

# The Wildlife Society

## SOUTHEASTERN SECTION



SEPTEMBER 2018 VOLUME 60, NUMBER 3  
KATHERINE EDWARDS, EDITOR

### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Well, it happened again. A perfectly good summer flew by and for those of us in an academic setting school starts now. All those happy, curious faces ready to soak up the vast stores of knowledge imparted to them by old professors who have been around more than a few blocks. I still get excited about the first day of school – and I have had upwards of 45 “first days”. That quickly fades as we all settle into the routine of lectures, seminars, tests, advising, socials and more.

But the fall brings more than classes. We have (of course) football (a religion in the South). We have hunting season (another popular outdoor activity). We have The Wildlife Society Annual Conference in Cleveland, Ohio from October 7-11 (TWS Council and Leadership Institute meetings begin on Oct. 6). And we have the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies conference in Mobile, Alabama from October 21-24. I hope that I will see many of you at these two professional conferences. I trust you have made travel plans already. Our own Dr. **Darren Miller** will be installed as TWS President during the Cleveland conference. The Southeastern Section will (likely) have some new TWS Fellows and I hope there will be some awards to recognize the great work you do in this region.

Several student chapters from the Southeast will likely be attending the Annual Conference and participating in the quiz bowl. I want to acknowledge and thank the students for attending the conference in Cleveland and I wish each team good luck in the quiz bowl event. The Annual Conference is a great way to network – meet other students, share ideas and stories, meet prospective employers, learn about graduate school opportunities, and learn about your profession and your Society. I strongly encourage all students attending TWS or SEAFWA to make an effort to introduce yourself to TWS officers, council members, staff and other leadership.

I understand that it may seem forward to walk up to a TWS officer at a national convention but it is less daunting than you might think. It will impress Dr. Miller. Ask him about his beagles and rabbit hunting. Allow 30 minutes for the reply.

Your committees are working to prepare their reports for the SE-TWS Annual Meeting. This year the section's business meeting will be on Tuesday, October 23 in conjunction with the SEAFWA conference. At the annual meeting we will be discussing some minor revisions to the by-laws, a student representative to the executive board, and other items of business. I invite you to attend the annual business meeting if you are in attendance at SEAFWA.

Good luck with your endeavors this fall – hunting, classes, football, other. I look forward to seeing many of you in Cleveland or Mobile. As always, please don't hesitate to share you compliments, complaints, or concerns with me or other members of the SE Section Executive Board.

**Mike Mengak**  
*President, Southeastern Section TWS*

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# SECTION REPRESENTATIVE

Colleagues,

Each year it seems that I have the opportunity to write a newsletter article that will be coming out in close association with our annual TWS meeting. This year is no different as our annual meeting is just around the corner and will take place October 7 – 11 in Cleveland, Ohio. This will be a particularly important meeting as Dr. **Darren Miller**, a member of SETWS, assumes the role of TWS President. The SEAFWA meeting in Mobile is also rapidly approaching and will take place October 21 – 24. There is certainly no shortage of opportunities to meet, network, and generally catch-up with fellow wildlifers. I hope to see you soon.

It is hard to believe that my first term as your Section Representative is coming to an end. I want to take the opportunity to say thank you for allowing me to serve during the past three years and to say thank you for re-electing me to serve a second term. I want you all to feel welcome to contact me if you need help with TWS-related issues. One of the most enjoyable aspects of serving as your Section Rep is attending Chapter meetings. These meetings provide an opportunity for me to meet fellow TWS members and experience how different

Chapters conduct their meetings. Although I have been able to visit a number of Chapter meetings, there are still several states that I have yet to visit. I will make visiting these Chapters a priority during my second term.

Although it is still a year away, mark your calendars for the 2019 TWS meeting. This meeting will be the first joint meeting of The Wildlife Society and the American Fisheries Society. This meeting will be held September 29 – October 3, 2019, in Reno Nevada. I mentioned in our last newsletter that there was a good chance the 2020 TWS meeting would take place in the Southeast. I am pleased to report that this meeting will be held at the Galt House in Louisville, Kentucky. I have not seen dates for this meeting, but I am sure dates will be available soon.

As always, thanks for your efforts in managing our wildlife resources and thank you for your continued membership and participation in The Wildlife Society. I hope you have had a great year thus far and that a great fall lies ahead.

**Mike Conner**  
**Southeastern Section Representative**  
**[Mike.conner@jonesctr.org](mailto:Mike.conner@jonesctr.org)**



St. Simon (Golden Isles CVB)

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## C.W. WATSON AWARD COMMITTEE

### C.W. Watson Award

The 2018 Clarence W. Watson Award will be presented at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Conference in Mobile, AL, October 21-24, 2018. The Clarence W. Watson Award is the most prestigious award given at the conference and is presented to the career individual who, in the opinion of the Award Committee, has made the greatest contribution to wildlife or fish conservation during the previous year or years. Consideration includes research, administration, law enforcement, information and education, wildlife management, fish management, teachers, and students. Preference is given to nominees in the Southeast. The award is a mounted bronze plaque presented jointly by the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society, the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society, and the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

**SETWS Committee Chair: Emily Jo Williams**  
[ejwilliams@abcbirds.org](mailto:ejwilliams@abcbirds.org)

## STUDENT AWARDS COMMITTEE

### Volunteer Judges Needed

We are looking for volunteers to judge student presentations and posters for the Southeastern Section of TWS at the upcoming 72nd Annual SEAFWA Conference, in Mobile, AL. We are especially needing volunteers for the poster session. If you know that you will be attending the conference and would be willing to serve as a judge, please contact **Andy Madison** at [amadison@uu.edu](mailto:amadison@uu.edu). Thank you for your assistance!

**SETWS Committee Chair: Andy Madison**  
[amadison@uu.edu](mailto:amadison@uu.edu)

## DEER COMMITTEE

### Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting

The 42nd Annual Meeting of the Southeast Deer Study Group will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Louisville, KY, February 17-19, 2019.

The Southeast Deer Study Group meets annually for researchers and managers to share the latest information on white-tailed deer in North America. 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 on the conference will be posted at [sedg.com](http://sedg.com) as it becomes available.

**SETWS Committee Chair: Steve Shea**  
[steve.shea@myfwc.com](mailto:steve.shea@myfwc.com)





# STATE REPORTS

## ALABAMA



### Alabama Chapter

The Alabama Chapter of The Wildlife Society held their 2018 Annual Meeting on July 20, 2018 at the NaturePlex in Millbrook, AL. Highlights and new business from the meeting included:

- ACTWS updated and submitted its position paper opposing the legalization of baiting or supplemental feeding of white-tailed deer in Alabama to Alabama legislature in March 2018. The bill did not pass the legislature but the proposal is expected to reappear during the next session. The position paper is posted on the chapter website and the letter will be added as well.
- Representatives of the student chapters from both Alabama A&M University and Auburn Universities gave updates on chapter activities. Discussion was held of adding student chapter POC info to the ACTWS website. Student chapter leaders will be added to the ACTWS email distribution list and updated regularly. Discussion was held of ways that the ACTWS can support the student chapter – through mentorship, varying means of information sharing via social media (Instagram)

- ACTWS will sponsor the MINRC student dinner at the 2018 SEAFWA meeting in Mobile, AL. ACTWS is contributing to the cost of a TWS sponsor booth at the SEAFWA meeting.

- The Partners against Invasive Species will hold a symposium at the University of West Alabama on October 3-5, 2018.

- Oral and Poster Presentation Awards – **Andrew Cantrell** was presented with a \$150 check for the best student oral presentation, entitled “Determining mercury concentrations in turtles while identifying areas of concern at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, Alabama”. **TJ Haltigan** was presented with a \$150 check for the best student poster presentation, entitled “Update on long-term herpetofaunal community response to silviculture treatments at William B. Bankhead National Forest, Alabama”.

- Recognition of Past Presidents – On behalf of the ACTWS membership, **Barry Grand** thanked and presented a plaque of recognition to **Amy Silvano**.

- New officers were announced: President-Elect – **Ray Metzler**, At-Large Board Member – Dr. **Jim Armstrong**, and Chapter Representative to the Southeastern Section – **Carrie Threadgill**

More information is available at: <http://wildlife.org/alabama/>

### **Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies 72nd Annual Conference Sunday, October 21 - Wednesday, October 24, 2018 • Mobile, Alabama**

Hosted by Alabama Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries, the 72nd Annual Conference will be held 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.

Attendee registration is open! The schedule of technical sessions and their abstracts are now available to review online! Review the program at <http://www.seafwa.org/conference/program/schedule/>

# STATE REPORTS

## ARKANSAS



### Arkansas Chapter

Arkansas Chapter activities in 2018:

- Officers: **Steven Fowler** (Arkansas Game and Fish Commission) and **Virginie Rolland** (Arkansas State University) took office as new President and Secretary-Treasurer, respectively.
- Annual meeting: Held March 1-2 in Little Rock. There were 11 student oral presentations, 4 professional oral presentations, 1 keynote speaker, and various other activities. We had 102 registered participants. **Levi Horrell** was elected to replace **Craig Davis** as our Member-at-Large next year.
- The Board sent a letter to oppose Kaput bait as a feral hog eradication method because of a lack of knowledge of impacts on non-target wildlife, sub-lethal impacts, and bioaccumulation of warfarin in the food web.
- The Chapter approached Arkansas house representative to cosponsor the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. Representatives **French Hill** and **Bruce Westerman** accepted to cosponsor.
- The Chapter contributed to the Drive for 44, a TWS program that helps enrich the experience of wildlife professionals and students at the TWS conference.
- The Chapter has also participated in the effort to obtain public comment on the three proposed ESA regulatory revisions.

**Virginie Rolland**  
[vrolland@astate.edu](mailto:vrolland@astate.edu)

## FLORIDA



### Florida Chapter

The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society's 2018 Fall Meeting will be held on November 1-2, 2018 at Gold Head Branch State Park and Jennings State Forest, Keystone Heights, FL. A Wetland Plant Identification Workshop will be held on November 1 with a morning session at Gold Head Branch State Park that will introduce wetland plant communities, common species and botanical terminology and an afternoon session to explore wetlands at nearby Jennings State Forest. Class size is limited and requires registration. A Strategic Planning Meeting for FLTWS will be held on November 2. This summer, the Florida Chapter reached its 50th Anniversary! Much has changed since our last Strategic Plan was developed in 2006. Join us to add your voice to a discussion of plans that will shape the future direction of FLTWS. Everyone is invited to attend one or both events. Registration will be open soon and be available at [www.fltws.org](http://www.fltws.org).

### The Wildlife Society Southeastern Student Wildlife Conclave

The Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society will be hosting the 2019 TWS Southeastern Student Conclave March 21-23, 2019. More information will be shared as it becomes available.



# STATE REPORTS

## GEORGIA



### Georgia Bat Working Group 5th Annual Bat Blitz

This year Georgia and Alabama's Bat Working Groups teamed up and worked from Lakepoint State Park in Eufaula, AL from May 29 - June 1. Netting sites were scattered around public lands in southwest Georgia and southeast Alabama. Over 50 people participated in the blitz from both states and many attended the education event on the final night of the event. Due to the excessive amount of rain before the blitz, bats were not concentrated in typical flyways and capture success was low. Species captured in Georgia included 4 big brown bats, 2 Eastern red bats, 2 Seminole bats, and 2 evening bats. The sites trapped during the bat blitz will be trapped by the Wildlife Conservation mist net crew in FY 2019 when water levels are expected to be lower and capture success should be higher. Overall, the blitz was a great chance for participants from Alabama and Georgia to interact and learn new techniques for capturing bats.

**Andrew Edelman**  
[aedelman@westga.edu](mailto:aedelman@westga.edu)



**Maggie Aduddell and Katrina Morris** with bats captured during the blitz.

## KENTUCKY



NO NEWS REPORTED



Participants in the Georgia and Alabama Joint Bat Blitz 2018.



# STATE REPORTS

## LOUISIANA



### Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists / LA TWS

Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists / LA TWS held their annual meeting August 2-3, 2018 on the campus of McNeese State University. Eleven students presented their research at the meeting. **Nicholas Enwright**, LSU Dept. Geography and Anthropology, won the outstanding student presentation award with his research on "Mapping waterfowl habitat on inland agricultural landscapes of the United States western gulf coast from 1998 to 2018". **Luke Stamper**, ULM, won the outstanding student poster award with his research on "Cowpea biomass response to seeding rate, planting date, and herbicide intensity level".



**Nicholas Enwright** receiving award for Outstanding Student Presentation from LAPB / LA TWS President **Jeff Duguay**.



**Luke Stamper** receiving award for Outstanding Student Poster from LAPB / LA TWS President **Jeff Duguay**.

### Urban Wildlife Working Group

The Wildlife Society Urban Wildlife Working Group's primary goal is to increase public awareness and appreciation of urban wildlife management issues and the decision making processes that promote urban wildlife conservation and mitigate human-wildlife conflict in urban settings. For more information, please visit <http://urbanwildlifegroup.org/>.

### BIENNIAL CONFERENCE SAVE THE DATE!

**International Urban Wildlife Conference**  
**June 2 - 5, 2019**  
**Portland State University**  
**Portland, Oregon**  
<http://www.urban-wildlife.org>

# STATE REPORTS

Dr. **Mark Merchant**, McNeese State, presented his research on “Studies on the immune system of the American alligator: from marsh to medicine” during the Thursday evening social. Photography contest winners were announced during the evening social. **Samantha Collins**, LDWF, won first, second, and third prize with her wildlife photos.



**Mark Merchant** with an American alligator.



**Samantha Collins** and two of her winning photographs.

A focus session on Chronic Wasting Disease rounded out the meeting on August 3. Speakers were **Jim LaCour**, LDWF; **Christopher Middaugh**, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission; **Johnathan Bordelon**, LDWF; **Daniel Myrick**, LA Dept. Ag and Forestry; **Kyle Bennett**, QDMA.





# STATE REPORTS

## Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

**James Whitaker**, LDWF Biologist, recently completed a goose banding project inside the Arctic Circle. Whitaker and three Canadian biologists banded approximately 4,000 Ross and Snow Geese during their 10 days of banding.

**Jeff Duguay**  
[jduguay@wlf.la.gov](mailto:jduguay@wlf.la.gov)



**James Whitaker** holding a Ross's Goose x Snow Goose hybrid.

## MARYLAND/DELAWARE

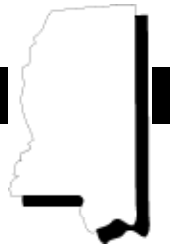


### MD-DE Chapter

The MD-DE State Chapter Fall Meeting was held on September 27, 2018 at the Robinson Nature Center in Columbia, Maryland. This Fall's Theme was Speed Topics and Skills. The meeting consisted of a student Poster Session and "slam sessions" with multiple speakers presenting brief talks on subjects including hair snare design, the invasive long-horned tick and

tick-borne illness, GIS mobile applications, feral cat integrated predator management, raccoon exclusion and small mammal trap protection, IPM treatment for ticks in the wild, fawn mortality, and snakehead management in Maryland. The meeting also included a "Speed Skills Session" with participants rotating speakers every 7 minutes to learn about TWS certification, conflict resolution, social media options in the workplace, legal authorities for wildlife management, interview skills, presentation skills, firearm ID and hunting requirements. For more information, visit <http://mddechapter.wixsite.com/mdde>.

## MISSISSIPPI



### Mississippi State University

#### 18th Wildlife Damage Management Conference - 1st Call for Papers

The 18th Wildlife Damage Management Conference will be held from March 4-7, 2018 at the Hunter Henry Center at Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS. Abstracts are now being accepted for presentation as part of technical sessions at the conference. We invite submission of contributed papers or posters on topics of wildlife damage management. Presentations may be submitted for publication in Proceedings of the 18th Wildlife Damage Management Conference after the meeting as either an extended abstract or manuscript. Abstracts for review are due November 30, 2018 by 5:00 pm to Dr. **Ray Iglay** ([ray.iglay@msstate.edu](mailto:ray.iglay@msstate.edu)). Authors will be notified of acceptance by January 4, 2019. For consideration, please submit abstracts electronically (i.e., email) as an MS Word document to Dr. **Ray Iglay**. Please 1) specify in the first line of the abstract, in bold, whether it should be considered for an ORAL or POSTER PRESENTATION, 2) provide the email address of the presenting author, 3) limit abstract text to <250 words, and 4) use 12 pt font.

# STATE REPORTS

## NORTH CAROLINA



### North Carolina Chapter

We had great success at the 2018 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave, as three of our student chapters attended and brought home awards. The North Carolina State University (NCSU) Chapter placed 3rd overall, along with several individual awards. Haywood Community College (HCC) placed 5th overall, along with additional group awards. Last but not least, Western Carolina University (WCU) performed very well in individual competitions. The 2020 conclave will be co-hosted by WCU and HCC, and planning activities are well underway!

We are proud to announce the following winners of the 2018 'Hero Awards': Dr. **Richard Lancia**, **Colleen Olfenbuttel**, **Gabriela Garrison**, Dr. **Chris Moorman**, Dr. **Lara Pacifici** and Dr. **Rachael Urbanek**. These individuals were selected based on their support of colleagues and contributions to wildlife conservation. Congrats to the recipients!

Two of our Chapter members were recently honored by the NC Bowhunter's Association (NCBA) and NC Forest Service (NCFS). **Jason Allen** received the 'Biologist of the Year' award from the NCBA for outstanding service and contribution. **Kelly Douglass** received the 'Forest Stewardship Program Partnership' award from the NCFS for significant achievements in working successfully with landowners. Congrats to Jason and Kelly for their hard work!

In our most recent Chapter newsletter, we highlighted the NC Birding Trail ([www.ncbirdingtrail.org](http://www.ncbirdingtrail.org)). From the Southern Blue Ridge Mountains to the Atlantic Coastal Plain, North Carolina supports 466 bird species in the highest diversity of habitats on the east coast. To raise awareness of these diverse and spectacular locations, the NC Birding Trail was created in 2007. Established as a cooperative effort between the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, Audubon NC, NC Sea Grant, NC State Tourism Extension and the USFWS, it is the only comprehensive resource for

publicly-accessible, protected natural areas. There are over 320 sites that represent a wide variety of conservation approaches. The interactive map on the website has recent observations from eBird and provides numerous activities for outdoor enthusiasts, to include birding, hiking, paddling, fishing, hunting, rock climbing, swimming, camping and relaxing. Sites of note in the mountains include Valle Crucis Community Park and Whiteside Mountain. In the Piedmont, Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve and Historic Yates Mill County Park offer beautiful scenery. Greenfield Park and Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge on the coast are unique areas with bountiful wildlife-viewing opportunities.

For additional news, check out our quarterly newsletter (NC Wildlifer) on the NC Chapter website ([www.nctws.org/wordpress/](http://www.nctws.org/wordpress/)).

**Gabriela Garrison**  
[gabriela.garrison@ncwildlife.org](mailto:gabriela.garrison@ncwildlife.org)

## OKLAHOMA



NO NEWS REPORTED

## SOUTH CAROLINA



### South Carolina Chapter

The South Carolina Chapter of The Wildlife Society held their annual meeting on September 18, 2018 at the Clemson Outdoor Lab in Pendleton, SC. Research reports on human dimensions in wildlife management and other topics highlighted morning and afternoon sessions, and the Chapter held their annual business meeting.

# STATE REPORTS

## South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

### Collaborative Red Knot Research

Red knots make astounding migrations each year from wintering grounds as far south as the southernmost tip of South America to nesting grounds north of the Arctic Circle, stopping at beaches along the way to rest and refuel.

Ongoing research by South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and USFWS biologists has begun to highlight the particular significance of South Carolina beaches in these migrations – with data showing that as many as two-thirds of the birds here fly directly to the Arctic after leaving our beaches.

South Carolina has long been known as a spot to find red knots in the early spring, along with numerous other shorebird species, including dunlin, ruddy turnstones, whimbrels and sanderlings. Traveling from distant wintering grounds – as far flung as Brazil and Tierra del Fuego in South America – their ultimate destination is the high Arctic, where they nest each summer. Along their migration route, the Arctic-nesting shorebirds concentrate in large numbers at sites to refuel – and one of these stopover sites is South Carolina.

During late winter and spring, red knots gather by the thousands along South Carolina beaches, especially at Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge and Seabrook, Kiawah, and Harbor Islands. At times, they form the largest flock on the Atlantic Coast, with as many as 8,000 knots counted on Kiawah Island in recent years. During February and March, the flock builds in size as more birds fly in from southern wintering areas. Here, the amazing migrants rest, feed and prepare for their northward migration. They also feed to fuel the growth of breeding plumage after they molt their winter feathers.

Since 2010, SCDNR biologists have conducted research on red knots to understand the role that South Carolina plays in these birds' journeys. Researchers and volunteers have captured hundreds of knots, measuring them and placing field-readable

engraved bands on their legs. These unique markers on each bird allow biologists to track individual birds if they are re-sighted anywhere in the hemisphere. Documenting how South Carolina's resources are being utilized by red knots may help efforts to conserve this vulnerable species.

Biologists with SCDNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in partnership with Dr. **Larry Niles**, **Ron Porter** and many volunteers, have also placed geolocators on some of the captured knots. Geolocators are small, electronic devices that measure and record light levels to determine global location. Geolocators are a valuable tool to study bird migration routes and identify staging areas, although birds must be re-captured to obtain the data from the devices.



Every red knot caught by SCDNR researchers, including this bird released in 2017, has a set of tags that will allow it to be identified if re-sighted anywhere else in the hemisphere. (Photo: **Ed Konrad**)

In spring 2017, SCDNR staff began using another new technology to track 20 red knots. Nanotags are very small radio transmitters that emit a unique pulse that can be detected by Motus towers. Bird researchers have erected these towers along migration routes, and tagged birds are thus recorded as they pass. Unlike geolocators, nanotag data can be obtained immediately, providing migration information without having to recapture the birds.



# STATE REPORTS

Together, location data from the geolocator and nano-tag projects are already yielding unexpected results, suggesting that two-thirds of the red knots in South Carolina may fly directly to the Arctic after leaving our beaches. Previously, South Carolina beaches were assumed to be one stop among many along the Atlantic coast for these birds. That drives home the importance of an adequate supply of food such as coquina clams and horseshoe crab eggs in South Carolina.



This image, a collaborative effort between SCDNR biologists **Felicia Sanders**, **Janet Thibault** and **Mary-Catherine Martin**; **Ron Porter**; **Larry Niles**; and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; shows the one-year migration path of a red knot. This bird was captured in South Carolina in 2016 on Deveau Bank and a geolocator was affixed to its leg. During the life of its transmitter, the bird traveled 2x to its nesting grounds above the Arctic Circle and 2x to its wintering grounds in Tierra Del Fuego, Chile at the southern tip of South America. The bird was captured again in January 2018, and the geolocator was retrieved.

**Contributed by: Felicia Sanders, SCDNR**

## New Insights into Northern Long-Eared Bats

In an effort to better understand distribution and current habitat use by Northern long-eared bats in South Carolina, The SCDNR has been conducting mist netting surveys to capture and radio-tag this species for the past few years. Past mist net and harp trap sampling records from the late 1980s through the 1990s confirmed the presence of Northern long-eared bats in the summer and fall throughout the mountains of South Carolina. In recent years, very few of these bats have been seen in Up-state hibernacula. In November 2016, this species was discovered for the first time on the SC coast in Beaufort County, and found breeding in Charleston and Berkeley counties last year. This year, SCDNR captured and tracked Northern long-eared bats at Santee Coastal Reserve WMA in Charleston County. These captures mark the first documented Northern long-eared bats on coastal SCDNR land. Many thanks to all the volunteers and SCDNR staff that came out to help us!



Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) captured at Santee Coastal Reserve WMA.

**Contributed by: Jennifer Kindel, SCDNR**

# STATE REPORTS



**Erin Weeks** (L) and **Jennifer Kindel** (R), both with SCD-NR, demonstrate the latest style for mist netting bats in the Lowcountry of South Carolina: mosquito headnets!

## Clemson University

### James C. Kennedy Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation Center

This fall, the James C. Kennedy Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation is celebrating its third year of existence and its continued productivity in waterfowl and wetlands teaching, research, conservation service, and outreach. Read all about it at: <https://www.clemson.edu/cafls/departments/kennedycenter/> Scroll down to lower left corner of the website home page to read and download the 2018 and previous Kennedy Center annual reports.

**David Jachowski**

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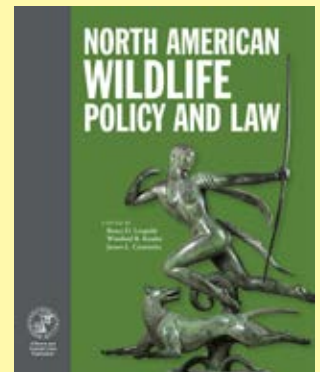
## North American Wildlife Policy and Law Published by the Boone and Crockett Club

The Boone and Crockett Club introduces the first definitive book on wildlife law and policy development with the release of *North American Wildlife Policy and Law*. The comprehensive text thoroughly examines the history and foundation of policy related to our wildlife, reviews and analyzes major federal, state, and provincial laws and policies important to natural resource management, and global wildlife policy. The volume also discusses the application and practice of policy to ensure sustainability of wildlife, fish and the varied aquatic and terrestrial habitats. The textbook similarly provides comprehensive coverage of environmental policy and how it is important for environmental law and science programs.

The Boone and Crockett Club has long been a major force for laws and policy-making involving wildlife. To further their dedication of educating the public, students and professionals on wildlife policy, laws and practices, the Boone and Crockett Club worked diligently with professors of prominent wildlife programs, top-level biologists and natural resource professionals throughout the world to compile a complete reference source for academics, policy implementers, legislators, tribal leaders and everyday wildlife professionals.

The book will also serve as a key textbook for natural resources university baccalaureate programs that fulfill specific academic requirements of international professional societies, most specifically The Wildlife Society's Certification Program.

*North American Wildlife Policy and Law* was edited by **Bruce D. Leopold**, **Winifred B. Kessler** and **James L. Cummins**; individual chapters are authored by well-known players in wildlife conservation policy. The book's extensive coverage makes it an excellent reference for anyone interested in natural resource management, public policy, or environmental law. To learn more about this landmark book, or make a purchase, please visit <https://www.boone-crockett.org/nawpl/>.





# STATE REPORTS

## TENNESSEE



### Tennessee Chapter

The Tennessee Chapter held its Fall Board Meeting this September. Primary agenda topics will include planning the upcoming 2019 spring Annual meeting which will be held February 27 – March 1 in Gatlinburg at the Edgewater Hotel.

The Tennessee Chapter of TWS was invited to serve on a focus group for TN H2O, represented by Dr. **Jenny Paul** from the Greg A. Vital Center for Natural Resources and Conservation at Cleveland State. The goal of TN H2O is to develop a statewide water plan for managing water resource needs and priorities for the state, with input from many different stakeholders. Dr. Paul served on the Recreation and Tourism focus group, intended to provide valuable input and perspective to the Natural Resources Working Group, along with representatives from many different interest groups including state agencies, non-profits, and outdoor recreation companies. Specifically, Dr. Paul advocated for strategies to ameliorate impacts to aquatic habitat following increased recreational use, such as trash and disturbances at high use areas and deterring access points in areas of high biodiversity or species of concern. She was also supportive of a fee-based system for paddlers and recreational use to generate funds for managing water quality and conservation issues; however, she also advocated for transparency and outreach to roll out concurrently. With water, it is not always as easy to see the direct contribution of fees towards conservation as it is with hunting and fishing, therefore, education is an integral part the success of any new permitting program. The first draft of TN H2O is expected to roll out October 2018, and will be available for public input.

### Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

#### Progressive Deer Management in Tennessee

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) is midstream in a strategic planning effort for the state's Deer Management Program. An agency team of biologists and wildlife officers have been working through an extensive planning process to eventually produce a draft comprehensive 5-year plan to be available for public review and comment this fall. The final plan will be presented to the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission (TFWC) in January 2019.

It was time for the TWRA to develop a new strategic plan for its Deer Management Program and the agency is doing so using the latest best management practices for strategic planning. **James Kelly**, Deer Management Program Leader, is leading TWRA's Deer Team's efforts to develop a deer management system which includes an adaptive framework utilizing scientifically valid information at the deer management unit (DMU) level.

The planning process has and will continue to have a great emphasis on stakeholder values, involving more diverse interests than in the past. Stakeholders are being brought to the table through focus group meetings of interest groups affected by deer, public meetings, and calls for public comment on the specific contents of the plan. TFWC representatives are also weighing in through personal interviews.

Much of the emphasis of the 5-year plan is building the foundation of the Deer Management System in Tennessee. Developing goals based on stakeholder interests, data collection, establishment of scientifically-based DMUs, establishing metrics to measure success, and establishing corrective measures will make up the foundation of the program moving forward.





# STATE REPORTS

In the midst of the strategic planning effort for the Deer Management Program, TWRA has also been focused on preventing Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) from occurring in Tennessee, and being well prepared if it were to occur in the state. The Agency is working to increase its chances of detecting the disease early through targeted sampling and has initiated a media campaign to educate Tennesseans on CWD. TWRA's CWD Response Plan is also being updated and further operationalized. Lastly, TWRA is working closely with The Tennessee Department of Agriculture to plan a cooperative CWD response if it were to occur in the state.

## USDA Wildlife Services (WS)

Through a concerted outreach effort between WS, the TWRA, and numerous landowners, two weeks of highly successful aerial operations were recently completed. Due to the coordinated effort, WS had aerial access to approximately 17 linear miles of the Mississippi River delta from the Eagle Lake Refuge near Memphis in Shelby County, extending north to the county line and continuing approximately 4.5 miles into Tipton County. The TWRA and local landowners have combined efforts in recent months to trap several hundred feral swine, but were unable to achieve decrease in damage or the number of swine observed. WS initially removed 451 feral swine from three counties, including 108 from two large islands in the Mississippi River. Later on, WS removed

another 558 pigs from the same areas, with only 10 coming from the islands. Due to rain events in the central U.S., the Mississippi River spilled over its banks during the second week of aerial operations. This caused the pigs remaining in this section of the delta to be pushed into smaller areas, as the backwater moved closer to the bluff. A more ideal circumstance for aerial operations in this location would be hard to imagine. This two week effort resulted in the removal of 1,009 feral swine from this relatively small stretch of land.



USDA-WS aerial operations for feral swine management in Tennessee.

## TWS Annual Conference Women of Wildlife (WOW) Networking Event

WOW has evolved into a TWS community of members who work together to spotlight the importance of promoting and supporting women in the wildlife profession and to provide mentoring opportunities and advice. All members — women and men — who want to show support for these efforts are encouraged to attend!



**WOW Reception**  
**Location: Hilton**  
**Date: October 10, 2018**  
**Time: 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm**  
**Room: Hilton, Hope Ballroom A**



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USDA – Wildlife Services in cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control and state public health departments are preparing for the annual distribution of oral rabies vaccine for wild raccoons in the Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. Rabies vaccine packets coated with fish-meal will be distributed through an 18 county area in south-central and east Tennessee starting October 1 and lasting approximately three weeks depending on weather. Baits will be distributed by airplane in rural areas and by helicopter in towns and cities. Raccoons that eat the vaccine-laced bait develop an immunity to rabies. This is the 17th year that Tennessee has distributed rabies vaccines to slow and possibly halt the spread of raccoon variant rabies. There have been two cases of raccoon variant rabies in Tennessee this year, one in Johnson County and one in Hamilton County. Since raccoon rabies was detected in Tennessee in 2003, the disease has not spread as rapidly here as has been documented in other areas of the United States. For more information on rabies prevention or the oral rabies vaccine program, call USDA-Wildlife Services at 1-866-487-3297.

## Cleveland State Community College

The Cleveland State CC student chapter has been busy as always! In addition to earning another suite of volunteer hours with federal and state natural resource agencies, several of our students were awarded paid internships: one student with TWRA assisting region 3 biologists with non-game species, and 3 with the USFS on the Cherokee National Forest assisting the freshwater snorkeling program and serving as wildlife interns. We also had a good showing at the Southeastern Wildlife Conclave, placing 7th out of 20 schools. Additionally, we have been engaged with undergraduate research including maintaining bear hair snares across the southeastern region for the Appalachian Bear Rescue. We also started a 5-year study assessing aquatic organism passage following culvert restoration and improved habitat for a species of concern, the Tennessee Dace. Currently we are assisting TWRA biologists with abomasal parasite counts on wildlife management areas. Our most recent endeavor was completing the first official SWAP (Student Wildlands Adventure Program). Last



USDA – Wildlife Services ORV bait distribution crew from Tennessee.

# STATE REPORTS

summer, our students traveled to the deserts of New Mexico to experience natural resources management in the region first hand. This August we “swapped,” bringing 20 students from New Mexico to the lush green spaces of southeastern Tennessee with Cleveland State students serving as hosts. The impact of experiencing freshwater ecosystems and resource management in TN was incredible, and left a mark on everyone involved. We are looking forward to next summer when we take another group of students out west.

## Tennessee Tech University

The Department of Biology at Tennessee Tech welcomes Dr. **Brad Cohen** to our faculty! Dr. Cohen begins his appointment as Assistant Professor in Fall 2018. He comes to us from the University of Georgia, where he served as a post-doctoral researcher in the Deer Laboratory, studying white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, and other species.

July 2018 marked the completion of our 14th annual summer Wildlife Techniques field course, required for all wildlife majors. Drs. **Dan Combs** and **Steve Hayslette** instructed the course, along with Mr. **Rick Dorrance**, a consulting forester from Alabama. A total of 28 students enrolled this year. As always, the course was hot, strenuous, challenging, and lots of fun. A highlight of the course was our annual trip to West Tennessee, which included visits to Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, Reelfoot Lake and Lake Isom National Wildlife Refuges, and Fort Campbell. We also visited Great Smoky Mountains National Park for lessons in the challenges of managing black bears, wild hogs, and perhaps the most problematic species of all, humans. Other trips included visits to Bridgestone Firestone, Percy Priest, and Oak Ridge Wildlife Management Areas, as well as Standing Stone State Park, for lessons in management of native grasses, use of explosives, thermal imaging technology, bat capture/research techniques, and nuisance wildlife management. A three-day unit on the basics of forestry introduced the students to silviculture, timber valuation, and timber harvest techniques. Students also developed skills

in environmental education as they spent two days sharing wildlife-related programs and activities with local school children. Other topics covered this year included radiotelemetry, orienteering, capture and marking techniques, avian necropsy, and population estimation. We are pleased that the course is thriving and providing an important hands-on field component to our undergraduate wildlife curriculum.

Our Tennessee Tech Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society is gearing up for the 2018-19 academic year after a banner year last year. During the 2017-18 academic year, the chapter boasted 51 members and a highly-energized slate of officers. Activities for the year included assisting the TWRA with bear hair snare sampling and deer check stations, bird banding at Whig Meadows, staffing a kids booth at Seven Islands State Birding Park, assisting the National Wild Turkey Federation with Wheeling Sportsman hunts, tree planting at a local dog park, Earth Day kids' activities, senior formals for Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 graduates, and a fine showing at the Southeastern Conclave in Louisiana! Fundraisers included football tailgating, a chili cook-off, and our annual Beast Feast wild game dinner in April. With a new, enthusiastic set of officers, the chapter is looking forward to even bigger and better things in the coming year!

## University of Tennessee - Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Student Chapter attended SEAFWA, the state TN-TWS meeting, and the Southeastern Wildlife Conclave in 2017-2018. The chapter maintained contracts this year with TWRA for assistance at deer hunter check stations, with the TN Department of Environment and Conservation for conducting annual waterfowl counts at a river restoration site in Madison County, TN, and with Quail Forever for carrying out several tree and shrub plantings on CRP sites. A \$1000 grant was awarded from TWRA for a ¼ mile stream cleanup effort, and the chapter signed on as a supporter of the “Restoring America’s Wildlife Act.” Speakers at chapter meetings included Dr. **Allan Houston** from Ames Plantation, **Barron Crawford**, Manager of TN National Wildlife Refuge Complex, and others.



# STATE REPORTS

## University of Tennessee - Knoxville

### NSF Grant Awarded to Study Fungal Pathogens of Amphibians

An emerging pathogen that devours the skin of salamanders will be the subject of a new study funded by the National Science Foundation.

**Matt Gray** and **Debra Miller**, both faculty members in the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture Center for Wildlife Health within the UT Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries, have been awarded a \$2.5 million grant to lead a collaboration among scientists from Vanderbilt University, University of Massachusetts-Boston, Texas Tech University, University of California-Santa Barbara and Washington State University.

The research will expand the current understanding of a fungal pathogen that is causing salamander population declines in Europe. *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*, or *Bsal*, is an emerging pathogen that devours the skin of salamanders.

Thought to originate from Asia, *Bsal* is spreading throughout Europe, and scientists are now concerned of the fungus spreading to North America through international trade. As a preemptive measure, Gray and Miller, along with their research partners, will study the epidemiology of *Bsal* in an effort to find ways to combat the fungus.

Gray, Miller and their team will focus on three main objectives: (1) identify the infection pathways and environmental conditions under which *Bsal* spreads, (2) evaluate salamander immune responses to infection, and (3) characterize the pathogenesis of *Bsal*. Their focal species will be the eastern newt (*Notophthalmus viridescens*), which is one of the most widely distributed salamander species in North America. The eastern newt is known to be susceptible to *Bsal*. With many reptile and amphibian species in the U.S. being threatened by infectious diseases, such as snake fungal disease and *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd or chytrid fungus), the timing and need for this research is significant.

"With eastern North America as a global hotspot for salamander biodiversity, this research will allow science-based decisions to be made on *Bsal* response actions most likely to thwart an outbreak in the USA and elsewhere," Gray indicates.

Miller, a wildlife pathologist with a split position in the UT College of Veterinary Medicine, adds, "The lesions I see under the microscope are significant, destroying the epidermis in highly susceptible species, which is deadly to amphibians that rely on their skin for osmoregulation and respiration."

Gray adds, "To our knowledge, Earth has never seen a wildlife disease outbreak like *Bsal*'s cousin - Bd - which has caused population declines globally in greater than 200 amphibian species and some species extinctions. It is too early to know what the scale of *Bsal* emergence will be; however, we hope that by working in multi-disciplinary research collaborations like this one that we will be able to identify plausible treatment and management options quickly that lessen the impact of this recently discovered pathogen."

In addition to research, this award will support one post-doctoral scientist, one veterinary scientist, three graduate students, and multiple undergraduate research technicians at UTIA. There will also be an outreach component, including STEM school engagement, guest lectures, international training opportunities, and research findings will be delivered monthly to the Technical Advisory Committee of the North American *Bsal* Task Force. Gray begins co-chairing the committee this month. More information about the UTIA NSF grant and other *Bsal* research performed by the UTIA Center for Wildlife Health can be found at [ag.tennessee.edu/fwf/bsalproject](http://ag.tennessee.edu/fwf/bsalproject).



Eastern newt (Photo by **T. Pierson**, courtesy UTIA).

# STATE REPORTS

## UTK Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society

The 2018 spring semester was highly productive for the Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society at the University of Tennessee - Knoxville. As usual, we held our society joint wildlife and fisheries meetings every other Thursday evening. In February, we hosted our Annual Wild Game Dinner, a potluck-style feast accompanied by silent and live auctions, live music, and community fellowship. This event helps provide the funds needed to send our students to conferences and events, such as the 2018 TWS Southeastern Wildlife Conclave at LSU, where our team earned third place overall! We were also able to send some students from our chapter to the Annual Meeting of the Tennessee Chapter of TWS at Fall Creek Falls State Park.

At the same time, many of our students were busy gaining field experience in side projects such as quail covey counts, turkey check stations, weed wrangling, bat mist netting, American wood duck box observations, sturgeon sampling, trail construction at Seven Islands State Birding Park, and numerous other

projects. Groups of both graduate and undergraduate students worked together on the TN Amphibian Monitoring Program (TAMP), and we held a free TN Hunter Education course that was open to the public. To wrap up this busy school year, we hosted our annual crawfish boil and "herp hunt" at Kyker Bottoms Refuge. We cannot wait to hear about our students' summer experiences and are looking forward to what the 2018-2019 school year has in store for us.

## UTK Student Chapter of the Wildlife Disease Association

The University of Tennessee Student Chapter of the Wildlife Disease Association has been focusing on working across disciplines to give students the opportunity to be diverse in their abilities and interests. The officers and members come from very diverse backgrounds in wildlife management, wildlife health, and veterinary medicine. However, we all have one common interest: wildlife diseases. The UTK WDA chapter has worked closely with the UTK Wildlife



University of Tennessee - Knoxville Student Chapter of TWS.

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Society student chapter to attend deer check stations to collect Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) samples, have partnered with the pathology club in UTCVM to learn how to perform necropsies on wildlife, and have even worked with faculty advisors to learn skills like chemical immobilization. Twice a month, the club schedules guest speakers to talk to the members about wildlife disease current topics, research projects, skills, techniques, and/or potential career routes. As an organization, our main goal is to prepare and educate members to deal with wildlife disease issues in their future jobs whether that job be as a veterinarian, wildlife biologist, zoo keeper, public health official, etc. because it takes many different disciplines to fully understand and manage for wildlife health, human health, and the health of the environment. In the future, we hope to continue with our current events and to expand more on skills and techniques to be gained in this field. We feel it is vital to prepare our members more with new workshops and are even partnering with other WDA student chapters to share ideas and create more connections and contacts!

**Brett G. Dunlap**  
***Brett.G.Dunlap@aphis.usda.gov***

## **TWS Annual Conference Chronic Wasting Disease Symposium**

The TWS Wildlife Diseases Working Group, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians are excited to support the following symposium at this year's TWS Annual Conference in Cleveland, OH.

"Best Management Practices for Surveillance, Management, and Control of Chronic Wasting Disease in Free-Ranging Cervid Populations"

Location: Cleveland Convention Center,  
Room 25A

Time: 8:10 am to 5:00 pm

Date: Tuesday, October 9, 2018



UTCVM Pathology Club.



# STATE REPORTS

## VIRGINIA

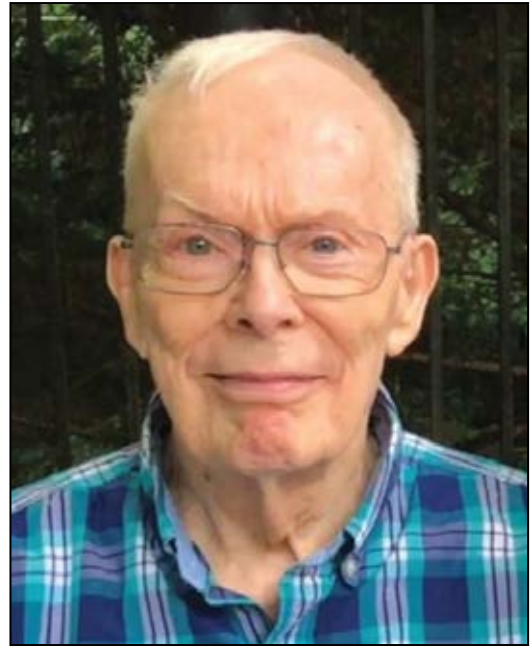


### Virginia Chapter

**Jack V. Gwynn** of Charlottesville, VA, died on Monday, August 6, 2018, a few weeks after celebrating his 90th birthday with his family. Jack worked for 35 years as a Supervising Game Research Biologist for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Jack began his work in Virginia when wildlife management was a relatively new field. His innovative approaches to deer management earned him a reputation as conservation pioneer. Virginia was one of the first southeastern states to recognize the need to harvest antlerless deer and Jack was at the forefront of advocating total deer herd management. One of the most important things Jack did for deer management was advocate for the North American model of wildlife management and he opposed practices like deer farming and high fences/privatization which are counter to the North American model's basic principles. He was instrumental in chairing and planning the first Southeast Deer Study Group meeting in 1977. Jack was also active in the Virginia State Chapter of The Wildlife Society

from its inception in 1982. He served in every office and was the editor of the chapter's newsletter well into his retirement.

**Faren R. Wolter**  
[fwolter@vt.edu](mailto:fwolter@vt.edu)



Jack V. Gwynn



# STATE REPORTS

## DUCKS UNLIMITED

### Staff Changes

Following the transition of **Craig LeSchack** to a new position at DU's National Headquarters, **Jamie Rader** has been selected DU's Director of Conservation Programs for the South Atlantic states. Dr. **Scott Manley** will take over duties as DU's Director of Conservation Programs for the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley. **Mike Carloss** continues as DU's Director of Conservation Programs for south Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma.

DU recently hired **Michael McVay** as a new Louisiana biologist. He works out of the NRCS Field Office in Columbia, LA. Michael will be working with NRCS staff on the Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) Program, providing landowner outreach and assisting with all aspects of the program. Michael is from West Monroe and graduated with his B.S. in Forestry and Wildlife Management from Louisiana Tech University. He is finishing up his masters degree from the University of Miami.

DU hired **Ethan Massey** for the Arkansas biologist position. He is working out of the White River NWR Office in St. Charles, AR. Ethan is from North Louisiana and just finished his M.S. from the University of Arkansas – Monticello. He will work with AGFC and NRCS staff on Farm Bill Programs, specifically WRP/ WRE.

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

### Georgia

#### **DU Partners with GADNR on Altamaha Wildlife Management Area**

DU and GADNR recently signed an agreement to partner on the restoration and enhancement of managed wetland units on Altamaha WMA in McIntosh County. Altamaha WMA lies within the Atlantic Coast

Joint Venture's Coastal Focus Area and is a priority conservation area in Georgia for waterfowl, shorebirds and wading birds. This \$8.7-million project will be funded through two North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grants secured by DU, as well as GADNR and FEMA funding. NAWCA grant partners supporting the work at Altamaha include DU, GADNR, the Coastal Conservation Association and the Georgia-Alabama Land Trust.

Expanding upon their long-standing partnership conserving wetlands in GA, DU will work with GADNR to restore and enhance wetland systems on the Champney Island, Butler Island and Rhett's Island units over the next five years. These units are highly utilized by the public for waterfowl hunting, birding and other outdoor recreational opportunities. Opportunities for greater recreational enjoyment of these areas will be enhanced through this project.

### Florida

#### **DU Partners with the Jupiter Inlet District**

DU is partnering with Florida's Jupiter Inlet District to restore an eroded red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*) habitat, known as Mangrove Island, that lies along the Loxahatchee River Central Embayment. Red mangrove habitat serves a critical role to the ecology of the Loxahatchee River estuary. Mangroves provide important nursery grounds and physical habitat for a wide variety of vertebrates and invertebrates including threatened and endangered species. Over the years, Mangrove Island has served as a bird rookery for species such as the brown pelican. Mangroves also benefit water quality and clarity by filtering pollutants and trapping sediments.

Construction of hard shoreline stabilization structures such as seawalls and revetments has substantially reduced the area of mangrove habitat within the estuary, making it a key target for restoration. Mangrove Island is currently the only remaining mangrove island habitat within the Loxahatchee River Central embayment. Over the years, mosquito ditching, storm- and boat-induced wave action and swift currents have eroded the shoreline and reduced mangrove habitat.



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Restoration and protection is critical to preserve this important resource. Restoration features will likely include construction of wave attenuation structures such as limestone breakwaters or sills, placement of clean sand fill, and replanting red mangrove vegetation.

DU is also partnering with the Jupiter Inlet District on the Moonshine Creek Oxbow Restoration Project along the Loxahatchee River near Jonathan Dickinson State Park (the location of a DU NAWCA project). This project will restore a historic oxbow in the Wild and Scenic Segment of the Loxahatchee River through the filling of a man-made cut in the river to reestablish the original river channel. Successful implementation will result in improved water quality and improved salinity distribution along the northwest fork of the Loxahatchee River.

## **North Louisiana Bayou Pierre WMA Improvements Completed**

DU recently partnered with LDWF to enhance waterfowl habitat on the 3,723-acre Bayou Pierre WMA. Located about 20 miles south of Shreveport, the WMA provides important outdoor recreation opportunities for residents and visitors to Louisiana's

third largest city. Opportunities for bird watching, hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing, trapping and primitive camping are all available. Waterfowl hunting is permitted by lottery hunts.

There is a 275-acre waterfowl refuge on the WMA that has suffered from unreliable water delivery for more than a decade. LDWF and DU collaboratively investigated methods for restoring the productivity of this important wetland area for waterfowl and other waterbirds. It was determined that a new pump and new water-control structures needed to be installed and woody vegetation along some of the interior levees needed to be cleared. DU completed these restoration measures in July, providing LDWF staff with better water level management capacity.

## **Central Louisiana Public Land Improvement Completed**

Most of the wetland habitat at Pomme de Terre WMA is managed by two large structures that control the water level on the forested and emergent habitat. These structures were not functioning properly, which prevented the state from managing the habitat effectively for wildlife. DU replaced the two main structures and returned proper habitat management



One of the new water-control structures on Bayou Pierre WMA.



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capabilities to the LDWF, enhancing 1,054 acres of public wetland habitat. The new structures included large flash board risers to allow LDWF to more incrementally manage water levels, increasing habitat management flexibility.

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.

## North Carolina

### DU and NCWRC Plan Work at the Goose Creek Game Land

DU, in partnership with the NCWRC, is finalizing an agreement to secure one of two pump stations needed within the wetland complexes at Goose Creek Game Land in eastern North Carolina. The 25-acre Hobucken Unit is one of the primary waterfowl complexes on the game land. The project will enhance management capabilities on the unit through the replacement of a pump and associated water control infrastructure. Funding for the project comes from DU's Southeast Wetlands Initiative, Axalta Coating Systems and Pittman-Robertson funds. In coastal NC, waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds and other wetland dependent wildlife greatly depend on these areas for reliable food resources. These impoundments are publicly accessible for hunting. The second phase of this project, once funded, will focus on similar work within the Spring Creek Unit.



Pomme de Terre WMA. The addition of flashboard risers to the new weir structures gives LDWF better management capacity.

# STATE REPORTS

## Mississippi

### Yazoo NWR Enhancements Funded

Working with the USFWS, DU recently secured a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant to support enhancements to an impoundment complex of abandoned catfish ponds on the Yazoo NWR. Funds will be used to enhance 200 acres of moist soil/ flooded agriculture rotation wetlands through the removal of interior levees, replacement and addition of 10 water control structures and installation of two new water wells and associated underground piping. Partners include the North American Wetlands Conservation Council, DU, Wetlands America Trust, Mississippi Land Trust, MDWFP, and conservation easement landowners. Construction should be complete in the summer of 2019.

Located 4 miles east of the Mississippi River and 28 miles south of Greenville, MS in Washington County, Yazoo NWR consists of 12,941 acres of bottomland hardwoods, swamps, agricultural fields, hardwood reforestation areas and managed impoundments. The refuge has ridge and swale topography created by the ancient meanderings of the Mississippi River, and its primary habitat feature is the approximately 4,000-acre Swan Lake oxbow. With more than 650 acres of moist soil/flooded agricultural impoundments and 1,350 acres of green tree reservoirs, the refuge provides significant habitat for wintering waterfowl and resident wood ducks.

## Virginia

### DU and VDGIF Plan Work on Hog Island WMA

DU, in partnership with the VDGIF, began a two-phased project on Hog Island WMA 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 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.



The observation tower at Yazoo NWR provides bird observation opportunities for the public. Here, youth campers and staff for the DU-MDWFP youth camp spend sunrise observing waterfowl.

# STATE REPORTS

## **South Carolina Black River Acquisition Expands Paddling, Hiking Trails**

South Carolinians will have expanded outdoor education and recreation opportunities in Williamsburg County thanks to a partnership by DU, the Open Space Institute and the Butler Conservation Fund. The partners collaborated on the acquisition of a 170-acre property along the Black River. The property, formerly known as the Morris Tract, will host an outdoor education initiative for public schools in the region and provide public access along the scenic corridor.

The Butler Conservation Fund (BCF) will own and manage the property. BCF is a private foundation dedicated to the conservation and protection of the natural environment and to environmental education and recreation. They are committed to conservation along the Black River to encourage public access and create a paddling trail. The Morris Tract is important due to its proximity to the BCF's Black River Cypress Preserve and its extensive bends, sloughs and cypress ponds, which provide habitat for myriad species.

Designated by South Carolina as a State Scenic River, the Black River features tide-driven forested wetlands that are one of the most popular canoe and kayak destinations in the entire state. Bird enthusiasts travel to this destination to see prothonotary warblers, pileated woodpeckers, wood storks, red-cockaded woodpeckers and the state-endangered swallow-tailed kite.

The acquisition was made possible by grants from NAWCA, the BCF, and the Duke Energy Water Resources Fund through a grant to the Open Space Institute.

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

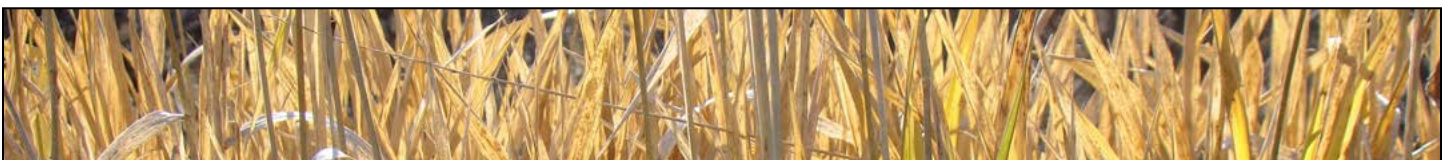
### **South Louisiana Southeast Louisiana Wetland Project Brings Together Energy, Conservation, Community Partners**

Recognizing that Louisiana's coastal wetland loss impacts everyone, DU, ConocoPhillips, the South Lafourche Levee District and Energy Transfer Partners united to restore more than 1,200 acres of coastal marsh in southeast Louisiana.

Ducks Unlimited constructed the marsh terracing project on ConocoPhillips' property adjacent to the South Lafourche Levee District's hurricane protection levee. Approximately 29,000 linear feet of earthen terraces were installed to create suitable conditions for desirable plant communities that will enhance foraging, loafing, and nesting conditions for a multitude of waterbirds while also improving habitat for fish and helping to protect the levee. Gulf Coast marshes provide continentally critical habitat for wintering waterfowl and represent a level one habitat conservation priority for Ducks Unlimited.



Specialized equipment called marsh buggies are used to build marsh terraces.





# STATE REPORTS

## Oklahoma

### Hackberry Flat WMA Infrastructure Replacement

Hackberry Flat is a natural, 4,000-acre depressional wetland in southwest Oklahoma in Tillman County near Frederick. In the early 1900's, local residents were successful in draining the entire basin after excavating an extensive ditch over a five-year period. For the next 80 years, the basin was altered by agricultural conversion, development of a county road system in the 1930s, and additional drainage development. In late 1992, the ODWC, DU and others initiated plans to acquire and restore this historic basin.

By the late 1990s more than 95 percent of the historic basin had been acquired by ODWC. Through development of a comprehensive network of nearly 60 miles of low-level dikes and the installation of more than 90 water control structures, the basin's hydrology was restored. Today, the 7,120-acre wildlife

management area consists of approximately 3,700 acres of basin and related buffer lands intensively managed for waterfowl and other bird species.

Over the last 20+ years, due to natural salinity levels and naturally occurring wet/dry cycles, several of the steel water control structures have developed various levels of corrosion, and some have failed. We now need to replace these structures to control the water surface elevation on roughly 700 acres. Four degraded water control structures will be replaced with aluminum structures, which are more resistant to corrosion. DU has completed a structure design and delivered a plan set as well as construction specifications to our partners at ODWC. ODWC will solicit bids for the structures and for installation.

**Andi Cooper**  
[acooper@ducks.org](mailto:acooper@ducks.org)



Hackberry Flat is an important “stepping stone” for thousands of birds migrating throughout the Central Flyway. In wetter years, Hackberry Flat also provides locally important nesting habitat for a variety of bird species.

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Apply Now: USFS Native American Research Assistantship Program

The Wildlife Society, alongside the U.S. Forest Service, a Premier Partner of TWS, has announced new Native American Research Assistantships for 2019. This is the fifth year for the professional development program, which facilitates opportunities for Native American students to be mentored by USFS Research & Development (R&D) scientists and promotes student advancement and training for careers in natural resource and conservation-related fields. Assistantship participants aid and learn about the USFS' ecological science-based approach to decision-making and balancing multiple-use management of national forests and grasslands.

Assistantships are available for Native American students interested in wildlife and forest resource research and management. Students will learn and work with an interdisciplinary team of researchers with the USFS during 2019. Applicants must be a member of an American Indian or Alaska Native tribe, First Nations or a Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, or have some other indigenous identification, and be currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program from an accredited academic institution. Pursuit of a bachelor's or master's degree in wildlife biology, ecology, forestry or other closely related natural resource discipline is preferred. Students with related associate's degrees from tribal colleges and universities or other community colleges will also be considered.

Research projects potentially available for 2019 assistantships include:

1. Assessment of camera trap surveys to estimate wild pig and white-tailed deer density
2. Bat surveys and Greater sage-grouse vegetation studies in the Buffalo Gap National Grassland of South Dakota
3. Bioacoustic surveys for owls in the coast range of Oregon
4. Evaluating restoration treatments to promote flora and fauna important to the Washoe Tribe

The appointments vary from 3 to 5 months within the 2019 calendar year, depending on the project. Only a limited number of projects may be funded and assistantship placement is dependent on a suitable student/mentor match. Starting dates are generally negotiable within the context of the seasonality of the research topics.

For more information, including project objectives, locations, duration, and instructions on how to apply, please download an application form from The Wildlife Society website (<http://wildlife.org>). The application period is now open through **November 5, 2018**.

If you have questions about the application process or the assistantship program, please contact **Jamila Blake**, TWS Professional Development Coordinator, at [JBlake@wildlife.org](mailto:JBlake@wildlife.org) or 301-897-9770 x307.



Marc Epstein, USFWS

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## North Carolina Chapter to Host T&E Species Workshop

The Professional Development Committee of the North Carolina Chapter of The Wildlife Society will hold a threatened and endangered species workshop November 1 at the Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve in Southern Pines, North Carolina.

Experts will provide an overview and updates on the Endangered Species Act, review specific management strategies designed to help recover imperiled species and discuss challenges faced by public and private land-owners when managing these species. A field trip to Fort Bragg will take participants to visit some of the species on base, such as the red-cockaded woodpecker (*Leuconotopicus borealis*) and the Saint Francis' Satyr butterfly (*Neonympha mitchellii francisci*).

The workshop is free for Chapter members and \$10 for non-members. To register, please email **Casey Dukes** at [caseygdukes@gmail.com](mailto:caseygdukes@gmail.com). View the workshop flyer for more information at <http://wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/TE-Announcement-2018.pdf>.

# CONSERVATION AFFAIRS

## The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network September 2018 Report (Excerpts)

### CAC Activities

**TWS 2018 Annual Conference and CAN Annual Meeting** – Registration is still open for TWS' 2018 Annual Conference in Cleveland, Ohio from October 7-11. The Conservation Affairs Network will have a meeting during the conference – Monday, October 8 from 8:00 am – 10:00 am. Download the draft agenda [here](#) and if there are items your organization unit would like included for discussion on the agenda please let Mariah know. Visit the conference website for more information. Staff Contact: **Mariah Simmons**

**TWS Chapters submit letters on S. 3223 to Senate delegation** – The North Carolina Chapter of TWS, the South Dakota Chapter of TWS, and the Maine Chapter of TWS have submitted letters to their Senators on the recently introduced Senate version of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (S. 3223). Unlike the House version (H.R. 4647), the proactive conservation funding identified within the Senate version would need to go through the annual appropriations process to determine how much of the \$1.3 billion would be appropriated and distributed to states each year. While expressing support for the legislation, the chapters also requested the inclusion of a dedicated funding mechanism as identified within the House version. You can check out form organization unit and individual member letters that can be adapted for your use in correspondence with offices on the importance of dedicated funding. CAC Contacts: **Rachel Urbanek** (NC), **Mark Norton** (SD), **Rodney Kelshaw** (ME)

**TWS Org Units, Headquarters continue push for H.R. 4647** – TWS Headquarters staff is continuing to meet with House offices requesting cosponsorship of the House version of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 4647) – with an internal goal of reaching 100 cosponsors by the November elections. Organization unit letters have been enormously helpful in this effort – and are cited in TWS' direct engagement with congressional staff. The Virginia Chapter of TWS and the New York Chapter of TWS are both working hand in hand with



# CONSERVATION AFFAIRS

staff to engage these offices on the state and federal level, which has directly assisted in the addition of at least one new cosponsor in recent weeks – Representative **John Faso** of New York. CAC Contacts: **Peter Iacono** (NY), **Scott Klopfer** (VA); Staff Contact: **Caroline Murphy**

**TWS compiling ESA org unit comments** – The Wildlife Society has solicited member and organization unit comments in response to the USFWS and NOAA Fisheries publication of three proposed rules that would modify the implementation of the Endangered Species Act. These proposed changes include modifications to the listing and delisting processes, the recession of the blanket 4(d) rule – which automatically extended take restrictions to all listed species, and revisions to how agencies consult with USFWS and NOAA Fisheries on projects that may impact listed species. TWS headquarters staff is now working to collate member input into comments reflective of TWS membership expertise. TWS will be submitting comments to the Administration on the proposed rules prior to the September 24 deadline. Staff Contact: **Caroline Murphy**

## Federal Updates

**New RAWA House cosponsors** – At least five new House cosponsors have been added to the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 4647) over the House's August recess – bringing the cosponsor total to 86:

**Rep. Faso John (R-NY)**  
**Rep. Gaetz, Matt (R-FL)**  
**Rep. Jenkins, Lynn (R-KS)**  
**Rep. Kaptur, Marcy (D-OH)**  
**Rep. Welch, Peter (D-VT)**

The full list of cosponsors is available on Congress.gov – which will be updated when the House is back in session in early September. We encourage organization units to thank their members of Congress via email and social media (hashtags #RAWA, #RecoverWildlife) once they have officially been added to Congress.gov. TWS staff is available to provide contact information for relevant congressional staff. Staff Contact: **Caroline Murphy**

**Several expirations set for October 1** – U.S. federal funding, the 2014 Farm Bill, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund are all set to expire at the end of September. There is growing uncertainty if any of these programs will see a long-term package passed before the deadline. None of the 12 appropriations bills for FY2019 have reached the President's desk, House and Senate conferees for the Farm Bill are meeting in person for the first time this week, and several attempts to get permanent LWCF reauthorization passed the Senate chamber have failed on procedure. If LWCF is allowed to expire at the end of September, projects with already appropriated funds will still be funded under the current program structure. Both the House and Senate are getting back to work on these packages with the House back in session after its August recess. There are now just 11 working days with both chambers in session before the end of September. A likely scenario for any of these three packages is a shortterm extension. Discussions surrounding the Farm Bill have been slightly more hopeful, with House and Senate conference committee staffers working through the August recess in the hopes of having draft bill language prepared for conference committee in early September. Staff Contact: **Caroline Murphy**

More information on the Conservation Affairs Network, including the full September 2018 report and others, can be found at: <http://wildlife.org/policy/conservation-affairs-network/>



# BUSINESS

## **TWS 25th Annual Conference Cleveland, Ohio | October 7-11, 2018**

### **TWS Council Meeting**

Dates: October 6, 2018  
Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Location: HCCC, Room 25 AB

### **TWS Council Meeting**

Dates: October 7, 2018  
Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Location: HCCC, Room 25 AB

### **TWS Council Meeting**

Date: October 11, 2018  
Time: 12:50 pm - 2:30 pm  
Location: Hilton, Hope Ballroom AB

## **Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies 72nd Annual Conference Mobile, Alabama | October 21-24, 2018**

### **Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society Executive Board Meeting**

Sunday, October 21 • 3:00pm - 5:00pm

### **Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society Annual Business Meeting**

Tuesday, October 23 • 3:00pm - 5:00pm

## **2017-2018 Southeastern Section Officers**

#### **President:**

Dr. Michael Mengak  
Associate Dean of Outreach  
& Professor – Wildlife  
Warnell School of Forestry  
& Natural Resources  
University of Georgia  
180 E. Green St.  
Athens, GA 30602  
Phone (706) 583-8096  
mmengak@uga.edu

#### **President-Elect:**

Dr. Raymond B. Iglay  
Assistant Research Professor  
Center for Resolving Human-  
Wildlife Conflicts  
Department of Wildlife, Fisheries  
& Aquaculture  
Mississippi State University  
Box 9690  
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Phone (662) 325-5933  
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#### **Southeastern Section**

#### **Representative:**

Dr. L. Mike Conner  
Scientist, Wildlife Ecology  
Joseph W. Jones Ecological  
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3988 Jones Center Drive  
Newton, GA 39870  
Phone (229) 734-4706 ext. 278  
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#### **Immediate Past President:**

Dr. Mark D. Smith  
Associate Professor  
Auburn University  
3301 Forestry and Wildlife  
Sciences Bdg  
Auburn University, AL 36849  
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mds007@auburn.edu



#### **Secretary/Treasurer:**

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

# MEETINGS OF INTEREST

## OCTOBER 2018

### The Wildlife Society 25th Annual Conference

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

### 72nd SEAFWA Conference

October 21-24, 2018  
Mobile, AL  
[www.seafwa.org/conference](http://www.seafwa.org/conference)

### 12th Biennial Longleaf Conference

October 23-26, 2018  
Alexandria, LA  
<https://www.longleafalliance.org/>

## FEBRUARY 2019

### 2019 Annual SE PARC Meeting

February 14-17, 2019  
Blue Ridge Assembly  
Black Mountain, NC  
<http://separc.org/meetings/>

### 42nd Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting

February 17-19, 2019  
Louisville, KY  
<http://www.sedsg.com>

## MARCH 2019

### North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference

March 4-9, 2019  
Sheraton Denver Downtown  
Denver, CO  
<https://wildlifemanagement.institute>

### 18th Wildlife Damage Management Conference

March 4-7, 2019  
Hunter Henry Center  
Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS





# 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](mailto:kelly.douglass@ncwildlife.org)