, the city of Gatlinburg, and other communities to deal with bear conflict issues. He coordinates TWRA's efforts with the Appalachian Bear Rescue which cares for orphaned cubs and relocates them into the wild.

Gibbs currently serves as the SEAFWA Large Carnivore Working Group chair and has been an active member of the Southeast Black Bear Work Group for many years. A multistate bear population study using DNA from hair samples and the adoption of a standardized educational outreach program called BearWise are two results of his leadership and engagement.

Beyond his black bear duties, Gibbs coordinates goose and wood duck banding and dove field leasing. In conjunction with the region's wildlife management area managers, Gibbs assists in developing annual hunting season recommendations.

Gibbs joined the TWRA in 1997. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in wildlife and fisheries science. He earned his master's from Tennessee Tech University in wildlife management.



Dan Gibbs recognized as the 2017 Wildlife Biologist of the Year.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Excellence in Wildlife Education Award

The Excellence in Wildlife Education Award celebrates exemplary teaching and contribute to the improvement of wildlife education by honoring individual faculty members. Eligible faculty should be actively engaged in undergraduate and/or graduate wildlife-related education with outstanding performance in at least one of the following categories:

- Teaching
- Advising
- Research Activities
- Academic Program Development
- Educational Leadership

Dr. **Dean Stauffer**, professor of wildlife conservation in Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources and Environment, was nationally recognized with the "Excellence in Wildlife Education" award at The Wildlife Society Annual Conference in Albuquerque, NM.

Stauffer, who has been with Virginia Tech for 34 years, has developed four undergraduate and two graduate courses, mentored 19 master's and nine doctoral students, and served on 74 master's and 33 doctoral advisory committees. From 2010 to 2015, he served as the college's associate dean of academic programs.

In addition to his teaching within the college, Stauffer has also taught 37 weeklong workshops on wildlife habitat evaluation, population management, and population estimation through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Kenya Wildlife Service, and the Department of Wildlife Management at the University of Chihuahua in Mexico.



Dean Stauffer (left), pictured with TWS Immediate Past President Bruce Thompson (right), received the Excellence in Wildlife Education Award.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

TWS Fellows Award

This award recognizes current TWS members who have distinguished themselves through exceptional service to the wildlife profession and have been members for at least 10 years. TWS Fellows serve as ambassadors of The Wildlife Society and are encouraged to engage in outreach and other activities that will benefit and promote both TWS and the wildlife profession. Fellows are appointed for life.

Eric Pelren

Eric Pelren is a professor of wildlife biology at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Pelren was a member of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and Oregon State University chapters while he was pursuing his master's and doctoral degrees respectively at these universities. Pelren served as the president of the Tennessee Chapter from 2000 to 2002 and as the president of the Southeastern Section of TWS from 2014 to 2015. Pelren's interests include wildlife-habitat relationships, farm and forest wildlife management and upland gamebird ecology.



Eric Pelren (left), pictured with TWS Immediate Past President Bruce Thompson (right), was recognized as a TWS Fellow.

Roger Applegate

At his current position as a wildlife population biologist and state furbearer, small game and wildlife health program leader with Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, **Roger Applegate** deals with issues ranging from restoring grassland and shrubland communities to searching for the rare spotted skunk. Applegate has either conducted or participated in research related to wildlife ecology for almost 40 years. He is also an adjunct assistant professor of wildlife management at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and teaches biology at a local community college. At the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, he helps develop collaborative projects between the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and the university. Applegate has been in his current role with the agency for 12 years.



Roger Applegate was recognized as a TWS Fellow.

NOMINATIONS

TWS Awards

The Wildlife Society's Awards Program annually honors professional excellence, recognizes outstanding achievement and highlights contributions to wildlife science and management. Through the years many new awards have been established to recognize accomplishments in wildlife publications, management, science and professionalism. Special recognition by The Wildlife Society promotes the professional growth of our members, provides our membership with role models and strengthens the image of our membership in the eyes of their peers, employers, our leadership and society. We encourage members to recognize the contributions of their peers by participating in the nomination process. Detailed nomination instructions and criteria can be found at <http://wildlife.org/engage/awards/>.

All award nominations are due by May 1, with a few exceptions:

- Group Achievement Award (nominations due February 1)
- Wildlife Publication Awards (nominations due March 1)
- TWS Fellows Award (nominations due February 1)

LIST OF TWS AWARDS

Education Awards

Conservation Education Award
Donald H. Rusch Memorial Game Bird Research Scholarship
Excellence in Wildlife Education Award

Professional Achievement Awards

Aldo Leopold Memorial Award
Caesar Kleberg Award For Excellence in Applied Wildlife Research
Diversity Award
Group Achievement Award
Jay N. "Ding" Darling Award for Wildlife Stewardship Through Art
Jim McDonough Award
Special Recognition Service Award
Wildlife Publication Awards

Service Awards

Chapter of the Year Award
Distinguished Service Awards
Honorary Membership
Student Chapter Advisor of the Year
Student Chapter of the Year Award
TWS Fellows Award

NOMINATIONS

Wildlife Management Excellence Award

Each year during its annual meeting, the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society (SETWS) may present the Wildlife Management Excellence Award to recognize excellence in wildlife management activities carried out within the member states of the SETWS.

Persons making nominations must be current members of the SETWS; however, nominees need not be members. Nominations may include either an individual or group and evaluation of nominees will be based upon a single management achievement, not a “lifetime service” that has been accomplished in the field of wildlife management.

Examples of management achievements worthy of the award include (but definitely are not limited to) activities such as an exceptional break-through in bringing back an endangered species, the rapid (over a few years) development of a management area due to an individual or group effort, a major effort in stopping a particularly environmentally damaging project or an extension education effort that results in substantial and measurable change in private landowner acreage set aside for wildlife use.

Nominations should be submitted following the nomination format found on the SETWS website (<http://wildlife.org/se-section/se-section-about/>) and will be reviewed by a five-member committee. The committee is seeking nominations of individuals or groups who have performed “above and beyond” in their nominated category with good quantitative data to support the nomination.

The deadline for nominations is **August 1 of each year** and should be emailed directly to the Chair of the WMEA Committee or the current SETWS President. The recipient will be presented with the Wildlife Management Excellence Award at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society. Your participation is vital to the awards programs of the SETWS and is greatly appreciated. We all are aware of the multitude of deserving individuals and groups within our essential profession. As such, please take the time to nominate these deserving professionals.

Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society Student Chapter of the Year Award

The SETWS annually presents the Student Chapter of the Year Award to encourage and recognize exceptional achievements by Student Chapters in the Southeastern Section. This award is normally presented at the Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Winning chapters receive a certificate and monetary award. All student chapters in the Southeast Section are invited to nominate themselves for the award by completing the application form, which can be obtained from the SETWS Awards Committee Chairperson, **Andy Madison** (amadison@uu.edu). The deadline to submit an application is **June 30, 2018**, but Student Chapters are encouraged to complete and submit the application any time during the Spring 2018 semester. Please note that this is a separate award and application from the national TWS.

TRAINING

Wildlife Governance Principles/Public Trust Practice Training



We are facing an increasingly challenging management environment.

We are facing a crisis of relevancy and credibility.

We can adapt to meet these challenges and achieve our mission.

Natural resource agencies are under increasing pressure to demonstrate relevance to all citizens. Staff from Cornell University, the Wildlife Management Institute, and three state agencies are leading an interactive workshop to help natural resource agency staff meet this challenge. The workshop will increase understanding of agencies' public trust responsibilities, Wildlife Governance Principles, and how to improve agency practices to increase relevancy.

What are Wildlife Governance Principles? Normative statements that provide guidance for the practices and procedures that determine how decisions are made and how responsibilities are exercised in fish and wildlife conservation. The principles are a blend of public trust thinking and good governance norms that address the themes of:

- Strategic thinking and organizational adaptability
- Evidence-based and broadly informed decision-making
- Transparency and accountability for decisions and actions
- Inclusive and diverse participation in decision-making
- Capacity to deliver conservation

The Wildlife Governance Principles guide agency adaptation...

- ...from static to dynamic priorities;
- ...from a focus on "game" species to conservation of all species;
- ...from a narrow constituency to a broad constituency; and
- ...to maintain or expand relevancy, support, and funding.

Please Join Us! WMI is offering training to staff from NEAFWA and SEAFWA states April 3 – 5 in Davis, West Virginia. Space is limited and will be allocated first-come, first-served.

For more information, see: <https://blogs.cornell.edu/publictrustpractice/> or contact: Chris Smith, WMI Western Field Rep., at csmithwmi@msn.com; 406-202-0003

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

FEBRUARY 2018

41st Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting

February 19-21, 2018
Nashville, TN
<http://www.sedsg.com>

SEPARC 2018 Conference

February 22-25, 2018
Unicoi State Park and Lodge
Helen, GA
<http://separc.org>

MARCH 2018

North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference

March 26-30, 2018
Norfolk, VA
<https://wildlifemanagement.institute>

North American Joint Bat Working Group Meeting and 28th Annual Colloquium on Conservation of Mammals in the Southeastern U.S.

March 27-29, 2018
Hotel Roanoke
Roanoke, VA
<https://sbdn.org>

MAY 2018

Ducks Unlimited National Convention

May 29-June 3, 2018
Indianapolis, IN
www.ducks.org/ducks-unlimited-events/national-convention

JULY 2018

American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists Annual Meeting

July 8-15, 2018
Rochester, NY
www.asih.org/meetings

AUGUST 2018

Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting

August 5-10, 2018
New Orleans, LA
<https://esa.org/neworleans>

SEPTEMBER 2018

2018 AFWA Annual Meeting

September 9-12, 2018
Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel & Marina
Tampa, FL
<http://www.fishwildlife.org/index.php>

OCTOBER 2018

The Wildlife Society 25th Annual Conference

October 7-11, 2018
Cleveland,
<http://wildlife.org/2018-conference/>

72nd SEAFWA Conference

October 21-24, 2018
Mobile, AL
www.seafwa.org/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:

Kelly Douglass
Technical Assistance Biologist
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
1722 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699
Phone (919) 621-3317
kelly.douglass@ncwildlife.org