

The Wildlife Society

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION



MAY/JUNE 2018 VOLUME 60, NUMBER 2
KATHERINE EDWARDS, EDITOR

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Summer season (summer school, field season, vacation season) is in full swing and I hope each of you is enjoying this time afield. I trust you are able to get into the field and are not trapped in an office. You are probably receiving this newsletter a little later than normal and that is my fault. I was delayed due to other commitments and unable to get my comments to Katie in time for a May publication date.

There are only a few news items to mention. The SEAFWA conference will be held in Mobile, AL on October 21-24, 2018. Deadlines are passed for submitting papers. The committees are working on reports. Editors and reviewers are working hard to review research papers to ensure a top-notch program. Each SE-TWS member owes a note of thanks to the many reviewers who are working on manuscript reviews this month. Also, the publication review committee chaired by **Lora Smith** is reviewing papers from the 2017 conference and will select the Best Paper. Other committees are working hard to select award recipients and I hope you submitted a nomination. If you are serving SE-TWS as a manuscript reviewer or award committee member, please accept my thank you. I hope you know that your service is important to the SE-TWS and every member appreciates your willingness to donate your time to serve in the role of committee chair, committee member, or manuscript reviewer. If you want to get involved with the internal operations of the SE-TWS Section, visit our website and locate a committee in line with your interests and contact the committee chair. There is always room at the table for more people willing to help out.

The Wildlife Society 25th Annual Conference will be held from October 7-11, 2018 in Cleveland, Ohio. There is still time to submit applications for travel grants to offset the cost of attendance. Visit the TWS website – wildlife.org/travel-grants – to apply for any of the several awards. Normally, membership in a section or working group is required and several awards are reserved specifically for students. I know that the Wildlife Damage Management Working Group tries to split their 10 travel grants equally among working professionals and students. There are many opportunities to apply for and receive travel assistance for this meeting and I encourage you to apply for any travel grant for which you are eligible. Dr. **Darren Miller**, Weyerhaeuser Corporation, will assume the duties of TWS President in Cleveland. Elections for SE Section Representative are being held now. PLEASE VOTE! And I know that the SE Section will be proud of the crop of TWS Fellows elected this year. Well done new TWS Fellows (or should I say “fellers”?).

In This Issue

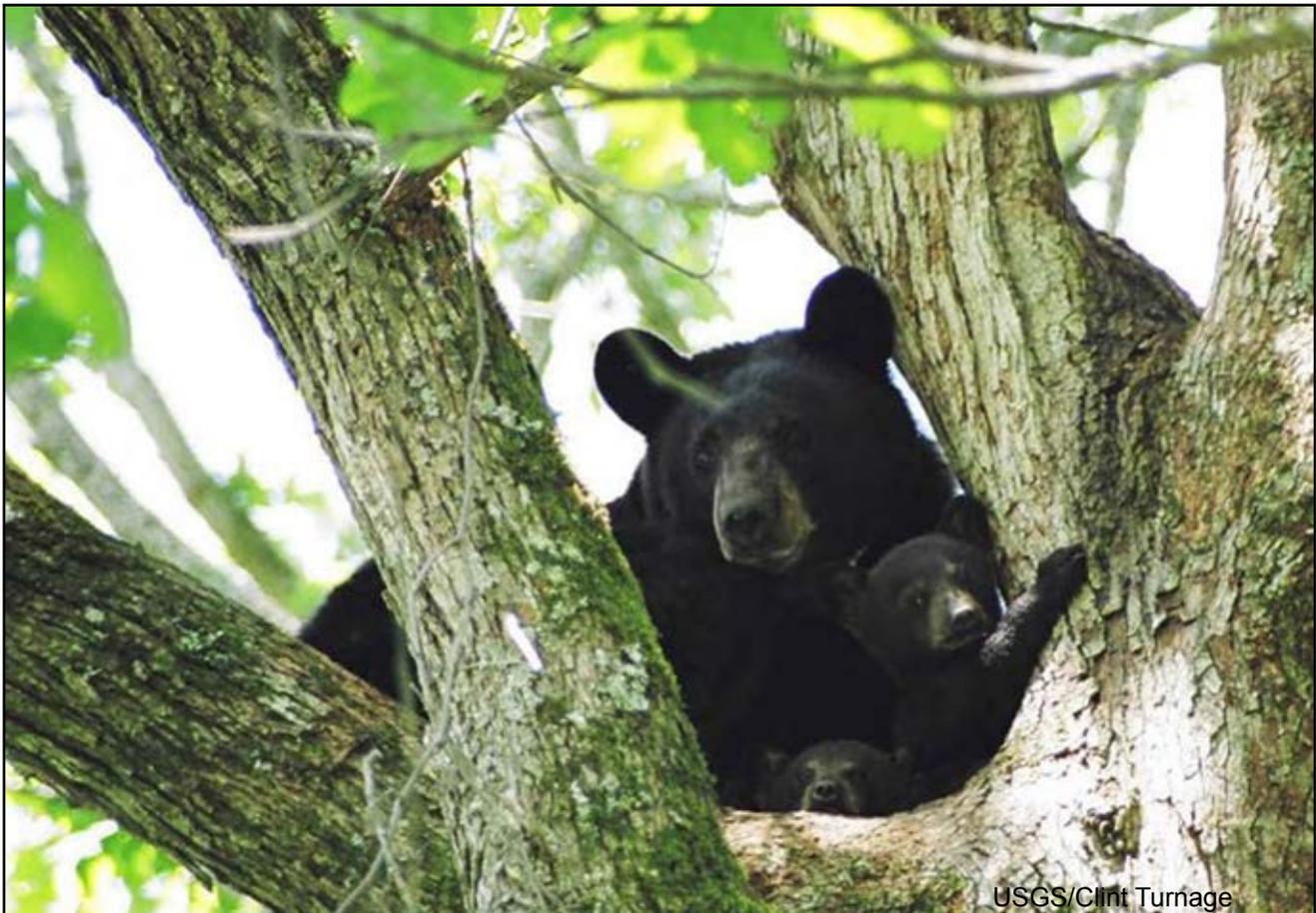
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The SE-TWS Conclave was, by all accounts, a success. **Brett Collier** and the students of the LSU Student Chapter did a great job hosting their fellow students and competitors from the SE schools. **Mark Smith** confessed to eating too many crawfish! Congratulations to all the schools and students who participated. The University of Georgia won Quiz Bowl and the Overall Conclave Trophy. GO DAWGS! Abraham Baldwin Agriculture College (ABAC) will host the 2019 SE Student Conclave in Tifton, Georgia.

The Wild Pig Conference was held in Oklahoma City in April. **Bronson Strickland, Bill Hamrick, and Laura Andrews** did a great job and the conference was an educational and social success. The technical training on Monday, the BBQ, and the overall event were well attended.

In closing, I wish everyone a relaxing and productive summer. Remember to apply for travel awards and make plans to attend either (or both) SEAFWA and TWS conferences this fall. Thank you for all you do to support the SE-TWS. I challenge each of you to recruit a friend or colleague to join SE-TWS. Let's work together to push our membership past the 1000 mark. We have the highest number of TWS members of any region in the country but less than 33% are members of the Section. Let's all make a commitment to improve that ratio and strengthen our collective voice in support of Southeast wildlife conservation.

Mike Mengak
President, Southeastern Section TWS



SOUTHEASTERN SECTION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Colleagues,

It has been a busy quarter. I want to thank the North Carolina Chapter for allowing me to attend their meeting and provide a TWS update. Visiting the various chapters in the Section and being able to meet our membership is one of the most enjoyable parts of serving as your Section Representative, and meeting with the North Carolina Chapter was no exception. I did have a couple of firsts at this meeting. One of their members, **Colleen Olfenbuttel**, was kind enough to prepare a PowerPoint presentation for me to present. Of course I was set up, but it was a hoot! I also was the successful bidder on a very well-prepared striped skunk hide. My wife was very appreciative and has it prominently displayed in her classroom.

When I am fortunate enough to be able to attend a Chapter meeting, I visit with members regarding their experiences with TWS. I ask for suggestions regarding how TWS can improve and better serve the needs of our members. I generally take away excellent feedback and I bring comments and concerns either to Council or to the appropriate TWS staff person. That said, the Southeastern Section of TWS is the largest Section with regard to both the number of members and number of chapters. As a result, it is not possible to make it to all chapter meetings. So, if you have suggestions or concerns,

do not feel that you need to wait for a visit. Do not hesitate to contact me directly.

In March, I attended the TWS Spring Council meeting. Several members from the Southeastern Section expressed concerns regarding recertification requirements. This was discussed during our Council meeting and I am confident that these concerns will be addressed sometime this year. Also during our Council meeting we discussed upcoming annual meetings of The Society. I hope you will make plans to attend this year's meeting in Cleveland, Ohio (October 7 – 11). Our own Dr. **Darren Miller** will assume the Presidency at this meeting. Also, remember that the 2019 meeting will be held as a joint meeting with the American Fisheries Society. This meeting will be held September 29 – October 3, 2019 in Reno, Nevada. There is an excellent chance that the 2020 meeting will return to the Southeast as we are in negotiations to hold this meeting in Louisville, Kentucky.

Thank you for all you do for our Nation's wildlife and for your continued membership and participation in The Wildlife Society. Have a great summer!

Mike Conner
Southeastern Section Representative
Mike.conner@jonesctr.org



Steve Tabone

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DEER COMMITTEE

2018 Southeast Deer Study Group Update

The 41st Annual Meeting of the Southeast Deer Study Group (SEDSG) was hosted by the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency (TFWA) in Nashville, TN on February 19-21, 2018. The TFWA host team was led by co-chairs **James Kelly** (Deer Management Program Leader) and **Timothy White** (Wildlife Support Biologist). Approximately 300 registrants enjoyed great hospitality, an excellent plenary session on Stakeholder-focused, Science-based, and Data-driven State Deer Management Systems and 33 presentations at 7 technical sessions. The technical portion of the meeting included 18 student presentations and 11 student posters. The Deer Committee also met and its minutes are posted on the SEDSG website SEDSG.com.

The event was capped off by a recognition banquet that included student awards for the top three student presentations and posters. **Daniel Marina**, **Jordan Youngmann** and **Jacob Dykes**, all attending Mississippi State University (MSU), won 1st, 2nd and 3rd place presentation awards, respectively. **Onalise Hill** (Texas A & M-Kingsville), **Colby Henderson** (MSU) and **Kent Keene** (University of Georgia) won 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in the poster competition, respectively.

Dr. **Steve Demarais**, the Dale H. Arner Professor of Ecology and Management at Mississippi State University, was recipient of 2018 Deer Management Career Achievement Award. Dr. Demarais' contribution and dedication to

white-tailed deer research, management, education and outreach over the past 30 years are exemplary and were highlighted at the awards ceremony.



Dr. **Steve Demarais**, Dale H. Arner Professor of Ecology and Management at Mississippi State University, receives the 2018 Deer Management Career Achievement Award from **Steve Shea**, Chairman SE Section of TWS Deer Committee.

This award is one of the, if not the, most prestigious award given for work dedicated to white-tailed deer in North America. The award was first established in 1995 to recognize outstanding contributions to the understanding of white-tailed deer ecology and management in the southeastern United States.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

The award is given for activities conducted within the member states of the SE Section of The Wildlife Society and the states of Delaware, Missouri, Texas, and West Virginia. The SE Section and beyond convey congratulations and appreciation to Dr. Demarais for this well deserved recognition and his leadership in the field of white-tailed deer ecology.

The 2019 SEDSG Meeting will be hosted by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife in late February in Louisville. Please monitor the SEDSG and SE Section websites for details in the coming months.

SETWS Committee Chair: Steve Shea
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C.W. WATSON AWARD COMMITTEE

C.W. Watson Award

The C. W. Watson Award Committee is responsible for the annual selection of the recipient of this award. The Committee is composed of a representation of the SEAFWA, the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society, and the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society. Members are appointed by the organizations represented for a three-year term, each member scheduled to serve as Chairman in their third year. Procedures and qualifications for nomination of recipients shall be as prescribed by the previously approved C. W. Watson Award criteria (see SEAFWA.org, Awards and Committees or page 27 of this newsletter). This award shall be presented at the annual conference banquet by the Chairman of the Watson committee. Nominations should be sent to VDGIF Executive Director **Bob Duncan** at Bob.Duncan@dgif.virginia.gov, Chair of the C.W. Watson Award Committee, not later than **September 1**.

STUDENT AWARDS COMMITTEE

Student Chapter of the Year Award

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

TWS student awards will be presented at the upcoming SEAFWA Conference. Eligibility for poster and presentation awards includes students who have graduated within one year prior to the meeting and are presenting on their research conducted as a student. If you have or know of student presenters in the wildlife sessions, please encourage them to participate. In addition to being recognized for their presentation at SEAFWA, the winning student will also be presented an award (a plaque and \$100 for best poster and \$200 for best presentation).

SETWS Committee Chair: Andy Madison
amadison@uu.edu



COMMITTEE REPORTS

CONSERVATION AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 4647), introduced by **Representatives Fortenberry** (R-NE) and **Dingell** (D-MI) in December 2017, was recommended by a Blue Ribbon Panel of business, conservation, and outdoor recreation leaders who took a clear-eyed view of future wildlife funding challenges. By dedicating \$1.3 billion from federal energy and mineral royalties to states for species of greatest conservation need, RAWA will support proactive management of at-risk species to reduce the need for even more costly federal interventions.

At this time, the primary strategy among conservation groups working the bill is to secure more co-sponsors. The goal is to get 125 co-sponsors by early summer, at which time many in Congress will change their focus to the mid-term elections this fall. As of April 26 there were 45 co-sponsors (27 Democrats, 18 Republicans), including representatives from 6 states in the Southeastern Section: Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. There can be little doubt that some of these co-sponsors signed on due to the work of TWS members!

TWS has been engaged at all levels with this legislation from the outset. TWS, along with National Wildlife Federation, American Fisheries Society, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, and Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, is part of the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife. With RAWA being one of TWS' top legislative priorities this Congress, several chapters and sections have stepped up to show support for this legislation at the regional and local level. Much of this work has been coordinated through the Conservation Affairs Network, with support from the regional Conservation Affairs Committees.

A number of chapters within the Southeastern Section have been particularly involved, which has drawn the attention of folks at the national level. Several state chapters have put out "calls to action" to their membership, including Arkansas, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. In addition, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Virginia, have sent letters to their House congressional delegations requesting that they cosponsor H.R. 4647. The South Carolina Chapter has reached out to other stakeholders in the state to see about their interest in supporting H.R. 4647. The Tennessee Chapter, in conjunction with the Tennessee Wildlife Federation, has focused on growing the Tennessee Alliance For America's Fish and Wildlife.

The SE Conservation Affairs Committee remains focused on passage of this important legislation. RAWA represents a once in career opportunity, on par with the Pittman-Robertson Act. Our SE CAC has dedicated a couple of conference calls – and a number of emails – to RAWA. We hope that our CAC can continue to play the role of facilitator among the state chapters, keeping them aware of the latest developments, passing along what works and what hasn't worked, and encouraging them to keep pushing. If your chapter or unit hasn't gotten involved, we encourage you to do so today! If you're not sure where to start, please feel free to reach out to SE CAC Chair, **Nelson Lafon**, at 540-569-0023 or nelson.lafon@dgif.virginia.gov. For an excellent summary and practical information about getting involved, please see TWS's website on RAWA: <http://wildlife.org/recovering-americas-wildlife-act/>.

Southeastern CAC Chair: Nelson Lafon
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STATE REPORTS

ALABAMA



Alabama Chapter Meeting

The 2018 ACTWS Annual Meeting is July 19-20 at the Alabama Nature Center in Millbrook, Alabama. There will be technical presentations of wildlife research and management in Alabama and the Southeastern U.S. This year's professional development program is entitled "Pollinator Habitat and Associated Wildlife Communities."

Alabama Bat Working Group

The Alabama Bat Working Group partnered with the Georgia Bat Working Group this year for the state's 2018 Bat Blitz. The event was held at the Lakepoint State Park in Eufaula from May 29-June 1.

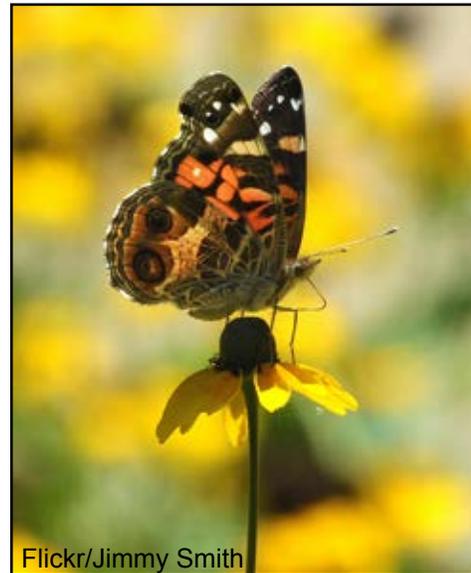
Christine Easterwood
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ARKANSAS



Arkansas Chapter Meeting

The 3rd Annual Meeting of the Arkansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society was held on March 1-2, 2018 at the C.A. Vines 4-H Center in Little Rock.



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

Hosted by Alabama Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries, the 72nd Annual Conference will be held at the Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel in Mobile, Alabama.

The deadline to submit presentation abstracts (including individual speakers within a symposium, general oral, posters, and peer-reviewed papers) has passed. Notifications of acceptance will be sent by early August, and the schedule will be posted online in mid-August.

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FLORIDA



Florida Chapter Scholarship Awards

The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society is pleased to announce that **Wes Boone** of the University of Florida is the 2018 recipient of the Courtney A. Tye Memorial Graduate Student Scholarship, and that **Jose Grisales** of Florida Atlantic University is the recipient of the 20th annual Greater Everglades Student Memorial Scholarship. The Florida Wildlife Federation and the National Wild Turkey Federation co-sponsor these scholarships with the Florida Chapter of TWS.

News provided from <http://fltwfs.org>.

GEORGIA



University of Georgia Learn-to-Hunt Program

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service's latest national survey reported a 16-percent decrease in hunting participation over the past five years which is a monumental issue for wildlife conservation. The University of Georgia Chapter of The Wildlife Society (UGA-TWS) responded by implementing a program aimed at recruiting college students into hunting.

Colleges are an excellent place to introduce people to hunting given that during this time, recreation levels peak and activities adopted often contribute to an individual's identity as they progress through life. The Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, was the perfect place to pilot a program. Students in Warnell already have background knowledge of how hunting supports conservation, many will be working with hunters throughout their future careers, and a large portion of them have never been hunting.

A partnership-based approach provided the capacity to form the Warnell Learn-to-Hunt Program. The Georgia Wildlife Federation, Quality Deer Management Association, Georgia DNR, UGA-TWS, and National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) all provided resources to help kick start the program.

The initial focus of the program was a squirrel hunt in February 2017. Small game hunting often gets overlooked, but it can be excellent recreation for everyone from novice to the most experienced hunters. Squirrels are plentiful, taste excellent, provide a relaxed hunting environment, property access is easy to acquire, and they generally yield more shot opportunities than many other species. An excellent group of students that had never been hunting were selected, took hunter education, participated training (classroom and field), went on a hunt, and shared their experiences at a follow-up dinner.



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The initial phase of the program was certainly successful with 88% of the participants reporting they planned to hunt again and many partaking in follow-up opportunities. To ensure the program is sustained, **Seth Cook** and **Tim Miller** were appointed as the Student Hunt Coordinators for UGA-TWS and the UGA Chapter of NWTf, respectively. The coordinators have hit the ground running and are taking on the bulk of responsibility for planning and implementing these hunts.

Seth and Tim have already hosted a dove hunt as a follow up to the squirrel hunt, implemented a deer hunt last fall, and are in the midst of drumming up some new ideas for the coming semesters. This initial model of a college learn-to-hunt program is looking quite promising and replication at other schools will certainly be possible with the help of TWS student chapters.



Participants in University of Georgia's Learn-to-Hunt Program.



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Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College Student Chapter

On March 22– 24, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College's (ABAC) Forestry Club hosted the 61st Southern Forestry Conclave on the college campus. Over 200 forestry students from thirteen southeastern colleges travelled to Tifton to compete in the event. On the opening night of the event, the ABAC Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society sponsored and organized the inaugural Southern Forestry Conclave Quiz Bowl. The competition was a nonpoint experimental event this year, but hopes are high that it will become an annual part of the Forestry Conclave competition. All of the competitors had an enjoyable time, and reviews of the event were exceptional. First place went to Stephen F. Austin State University.

2019 Southeastern Wildlife Society Student Conclave at ABAC

Mark your Calendars! The Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society will be hosting the Southeastern Wildlife Society Student Conclave on March 21-23, 2019. The event will take place on the college's campus, farm, and school forest in Tifton, Georgia. The event provides college students with valuable hands-on training in wildlife management and conservation, and networking opportunities with wildlife professionals. Some activities include field trips, workshops, field competitions, local tours, quiz bowls, banquets and photography contests.

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ABAC Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society hosted the 1st Southern Forestry Conclave Quiz Bowl.

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KENTUCKY



Kentucky Chapter Meeting

The theme of the 2018 annual meeting of the KCTWS was “Climate and Wildlife Diseases”. Invited keynote speakers discussed climate trends and the impacts of anthropogenic land use and climate change on disease emergence. Presentations at the meeting covered topics ranging from epidemiological investigation of an outbreak of EHD in Kentucky, northern long-eared bat fall activity in WV, TNC’s Working Woodlands Program, niche partitioning within a post- WNS bat community, development of an avian index of biotic integrity for wetlands, mammalian herbivory impacts on surface mine reclamation, assessing change in bat diets before and after the occurrence of WNS, reproductive success of endangered running buffalo clover, and American chestnut reintroduction in the Daniel National Forest. At the official poster session, the topics of the eight student posters ranged from impacts of deer density on corn and soybean yields, recovery of nesting ospreys, forest management for priority song birds, diet of a newly reintroduced population of river otters in New Mexico, an assessment of camera trapping methods in the Bluegrass region of Kentucky, driver bias in wildlife-vehicle collisions, and waterfowl energetic carrying capacity for a moist-soil unit.



Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR)

The Critical Species Investigations branch of the KDFWR Fisheries Division captured the first ever-documented Black Carp in the state in Lake Barkley, a 58,000 acre reservoir located in the western part of the Commonwealth. The KDFWR Asian carp research team is assisting the Tennessee WRA and Tennessee Tech University in capturing silver carp in Kentucky and Barkley lakes as part of a joint effort to better understand the species habitat use and movement patterns in the reservoirs. In a continuation of the KDFWR Fisheries Divisions’ lake sturgeon monitoring program, biologists captured fish representing nearly every age class stocked since 2009. These results, along with a continued increase in angler capture reports, suggest that survivorship and growth of lake sturgeon stocking effort in the Cumberland River system has been successful thus far. An interagency team led by USFWS and Nashville District of the USACOE, with support from the USGS, University of Minnesota, U.S. Coast Guard and KDFWR is combining funding, technical expertise and staff to construct a riverbed bubble and sound system below Barkley Dam in western Kentucky. Researchers will use an existing telemetry receiver array and other electronic devices to assess the extent of Asian carp movement from the dam’s tail water into Barkley Lake. The bubble and sound system are part of an ongoing effort to slow the spread of Asian carp throughout the Mississippi River basin.

Chuck Elliott
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STATE REPORTS

LOUISIANA



Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists / LA TWS

Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists / LA TWS announced their annual meeting will be held August 2-3, 2018 on the campus of McNeese State University. Student presentations will be held Thursday, August 2, 2018 and a focus session on CWD will be held on Friday, August 3, 2018.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

LDWF and LSU collaboratively hosted the American Woodcock Wingbee at the campus of LSU in Baton Rouge April 3-5, 2018. Biologists from around the country gathered together to examine over 10,000 woodcock wings collected by hunters.

Louisiana State University

LSU School of Renewable Natural Resources hosted the 2018 Southeastern Student Wildlife Conclave March 24-27. There were 310 students attending from 20 universities across the Southeast. Students gained hands-on training in wildlife management and conservation. Some of the activities students participated in included Quiz Bowl, dendrology, radio-telemetry, necropsy, field research methods, and rocket netting. Activities a little less wildlife related, but fun nonetheless, ranged from 3-legged wader races to field photography.

The University of Georgia was the overall winner of the Student Conclave, with North Carolina State University and the University of Tennessee-Knoxville taking second and third place, respectively.

Jeff Duguay
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Students attending the LSU conclave.

STATE REPORTS

MARYLAND/DELAWARE

NO NEWS REPORTED



MISSISSIPPI

NO NEWS REPORTED



NORTH CAROLINA



North Carolina Chapter Meeting

The North Carolina Chapter of the Wildlife Society held its annual meeting from February 27 to March 1 at Haw River State Park in Brown's Summit, NC. The theme was 'Wildlife Professionalism and the Digital Age'. There were 105 attendees representing 24 organizations across the state. Highlights from the meeting included various workshops and field trips, presentations by 13 invited speakers, breakout sessions and fundraising activities that totaled \$2,400. The meeting agenda and abstracts can be found on the Chapter website (www.nctws.org/wordpress/). The Chapter continued its tradition of partnering with North Carolina Green Power, in efforts to reduce our environmental footprint. Members donated \$214.50 to offset the actual energy and carbon consumption at the annual meeting.



The North Carolina Chapter annual meeting was held at Haw River State Park.

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Congratulations to the 2018 NCTWS award winners, to include **Todd Menke** (Chapter Award) and **David Whitmire** (Wildlife Conservation Award). Four 'Ken Wilson Memorial Awards' were presented to the presidents of local student chapters: **Hunter Layman** (Haywood Community College), **Moriah Boggess** (NC State University), **Jonathan Carreto** (Western Carolina University) and **Holly Ferreira** (University of NC at Wilmington). Past recipients can be found on the Chapter website.

Thanks to efforts of the Executive Board and newly formed Grants and Finance Committee, we will be offering multiple grant opportunities to Chapter members in the coming year. These include the TWS Conference Grant, the Professional Development Grant and the NCTWS Annual Meeting Registration Grant.

The TWS Conference Grant will provide travel funds to one Chapter member to assist in offsetting the cost to attend the annual TWS conference. The Professional Development Grant will be funded on a semiannual basis, thereby providing two grants per year to Chapter members to assist in offsetting the cost of a professional development opportunity. Lastly, the Annual Meeting Registration Grant will provide three individual grants to assist members in attending the annual Chapter meeting.

For additional news, check out the quarterly newsletter (NC Wildlifer) on the Chapter website.

Gabriela Garrison
gabriela.garrison@ncwildlife.org



Congratulations to the 2018 NCTWS award winners!

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OKLAHOMA



Oklahoma Chapter

Bill Puckette, retired science teacher and bat conservationist, was recently honored with the Oklahoma Chapter of The Wildlife Society's most prestigious award at the 2018 Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference. Puckette's work in the Ozark region has significantly contributed to the advancement of cave and bat science and conservation in our state.

"Bill has made truly indispensable and irreplaceable contributions to cave and bat conservation in Oklahoma," said **Richard Stark**, biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Ozark Plateau National Wildlife Refuge, a cave refuge established to help recover federally listed cave species. "His conservation efforts have extended over 35 years and continue to this day."

Puckette, a trained geologist, has identified at least 90 caves that provide important habitat for Oklahoma's wildlife and made design improvements to cave gates so that they are more bat-friendly. He has also played a crucial role in monitoring efforts and scientific studies of bats and other cave wildlife since 1981.

"His selfless commitment to conservation is readily apparent," Stark said. "And his love for conservation has and continues to inspire those who work alongside him."



"Oklahoma" award recipient **Bill Puckette**, third from left, was honored at a recent conference.

Also pictured are **Craig Davis**, **Steve Hensley** and **Richard Stark**.

Article and photo from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

STATE REPORTS

SOUTH CAROLINA



South Carolina Chapter

One of our long-time members, and a past president of our Chapter, **J. Stephen DuBose**, passed away on March 19th. He was retired from IPCo. and resided in the Clemson area. The funeral was on March 25th at the First Baptist Church in Georgetown.

SCDNR

On March 23, 2018, the Board of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) signed a Resolution in Support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 4647). The Board considers the idea of proactive conservation to reduce recovery costs and regulations a wise decision, especially since South Carolina's 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) contains 496 animal species of conservation concern. SCDNR supports the national campaign, the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife, in their efforts to procure permanent funding for implementing SWAPs nationwide for the sake of all 12,000 species listed within them.

David Jachowski
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TENNESSEE



NO NEWS REPORTED



VIRGINIA



Virginia Chapter

The Annual Meeting of the Virginia Chapter of The Wildlife Society was held February 5–7, 2018, at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel and Conference Center, Staunton, Virginia. The traditional winter meeting brought together well over 100 biologists, private and public land managers, consulting organizations, educational institutions, student chapters, and other colleagues from across the Commonwealth. This year's Plenary Session theme, "Fired Up for Wildlife" presented a balanced view of topics related to forestry and prescribed fire techniques used to create and sustain wildlife habitat in Virginia. We also offered three pre-conference professional development workshops, hosted student and professional research presentations and posters, organized multiple student-professional mixer opportunities, and held a post-conference field trip. During the winter meeting, members elected a new slate of officers and duties transitioned as follows: Dr. **Faren R. Wolter**, CWB®, President; Dr. **Tamara Johnstone-Yellin**, President-Elect; **Shannon Bowling**, Treasurer; **Scott Klopfer**, Secretary; Dr. **Mike Cherry**, CWB®, Member-at-Large; **Susan Jewell**, Member-at-Large; and **Drew Lucas**, Student Chapter Liaison.

Save the Date! The 2019 meeting of VATWS will be held at the Best Western Plus in Waynesboro from February 4-6, 2019. More details coming this fall.

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DUCKS UNLIMITED

Staff Changes

Keith Normand joined our Rice Stewardship team in south Louisiana in March. He is working on nutrient management plans, irrigation well testing, program outreach and all other things rice. Keith has a bachelor of science degree in Vocational Agriculture Education and a master's degree in Extension Education with an Agronomy specialization from LSU. Before joining DU, he worked for the LSU AgCenter Extension Service and the Rice Research Verification Program. He is a member of Farm Bureau, Rotary Club, and the Knights of Columbus.

DU recently hired **Michael McVay** as a new Louisiana Biologist. Starting April 30, he will work closely with NRCS staff, focusing on the delivery of the Wetland Reserve Easement program. Michael will work with private landowners who have existing WRE tracts and new ones who are interested in enrolling. He will put management plans together and recommend enhancement practices to NRCS for consideration. He will also take on DU's WRE reforestation efforts in Louisiana, working out of the NRCS Office in Columbia.

Awards

Eduardo Carrera Receives NAWMP International Canvasback Award

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan partners recognized Ducks Unlimited de Mexico (DUMAC) Executive Director **Eduardo Carrera** with the 2018 International Canvasback Award. The award honors extraordinary commitment to international conservation and the NAWMP.

Eduardo Carrera is recognized by his peers across North America as the primary voice of waterfowl and wetland conservation in Mexico, and therefore key to the overall success of the NAWMP. As Chairman of the National Advisory Subcommittee for the Conservation, Management and Rational Use of Waterfowl and their Habitats, Eduardo advises the Mexican government on waterfowl management issues, including hunting season and harvest quotas. He is a member of the Mexican NAWMP Committee, National Wetland Committee, National Commission of Protected Areas, and multiple state wildlife councils.

Since 1998, he has served as Ducks Unlimited de Mexico's (DUMAC) National Executive Director and CEO. As such, Eduardo collaborates with national and international organizations to develop wetland projects and build capacity in Mexico. He spearheads international partnerships to support waterfowl management and research. He drove the development of Mexico's national waterfowl and shorebird management plans.

Diane Eggeman Recognized for Wetland/ Waterfowl Conservation Career

Ducks Unlimited announced the winners of the 2018 Wetland Conservation Achievement Awards during the 83rd North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference held in Norfolk, Virginia. This year's recipient in the state agency employee category is **Diane Eggeman**. Diane worked for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for more than 30 years before retiring in April.

"Diane has dedicated herself to waterfowl conservation and to strengthening the wildlife profession," said DU Chief Conservation Officer **Nick Wiley**, who worked with Eggeman for many years



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years at FWC. “She is a consummate professional, demonstrating a passion for the wildlife resource and dedication to the landowners, colleagues and partners with whom she works. Diane has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to science and objective, information-based decision making, benefitting the continent’s waterfowl resources and the people who enjoy them. Her unfailingly positive, yet grounded attitude and her enthusiasm are contagious and endear a tremendous sense of trust and constructive collaboration. I know her professional colleagues over the years will agree when I say she is an amazing conservation leader and even better friend.”

Eggeman joined FWC in 1986 as a waterfowl biologist where she developed and implemented the statewide wood duck management and monitoring program and provided input to various agencies and landowners on conserving and enhancing waterfowl habitat. She was promoted to the waterfowl management program coordinator and made responsible for statewide research, conservation and management programs related to waterfowl in 1998. She took her final position with FWC in 2008 when she became director

of the hunting and game management division. As such, Eggeman led the agency’s efforts to manage and conserve game wildlife for the future while fostering safe and responsible hunting.

“I am tremendously honored to receive this award and extremely grateful for the outstanding colleagues I’ve worked alongside for many years,” Eggeman said. “Any achievement for waterfowl conservation has been through the efforts of many people working up and down the flyways, and I’m humbled and thankful to have served on that team.”

Beyond Florida, Eggeman’s engagement in national and continental level conservation efforts is impressive. She has served in many capacities on the Atlantic Flyway’s Technical Section and Council and has been Florida’s representative to the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture since 2009. She is the U.S. co-chair for the North American Waterfowl Management Plan 2018 update steering committee and chair of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies’ waterfowl working group.



Pictured (L-R): DU Chief Conservation Officer **Nick Wiley**, **Diane Eggeman** and DU CEO **Dale Hall**.

STATE REPORTS

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

Arkansas

Entergy Supports White River NWR Project

Working with the USFWS, DU completed one project and is planning another on White River National Wildlife Refuge. The Dry Lake project enhanced 121 acres of moist soil wetlands with management infrastructure. The Turner Tract Phase II project will enhance 146 acres in two new impoundments. This project is supported in part by a recent grant from Entergy and a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant. These two areas are sanctuary, which will enhance waterfowl hunting on other portions of White River NWR.

Entergy committed \$150,000 for the Turner Tract project through their Environmental Initiatives Fund. Improvements on public lands like the White River Refuge enhance outdoor recreation opportunities for everyone, including Entergy's employees and customers. While we are enhancing habitat for waterfowl and other wetland-dependent wildlife, we are enhancing water quality and flood protection in the area.

The White River NWR is part of Arkansas' Big Woods and one of the nation's largest remaining seasonally flooded bottomland hardwood forests. These forested wetlands are important for mallards and other migrating and wintering waterfowl. The area is part of DU's America's River Initiative, aimed at ensuring sufficient wetland habitat within the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley.

Florida

Triple Diamond/East Acquisition

DU's Kissimmee to the Coast I NAWCA proposal was recently awarded funding. This proposal includes the acquisition of the Triple Diamond/East Tract in Okeechobee County. A 1,998-acre priority inholding will be purchased for inclusion in the Everglades Headwaters NWR to consolidate ownership and management interest within the 1.4-million-acre Everglades Headwaters Conservation Area. Triple Diamond contains numerous significant natural communities and provides habitat for rare species such as the Florida grasshopper sparrow, Florida panther, gopher tortoise, eastern indigo snake, crested caracara and red-cockaded woodpecker. Protection of Triple Diamond advances a coordinated regional partnership to sustain the local ranching economies, protect and manage water resources, guarantee public recreational access, and protect habitat for many threatened plant and animal species. The USFWS will work with FWC to open the tract to hunting.



USFWS/Robert Burton

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Georgia

Georgia's Rep. Matt Dubnik's First Bill to Benefit Wetlands

In his first bill, Rep. (and incoming GA DU state chair) **Matt Dubnik** sponsored HB 784, which establishes a Ducks Unlimited license plate in Georgia. All revenue will be directed to the Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources for waterfowl conservation projects in partnership with DU. Last week, the bill passed both the House and Senate! Thank you to **Rep. Dubnik**, **Sen. Miller** (Pres. pro tempore), **Sen. Brass**, Regional Director **Scott James**, and all the DU volunteers in Georgia for supporting its passage.

North Louisiana

Boeuf Wildlife Management Area Enhanced

The nearly 51,000-acre Boeuf Wildlife Management Area lies about 10 miles southeast of Columbia, La., in Caldwell Parish. The area is

flat and poorly drained with frequent flooding from the Boeuf River and Bayou LaFourche and numerous backwater lakes, sloughs and bayous. Such natural floodplains are important for flood water absorption, groundwater recharge and filtering of sediments and pollutants from rivers and streams. Boeuf WMA is a critical area for wildlife in the southern portion of Mississippi Alluvial Valley, providing a mixture of mature bottomland hardwood, scrub-shrub and emergent wetland habitats for a range of wetland-dependent wildlife species.

A large portion of Boeuf WMA is prior-converted farmland that has been partially reforested with bottomland hardwood species. Approximately 4,000 acres of this area, along with an 1,800-acre greentree reservoir, are managed extensively for waterfowl and shorebirds. However, most of the wetland habitat at Boeuf WMA is managed by one main canal.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries lacks a reliable way to provide water to this canal and the wetland habitats it serves. In



Pictured (L-R): Senate President pro tempore **Butch Miller**, DU Reg. Dir. **Scott James**, Rep. **Matt Dubnik** and Sen. **Matt Brass**.

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partnership with LDWF and supported by a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant and funding from the Walker Foundation, Ducks Unlimited is installing a large pump at Boeuf WMA. The pump and associated underground piping will let LDWF consistently flood and manage 621 acres of wetland habitats for waterfowl and other wildlife.



Backwater flooding is a common occurrence on Boeuf WMA.

Mississippi

MDWFP, DU Complete Enhancements to Mahannah WMA

Using two NAWCA grants and partner match, DU and the MDWFP enhanced 1,033 acres of moist soil wetlands on Mahannah WMA. Through the installation of new water control structures, pumps and underground piping, levee work and the reshaping of the interior of the units, partners improved wetland quality for waterfowl and other migratory birds. The infrastructure improvements provide additional, independently managed moist soil units, more efficient water use, and better management capacity for WMA staff.

Mahannah WMA consists of 12,695 acres of bottomland hardwoods, agricultural fields, hardwood reforestation and managed impoundments in Issaquena County, Miss. It is open to public hunting through a draw system.

Virginia

VDGIF Extends State Grant Commitment

The VDGIF began contributing to the AFWA state contributions to habitat conservation in Canada program in 2012. Contributions to Ducks Unlimited Canada to date total \$125,000. This funding has leveraged approximately \$6.4 million resulting in the conservation and restoration of more than 13,704 acres of critical waterfowl habitat.

Having completed their first 5-year agreement, the VDGIF recently committed to a new contract. They will provide funding to Ducks Unlimited to enhance waterfowl habitat in Canada. DU matches these contributions dollar for dollar and leverages them with NAWCA and other funding sources to maximize each state's conservation impact. **Bob Duncan**, VDGIF Executive Director, recently announced at the Virginia DU State Convention that they will start with a \$50,000-contribution, and increase their annual commitment \$16,500 each year to reach their AFWA goal of \$116,000 by 2023.

North Carolina

Butner Falls of Neuse Game Land Enhanced

DU, in partnership with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC), enhanced management capabilities within wetlands of the Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land.



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Management needs at the Game Land have been a priority for NCWRC and DU for several years, and both organizations have worked to secure more than \$1 million in funding from a variety of sources.

DU and NCWRC recently completed a two-phase enhancement project on the Beaver Dam, Flat River and Depot units. Thanks to support from Axalta and Wellborn Cabinet for DU's Southeast Wetlands Initiative, the partners further improved water management capabilities by installing a pump station on the Flat River Unit. The gift was leveraged by NCWRC through federal Pittman-Robertson funds to deliver the project. DU handled all aspects of delivery from engineering survey and design to construction oversight and project completion.

South Carolina

South Carolina Wetland Protection Project Completed

The East Cooper Land Trust purchased a 398-acre site between the Mount Pleasant and Sullivan's Island, S.C., on Nov. 15. The \$238,800 purchase was made possible with a NAWCA grant in partnership with Duck Unlimited.

The property consists of salt marsh and associated upland islands along the Intracoastal Waterway. It provides habitat for breeding, migration and wintering migratory birds in the coastal zone of South Carolina. Salt marsh is ranked as one of the most biologically productive ecosystems on earth, providing nursery grounds for many species of birds and fish and is a vital wildlife habitat.

"The area is visible from the Ben Sawyer Causeway," said DU Conservation Lands Coordinator **Justin Park**. "As the main route out to Sullivan's

Island from Charleston, the causeway has a tremendous amount of daily and yearly traffic. Protecting this important natural area will have important benefits to waterfowl, wildlife and people."

Human infrastructure continues to be built on the surrounding highlands. Maintaining the integrity of the wetlands will mitigate potential flooding and protect water quality in the area.

"It was striking to see the contrast between this seemingly pristine wildlife habitat and the surrounding urban environment in Mount Pleasant and Sullivan's Island," said East Cooper Land Trust Director **Catherine Main**. "This purchase will help ensure the preservation of the rural character of our coastal community, which is one of the primary goals of the East Cooper Land Trust."

East Cooper Land Trust's ownership of the property opens the potential for public benefit along the blueway for kayakers and collaborative educational programs. Another long-term option includes the installation and maintenance of a living shoreline oyster reef and restoration to a more natural state.

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

South Louisiana

Rockefeller Refuge Unit 4 Wetlands Enhancement

Ducks Unlimited started building a new water control structure in March 2018 at Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge in Cameron Parish. Replacing an old, deteriorated structure that has been in use for the past 55 years, the new structure will

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efficiently and effectively manage hydrologic conditions within the 5,030-acre management unit. The new structure will allow Rockefeller Refuge staff to manage salinity and water levels to control habitat conditions within the unit throughout the year. The structure will enable staff to provide ideal habitat conditions for waterfowl and other wetland dependent birds. It will also protect and enhance the marshes within the unit by reducing salinity impacts.

Rockefeller Refuge is open to the public for recreational fishing, crabbing, shrimping, and other activities such as bird watching and sight-seeing. To enhance public use, this project features approximately 340 linear feet of fishing piers that will be installed on the inside of the water control structure. The piers will be a great place to catch blue crabs, cast net for shrimp, or catch fish. This project will cost approximately \$1.5 million and is expected to be completed in June 2018. Partners on this project include Ducks Unlimited, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, North American Wetlands Conservation Council, Phillips 66, Coastal Conservation Association, Axalta, and ConocoPhillips.



The project begins with installation of temporary sheet piles to allow for de-watering of the site.

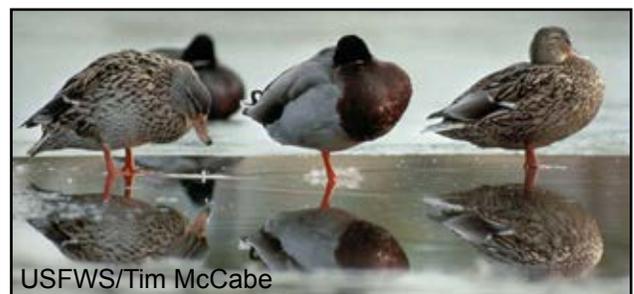
Oklahoma

Newfield Foundation Supports Work in Oklahoma

Ducks Unlimited has a long-standing partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC). Thanks to a recent commitment from Newfield Exploration Company and its charitable foundation, we will continue to improve Oklahoma's public lands for waterfowl and those who enjoy them while enhancing water quality and recharging groundwater supplies. DU will assist the ODWC with a variety of management and maintenance needs at various state-owned wildlife management areas in western Oklahoma. Enhancement activities are planned at Canton WMA (Blaine, Dewey and Major counties), Waurika WMA (Stephens County), Major County WMA, Dewey County WMA and Grady County WMA. These projects may include refurbishing levees and replacing water control structures on moist soil units; controlling exotic and invasive species in wetlands, wetland units and uplands and improving signage to promote and facilitate public use and access.

The Newfield Foundation's \$30,000 gift will provide partial funding. DU will work with ODWC to leverage this gift and secure the remaining funding needs.

Andi Cooper
acooper@ducks.org



What Wildlifers Are Reading In TWS Journals The Top 20 Most Downloaded Papers In 2017

TWS' three premier wildlife journals — *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, *Wildlife Monographs* and the *Wildlife Society Bulletin* — support our mission to achieve a positive impact on the sustainability of wildlife populations through the dissemination of science-based wildlife conservation and management.

With online access now included as a membership benefit, TWS members are increasingly engaging with the latest research findings in wildlife science. In case you missed any of these, here's a list of the most downloaded papers in 2017.

1. Free-roaming cat interactions with wildlife admitted to a wildlife hospital
2. Polar bear attacks on humans: Implications of a changing climate
3. Determining kill rates of ungulate calves by brown bears using neck-mounted cameras
4. Effects of control on the dynamics of an adjacent protected wolf population in interior Alaska
5. Predicting eagle fatalities at wind facilities
6. How publishing in open access journals threatens science and what we can do about it
7. Clarifying historical range to aid recovery of the Mexican wolf
8. Bat mortality due to wind turbines in Canada
9. Online hunting forums identify achievement as prominent among multiple satisfactions
10. Inefficiency of evolutionarily relevant selection in ungulate trophy hunting
11. Investigating impacts of oil and gas development on greater sage-grouse
12. The role of domestic cats in the admission of injured wildlife at rehabilitation and rescue centers
13. Consumption of intentional food subsidies by a hunted carnivore
14. How open access is crucial to the future of science
15. Predators, predator removal, and sage-grouse: A review
16. Annual elk calf survival in a multiple carnivore system
17. Demography of an increasing caribou herd with restricted wolf control
18. Manipulations of black bear and coyote affect caribou calf survival
19. Winter diet and hunting success of Canada lynx in Colorado
20. Overpasses and underpasses: Effectiveness of crossing structures for migratory ungulates

Log into Your Membership to read these papers by going to the "Publications" tab.

We want to thank these authors for choosing to publish with TWS. Next time you are ready to submit a paper, we hope you will choose a TWS journal as your publication outlet!

Here's just a few reasons why you should:

- Universal author guidelines
- Rapid, rigorous peer review
- Discounted page charges for members
- Open access option available

Nancy Sasavage, TWS Director of Publications and Communications

SE Section Co-Sponsors TWS Eastern Spotted Skunk Symposium

The SE Section of The Wildlife Society is co-sponsoring a symposium at the 2018 Wildlife Society Annual Conference in Cleveland, Ohio entitled “*The Eastern Spotted Skunk: Multi-regional Cooperative Efforts to Address the Decline of a Once Abundant Furbearer.*” The symposium, organized by Dr. **David Jachowski**, **Kimberly Horndeski**, and **Colleen Olfenbuttel**, has 10 invited speakers and is scheduled for Monday, October 8th, from 12:50pm until 5:00pm. The symposium will highlight the Eastern Spotted Skunk (*Spilogale putorius*), a declining, little understood carnivore that over the past decade has been the subject of a rapid rise in both conservation and scientific research interest. The Plains subspecies (*S. p. interrupta*) has been petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act, and in 2017, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) listed the Eastern Spotted Skunk as vulnerable (i.e., considered to be facing a high risk of extinction).

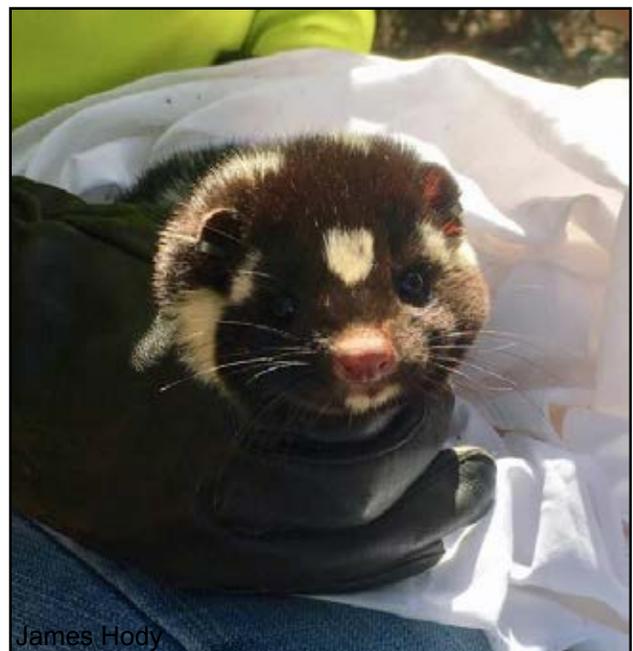
The SE Section’s Furbearer Resources Committee and the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) Furbearer Working Group have a joint charge to “Initiate and/or support research on spotted skunk populations in order to determine basic life history traits and factors causing population declines.” Through the efforts of these two groups, coupled with the creation of Eastern Spotted Skunk Cooperative Study Group, there is heightened awareness of the historic decline of the Eastern Spotted Skunk, as well as increased support for research and surveys that will inform management decisions to conserve the species.

The SE Section feels this symposium will not only provide an opportunity to showcase a cryptic carnivore species, but demonstrate how collaboration among multiple agencies and regions can lead to a rapid understanding of a declining species. The presentations in this symposium are a result of those collaborative efforts and intended to provide the first synthetic update on the ecology of this species from ongoing and recently completed research across the species range.

Colleen Olfenbuttel
Symposium co-organizer
colleen.olfenbuttel@ncwildlife.org

Eastern Spotted Skunk Cooperative Study Group

The goal of the eastern spotted skunk cooperative study group is to enhance the conservation of the eastern spotted skunk across their distribution through (1) enhancing communication about the species, (2) identify management and resource priorities, and (3) facilitate collaborative planning, funding, outreach, monitoring and research opportunities.



James Hody

BUSINESS

2018 SEAFWA Annual Conference Special Symposia

Six special symposia will be included as part of the technical program at the 2018 SEAFWA Annual Conference; they will run concurrently with other technical sessions. Please visit http://www.seafwa.org/conference/program/special_symposia/ for more information including an overview of each symposium, schedule and organizer contacts.

- (S-01) Conservation of At-Risk Species on Private Working Forests
- (S-02) Science and Management Needs for Cavity-Nesting Ducks in the Southern U.S
- (S-03) Multi-State Coordinated Surveys for Multiple At-Risk Species in the Southeast
- (S-04) Applications of Species Distribution Models for Conservation and Management Decisions
- (S-05) Invasive Species
- (S-06) Using Animal Telemetry to Improve Environmental Management in the Gulf of Mexico: Current Studies, Web-based Tools and Research Prioritization

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NOMINATIONS

C.W. Watson Award Nomination Format

I. Name of Individual making the Nomination

- A. Contact Email
- B. Contact Phone Number

II. Background Information of Nominee

- A. Name
- B. Birthdate
- C. Education
- D. Employment History

III. Accomplishments – include information upon which the Award should be based.

- A. (1) Problem or program that nominee was involved with.
(2) Action nominee took to solve the problem, develop the program and/or capitalize on opportunity.
(3) Results (accomplishments) of nominee's actions.

Information should be comprehensive. Include as many problems, programs and/or opportunities addressed by nominee that should be considered during the award review process.

The C.W. Watson Award may be given for accomplishing a single item or a series of different nonrelated items. But, the award is given to a nominee who has contributed the most to any of the appropriate areas of fish and wildlife conservation. Emphasis is on the contribution, not tenure. Those making nominations are requested to ensure that they explain clearly what was accomplished and how it contributed to fish and wildlife conservation.

The C.W. Watson Award is the most prestigious award given by SEAFWA 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, I&E, wildlife management, fish management, and includes teachers, professionals, and students. This award is presented jointly by the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society, the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society, and the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

C.W. Watson Award nominations should be submitted to Chair of the C.W. Watson Award Committee - DGIF Executive Director **Bob Duncan** at Bob.Duncan@dgif.virginia.gov, no later than **September 1**.



NOMINATIONS

Wildlife Management Excellence Award

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

JULY 2018

American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists Annual Meeting

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

FEBRUARY 2019

42nd Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting

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

AUGUST 2018

Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting

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

MARCH 2019

North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference

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

SEPTEMBER 2018

2018 AFWA Annual Meeting

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

18th Wildlife Damage Management Conference

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

OCTOBER 2018

The Wildlife Society 25th Annual Conference

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

72nd SEAFWA Conference

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



USFWS/Jim Hudgins

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