

Arkansas Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Newsletter

VOLUME 36

MAY 2014

NUMBER 1

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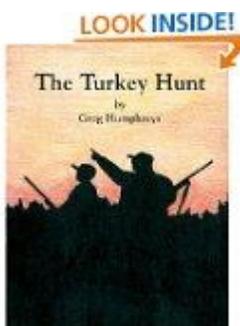
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Arkansas Chapter Web Site

www.wildlife.org/arkansas

Humphreys Publishes Turkey Hunting Book

Chapter member Greg Humphreys has recently written a short children's book about turkey hunting in which he blends patience, morality, temptation, and peer pressure into a boy's first-ever solo turkey hunt. Growing up in Morrilton, Greg spent his free time hunting and fishing in the Ouachita Mountains of Perry and Yell counties. He has a B.S and M.S. from ATU and ASU, respectively, and has been employed as the wildlife biologist for Deltic Timber Corporation in El Dorado since 1997.



Greg says, "I promise any young person you may gift this book to will have their imagination activated throughout the story and be very impressed with the high quality illustrations found throughout. If young sportsmen will apply its principles to their life, it will help them be better stewards of our wildlife resources and better human beings."

This book also provides an opportunity for a parent or mentor to spend quality time with a young hunter reading it and talking about the storyline. It's currently available on Amazon. Simply go to the site, select "Books" and then search for "The Turkey Hunt"...it's should be one of the first few books listed under that topic. Unfortunately, the Kindle version is not formatting correctly at this time so you might want to wait a while before purchasing it in that format.

Mourot Honored for Mayflower Oil Spill Response

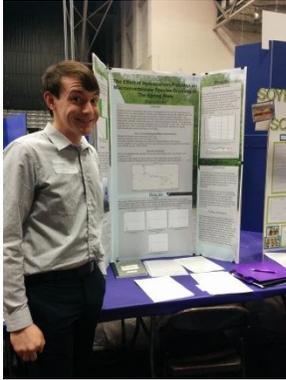
AGFC Region 8 Assistant Regional Supervisor Matt Mourot received a Certificate of Appreciation at the November meeting of the



Arkansas Game and Fish Commission for his involvement in the response to the oil spill in Mayflower earlier in 2013. As initial details of the spill were being reported, he was contacted to deal with cases of oiled wildlife and he took the lead as the Wildlife Management Division point of contact for wildlife recovery and rehabilitation efforts.

ATWS Awards to Science Fair Wildlife Projects

Members of the Arkansas Chapter fanned out across the state this spring to judge posters at regional science fairs and the state science fairs. Students with the best projects with a wildlife theme received special award certificates. The 2014 winners are:



Arkansas State Science Fair (Judged by Christina Hacker): “The effects of hydrocarbons on macroinvertebrate species diversity in the Spring River. Jesse Hufstedler, Sloan-Hendrix High School in Imboden.

Honorable mentions went to Ezra Tole, Ridgway Christian High School, Casey Labbate, Central High School, Morgan Booth, and Hannah Humphrey, Ridgway Christian HS

Northwest Arkansas Regional Science Fair (Judged by Kim Smith): “Lay one on me”, a study of quail nest sites. Will Sayers, Ramsey Junior High in Fort Smith.

Richard Stich represented the Society as a judge in the Environmental Science category at the Southeast Arkansas Regional Science Fair.

Northeast Arkansas Regional Science Fair (Judged by Virginia Rolland and Rich Grippo): Dayton Bryant

Central Arkansas Science Fair (Judged by Blake Sasse): “Which type of corn do deer like to eat”. Stephen Harris of Academics Plus Charter School.

West Central Regional Science Fair (Judged by Johnny Cantrell and Marty Reynolds): Hunter Hill studied impacts of pollution on macroinvertebrates on the White River and Jessie Hufstedler studied pollution in sediments on the Spring River.

White River NWR Renamed for Dale Bumpers

Preservation of Arkansas’s rich and abundant wildlife habitat usually takes multiple partners plus an individual driving force.

The lesson was made indelible on Good Friday in southeastern Arkansas.

Dale Bumpers White River National Wildlife Refuge is the new name of the sprawling complex of bottomland that hosts enormous numbers of migrating waterfowl in addition to year-round denizens ranging from black bear and white-tailed deer to squirrels, alligators, alligator snapping turtles and a plethora of songbirds.

The refuge is an Arkansas treasure. Dale Bumpers is an Arkansas treasure. It took an act of Congress to put his name on the refuge, one of just a few in the nation bearing a human label.

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Director Mike Knoedl called Bumpers a legend in the state. “His conservation advocacy will leave an indelible mark on Arkansas for future generations. It is fitting and long overdue that he be honored for his work to preserve this unique region,” Knoedl said.



Former U.S. Sen. Bumpers was the architect of an unusual and innovative

land swap that greatly increased the size of the refuge.

The three-party trade was 41,000-plus acres of Arkansas hardwood bottomlands, transferred from Potlatch Corp. to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in exchange for 17,000-plus acres of Idaho western pine land transferred from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to Potlatch. It took place in 1993.

Bumpers had leading roles in other Arkansas environmental developments as governor and senator. The battle against channelization of the

Cache River turned during his gubernatorial term. The Cache River National Wildlife Refuge, just north of the refuge now bearing his name, was established in 1986 with Bumpers' actions in Congress. Arkansas State Parks was revitalized and expanded during his governorship.

Health issues prevented Bumpers from attending the naming ceremony at refuge headquarters at St. Charles in Arkansas County. Sons Bill and Brent were on hand, along with U.S. Sen. Mark Pryor, USFWS Director Dan Ashe and USFWS Southeast Regional Director Cindy Dohner.

He (Bumpers) is a giant among conservationists and a visionary who followed an unconventional path to set aside some of Arkansas's last wild places, Ashe said. "It is fitting that he will be forever linked with the White River."

After unveiling of a sign with the new name, Ashe and Dohner presented a smaller replica to Bill and Brent Bumpers.

Bumpers is a native of the small town of Charleston in western Arkansas. As attorney for its school board in the 1950s, he helped it become the first Southern school to take in black students after the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court integration decision. He defeated incumbent governor Winthrop Rockefeller in 1970, won re-election and went on to four terms, 24 years, as a U.S. senator, retiring in 1999. He's a member of the Arkansas Outdoor Hall of Fame.

Spring Meeting Minutes March 6, 2014 Natural Resources Complex, Conway

Attendance (Field Trip): 28

Attendance (Meeting): 52

The meeting began with field demonstrations at Bell Slough Wildlife Management Area in Mayflower. Demonstrations included a helicopter drone (led by Auriel Fournier), feral hog trapping (led by David Goad), and turtle trapping (led by Dr. Ben Cash). Approximately 28 members attended with representatives from all student chapters except Arkansas State University.

Following lunch, the group convened at the USFWS Natural Resources Building in Conway for the plenary session and business meeting. Tom Nupp, president, opened the session by welcoming everyone. A detailed agenda for the afternoon session is included.



Prior to the planned oral presentations, Joe Krystofik from USFWS made an announcement about the Wildlife Habitat Restoration on Private Lands Conference. The conference will be held at Harding University from 6-7 May 2014. Registration fees include lunch and a reception dinner. More information can be found at: www.uaex.edu/wildlifeconference.



Auriel Fournier, Ph.D. student, and Dr. David Kremetz from the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville and USGS Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit presented on the response of fall migrating sora to wetland management. Based in Missouri, their work involves investigating the relationships between occupancy and abundance of rails to water level management and wetland habitat management. Preliminary results indicated that sora had the same fall migration pattern for the first 2 years

of the study and that habitat was a strong predictor of sora abundance. There was some evidence that sora abundance increased with increasing water depth and weak evidence supporting a direct relationship between sora abundance and interspersed water and marsh vegetation.

A presentation by Lauren Helton and Dr. Thomas Risch from Arkansas State University was originally planned for the meeting but was cancelled due to adverse road conditions from recent inclement weather. Their work was based on the use of fish farms and Wetland Reserve Program properties by interior least terns.

J. P. Fairhead, the feral hog program coordinator was next to present on the AGFC feral hog program. Due to a family emergency for J. P. that caused him to miss the meeting, Brad Carner, Chief Wildlife Administrator from AGFC, provided an impromptu update on the program. Brad explained that there is a public survey on 17 topics regarding the 2014-15 hunting seasons (link on www.AGFC.com) that is open until 15 March. AGFC has now moved to online surveys in lieu of townhall meetings due to poor public attendance to these meetings. In comparison, the online survey has already received 5,632 responses. Brad explained that under current laws, (Arkansas State Act 1104) it is a felony offense for anyone to transport and release feral hogs on public land and a misdemeanor for anyone to transport and release feral hogs on private land. Given their status as a nuisance animal, AGFC has been working hard to reduce feral hog populations on WMAs. Currently, AGFC hunting regulations allow anyone to take a hog during any open season on a WMA; the 3 topics on the survey are proposed changes to this regulation. The first topic is in regards to areas that currently have well established hog populations; AGFC wants to restrict take of feral hogs to only the firearm big game seasons. The intent for this change is to remove any incentive associated with hogs including recreational hunting. The second topic is concerned with areas with no hogs currently; AGFC wants to eliminate any firearm season on these areas and thus exclude any opportunities to take a hog on these WMAs. The intent for this regulation is to reduce any incentive of people hoping to provide hunting opportunities by releasing hogs on WMAs. The last topic is based in Sharp County where intensive feral hog

trapping efforts have been conducted since December. Due to public disturbance, trapping has been highly unsuccessful at reducing the hog population so AGFC is proposing to close all hunting seasons as of 5 January to eliminate the public disturbance effect on the feral hog trapping.

The business meeting was led by President Tom Nupp. Rachael Urbanek, Secretary-Treasurer, presented the fall meeting minutes; the minutes were approved by the attendees. Rachael reviewed the chapter financial report and membership report and these reports were also approved. Rachael noted that the 4th Quarter dues were not provided by the parent society yet so the current membership roster for regular members appears to be extremely low.

Blake Sasse, Member-at-Large, provided an update to the chapter's new webpage (now available at www.wildlife.org/arkansas) and Facebook page. He explained that Facebook requires money for allowing people to see content on the page if they "Like" it. Blake stated that interested members should click on "Following" when reviewing the page so they have access. Members were also encouraged to "Like" specific posts because this will inform Facebook that this page is important and have higher accessibility and viewing option with more "Likes". In addition, Blake reminded members to provide him with any news for the newsletter and explained that a Silent Auction is being developed for a fundraiser for the Student Funds. He reminded members that if they become a life member to ARTWS (\$200 one-time fee), that money goes directly to the student fund.

Auriel Fournier provided updates from the student chapter at University of Arkansas – Fayetteville. They currently have 20 members who have participated in activities such as Birds and Breakfast at Hobbs State Park and visiting the Tulsa Zoo. They sent 4 students to the national TWS meeting and plan to send a delegation to Conclave. The students will also be participating in a wildlife techniques competition soon to prepare for Conclave.

Robert Floyd provided updates from the student chapter of University Arkansas – Monticello. Students from this subunit have participated in the Fall Festival at Felsenthal WMA, multiple

deer check stations, and plan to send a delegation to conclave.

Patrick Moone provided updates from the student chapter of Arkansas State University where they have 78 members. These students also participated in deer check stations, conducted trash pick-up twice a month on their adopted highway, and raised money for Conclave at the Arkansas Sportshow.

Austin Klais provided updates from the student chapter at Arkansas Tech University. They currently have 54 members, 17 of which will be participating in Conclave. Their second annual Beast Feast was a huge success bringing in >150 people, an almost 3-fold increase from the first year. Tech students participated in woodcock surveys, the big buck classic and work on the Lovett Trail and Holla Bend. Graduate students in the club have piloted a Fish and Wildlife Seminar series (open to the public) for the spring semester. On behalf of the student chapter, Austin proposed to the attendees that the ARTWS provide \$10/student (up to \$150 total) to the Tech student chapter members who are participating in Conclave to help with travel. This money would come out of general funds and discussion led to providing this opportunity for all 4 universities. Auriel Fournier, Patrick Moone, and Roberty Floyd stated their representatives going to Conclave are financially covered. The attendees approved a motion to provide a one-time check of \$150 to Tech's student chapter to help the student attend Conclave.

President Tom Nupp explained a proposal developed by the ARTWS Executive Board to change the bylaws of ARTWS. Currently, the bylaws state "The regular meeting in September shall be known as the Annual Meeting." The Executive Board is proposing to eliminate the month in the text so that the bylaws read "The regular meeting shall be known as the Annual meeting." This proposal will be made available to all members and will be voted on in the Fall 2014 meeting. Absentee ballots will be available for members who cannot attend the Fall meeting. Additional discussion included the idea that the annual meeting could be multi-day and David Kremetz brought up the need to discuss whether a multi-day meeting would be during the work week or include weekends. President Tom Nupp also discussed the possibility of having a joint meeting with the Arkansas Chapter the American Fisheries Society possibly

in Spring 2015. Allison Fowler, President-Elect, was approached by members of AFS with this idea. AFS usually has their annual meeting at the end of February. Someone noted that the 38th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Deer Study Group will be having their annual meeting 23-25 February at the Little Rock Marriot. No decisions on a multi-day meeting or joint meeting with AFS were made.

A. J. Riggs, Region 8 AGFC Wildlife Biologist, presented on her work implementing State Wildlife Action Plan priorities in the Boston Mountains and Ozark Highland Ecoregions. Her presentation outlined how she is building a burn program to restore and maintain native grasslands and grassland birds; manage forests for Species of Greatest Conservation Needs; and restore woodlands, savannas, and glades to increase Species of Greatest Conservation Needs.

Martin Blaney, AGFC Habitat Program Coordinator, presented on current restoration partnerships between AGFC and agencies, universities, and NGOs. Current partnerships include approximately 20 coalitions that cover 320,000 acres in cooperative projects. During the presentation, Martin stressed the need to continue making these coalitions in order to make restoration progress on large scales.

--Rachael Urbanek, Secretary-Treasurer

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock,
18 December 2013

Members Present:

Allison Fowler, Tom Nupp, Blake Sasse
(telephone), Rachael Urbanek

President-elect Allison Fowler called the Arkansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society (ARTWS) meeting to order at 9:00 AM Wednesday 18 December 2013. President Tom Nupp began by asking for suggested dates for the spring 2014 meeting. Allison Fowler suggested 6 March and everyone concurred that would be an accommodating tentative date. Allison Fowler then reviewed the list of cities that the chapter meeting has not been held at (provided by Blake Sasse via previous email communications) which included: Conway,

Searcy, Mountain Home, Texarkana, Batesville, and Arkadelphia. The committee agreed that Conway would be ideal for the spring meeting given its central location in the state. Further discussion evolved regarding whether to have it at the Natural Resources Building or at University of Central Arkansas (UCA) and Allison Fowler said she would begin looking into the location possibilities shortly.

Tom Nupp brought up the reoccurring idea to have 1 annual meeting and Rachael Urbanek reviewed the online survey results regarding the subject. For the survey, only 12 members participated, thus negating any solid idea of what the membership at large would find acceptable. Blake Sasse reminded the committee that the bylaws only state the necessity to have 1 meeting in September and a spring meeting is not a requirement. Discussion revolved around the limitations of a September meeting and Tom Nupp suggested to make a motion at the spring meeting for members to reflect on whether the bylaws should be changed where the 1 required meeting would not have a time specified; this vote to change the bylaws would be polled at the fall 2014 meeting. Tom Nupp also suggested that the spring meeting attendees fill out the online survey regarding the topic; Rachael Urbanek suggested that the survey be reduced to only focus on potential characteristics of an annual meeting.

The potential of having 1 meeting per year spurred further discussion on increasing both professional and student attendance. Allison Fowler stated that members from Arkansas Game and Fish Commission would be able to budget better if there was 1 meeting per year at a known relative time. Rachael Urbanek expressed that people may be more excited about the meeting and more likely to commit to going if it was only 1 event per year. These points led into discussing presenters for the spring meeting and Tom Nupp suggested to ask any AGFC employees to present, which in turn, may improve professional attendance. Allison Fowler suggested that an AGFC employee may be able to present on management issues regarding the oil spill in Mayflower. Additional thought was put toward to having another field demonstration for the spring meeting and whether UCA could contribute to the demonstration. Rachael Urbanek suggested that if UCA was not an option, members from the

Arkansas Hawking Association may be able provide a demonstration.

Discussion then led to the possibility of having a multiday annual meeting. Tom Nupp suggested that if there was an afternoon session to start the meeting, followed by a social, and then a morning session of talks the following day, attendance may increase. He posed that more professionals may attend the meeting if a social was involved due to the networking possibilities and Rachael Urbanek suggested that more students may also attend with the increased chance of mixing with professionals. Rachael Urbanek also noted that based on the small samples size of the online survey, every survey response indicated that the person would be willing to pay some money towards an ARTWS meeting which would help with refreshments at a social. Blake Sasse mentioned that there used to be an informal get together for any member staying overnight after a meeting but the number of participants in that unscheduled event waned over time. Rachael Urbanek also suggested a quiz bowl among the 4 student member clubs to improve student attendance and break up the presentation sessions. Allison Fowler and Tom Nupp both stated that instilling a quiz bowl should be relatively easy given that all student member universities have the national list of questions and University of Arkansas Monticello has an official quiz bowl timer. Additionally, Tom Nupp stated that if the multiday meeting with the quiz bowl was held in the spring, more students may attend because the student clubs could use it as a practice for Conclave.

Tom Nupp suggested that ARTWS have a joint meeting with the Arkansas chapter of the American Fisheries Society (ARAFS). He noted that previous joint meetings with ARAFS brought large attendance counts. Allison Fowler and Blake Sasse both agreed while recollecting on previous joint meetings with ARAFS. Rachael Urbanek mentioned that the North Central Section of the Wildlife Society has a joint meeting the corresponding section of AFS each year and many professional and students alike enjoy going to that meeting. Allison Fowler suggested that we should get in contact with the executive committee of ARAFS to see how both schedules line up and perhaps make a plan to have a joint meeting every 5 years. Tom Nupp mentioned that ARAFS has also had joint meeting with other AFS state chapters in

neighboring states and that may be an option to look into for ARTWS.

Final discussions revolved around a brief explanation of duties for the president-elect Allison Fowler and secretary/treasurer Rachael Urbanek. Blake Sasse reminded Allison Fowler that an audit must be conducted prior to Rachael Urbanek receiving the finances folder. Blake Sasse also requested all past agendas, reports, and other pertinent information from previous years to be given to him for the historical collection. Tom Nupp reminded everyone that a new executive committee roster must be submitted to the parent society. Allison Fowler and Rachael Urbanek agreed to switch the bank account to Rachael's name after the meeting was adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM on 18 December 2013.

--Rachael Urbanek, Secretary/Treasurer

Personnel Changes

The AGFC recently created a new Assistant Regional Supervisor position in the Wildlife Division. The following people were promoted to these positions: Mark Barbee, Jason Carbaugh, Stacy Clark, Kevin Lynch, Matt Mourot, Gary Thornton, and Johnny Waldrup. Ruth Ann Gentry, Private Lands Biologist, left the agency in December.

George Howell, AGFC Natural Resource Technician at Dr. Lester Sitzes II Bois d' Arc WMA retired in February.

Arkansas Publications

(send info about your publications to the editor)

Hardy, LM. 2013. The eastern spotted skunk (*Spilogale putorius*) at the Ouachita Mountain Biological Station, Polk County, Arkansas. *Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science* 67: 59-65.

Hines, RE, TJ Bader, and GR Graves. 2013. Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) nest in tree cavities in Arkansas. *Southeastern Naturalist* 12(4): N18-N20.

Perry, RW. 2013. White-nose Syndrome in Bats: An Overview of Current Knowledge for Land Managers. USDA Forest Service Gen. Tech Report SRS-184.

Sasse, DB, TS Risch, DA Saugey, MJ Harvey, JD Wilhide, RK Redman, JL Jackson, T Klotz, and PR Moore. 2013. New records of the eastern small-footed bat (*Myotis leibii*) in Arkansas. *Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science* 67: 214-216.

Tumlison, R and K Kendall. 2013. Effects of bridge design on placement and shape of cliff swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) nests in southern Arkansas. *Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science* 67: 221-224.

Worm, AJ, MM Bobowski, and TS Risch. 2013. Perch-type characteristics of overwintering red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) and American kestrels (*Talco sparverius*). *Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science* 67: 159-162.

Upcoming Meetings

Wildlife Habitat Restoration on Private Lands Conference. May 6-7. Harding University, Searcy. www.uaex.edu/wildlifeconference