

# Arkansas Chapter of the Wildlife Society

## Newsletter

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### 2018 Officers

#### **President**

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#### **President-elect**

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#### **Arkansas Chapter Web Site**

<http://www.wildlife.org/arkansas>

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### **Dr. Kimberly Smith**

Dr. Kimberly Gray (Kim) Smith, long-time member of the Chapter, passed away unexpectedly on April 9. As a Distinguished Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, he served in many roles and oversaw and collaborated on research in many areas, resulting in over 300 professional publications.

Kim served as the Chapter's Secretary-Treasurer in 1989-1990. Four days before he died, Kim gave his retirement seminar, in which he said: "Be curious, be creative, challenge yourself to learn new things... and have fun doing what you do... I did."

Donations to the Kimberly G. Smith Memorial Scholarship in Ecology can be made online at <https://onlinegiving.uark.edu/>. In the designation section, select "other department, program or fund" and enter "Kimberly G Smith Scholarship in Ecology". If you would like to send a check, please

make it out to the U of A Foundation with the name of the scholarship in the memo line and mail it to:

Office of Development and External Relations  
University of Arkansas  
525 Old Main  
Fayetteville, AR 72701

### **Arkansas Chapter of the Wildlife Society Annual Meeting Minutes**

**March 1-2, 2018  
C.A. Vines 4-H Center  
Little Rock, AR**

Participation: 102 registered, 94 attended

**Thursday March 1, 2018**

After most participants checked in or registered, Dr. Tom Risch (President) welcomed the participants at around 10:20 AM.

Steven Fowler (President elect) and Tom Risch moderated the first student presentation session on birds:

- Lee Bryant (ASTATE) presented "Exploring relationships between eastern hemlock decline and Louisiana waterthrush behavior and demographics in Great Smoky Mountains National Park"
- Alyssa DeRubeis (UAF) presented "Make new fields but keep the old: nesting success of dickcissel (*Spiza Americana*) in Arkansas remnant and restored tallgrass prairies"
- Sara Harrod (ASTATE) presented "Demographic responses of eastern bluebirds to temporal climate variability"
- Stephanie Nefas (ATU) presented "Examination of photographic evidence of

disturbance on interior least tern breeding behavior and reproductive success”

- Emily Donahue (ASTATE) presented “Non-breeding ecology of a declining grassland bird in agricultural landscapes: the loggerhead shrike”

Tom conducted a raffle for a couple door prizes before lunch. Most door prizes were donated by Ranger Boats.



*2018 Chapter Officers: President Tom Risch, Secretary-Treasurer Virginie Rolland, Member at large Craig Davis, President-elect Steven Fowler.*

After lunch, Roger Perry (USFS) presented results on “Characteristics of mature forests used by eastern spotted skunks during summer”.

Another raffle was conducted.

Steven Fowler moderated the afternoon student presentation session on mammals and amphibians:

- Cristina Blanco (ATU) presented “The effects of prescribed fires on bat occupancy in the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas”
- Stacy Scherman (ASTATE) presented “Southeastern myotis and Rafinesque’s big-eared bats switch their roosting habits seasonally in Arkansas bottomlands”
- Karisa Fenton (ATU) presented “Mesopredator distribution, abundance and potential competition with the American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*) for carrion at Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver”
- Lauren Toivonen (MU) presented “A habitat suitability analysis of the red wolf across its historic range”
- Pam McDill (UAF) was sick but her advisor, Dr. Marlis Douglas presented for her “Genetic connectivity among white-tailed deer in Arkansas, with implications for

management of Chronic Wasting Disease: a preliminary assessment”

- Philip Mariage (UAF) presented “The effect of non-native fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*) grass on amphibian reproductive success”

More door prizes after the break worked as a transition into the plenary session.

Tom introduced Dr. Frank Rohwer, President and Chief scientist of Delta Waterfowl. Frank presented the Delta Waterfowl perspective on waterfowl management from A to Z.



*Dr. Tom Nupp, ATU, discusses small mammal trapping.*

4:30 PM – Business meeting

- Dr. Virginie Rolland (secretary-treasurer, ASTATE) presented a couple slides for the treasurer report:
  - Membership: 107 (as of 2/23/2018)
  - The Student Fund has not changed (\$1,391.50) but may with silent auction and potential lifetime dues in the next quarterly report.
  - The Student Development Fund is back to its threshold (\$1,200) and Virginie Rolland reminded us that this is available for students at about \$400 per school to use for whatever wildlife-related activities they want, such as Conclave.
  - The general fund was about 30% lower in October 2017 (\$1,732.16) as it was in October 2016. Since the last meeting, we spent \$1,038.09

and made \$9,478.88 (although this needs to be updated), totaling \$10,152.75 before bills.

- Last year, we thought we would break even but we actually spent more (\$8,715) than we made (\$7,094). In addition, the 4H Center increased their rates, so the board decided to increase the ticket prices to compensate. With the estimated expenses (\$8,500) and credits (\$9,778) for this meeting, we should actually have benefits and compensate for last year's loss. This has also been facilitated with ASTATE sponsoring for Frank Rohwer's travels and by replacing the band by a wonderful playlist arranged by Ben Spitz, a grad student at ASTATE.
- Tom recognized members who received their Wildlife Certified Biologist certificate in the past year (see below). The list will also be shared on the State Chapter facebook page.
  - Jeremy Everitts
  - Jason Jackson
  - Myron Means
  - Gary O'Neill
  - Holt Blackwood
- Craig Davis (member-at-large) recognized our donors (see below). A photo of these donors will be posted on the State Chapter facebook page.
  - Pack Rat Outdoor Center
  - Eagle Seeds
  - The AGFC Foundation
  - Yell County Wildlife Federation
  - Webb's Sporting Goods
  - Mack's Prairie Wings
  - Ranger Boats
  - Dunn Callin
- Craig also announced a Work Day at Petit Jean River WMA, March 10, 2018.
- Elections: Steven distributed and collected the ballots to elect the new Member-at-Large: Levi Horrell (AGFC) or Douglas Osborne (UAM). Virginie tallied the ballots which resulted in a tie 7-7, but one member had not participated. This last vote determined Levi as the new board member.
- Tom then called for student chapter updates:

- Colton Rudder reported for the ASTATE student wildlife chapter
- Ashleigh McCullough reported for the ATU student wildlife chapter
- Alyssa DeRubeis represented UAF's group of wildlife-interested students
- UAM was not represented



*Steven Fowler discusses the use of rocket nets to capture turkeys and mallards.*



*President Tom Risch presents Karisa Fenton with the First Place Certificate in the Student Competition for her presentation on Mesopredator distribution, abundance and potential competition with the American burying beetle for carrion at Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver Training Center.*

Steven thanked Tom for his service as president and highlighted how long a commitment this represents: one year as president-elect, 2 years as president, and 1 year as past president. As the state chapter has traditionally done, the new president handed a plaque to the exiting president.

Tom distributed a handout for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and explained that an electronic copy was available in Google Drive with the link on the first page of the program:  
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yqjvp3bOqoP>

[qAjK-FphdHmVHVQppoVj4?usp=sharing](https://www.dropbox.com/s/qAjK-FphdHmVHVQppoVj4?usp=sharing). He pointed out that the letter template on the back of the handout can be copied and pasted and sent to representatives to push this forward.

The business meeting was followed by a pre-dinner social to inter-mingle with Frank. The silent auction was announced to close at 5:30 PM (instead of 6:45 PM as on the program). Provided that everyone pays for their items (checks or cash limited payment – the Board is considering getting a credit card slider for next year’s meeting), the silent auction will have yielded \$490 to go towards the student fund.

After dinner, Keith Weaver (USFWS) moderated the student quiz bowl, assisted by a student from ATU. Equipment including buzzers was provided by Dr. Tom Nupp (ATU). The competing teams were limited to ASTATE and ATU because UAF was represented by only two students while no student from UAM attended the meeting.

- First round: ASTATE, 90 to 30.
- Second round: tie at 70:70. After 5 min of tie breaker, ASTATE won 120 to 100.
- Third round: ASTATE (Colton Rudder, Christian Vickery, Samantha Burnett, and Ben Spitz) against AGFC (Marcus Asher, Craig Davis, Cory Gray, Steven Fowler). ASTATE won 120 to 100.

Christ Thigpen (ASTATE) handed the trophy to ASTATE.

The day ended with a social between music and two sets of baggots. The music arrangement was limited to laptops compatible with Cabe Hall’s cables setup (laptop with HDMI are not compatible).

### Friday March 2, 2018

Craig and Steven separated the participants into 4 groups to rotate among the 4 workshop stations (see below). At the end, all groups met at the rocket net station to fire it once.

- Station 1: Prescribed Fire led by Randy Brents (AGFC) and Craig Davis (AGFC)
- Station 2: Open Land & Forestry Management led by Clint Johnson and Steve Burgess (AGFC)
- Station 3: Mammal Trapping led by Tom Nupp (ATU) and Jake Whisenhunt (AGFC)
- Station 4: Bird Trapping led by Than Boves (ASTATE) and Steven Fowler (AGFC)

The full session started back in Cabe Hall at 12:50 PM, after lunch.

Becky McPeake (UAF-Agriculture Cooperative Extension) said a few words to advertise for a professional training and distributed a flyer for this training entitled Wildlife habitat restoration on private lands, March 8-9, 2018, in Little Rock.

Four door prizes were given out.

Tom introduced our afternoon speakers:

- Chris Middaugh (AGFC) who presented “Hunter attitudes and perceptions of Chronic Wasting Disease in Arkansas”.
- Dr. Don White Jr. (UAM) who presented “Resource selection of bull elk in the Buffalo River watershed, Arkansas”

Tom ended this last presentation session with his talk on “Modeling of habitat use by evening bats (*Nycticeius humeralis*).

Keith Weaver (USFWS) announced the winners of the student presentation awards (see below) and Tom handed the award and the associated check.

- **Third Place:** Cristina Blanco (ATU) who gets \$25 for her presentation on the effects of prescribed fires on bat occupancy in the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas.
- **Second Place:** Emily Donahue (ASTATE) who gets \$50 for her presentation on the non-breeding ecology of a declining grassland bird in agricultural landscapes: the loggerhead shrike.
- **First Place:** Karisa Fenton (ATU) who gets \$100 for her presentation on mesopredator distribution, abundance and potential competition with the American burying beetle.

Blake Sasse (AGFC) took pictures during student presentations, professional presentations, recognition of Tom’s service as president, and the student awards ceremony. Blake also took a picture of the Board members.

Tom adjourned the meeting at 2 pm.

## Abstract Information for the 2019 Annual Meeting

The Arkansas Chapter is now accepting abstracts for papers to be presented at our March 7-8, 2019, at the C.A. Vines 4-H Center, outside of Little Rock. We encourage papers pertinent to wildlife research and management/conservation with implications for Arkansas and beyond. Talks on plant or animal (game or non-game), terrestrial or wetland, species ecology, biology, or management are welcome.

Abstract body should be no more than 250 words, have title in bold caps, each author listed with mailing and email address, and presenter identified with an asterisk before his or her name (as shown above). The abstract should include a brief summary of the importance of the topic and relevant findings. Student presenters should be identified by the phrase "Student Presentation" under the list of authors to be entered in the student competition.

We are currently planning for oral presentations only, though some presenters may be selected for poster presentations if too many abstracts are received. Presentations will be grouped into like categories and issued a time by conference staff after February 1. Generally, we are hoping to have student talks on Thursday and featured talks on Friday. All talks will be given 20 min total, including 3-5 minutes for questions and comments from the audience. The PowerPoint presentations will be loaded at the conference.

Abstracts should be submitted electronically to Virginie Rolland (vrolland@astate.edu) in Word format. The deadline for submission is February 1, 2019

### Arkansas Publications

(send citations to newsletter editor)

Anich, NM, TJ Benson, JA Gerwin, NA Chartier, BM Reiley, JL Everitts, JC Bednarz and SF Tolfree. 2017. Natal philopatry and juvenile survival in Swainson's Warblers (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*). *Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 129: 850-859

Doggett, JW and A Locher. 2018. Assessment of northern bobwhite survival and fitness in the

Western Gulf Coastal Plain ecoregion. *PLoSOne* 13(7): e0200544

Fournier, AMV and DG Krementz. 2018. Confirmation of diving and swimming behavior in the Sora (*Porzana carolina*). *Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 130: 778-780.

Grooms, BP and RE Urbanek. 2017. Local scale comparison of avian and woody vegetation communities within four Arkansas State Parks. *Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science* 71: 123-130.

Murphy, S, V Mitchell, J Thurman, CN Davis, MD Moran, J Bonumwezi, S Katz and JL Penner. Seed dispersal in Osage Orange (*Maclura pomifera*) by squirrels (*Sciurus* spp.). *American Midland Naturalist* 180: 312-317.

Perry, RW, DC Rudolph and RE Thill. 2018. Capture-site Characteristics for Eastern Spotted Skunks in Mature Forests during summer. *Southeastern Naturalist* 17: 298-308.

Schratz, S, V Rolland, J Phillips, R Crossett, D Richardson and T Risch. 2017. Bat occupancy estimates and species richness at Cache River National Wildlife Refuge. *Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science* 71: 97-104.

Tumlison, R, CT McAllister, HW Robison, MB Connior, DB Sasse, DG Cloutman, LA Durden, CR Bursey, TJ Fayton, S Schratz, and M Buckley. 2017. Vertebrate natural history notes from Arkansas, 2017. *Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science* 71; 7-16.

### Upcoming Meetings

Arkansas Chapter TWS, March 7-8, 2019. CA Vines 4-H Center, Ferndale.

Arkansas Academy of Science Meeting. April, 2019.