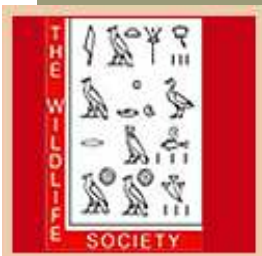


October, 2014  
Fall Edition

# The Wildlife Society



## New Jersey Chapter Newsletter

### Fall 2014 Meeting:

**When: Wednesday, October 15, 2014; 9:30-3:00**

**Where: NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife Assunpink Conservation Center, Upper Freehold Twp**

**Directions to Assunpink Conservation Center:**

- Take Rt. I-195 to Exit 11 (Imlaystown/Cox Corner)
- End of ramp take Hightstown Rd. north
- At stop sign go across Rt. 524
- At first intersection past little bridge make a right
- Enter Assunpink WMA, go past new office
- Conservation Center is located on the right at bend in the road

Please RSVP to Ted Nichols at [ted.nichols@comcast.net](mailto:ted.nichols@comcast.net) or 609-628-3218 by October 13; RSVP will help for planning.

#### MEETING AGENDA

##### **NJTWS business meeting**

9:30 –10:00 *Evan Madlinger, President*

12:00-1:00 **Lunch:** Provided by the Applegates; lunch will be provided on site for a reasonable fee.

##### **PRESENTATIONS 10:00 to 12:00 and 1:00 to 3:00**

##### **Status, Perspectives, and Opportunities for Piping Plover in New Jersey**

*Eric Schradling, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Todd Pover, Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ*

##### **Evidence-based Framework for Protecting Beach-nesting Bird Habitat in the Wake of Severe Coastal Storms**

*Brooke Maslo, Department of Ecology, Evolution and Natural Resources, Rutgers University and Todd Pover, Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey*

##### **The History and Management of Feral Swine in New Jersey**

*Adam Randall and Aaron Guikema, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services*

##### **The status of mute swans in New Jersey: past and future issues**

*Ted Nichols, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife*

##### **Vulnerability of Northern New Jersey's Agricultural Lands to Black Bear Predation**

*Elizabeth Newton and Brooke Maslo, Rutgers Dept. of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources*

#### *Individual Highlights:*

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## Fall 2014 Meeting Agenda Cont.

### **Factors influencing stakeholder acceptance capacity for black bears**

*Catherine Tredick*, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science, The Richard Stockton College of NJ

### **Observations of Scrub/Shrub Species on Beaver Brook WMA and Implications for Management**

*Mim Dunne*, NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife

### **Comparison of bog turtle diets from populations found in northern and southern New Jersey**

*Nelson Melendez*, Graduate Department, Saint Joseph's University

### **A Distribution Model for Stocking Propagated Ring-Necked Pheasants in NJ**

*Patrick Carr*, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

### **The Effects of White-tailed Deer on Forest Health and Plant Diversity in New Jersey**

*Susan Predl*, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife

## Become involved in the New Jersey Chapter!

Fall is that time of the year the Executive Board positions are up for re-election. The New Jersey Chapter is looking for new individuals interested in becoming involved to bring fresh ideas to the function of the Chapter. Those positions up for re-election this fall 2014 include Treasurer, Vice President, and one Board Member. In addition, due to the length of time current officers have been serving the positions of President, Secretary, and Board Member, these positions may also be up for re-election if there is a specific interest, and can be voted on at the fall meeting.

If you are interested in learning more about these positions, please contact any Board member for more information and/or to express an interest in becoming involved in a functioning Committee or starting a new Committee. Contact information can be found on the New Jersey Chapter website at <http://wildlife.org/nj/>

## NJTWS Fall 2014 President's Message

Hard to believe it is time for the fall meeting already. I think those mild temperatures made this summer feel like it went by even faster. Not complaining as I will take summers full of warm days and cool nights every year!

One item I wanted to be sure to mention in this message is a reminder that this year's national meeting is close by in Pittsburgh. I know there are a few people attending, however, I want to urge whoever can attend to do so. I was lucky enough to attend a National Meeting in Utah back in 2011. It was a phenomenal experience. The conference was very well run and the diversity of topics presented by leaders in the field of wildlife biology was fascinating. In addition it was a great networking experience, meeting professionals throughout the country and sharing stories over dinner each night. Field trips and workshops start on Saturday October 25<sup>th</sup> with the official conference starting the next day. Registration has been extended until October 15<sup>th</sup>. I highly recommend your attendance and hope to see you there.

I also wanted to mention that we have received a lot of positive feedback regarding this past spring meeting on Cooperative Management of Young Forest for Imperiled Species. While the weather could have been a little better, overall it was a very good day. I appreciate Mim Dunne's efforts in taking the lead in the coordination of the meeting. Steve Kalleser, who is vice- chair of the New Jersey Division of the Allegheny Society of American Foresters, wrote up a nice article that mentions our joint effort in hosting the meeting. This article was published in their national publication and a copy of the article has been included in this newsletter. Partnering with other professional societies can be very beneficial and it is something we will look to continue with SAF and other relevant professional societies in the future.

I also forwarded the SAF article with some additional information regarding our joint meeting to The Wildlife Society nationally in hopes that they would run at least a paragraph regarding the meeting in the regional section of the publication. Unfortunately, it did not appear to be included within this quarter's publication and I plan to follow up with them. In the regional section they run short one or two paragraph news items from individual states. In my tenure New Jersey has yet to be mentioned and I would love to see us get a get some recognition for all the hard work, interesting projects and important research that we do here in New Jersey. If you have been involved with something you feel is worth a mention in The Wildlife Professional please let me know. I would be glad to help push headquarters for its inclusion.

I want to again thank Ted Nichols for pulling together what will surely be another great meeting coming up on October 15<sup>th</sup>. I have looked through all the topics and read the abstracts. I can honestly say I am looking forward to hearing all of the presentations. One of the great things about NJTWS is that you get to learn about topics even here within the state that you may know very little about. I spend most of my time in north Jersey, so I find it very interesting to learn more about such things like beach nesting birds, feral swine or mute swans.

It always amazes me to think about the diversity we have throughout this small 8,729 square mile state and how you can drive just a few miles and be dealing with a whole other suite of plant and animal species. We might not always get the national respect we deserve for our wildlife efforts or get published in The Wildlife Professional, but I definitely appreciate working in New Jersey!

In closing, I urge you all to break away from the grind and spend a nice day with fellow professionals learning about some very interesting topics. I promise all your work will still be waiting for you on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you at the Fall meeting!

Evan Madlinger  
President of the New Jersey Chapter of the Wildlife Society

## NJTWS 2014 Russell A. Cookingham Scholarship Award

The New Jersey Chapter of The Wildlife Society announced the award of the Russell A. Cookingham Scholarship to Hillsborough resident Jillena Yeager, a student at Richard Stockton College of NJ. Jillena was selected for the award based on a combination of strong academic performance, experience in the field of wildlife conservation, and service to natural resources and the wildlife management and conservation profession.

Jillena is an environmental science major entering her senior year. She has spent this summer and last as an intern at the Coastal Conservation Research Program at The Wetlands Institute in Stone Harbor. While there, she has participated in long-term conservation and research projects focused on diamondback terrapins, horseshoe crabs, and coastal ecology. She also conducted her own independent research on diamondback terrapins. She also has extensive internship experience with pine snakes.

The \$1000 Cookingham Scholarship is offered annually to a qualified undergraduate student in the wildlife, fisheries or biological sciences field. This scholarship is made possible by an endowment from the late Russell A. Cookingham, former Director of the New Jersey DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife. It is intended to assist qualified students in the wildlife/fisheries or conservation education/communication field with college and related expenses, and to lend a hand to aspiring wildlife professionals. Students must reside permanently in New Jersey to be considered. New Jersey residents attending school out-of-state are eligible.

The New Jersey Chapter of The Wildlife Society, a chapter of The Wildlife Society, represents professional wildlife managers employed by state, federal and other government agencies, nonprofits, academic institutions, and private companies that address wildlife issues.



Jillena Yeager, 2014 Russell A. Cookingham Scholarship winner

## Society of American Foresters Article

# The Forestry *Source*

From the June 2014 issue of *The Forestry Source*

## Ornithologist: “It’s Not Just about the Young Forest Anymore” *Foresters’ Fund Grant Helps NJ SAF with Habitat Workshop*

By Steve Kalleser, CF

Thanks in part to an SAF Foresters’ Fund grant, a group of wildlife biologists and foresters recently attended a workshop led by professor Jeff Larkin of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, who discussed the cooperative management of young forests for imperiled species. Larkin, who has degrees in wildlife biology and forestry, has conducted research on the golden-winged warbler (GWWA) since 1993. GWWA populations in some areas of the Appalachians have declined by 70 percent to 80 percent over the last 40 years, and a petition has been submitted to list this species under the federal Endangered Species Act. Larkin’s work on various bird species has been assembled (along with the work of other ornithologists and foresters) into habitat management guidelines and best management practices (BMPs) to turn this important research into recommendations that can be implemented by private and public land managers. Larkin is a coauthor of *Golden-winged Warbler Habitat: Best Management Practices for Forestlands in Maryland and Pennsylvania*, published in 2011 by the American Bird Conservancy ([www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/domestic/pdf/gwwa\\_bmp\\_final.pdf](http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/domestic/pdf/gwwa_bmp_final.pdf)).

Larkin’s travel was covered by the Foresters’ Fund grant, which was obtained by the New Jersey Division of the Allegheny SAF. The workshop was organized by the New Jersey Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

A substantial amount of Larkin’s presentation focused on new results obtained since the publication of the GWWA BMPs. This latest research has been obtained by using radio telemetry to track GWWA movement. These data show that the GWWA does not necessarily spend the entire nesting season within early-successional habitat, but may venture up to one mile from its territory into surrounding older forest. In fact, recent research in Minnesota revealed that, shortly after fledging, the male and female birds divide the offspring between them and separately venture up to one-quarter of a mile into the surrounding older forest.

Recent research also has revealed that certain tree and shrub species appear to be indicators of GWWA territories, including white



A publication of the American Bird Conservancy ([www.abcbirds.org](http://www.abcbirds.org)), coauthored by professor Jeff Larkin of Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

oak, pin cherry, black locust, and blackberry. However, certain species appear to be negatively correlated to GWWA territories, including black birch, sassafras, mountain laurel, various blueberries, autumn-olive, and honeysuckle. The mechanism for this appears to be the presence or abundance of the caterpillars, other insects, and spiders on which the GWWA prefers to feed. Larkin recommended various hawthorns, silky dogwood, gray dogwood, and arrowwood viburnum as excellent shrub species for creating GWWA habitat, because of the relatively high caterpillar abundances these species typically host.

Based on this new research and past experience, Larkin suggested that foresters and wildlife biologists cease thinking of the GWWA as an early-successional species. He suggested describing the species as a “diverse forest obligate” or a “dynamic forest specialist.” This reflects a new view of the GWWA’s reliance on older forests within one mile of the young forests needed for breeding and fledging. It would also help differentiate landscapes for the GWWA from that used by the blue-winged warbler, a bird he characterized as historically occupying prairie fringe and barrens habitat. (In addition to the loss of young forests, hybridization with the blue-winged warbler is a major factor in the decline of the GWWA.)

Larkin strongly recommended forestry practices that encourage both oak regeneration and habitat maintenance for the GWWA and other imperiled bird species, such as the cerulean warbler. Aggressive forest stand improvement or the first cut of a shelterwood harvest (along with competing understory vegetation control) could promote cerulean warbler habitat, improve post-fledging GWWA habitat, and provide quality advance regeneration for future harvests that could be used by the GWWA as older breeding areas mature. In short, Larkin’s message is that responsible oak silviculture provides a continuum of habitats for imperiled species.

Additional resources include regional GWWA breeding habitat guidelines and other information from the Golden-winged Warbler Working Group ([www.gwwa.org](http://www.gwwa.org)) and management guidelines for cerulean warblers from the Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture ([amjv.org](http://amjv.org)).

*Steve Kalleser is vice-chair of the New Jersey Division of the Allegheny SAF.*



