



New Jersey Chapter Newsletter

Spring 2017 Meeting:

Forest Management for Wildlife

Joint Meeting: NJTWS & NJ Division of Allegheny Society of American Foresters

When: Tuesday, April 18, 2017; 9:30-4:00.

Where: Hudson Farm Club, 270 Stanhope Sparta Rd, Andover, NJ 07821

April 10 REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT: Although there will likely be adequate space, attendees **must** register by filling out the attached form along with a payment of \$10.00. Members of either NJTWS or NJ Division of Allegheny Society of American Foresters will be given first preference for registration. A suggestion is to be certain you have renewed your membership with one of the organizations prior to registering for the meeting by visiting:

NJTWS = <http://wildlife.org/new-jersey/membership/>

NJSFAF = <http://www.eforester.org/renewnow>

Nonmembers will receive registration slots in the event that the attendance cap is not reached by April 10. "Walk-ins" run the risk of being turned away due to room capacity constraints.

MEETING AGENDA

9:30-10:00 NJTWS business meeting; Beth Ciuzio Freiday, NJTWS President

PRESENTATIONS 10:00-12:00 (*probably enough time for 4-6*)

Welcome to Hudson Farm Club

Steve Polanish, Manager, Hudson Farm

Trends in New Jersey forest types and age classes

Bill Zipse, New Jersey Forest Service

Establishing baseline population status of ruffed grouse and assessing response to forest stewardship activities at Hudson Farm

Kristin Mylecraine, John Parke, David Mizrahi, and John Cecil, New Jersey Audubon

Dynamic forest management: forestry for the birds

Sharon Petzinger, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

Forest Management: Conservation strategies for vernal habitat amphibians and wood turtles

Brian Zarate, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

Wildlife habitat and forest stewardship at Hudson Farm

Steve Polanish, Hudson Farm and Steve Kallessen, Gracie & Harrigan Consulting Foresters, Inc.

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Spring 2017 Meeting Agenda Cont.

12:00-1:00 **Lunch:** Provided on site as part of registration fee

FIELD TRIP SYNOPSIS (1:00-4:00 PM)

Young Forest Habitat Projects: Although the Hudson Farm Club operates over 3,200 acres, remarkably little early seral upland forest habitat exists on the property, or on the landscape-scale. The Club, with the advice of foresters, has been experimenting with – and learning from – various methods of regeneration harvests since 2012.

Oak Silviculture to Benefit Mid-Successional Bird Species: The upland forest on the property and on the landscape, is almost uniformly mid-successional upland oak in the overstory, with northern hardwoods (maple, birch, and beech) in the midstory. Recent efforts to reduce the amount of northern hardwoods within certain stands may benefit rare and T&E species such as red-headed woodpecker and cerulean warbler.

Forest Stand Improvement: Not every forest stand improvement thinning is specifically designed to benefit wildlife species. By observing a forest stand improvement thinning typical of most Farmland Assessed-private properties, wildlife biologists are invited to have an open discussion about this most common silvicultural practice.

In-Stream Trout Habitat Improvement: The Lubbers Run is the largest tributary to the Musconetcong River. A significant length of the Lubbers Run flows through the Hudson Farm. Recently, the Hudson Farm Club contracted to have a significant section of the Lubbers Run improved for cold-water fish species.

NJTWS Spring 2017 President's Message

Spring is in the air and we are looking forward to greeting NJTWS members at Hudson Farm Club for discussion on the topic of "Forest Management for Wildlife." Forest management has been a long standing important component of wildlife management. As with most things in the field of wildlife management, it can be done well or it can be done poorly. We safeguard from bad forestry by planning, working with professional staff, transparency, and good communication. That is why our spring meeting is a joint meeting with the New Jersey chapter of the Society of American Foresters (SAF). Similar to the mission of TWS, SAF is the professional organization of foresters and forester's professionalism in the field. Logging is tree cutting, but when you are working with a Certified Forester who has prepared a Forest Management Plan, you are managing the land. Many species, game and non-game, benefit from forest management, including some endangered species and species considered for federal listing. One of our members, Dr. Joe Smith, wrote a great blog article about forest management for birds called *The American Woodcock and Why We Should Be Cutting More Trees*. I encourage everyone to read it. Directing management actions toward a species before it becomes critically imperiled is cost effective and greatly increases likelihood of successfully recovering a species.

We have an almost instinctual desire to protect the forest, but when making land management decisions, one must guard against making decisions based on emotion. Get the facts: attend the spring NJTWS meeting, join the TWS Forestry and Wildlife Working Group; learn about FSC certification and how groups like NJ Audubon are using it. Managing the forest well is actually one of the best ways to protect the forest. Society continues to use forest products every day. If we don't utilize our local resources, the

Spring 2017 President's Message cont.

demand for raw materials gets pushed to forests that are not as well protected as they are in the U.S. In addition, importing forest products increases the carbon footprint because the products have to be shipped long distances to the consumer. Finally, forested lands that provide a financial benefit to the landowner are less likely to be converted to developments and impervious cover if the land is providing income to the owner.

We live in a time where the issues are so substantial, it can lead to the feeling that our actions cannot change outcomes. Indeed, some problems for wildlife are complex and difficult to manage, such as climate change. However, using silvicultural techniques to manage habitat for disturbance dependent flora and fauna is actually something that we know how to do and have the ability to do it well. Forest management can replicate the disturbance regimes that created habitat for wildlife. Beaver activity, fire, and floods were the natural mechanisms that reset forest succession. American chestnut trees with a diameter at breast height (DBH) of five feet were a major component of the eastern forest that created huge tree fall gaps. We have suppressed and controlled these natural forces, but we can still create a complex forest structure through management. We will see some examples during the field portion of the spring meeting.

The NJTWS board recognizes the importance of building an extensive network with other natural resource professionals. We have been collaborating with SAF and the Society for Soil and Water Conservation to plan a Natural Resources Summit in the next few years. We hope to bring our colleagues from the other branches of land management together to network and begin building a foundation of trust. But you don't have to wait for the Summit to begin the conversation between land management professionals. The spring NJTWS meeting is the perfect opportunity to introduce yourself to SAF members. Take advantage of this opportunity to expand your network; I know you will find there is a lot of common ground between our fields.

Elizabeth Ciuizio Freiday, Certified Wildlife Biologist
NJTWS Chapter President

New Jersey Chapter of The Wildlife Society Russell A. Cookingham Scholarship Application 2017

This scholarship is made possible by an endowment from Russell A. Cookingham, former Director of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife. It is intended to assist qualified undergraduates in the wildlife/fisheries or conservation education/communication field with college expenses. The New Jersey Chapter of The Wildlife Society will award a \$1,000 scholarship to a qualified undergraduate student in wildlife or fisheries, or conservation education/communications (with at least 15 credits in biological sciences). Undergraduates include juniors and seniors who have completed at least half of the degree requirements for a B.S. in the wildlife or fisheries field. Applicants must be New Jersey residents. Students attending school outside New Jersey are eligible.

To be competitive, applicants should demonstrate high academic achievement and have a well-rounded background of both volunteer and paid experience in the wildlife/conservation field. Service activities that enhance the wildlife profession on or off the college campus will be a plus. Academic awards and accomplishments should be noted.

In addition to the application, please include two letters of recommendation and a copy of your transcripts. Include a cover letter that details why you want to be considered for the award as well as your career goals. You may also include a resume. **Deadline for receipt of application package is November 1, 2017.** The award will be made by December 31.

Send application package to:

**Ted Nichols
NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife
2201 County Route 631
Woodbine, NJ 08270**

Matthew Sehrsweeney awarded Russell A. Cookingham Scholarship

December 2016

Pleasantville, NJ – The NJ Chapter of The Wildlife Society (NJTWS) awarded Matthew Sehrsweeney the Russell A. Cookingham Scholarship from the New Jersey Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS). This scholarship is made possible by an endowment from Russell A. Cookingham, former Director of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife. The scholarship is intended to assist qualified undergraduates in the wildlife, fisheries, or conservation education field with college and related educational expenses.

Matthew is a senior undergraduate at The University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. In addition to his schoolwork, Matthew has field experience working as a Research Intern at the Wetlands Institute in New Jersey. Matthew is currently also working on his senior theses analyzing acoustic data of red squirrel vocalizations.

NJ Chapter to Provide Help to NJ Wildlife Students

The NE Section of The Wildlife Society offers a 2-week long field course for undergraduates each year (<http://wildlife.org/ne-section/about/student-field-course/>). Taught by practicing wildlife professionals, the course is held at Castleton State College in Vt right after the traditional spring semester ends. Our chapter feels that a wildlife student's education could be enhanced by attending the course, so we offered a \$700 scholarship to students at both Stockton University and Rutgers where student chapters of TWS are developing. Rebecca Hilbert from Stockton was the first to take advantage of this offer, based on her acceptance at the camp. Next year we hope to get the word out sooner and have a more competitive approach to funding our scholarship for this camp.

Northeast Section: Student Field Course



Photo: referenced website

The chapter also anticipates funding RU student chapter students to attend the NE Student Conclave that will be held in Indiana, PA this April. Our hope is to encourage a cadre of students to attend who will be motivated to keep the student chapter going at Rutgers. Kudos to Brooke Maslo for getting the chapter reinvigorated.

Annual TWS Student Conclaves



Photo: Gary M. Stolz, USFWS

125th ANNIVERSARY OF NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

(17/P14) TRENTON – The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife today is marking its 125th anniversary by rededicating itself to its mission of conserving wildlife and providing recreational opportunities for future generations of hunters, anglers and wildlife enthusiasts.



“We are truly fortunate to have a remarkable diversity of fish and wildlife species in New Jersey and hundreds of dedicated professionals who are passionate about protecting and properly managing these resources for the public’s benefit,” Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bob Martin said. “The Christie Administration is proud to celebrate the outstanding service the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife continues to provide to millions of residents and visitors.”

Throughout the year, the Division of Fish and Wildlife will highlight historical information and conservation success stories on its website and Facebook page. It will also mark the anniversary during its annual special events, beginning with the Pequest Trout Hatchery Open House, Saturday, April 1, and Sunday, April 2, in Oxford, Warren County. This free event features exhibits, fishing, a beginner archery range, wildlife artists, taxidermists, woodcarvers and a sportsmen’s flea market.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife, which today manages nearly 350,000 acres of wildlife management areas, is one of the oldest state wildlife management agencies in the nation. The division traces its beginning to March 8, 1892, with legislation calling for the appointments of three fish and game commissioners and a paid “game protector” for the “better protection of the fishing interests and of the game birds and game animals of this state, and for the better enforcement of the laws relating thereto.”



This structure evolved into the New Jersey Division of Fish and Game, which was integrated into the DEP when the agency was formed on the first Earth Day, April 22, 1970. In 1979, the agency became the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, and in 2000, the name was changed to the Division of Fish and Wildlife to encompass its mission of managing all wildlife.

“During this 125th anniversary, we rededicate ourselves to our mission of protecting, conserving and managing our wildlife resources for the benefit and enjoyment of many generations to come,” said Acting Division Director Larry Herrigty. “It is my sincere hope that residents and visitors take a few minutes to learn about our history, and all of the great work that we do and, most important, to take advantage of the many wildlife-related recreation opportunities that New Jersey has to offer.”

New Jersey has ecosystems that support an amazing diversity of wildlife: the wooded and rocky ridges of the Highlands, home to bears and bobcats; the vast pitch pine forests of the Pinelands that provide habitats for unique amphibians and reptiles; the coast’s beaches, dunes and salt marshes that teem with osprey, shorebirds and wading birds; the Delaware Bay region, boasting the state’s largest concentration of bald eagles; and Cape May, known worldwide for its hawk and butterfly migrations.



Today the division has a role in managing all wildlife species in New Jersey, including game animals; freshwater and marine fish; managing shellfish; birds, amphibians and reptiles; and endangered and nongame species. Division of Fish and Wildlife staff also educate the public about wildlife-related issues, and its conservation officers enforce the laws that protect wildlife.

The division's many success stories and ongoing work includes:

- Preservation and management of 122 state wildlife management areas encompassing 349,000 acres for hunting, fishing and enjoyment of nature;
- An award-winning hunter education program that stresses safe and ethical hunting, and culminates in required attendance at a field session to demonstrate knowledge and skills;
- Special youth hunting and free fishing days to introduce novices to these activities;
- A comprehensive management and education program to maintain a healthy and sustainable population of black bears;
- The impressive restoration of bald eagles, ospreys and peregrine falcons once threatened with extirpation in the state because of past use of the pesticide DDT;
- Development and implementation of plans to assess the health of wildlife and their habitats, and to take actions to improve or stabilize potentially at-risk species;
- Efforts to restore and protect populations of endangered species, such as two shorebird species – the piping plover and the red knot;
- Ongoing implementation of the latest methodologies to track wildlife populations and identify their habitats;
- Partnering with leading universities on research projects to better inform decisions on conservation and recovery strategies;
- Management of freshwater fish stocking programs for popular game fish such as trout, muskellunge, channel catfish and walleye;
- Identification and protection of high-quality freshwater fish habitats;
- Management of recreationally and commercially important saltwater fish such as flounder, sea bass, striped bass and bluefish;
- Management of more than 720,000 acres of estuarine and ocean beds for the harvest of clams and oysters;
- The construction of boat ramps, launches and other public fishing access across the state;
- Annual events such as the Pequest Trout Hatchery Open House, the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament, the NJ WILD Outdoor Expo and Garden State Deer Classic;
- A successful Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs program, a unique and nationally recognized program that encourages school-aged children to fish and appreciate the outdoors instead of turning to drugs, alcohol or tobacco;
- Construction of a network of artificial reefs to enhance saltwater fishing;
- Operation of the Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery, Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center, and the Rockport Pheasant Farm.



The division provides scientific analyses and advice to various state councils and committees, including the New Jersey Fish and Game Council, the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council, the Shellfisheries Council, the Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee, the Wildlife Rehabilitators Advisory Committee and the Waterfowl Stamp Advisory Committee.

“We can always count on the Division of Fish and Wildlife to provide us with the scientific data and other information we need to make sound decisions on behalf of everyone in the state,” said New Jersey Fish and Game Council Chairman David Burke. “I congratulate the Division of Fish and Wildlife on this milestone and look forward to continuing to work with the division toward our shared goal of conserving our fish and wildlife resources for all to enjoy.”

For information on the division, a history timeline, upcoming events, or to apply for a hunting or fishing license, and a link to the division's Facebook page, visit: www.njfishandwildlife.com

PHOTOS/Top (deer): Craig Lemon; Middle: Game Warden M. Loveless (seated) with Deputy Warden Michael Bobera, circa 1912, photographer unknown; Bottom (eagle): Robert S.W. Lin

Article: March 8, 2017 NJDEP News Release