

April, 2014
Spring Edition

The Wildlife Society



New Jersey Chapter Newsletter

Spring 2014 Meeting:

Cooperative Management of Young Forests

When: Wednesday, April 30, 2014; 9:00-3:00.

Where: Kittatinny Valley State Park
Regional Highlands Center at Mt. Paul
243 Mt. Paul Rd.
Oak Ridge NJ 07438

Directions from Rt. 80 and Rt 15 intersection:

Travel on Rt. 15 north for 7 miles
Exit at Sparta (Lake Mohawk/ Business District/ Park & Ride). Turn right at top of exit ramp
Travel about 1.5 miles and take 2nd right onto E. Mountain Rd.
Travel to end (about 1.5 miles), make right onto Glen Rd (no street sign).
Travel 4 miles on Glen Rd. At 3.5 miles you will see a sign for Sparta WMA on left (Edison Rd.). At 4 miles and first right past Edison Rd. there will be a sign for Mt. Paul. Take this driveway up to the center.

Registration:

Cost: \$5 includes registration, lunch and morning coffee. College students are free but must register.
[Registration can be paid at the door but RSVP required to Mim Dunne by April 22: 908-637-4125 x 115 or miriam.dunne@dep.state.nj.us](#)

MEETING AGENDA

9:00 NJTWS business meeting
Evan Madlinger, NJTWS President

9:30 Coffee and registration

PRESENTATIONS

Habitat needs of imperiled songbirds in relation to young forest
Sharon Petzinger, NJ DFW ENSP

Golden-winged warbler Habitat Studies and Projects in PA
Dr. Jeff Larkin, Indiana University of PA

GIS analysis of cover types and ownership in the Highlands in relation to songbirds of special concern
Brooke Maslo, Ph.D., Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Private landowner incentive programs to benefit GWWA and other ES spp
John Cecil, NJAS

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Spring 2014 Meeting Agenda Cont.

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

Introduction to the Forest Guild

Amanda Mahaffey, Forest Guild

Sparta Mt WMA overview of planning process

Mim Dunne, NJDFW BLM

Sparta WMA forest stewardship plan synopsis and habitat management activities to date

Don Donnelly, NJAS

1:30 – 3:00 Field Trip

Carpool to Sparta Mt WMA to view work done on state and private land adjacent to Sparta Mt WMA

Meeting Sponsors

NJ Chapter The Wildlife Society

NJ Audubon Society through NFWF/NRCS grant for Working Lands for Wildlife

NJ Division of Society of American Foresters

The Forest Guild

“Like” NJTWS on Facebook



The New Jersey Chapter of The Wildlife Society has a Facebook page. “Like” NJTWS on Facebook and you will see notices on the news feed that are applicable to wildlife conservation activities and opportunities throughout the state. This includes employment opportunities, NJTWS meeting and notice information, and interesting links and announcements specific to wildlife management activities throughout the state. Most recent was a video link about Bog Turtle Conservation Activities featuring U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and NJDEP Endangered and Nongame Species employees.

In addition to the professional announcements, meeting information and videos, NJTWS adds a bit of humor to the newsfeed in the form of cartoons and wit....some of which only a wildlife biologist may understand!



NJTWS Spring 2014 President's Message

Spring is finally here! I have an appreciation of all seasons and it is one reason why I enjoy living here in the north east. However I have never been so happy to see this winter end! In 15 years with NRCS I have never experienced a winter season that impacted our field work as much as this one. Winter is typically a great time for me to see our project sites as the leaves are off the trees, the vegetation is dormant and very wet areas are frozen making them easy to walk through. Unfortunately this year with all the snow, it was hard enough walking around your back yard, let alone a 100 acre farm or woodlot. I am going to have to put in a purchase request for some snow shoes if these type of winters start to become the norm!

I am really excited about our upcoming spring meeting titled Cooperative Management of Young Forest for Imperiled Species. Having a joint meeting between NJTWS and the NJ Division of SAF to discuss the topic of young forest habitat has been kicked around by the NJTWS executive board for the last couple of years and I am glad to see this meeting come to fruition. The idea for this meeting was really pushed forward and coordinated by Mim Dunne (NJDFW) and I want to thank her for the idea of partnering with the NJ Division of SAF, lining up an expert panel of presenters, and bringing in some additional funding outside of NJTWS to help make this meeting happen.

Having worked the last couple years personally on creating some young forest habitat with private landowners through NRCS, I thought it was a great idea to partner with the NJ Division of SAF for this meeting. This topic is a perfect example of two types of professionals needing to work together to reach a common goal. As wildlife professionals you can look up the habitat needs for your target species and know what you want the habitat to look like. In the case of young forest we often target a 20% canopy cover and mosaic of grasses, forb, shrubs, and young trees. Great, now how do we take a 100 year old stand and make it look like that? This is where calling in a professional forester can make all the difference in the success of your project. They know which trees to cut, which to save, how things may regenerate, and all the other logistics in managing the forest to get you, the biologist, the habitat you are looking for. However, the forester will rely on you just as much to provide to them all the details regarding the habitat you want to see. Having this meeting between professional societies will allow for some joint training for both professions and will foster good networking and discussions across the disciplines.

Young forest habitat has received a lot of attention in recent years. It is well documented in New Jersey that our forests are overwhelmingly even aged with the bulk of our forest in the 60-100 year old range. Very young forest (20 years or less) and very old forest (120+) make up a very small component of our forested landscape. Couple this fact with the steep decline of wildlife species that utilize early successional forest habitat such as grouse, woodcock, and the Golden-winged warbler and you can quickly come to the conclusion that if we value these species in New Jersey we need to manage our woodlands for them. While this management need has been identified in New Jersey, many states throughout the region have also identified creating young forest habitat as a wildlife management priority as well. In New Jersey the Division of Fish and Wildlife has been targeting young forest habitat on their Wildlife Management Areas for some time. Also, three years ago USDA-NRCS and the US Fish and Wildlife Service signed an agreement to target private forest owners through NRCS Farm Bill Programs to create young forest habitat on their property for the Golden-winged warbler and New England Cottontail.

Spring 2014 President Message cont.

Other non-profit groups like NJ Audubon have worked with utility companies to manage their right-of-ways for young forest species and started to manage some of their own lands. While all this activity is slowly starting to have an impact on the landscape, there is still a long way to go. That is why holding this joint meeting is timely so that you as a wildlife professional can be aware of the efforts underway and also have an understanding (after hearing the presenters) on why many of us feel this type of management is important on the landscape.

I also am aware that there is opposition from some professionals regarding young forest management activity in New Jersey's forests. Often I have heard of deer pressure on regeneration, invasive species, and potential negative impacts to T and E species (both plant and animal) among some of the main reasons why we should not be managing our forests this aggressively. To those who have these concerns I simply ask that you attend this meeting with an open mind and take advantage of the opportunity for discussion amongst professionals this forum will provide. In particular I would be interested to hear Dr. Larkin's insights on some of these issues as his work has been mainly focused outside of New Jersey (primarily Pennsylvania but also some other states) and he may have some different insight on how these concerns have been addressed in other states.

I know, especially after this winter, that many of us are playing catchup with our workload and have a million things we need to do. I encourage you though to take advantage of what I feel is a unique opportunity to spend the day with other professionals to learn about and discuss what I think is a very important issue here in New Jersey. The paperwork will still be waiting for you when you come back to work the next day!

Evan Madlinger

NJTWS President

NJTWS Executive Board Elections

The NJTWS continues to ask that members consider becoming involved and joining the Executive Board. The upcoming open positions for the Fall elections will be for a Board Member, Vice President and Treasurer. As those that have served for many years are stepping back to enjoy retirement, please consider becoming involved to help ensure that the Chapter continues with fresh faces and ideas. The positions of President and Secretary positions will be open for re-election in the Fall of 2015 and at that time both individuals who currently fill those positions will step down after over 5 years of serving on the Board.

Please think about these opportunities and how you can become involved! Board Members would be happy to discuss the role and duties of each position.

New Jersey Wildlife and Conservation Conference

The New Jersey Wildlife and Conservation Conference is a “conference designed to find common ground among wildlife enthusiasts and sportsmen, learning and sharing information focused on wildlife conservation, setting the stage for innovative partnerships”.

The Second Annual NJ Wildlife & Conservation Conference will take place June 6 to 8, 2014 at the Tropicana Casino & Resort, Atlantic City, NJ.

The Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ, the NJ State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, and the NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife seek presenters for the Second Annual Conference (NJWCC).

Topics that will be discussed include:

- **Climate Change:** coastal resiliency, sea level rise, coastal erosion, and restoration, especially as each relates to wildlife.
- **Energy:** hydraulic fracturing, oil spills, windmills, and solar energy, particularly as they impact wildlife.
- **Human-Wildlife Interaction:** Deer, bear, coyote, Canada geese, and wild turkey are among the many wildlife species increasing their populations in our densely populated state – and in turn increasing their interactions with humans and our economy.
- **Horseshoe Crabs & Red Knots:** shorebirds and horseshoe crabs, such as effective management, horseshoe crab egg harvesting impacts, the role of lysate in cancer research, beach restoration of shorebird beaches in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, regulatory effectiveness in different states, and population survey trends.
- **New Jersey Wildlife Action Plans Specific and Regional Northeast Wildlife Issues:** wildlife action plans, wildlife corridors, declines in quail and other key regional species, and both actual and potential species reintroductions.
- **Fishing & Marine:** big boat fishing (tuna and bluebill), overfishing of shark populations, jellyfish increases, sonar impacts on marine life, marine mammal strandings, pollution.
- **Policy:** wildlife management or impacts within state or federal regulations and legislative action.
- **Wildlife Funding:** wildlife management.
- **Communications:** better outreach to sportsmen, birders and recreational users through both traditional and new media outreach.

Agenda will be posted as soon as it is finalized.

<http://www.conservewildlifenj.org/getinvolved/event/njwcc/>



NJTWS 2014 Russell A. Cookingham Scholarship Information

The NJTWS is again offering the Russell A. Cookingham scholarship for 2014. Following is information in regards to the scholarship:

This scholarship is made possible by an endowment from Russell A. Cookingham, former Director of the New Jersey DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife. It is intended to assist qualified undergraduates in the wildlife/fisheries or conservation education/communication field with college and related expenses. The [NJ Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) manages the endowment fund and awards the scholarship.

Students who have completed at least one half of the degree requirements for Wildlife/Fisheries majors or Conservation Education/Communications majors may be eligible for this \$1000.00 scholarship. (Conservation Education/Communication majors must have at least 15 credits in the biological sciences to be eligible). Students must reside permanently in New Jersey. New Jersey residents attending school out-of-state are eligible.

The application form must be completed along with two letters of recommendation, a cover letter and an official copy of your transcripts. The deadline for receipt of application and supporting documents is May 31, 2014. The award will be made by early summer.

[Russell A. Cookingham Scholarship Application Form](#) (pdf, 10kb)

Send all information by May 31, 2014 to:

Cookingham Scholarship
Attn: Mim Dunne
NJ DEP Division of Fish & Wildlife
605 Pequest Rd.
Oxford, NJ 07863

Direct questions to: Mim Dunne at Miriam.Dunne@dep.state.nj.us. The NJ Chapter of The Wildlife Society maintains a list of past winners on our website.