

# The Wildlife Society

## SOUTHEASTERN SECTION



JANUARY 2019 VOLUME 61, NUMBER 1  
KATHERINE EDWARDS, EDITOR

### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Well, it happened again. A perfectly good fall flew by and we are seriously into winter. Not a bad winter so far here in Georgia. If the first two sentences sound familiar, well I copied them from my Fall Newsletter comments. You remember reading them, right? Deer season ended recently here. I was fortunate to harvest two deer this year - after zero last year. We even got two small pigs in the pig trap at our lease this year. I regret that I don't do much small game hunting anymore. But, I was in western North Carolina last weekend at a cabin and we twice saw a group of 19 turkeys from the porch and then again from the kitchen window the next day. We are fortunate to have abundant wildlife populations – often restored through the hard work and dedication of people like you.

I am teaching a class this semester called "Natural Resource Conservation". It is a service course for non-majors and in the introductory weeks we discuss the history of conservation and contributions from Roosevelt, Muir, Pinchot, Leopold, Carson and others. We discuss the America early settlers found – wilderness and abundant wildlife and native people. We discuss how abuse, greed, fear, and misunderstanding reduced those elements to near extinction. And we discuss how conservation, preservation, and the environmental movement restored wildlife, helped us understand and practice sound forest management, pass important legislation, protect bison, national parks and forests, develop renewable energy, and move to a better understanding of Leopold's Land Ethic. Some students get it. Some never will. Some heard of Yellowstone and bison. Some have never ventured out of the state of Georgia. That's all part of the fun and the challenge of teaching.

Where am I going with this? As I sat in a deer stand and as I attended the TWS and SEAFWA conferences, I reflected on my reason for doing this. Why do

I volunteer and give up my valuable time to serve TWS as reviewer, moderator, TWS Fellow? Why do I serve the southeast membership as President? Because I have to. I can't sit back and let others do it while I just watch. I have to step up and volunteer and serve when asked. Many of you do the same and we are all grateful for your service.

At the Annual Meeting of the SE Section in Mobile, we lacked a quorum of 20 dues paying members. We could not hold the business meeting and we could not act on matters that came before the Executive Board and membership. We could not adopt a policy to allow a student representative to serve on the Executive Board – we didn't have a quorum and could not vote. Yet I know there were dozens of SE TWS members in attendance at the SEAFWA conference. I know you had meetings and activities to attend to. I know you support the work of the section. However, I would like to gently encourage you to attend the business meeting at the next SEAFWA conference in Hilton Head and to continue to support TWS and the Southeastern Section. The

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Southeastern Section is strong; our finances are solid; and, elections will be held this summer for President-elect and Secretary/Treasurer. In a few months, we will be seeking nominees for these positions. Think about serving or suggest someone who would like to be nominated for one of these positions.

Dues renewal season is here. Please renew your TWS membership as soon as possible and encourage a colleague or friend to renew or join. Encourage your students – undergraduate and graduate students – to join TWS and the SE Section. For our federal members who were on furlough (like my son), we understand this might be a difficult time. We support your work and, as friends, we are willing to assist in any way we can. Just ask. One of my federal friends was unable to attend a recent workshop – so we covered his portion of the program and served our clients to the best of our ability. Hopefully, this craziness will end soon so we all can get back to work serving the public and the resource.

Congratulations to **Steven Castleberry** and **Mark Smith** - 2018 TWS Fellows from the Southeastern Section. Congratulations to **Karl V. Miller**, 2018

recipient of the C. W. Watson Award. Other recent award winners from the SE Section include – **Olin (Gene) Rhodes**, Caesar Kleberg Award for Excellence in Applied Wildlife Research; **Chester O. Martin**, J N (Ding) Darling Award for Wildlife Stewardship through Art; Va Tech, Student Chapter of the Year; **Paul Barr**, best student presentation at the 2018 SEAFWA Conference, **Joshua H. Nix**, best student poster at the 2018 SEAFWA Conference; **Andy Little**, **Gino D'Angelo**, **Charlie Killmaster**, **Tina Johannsen**, and **Karl Miller**, 2017 Outstanding Wildlife Technical Paper Award. Also, the Executive Board thanks **Mark Ford** and **Chris Comer** for excellent service as associate editors for the wildlife papers and welcomes **Dan Greene** and **Bob Gitzen** as the new associate editors for the wildlife papers.

Thank you for supporting the Southeastern Section and for all the great work you do for our natural resources. Please do not hesitate to call on me or any member of the Executive Board if we can assist you in any way.

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



*Deanne Wright*

## SOUTHEASTERN SECTION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Colleagues,

I hope you had a great Holiday Season and that you are well on your way to a prosperous new year. For some of us, the last quarter of 2018 brought great challenges associated with aftermath of Hurricane Michael. Hurricane force winds were detected well over one hundred miles inland and the devastation to timber resources was severe. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are rebuilding, cleaning up, and trying to return to some sort of normalcy.

Our 25th Annual Conference is now behind us. We had approximately 1700 people in attendance making this the 8th highest attended conference in our history. We had several members from the Southeastern Section of TWS who received awards. **Olin E. (Gene) Rhodes** received the Caesar Kleberg Award for Excellence in Applied Wildlife Research. **Chester O. Martin** received the Ding Darling Award for Wildlife Stewardship Through Art. **Steven Castleberry** and **Mark Smith** received TWS Fellows Awards. Be sure to congratulate these folks. Their awards are well deserved.

Our next annual meeting will take place Sept. 29 – Oct. 3 in Reno, Nevada. This will be a joint meeting with the American Fisheries Society and will provide a great opportunity to catch up with some of our colleagues in fisheries. Note that the call for symposia is currently open and will close March 1st. The call for abstracts is also open and will close April 5th.

Time to nominate colleagues for TWS awards is rapidly approaching. You can find a list of available awards and associate nomination procedures on the TWS website ([wildlife.org](http://wildlife.org)). If you have an individual or particular group that you would like to nominate for an award and would like assistance with their nomination, feel free to contact me. I will be glad to help.

During our last Council meeting, I was reminded that it is an honor to serve TWS members within the Southeastern Section. My time on Council has been very fulfilling and I look forward to representing you during my second term. I hope that my efforts on Council benefit you all. Your feedback and your suggestions are important so feel free to contact me with ideas or concerns.

I currently plan to attend state chapter meetings in Kentucky, Arkansas, and Florida this spring. I will also be able to attend conclave this year. If you can attend any of these gatherings, I look forward to visiting with you.

As always, thanks for your efforts in managing our wildlife resources and thank you for your continued membership and participation in The Wildlife Society. I hope you have a great 2019.

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



# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## DEER COMMITTEE

### Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting

The 42nd Annual Meeting of the Southeast Deer Study Group, hosted by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Louisville, KY, February 17 - 19, 2019. The theme of this year's meeting will be "Deer, It's What's For Dinner".

The Southeast Deer Study Group provides an important forum for researchers and managers to share the latest research results, management strategies and discussions that can facilitate the timely identification of, and solutions to, problems relative to the management of white-tailed deer.

More information and registration can be found at [sedg.com/index.asp/](http://sedg.com/index.asp/).

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

## PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

### Best Paper Award

Among the 11 wildlife papers published in the 2017 SEAFWA proceedings, the committee selected **Little, A.R., G.J. D'Angelo, C.H. Killmaster, K.L. Johannsen, and K.V. Miller** "*Understanding Deer, Bear, and Forest Trends in the North Georgia Mountains: The Value of Long Term Data*" for the SEAFWA 2017 Outstanding Wildlife Technical Paper Award.

**Committee Chair: Lora Smith**  
[lora.smith@jonesctr.org](mailto:lora.smith@jonesctr.org)



Neal Herbert

## STUDENT AWARDS COMMITTEE

The following awards were presented at the 72nd Annual Conference of the Southeastern Fish and Wildlife Agencies in Mobile, AL.

### Student Presentation Award

There were 18 student oral presentations during the Wildlife Technical Sessions at SEAFWA. The winning presentation was given by **Paul Burr** from Mississippi State University for his presentation entitled, "*Multi-scale Abundance and Distribution Trends of Double-crested Cormorants (Phalacrocorax auritus) in the Mississippi Delta*". He was recognized at the SEAFWA banquet with a certificate and monetary award.

### Student Poster Award

There were 8 student posters presented at SEAFWA with a wildlife biology theme. The winning poster was presented by **Joshua H. Nix** from the University of Arkansas at Monticello for his poster entitled, "*Habitat Selection of Male Eastern Wild Turkeys in Arkansas Mountain Regions During Reproduction Periods and Hunting Disturbances*". He was recognized at the SEAFWA banquet with a certificate and monetary award.

### Student Chapter Award

Student chapters in the SETWS were evaluated by independent judges on an overall application package including professionalism and involvement in research, education, management, stewardship, and outreach to name a few categories. This year, the Virginia Tech Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society was recognized as the Student Chapter of the Year for their outstanding service to their members and SETWS.

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

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## 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. This award shall be presented at the annual conference banquet by the Chairman of the Watson committee. See SEAFWA.org, Awards and Committees, as more information becomes available for the 2019 nominating process.

The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies named University of Georgia's (UGA) Wheatley Distinguished Professor of Deer Management **Karl Miller**, the 2018 C.W. Watson Award winner at their annual meeting in Mobile, AL. More information on this award recipient can be found on pp.31-32.

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

## WETLANDS WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

### Wetlands Wildlife Committee Report

**Stephen V. Rockwood**, Committee Chair  
Sunday, October 21, 2018 Mobile, AL  
Meeting convened: 1:00 PM  
Chaired by: **Jamie C. Feddersen** (TN) and **Dale James** (DU)

Committee Members and Guests Attending:

| <u>Name</u>                   | <u>Affiliation</u>    |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Bob Baker</b>              | TX Parks and Wildlife |
| <b>Cody Dunagan</b>           | TX Parks and Wildlife |
| <b>Schuyler Dartez</b>        | LDWF                  |
| <b>Mike Schummer</b>          | SUNY ESF              |
| <b>James Rader</b>            | Ducks Unlimited       |
| <b>Donald "Duck" Locascio</b> | LDWF                  |
| <b>Tim Willis</b>             | Ducks Unlimited       |
| <b>Jamie Feddersen</b>        | TWRA                  |
| <b>Seth Maddox</b>            | ADCNR                 |
| <b>Bob Sargent</b>            | GADNR                 |
| <b>Rick Kaminski</b>          | Clemson University    |
| <b>Heath Hagy</b>             | FWS                   |
| <b>Jen Mock Schaeffer</b>     | AFWA                  |
| <b>Ed Penny</b>               | Ducks Unlimited       |
| <b>Jeff Raasch</b>            | TX Parks and Wildlife |
| <b>Dale James</b>             | Ducks Unlimited       |

Scheduled Discussion Items:

- **Migratory Bird Framework (S2942/HR6013)** – **Jen Mock Schaeffer** (AFWA) provided an update on pending Congressional legislation that will have direct impact on the current system under which the States and the US Fish and Wildlife Service currently set migratory gamebird hunting seasons. The bills currently aim to set the ending framework date for hunting ducks at January 31 and provide hunting days specifically for veteran and military personnel. Staff from AFWA have communicated with Federal legislators and provided suggestions that modify the existing proposals to remove language setting season lengths and bag limits in perpetuity, thus removing science from decision-making. **Ed Penny** (DU) added that Ducks Unlimited CEO **Dale Hall** testified in front of House Natural Resources Committee. DU has no concerns with biological aspects of framework and DU's formal position points to Hall's testimony and are comfortable with Bill language as revised.

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Clean Water Act (WOTUS) – Ed Penny (DU)** updated the committee on the current standing of Obama-era definition of “Waters of the U.S.” (WOTUS) in the Clean Water Act. In July 2017, the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposed action to formally repeal and replace the 2015 definition of WOTUS. An August 2018 court ruling concluding the Trump Administration failed to seek public comment on the substance of WOTUS or the implications of delaying the regulation by two years. The court ruling means the 2015 WOTUS Rule will remain in effect in 26 states.

- **NWR Farm Policy and SE Region Waterfowl Action Plan – Heath Hagy (FWS)** informed the committee of recent policy rescinding a previous directive that prohibited the use of genetically engineered crops and neonicotinoid pesticides. However, NWRs will need to get their use approved through existing NEPA approval processes. The FWS Southeast Region has developed a Waterfowl Working Group to better organize waterfowl management activities on refuges. As such through Strategic Plan have developed several teams including those addressing issues with communication, science/research, habitat, NEPA process and human dimensions.

- **2018 Farm Bill Re-Authorization – Jen Mock Schaeffer (AFWA)** provided an update on Farm Bill activities and indicated it expired at the end of September 2018. While EQIP remains funded, it is believed the House and Senate Agriculture Committees will not take any action on re-authorizing the Farm Bill until after mid-term elections. The committee discussed and prepared a draft letter urging members of Congress to re-authorize the Farm Bill. Following additional discussion and minor editorial changes, the committee passed a motion asking the SEAFWA Directors and SE-TWS Executive Committee to approve the letter in support of the Farm Bill.

- **North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Support Letters – Dale James (DU)** discussed the current status of NAWCA which has not been re-authorized by Congress since 2012. The committee discussed and prepared a draft letter supporting the reauthorization of NAWCA. Following additional discussion and minor editorial changes, the

committee passed a motion asking the SEAFWA Directors and SE-TWS Executive Committee to approve the letter in support of NAWCA.

- **Restoring America’s Wildlife Act (RAWA) – Jen Mock Schaeffer (AFWA)** updated the committee on pending legislation to provide dedicated funding to State wildlife agencies for managing nongame species. HB 4647 and S3223 bills would provide funds primarily from oil and gas revenues, could provide up to \$1.3B into an existing subaccount of Pittman-Robertson funding that would be available to states. This is one of AFWA’s highest legislative priorities. The committee discussed and prepared a draft letter supporting RAWA. Following additional discussion and minor editorial changes, the committee passed a motion asking the SEAFWA Directors and SE-TWS Executive Committee to approve the letter in support of RAWA.

## Presentations:

- **Seth Maddox (AL)** provided a presentation on Alabama’s Waterfowl / Wetlands Program

- South Atlantic Wetlands and Waterfowl Workshop - **Rick Kaminski** (Clemson University) informed the group of a recent meeting of waterfowl biologists in mid and south Atlantic states to identify, prioritize, and conduct waterfowl/wetlands research to guide habitat, species, and population conservation in South Atlantic Flyway and beyond. The group identified seven priority research questions with the beginning focus on recruitment of wood ducks from nest boxes and natural cavities.

**Action Items and Recommendations:** Continue to monitor activities associated with Clean Water Act and Farming on Refuges and its impacts to migratory bird management. Forward three recommendations to SEAFWA Directors and SE-TWS Executive Committee supporting 1) Farm Bill re-authorization, 2) NAWCA re-authorization, and 2) FY 2018 NAWCA funding appropriation, and RAWA support.

Meeting adjourned: 3:00 PM

**Submitted by: Jamie C. Feddersen (TN)**

# STATE REPORTS

## ALABAMA



### Alabama Chapter

The Alabama Chapter of The Wildlife Society will host their annual meeting on July 10-11, 2019 at the Alabama Wildlife Federation Natureplex in Millbrook, AL. This year the professional development program will focus on using camera surveys for monitoring wildlife populations.

### Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division

In its second year of the program, Alabama Division of Wildlife's Adult Mentored Hunting (AMH) program experienced a 200% increase in the number of applicants while also providing hunting opportunities for 137 participants, an increase of 66 from the first year. Opportunities ranged from small game to big game and the program has been a resounding success among participants. For more information about the AMH program, please visit <https://www.outdooralabama.com/hunting/adult-mentored-hunting-program>

**Submitted by: Carrie Threadgill**  
[carrie.threadgill@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:carrie.threadgill@dcnr.alabama.gov)

### AFS & TWS JOINT CONFERENCE SAVE THE DATE RENO, NEVADA | SEPT. 29 – OCT. 3, 2019

This year The Wildlife Society travels to Reno, Nev., for a joint conference with the American Fisheries Society. The American Fisheries Society (AFS) and The Wildlife Society (TWS) conferences are where fisheries and wildlife professionals meet with their colleagues, present groundbreaking science and enhance their interdisciplinary skills. We will be updating our 2019 conference website [afstws2019.org](http://afstws2019.org) as more information becomes available. However, our official website launch will be May 1, 2019.

**NOW OPEN: Call for Proposals**  
*Includes workshops, symposia and panel discussions*  
**Dec. 14, 2018 – Mar. 1, 2019**

**Call for Abstracts**  
*Includes Student Research in Progress posters*  
**Feb. 19 – Apr. 5, 2019**



Participants and mentors from a very successful January adult mentored hunt hosted by the Alabama Division of Wildlife.

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## ARKANSAS



### Arkansas Chapter

The Arkansas Chapter will be holding our annual meeting on March 7-8, 2019 at the C.A. Vines 4-H Center west of Little Rock.

### Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

**Jeremy Wood** became the agency's Turkey Program Coordinator in August. Jeremy comes to us from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission where he served as Assistant Turkey Coordinator for the past year. Before that Jeremy received his Master of Science in Forest Resources from the University of Georgia where he conducted research focused on female wild turkey reproductive ecology in relation to small scale prescribed fire in SW Georgia. He also worked as a research technician on two turkey projects in Louisiana and several other various research technician positions. The Commission also recently hired **Brady Bradley** as a wildlife biologist out of our Monticello Regional office and **Kaleb Ward** as a wildlife technician out of the Brinkley Regional office.

### US Department of Agriculture- Wildlife Services

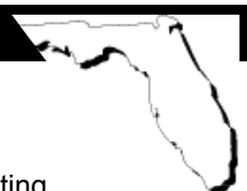
**Thurman Booth**, Arkansas State Director, retired January 3rd after almost 53 years in the wildlife management field.

*Submitted by: Blake Sasse*  
*blake.sasse@agfc.ar.gov*



D. Gordon E. Robertson

## FLORIDA



### Florida Chapter

Join us for the annual Spring Meeting of the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The meeting will include a symposium, business meeting, plenary session, technical sessions, poster session, networking social, storytelling, bingo for students, banquet dinner, awards ceremony, field trips, and a workshop.

The Meeting is an excellent opportunity for students and professionals engaged in wildlife research or habitat management in Florida to present recent results, talk about ongoing projects, discuss collaborations, and share ideas. The conference theme is *A Celebration of 50 years of the Florida Chapter: Wildlife Professionals Making a Difference*. Papers and posters dealing with any wildlife-related topic are encouraged, including ecology, economics, management, restoration, risk assessment, policy and regulation, evolutionary biology, and interdisciplinary projects.

Several unique aspects of the meeting will honor this being the 50th anniversary of the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The Symposium will highlight several senior chapter members who will share their *Reflections on a Career with Wildlife in Florida*. An evening storytelling session will highlight entertaining stories and encounters members have experienced while working with wildlife. Lastly, the Plenary will showcase TWS President Dr. **Darren Miller**, SETWS president Dr. **Mike Mengak**, and SETWS Representative Dr. **Mike Conner**, presenting on *Leadership, Collaborations, and Mentorship in the Wildlife Profession*.

The Meeting will take place April 10-12, 2019 at the Crowne Plaza Melbourne Oceanfront, 2605 North A1A, Melbourne, FL 32903. More information about the meeting including registration, hotel accommodations, the call for papers and posters and travel grants can be found at: <https://fltws.org/>.

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## University of Florida Student Chapter

The University of Florida Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society has experienced a sea of change during the 2018/2019 school year, under the leadership of its new president, **Joanna Ennis**, and its officers (Vice Presidents **Anna Swigris** and **Adrian Dougherty**, Secretary **Xenabeth Lazaro**, Treasurer **Analyse Williams**, Education Outreach Officers **Izzy Garcia** and **Marina Tsongranis**, Historian **Katherine Schultz**, and Conclave Coordinator **Sarah Teman**). The student chapter already had several meaningful projects underway when Joanna and the new board of officers took the reins, such as: U.S. Geological Survey manatee health checks, alligator handling certification, various tabling events, guest speakers, numerous outreach events at middle schools, Florida Chapter of TWS meetings, resume workshops, Kids in the Woods volunteering, mentor/mentee mixers and the Beast Feast (an annual game dinner that typically brings in 300 people).

UF's student chapter's new leadership has worked very hard to offer new experiences and has hugely increased participation. New 2018 improvements were: a deer aging and Boone & Crockett scoring workshop, a hunter safety course, a firearm skills day, a shooting sports field day, women-mentored deer hunts, a sports field day, women-mentored deer hunts, a

holiday toys and goods drive for Hurricane Michael victims, UF's first ever field trip to Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy and securing full funding from the UF Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department for six students to attend The Wildlife Society's Annual Conference in Cleveland.

Members are very excited about the newly instituted events coming up in spring, including an in-depth radio telemetry field day, chainsaw certification and fire certifications (S-130 and S-190), another Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy field trip, an electrofishing and seining workshop and tabling at the Flatwoods Fire Festival. They're very excited for the \$2,000 Florida Fish & Wildlife Foundation grant. The grant will go to promote "Gators, Gals, and Guns," an event that exposes 30 women with no firearms experience to the shooting sports. The participants of "Gators, Gals, and Guns" will compete in skeet, trap, and archery competitions.

Great things are happening at the University of Florida's student chapter of TWS. If you live in the area, consider joining them for Beast Feast on February 23. You may also follow the student chapter on Facebook.

This media release was originally published at: <http://wildlife.org>.

**Joanna Ennis, UF Student Chapter President**



Last year included many firsts for the University of Florida student chapter and its members, including a field trip to Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy in Tallahassee. ©UF Student Chapter of TWS

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## GEORGIA



NO NEWS REPORTED

### TWS Southeastern Student Conclave

The 2019 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave will be hosted by the Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society in Tifton, GA from March 21-23. Student chapters of The Wildlife Society gather from across the southeastern region of the U.S. to participate in competitions and training. Activities include art and photography contests, a quiz bowl, game-calling competitions, a team competition, individual competitions, guest speakers, entertainment, and field trips. Conclave is a valuable professional development opportunity. Students network with other students, faculty members, and wildlife professionals while developing new knowledge and skills. Each school can bring a total of 20 attendees which includes 19 students and 1 advisor. Registration is now open! Please visit <http://www.abac.edu/academics/schools/ag-natural-resources/forest-resources/conclave> for more information.

## KENTUCKY



NO NEWS REPORTED

## LOUISIANA



### Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

LDWF, USFS, and Ruffed Grouse / American Woodcock Society held an Upland Gamebird Field Day at Ft. Polk WMA / Kisatchie National Forest on January 30.

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

## MARYLAND/DELAWARE



### Maryland DNR

#### Survey Shows Marylanders Support Deer Hunting

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources announced the results of a public opinion survey, done in cooperation with the University of Delaware and Responsive Management on white-tailed deer. The telephone survey covered a range of topics and will be used to support revision of the department's deer management plan.

The survey, taken by more than 2,200 individuals representing the general population, landowners and hunters, found that a majority like deer, but a significant proportion of the population are concerned with the negative impacts deer cause.

More than 70 percent of those surveyed think that deer should be hunted to help manage for a healthy population and over half of those surveyed think the department does a good job conserving and managing the deer population.

"White-tailed deer are one of Maryland's most prominent wildlife species and can be one of the most controversial species to manage," Wildlife and Heritage Service Director **Paul Peditto** said. "Having current information on how the public perceives white-tailed deer and the department's management of them is essential to crafting an accurate and thorough plan for the coming decades."

Of the landowners surveyed, more than 75 reported that they had experienced deer damage to agricultural crops. Approximately half of the landowners surveyed reported that damage is increasing. Landowners are most likely to use hunting to help manage and mitigate the damage.

More than 70 percent of hunters surveyed indicated their satisfaction with deer hunting in Maryland has increased or remained the same over the past 10 years. They reported they like to hunt primarily for

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food, but also for recreation, camaraderie and to help control deer numbers. The majority of hunters reported deer hunting on Sundays and 90 percent of those who hunt deer on Sundays indicated it was important to their success.

The survey also found that only 16 percent of the general population has encountered a deer hunter while they have been outdoors recreating during the past five years. Of those who have encountered deer hunters, only 2 percent indicated the encounter as negative. The majority of non-hunters surveyed indicated that deer season does not cause them to alter their outdoor recreation either on Sundays or other days. Full story available at: <https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2018/12/10/survey-shows-marylanders-support-deer-hunting/>

## MISSISSIPPI

### Mississippi Chapter



The annual meeting of the Mississippi Chapter of The Wildlife Society featured a wildlife disease/emergency response workshop presented by Wildlife Services' wildlife disease biologist **Jonathan Lewis** and feral swine coordinator **Carson Nelson**. Students from Mississippi State University and Delta State were among the 31 workshop participants at the September meeting.

The first workshop exercise required attendees to don full personal protection Tyvek suits and respond

to a mock disease outbreak using stuffed bears sprinkled with Glo Germ. The powder glows under a black light to illustrate the spread of germs and showed participants the importance of using personal protective clothing when responding to a disease outbreak.

Another exercise required participants to draw colored water, which simulated blood, from bottles, and to safely handle the samples using techniques taught in a Wildlife Services National Training Academy video. Participants discussed the importance of using blood sampling rather than tissue sampling for specimens, as well as blood spinning and sample submission.

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks demonstrated a third exercise on collecting lymph node samples for chronic wasting disease testing. This is an important topic in Mississippi, which had its first confirmed case of CWD in a deer last February. MDWFP personnel conducted a full field necropsy of a white-tailed deer, discussing what to look for in the organs.

The last exercise focused on taking genetic ear plugs, or ear tissue samples, and nasal swabs from feral swine. Participants were able to try their hand at the ear punch tools and nasal swabs while wearing appropriate personal protection equipment. The workshop also discussed the importance of the genetic work conducted at the National Wildlife Research Center and various feral swine diseases. Full media release and additional pictures available at: <http://wildlife.org>.

**Kristina Godwin, State Director, Wildlife Services-Mississippi**



At the annual meeting of the Mississippi Chapter of The Wildlife Society, workshop participants practice drawing colored water from a bottle to simulate drawing blood samples. ©Wildlife Services-Mississippi

# STATE REPORTS

## Mississippi State University

The 18th Wildlife Damage Management Conference will be held at Mississippi State University on March 25-27, 2019. Conference attendees represent national and international research faculty, resource managers and policy makers, federal and state agencies responsible for wildlife damage management, and professional nuisance wildlife operators in private practice. Conference details are available at <http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/workshops/wildlifedamage/index.asp>.

**Submitted by: Raymond B. Iglay**  
[ray.iglay@msstate.edu](mailto:ray.iglay@msstate.edu)



### TWS Working Groups

Did you know that TWS has 25 working groups? Working groups are forums for members with common professional interests to network, exchange information and promote science based decision making and management of wildlife and its habitats. Working groups publish newsletters, hold meetings, conduct policy analysis, and organize technical symposia and workshops. Visit <http://wildlife.org> under "Network" for more information about the different working groups and how to become involved.

## MSU Student Chapter/Mississippi Wildlife Federation

Mississippi State University student, **Murry Burgess**, has selected by the Mississippi Wildlife Federation as the 2019 recipient of the Mississippi Wildlife Federation scholarship. From Southaven, Mississippi, Murry is treasurer of the MSU student chapter of TWS and a senior majoring in Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science. Her professional experience includes internships with USFWS and the Boise Zoo, as well as serving as a student ambassador for the College of Forest Resources and a member of the MSU chapter of Minorities in Agriculture and Natural Resources Sciences.

**Submitted by: Leslie Burger**  
[leslie.burger@msstate.edu](mailto:leslie.burger@msstate.edu)



**Murry Burgess** attending the Southeast wildlife student conclave in 2018.

# STATE REPORTS

## NORTH CAROLINA



### North Carolina Chapter

Our Chapter was honored to receive the 'Affiliate of the Year' Award from the NCWF during their 2017 Governor's Achievement Awards Program. This program highlights individuals and organizations that have exemplified conservation activism across the State. This award recognized our commitment to science-based research and management of the State's wildlife, as well as our fact-based advocacy for North Carolina's wildlife resources, professional development opportunities provided for wildlife professionals and financial support and mentorship offered to wildlife students. This award is a tribute to our past and current board members, past presidents and Chapter members.

We are actively planning our 2019 Annual Chapter Meeting at the Blue Ridge Assembly in Black Mountain from April 2-4. The theme will be 'Habitat Matters, Wildlife Conservation from the Group Up'. Sessions will focus on habitat restoration and management, as well as presentations on species

specific to the mountains. Mark your calendar and plan for an educational and captivating conference, capped by our traditional, lively auction and bluegrass session. All are welcome!

If you're planning on passing through the Carolinas, make sure and pick up a copy of 'The Birds of the Central Carolinas'. Authored by **Donald W. Seriff** and illustrated by **Leigh Anne Carter**, it is jam-packed with species accounts, occurrence maps and anecdotes for common and rare species alike. Scientific information is concisely compiled and displayed, from Christmas Bird Counts, species collections, the Breeding Bird Atlas and eBird, giving a comprehensive look at the distribution of breeding birds across the region. If you're interested in picking up a copy, go to the Mecklenburg County (NC) Audubon website.

In our most recent newsletter, we highlighted Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve in Moore County. This unique area has over seven miles of hiking and equestrian trails that traverse an array of natural communities. This preserve is home to the oldest known living longleaf pine tree, aged at 470 years. Along with the rich heritage of this unique



The NCTWS Chapter is honored with the NCWF 'Affiliate of the Year' Award.  
(Photo courtesy **Colleen Olfenbittel**)

# STATE REPORTS

ecosystem, it is celebrated at the annual 'Party for the Pine' festival each spring. Festival goers get a guided hike to this tree, in addition to turpentine demonstrations, a live controlled burn, activities for the kids, local vendors, food trucks and so much more!

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

**Submitted by: Gabriela Garrison**  
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## SOUTH CAROLINA



### South Carolina DNR

#### DNA Evidence Helps Researchers Find Elusive Blackwater Fish

To biologists, the decline or loss of a species is nothing short of a crime. And fittingly, they're investigating it like one. Just as the suspect in a crime scene drama gets careless and leaves behind a fingerprint or DNA, fish - and all organisms, for that matter - are constantly leaving evidence. Evidence in the form of environmental DNA ("eDNA") - that which has left the organism but persists in its surroundings for some time, carrying the unique genetic signature of the species.

In the case of fish, DNA enters the water from scales and slime flushing off or waste and gametes being excreted. Water samples can then be taken and

## OKLAHOMA



NO NEWS REPORTED



The Gum Swamp Trail at Weymouth Woods provides a nice view of the longleaf pine ecosystem. (Photo courtesy **Kelly Douglass**)

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analyzed for DNA to detect the presence of a target species, greatly reducing the amount of effort required to actually capture a potentially elusive critter using more labor-intensive methods.

It's a process seeing increasing application in both conservation of imperiled fishes and monitoring of invasive species, from confirming the existence of the extremely rare Alabama Sturgeon, feared to be extinct but recently discovered using eDNA, to tracking the spread of destructive Asian carp in the Great Lakes region. And it is particularly useful when trying to find a reclusive, 2-inch-long fish, only a handful of which might live amongst acres of snaggy swamps or miles of meandering blackwater creeks.

In South Carolina and other eastern states, an investigation is underway to find evidence of the Blackbanded Sunfish, a silver dollar-sized boldly barred fish of blackwaters and backwaters in the coastal plain. This fish is getting harder to come by, especially in other portions of its historic range such as Georgia and Maryland, where biologists searching in former locations are coming away empty-handed. Reasons for the fish's apparent decline are not entirely understood, and a State Wildlife Grants-funded collaboration between the SCDNR Population Genetics Lab, SCDNR Freshwater Fisheries Research program and Georgia Department of Natural Resources aims to address this issue and help conserve this unique species and others facing similar problems.

But eDNA technology for any species can't simply be purchased from a biological research supply company just yet. Developing the tool for use in the field may take years of rigorous lab work, in this case by Dr. **Tanya Darden**'s team at the SCDNR's Population Genetics Lab, located at the Hollings Marine Laboratory in Charleston. Amid wall-to-wall experimental tanks containing the beautiful fish, studies were conducted to ensure that the process worked in a range of water conditions and fish densities and could zero in on Blackbanded Sunfish without being "fooled" by the DNA of closely related species such as Bluespotted Sunfish. The final product was both specific and sensitive, capable of detecting a fragment of Blackbanded Sunfish DNA weighing as little as one quadrillionth of a gram (one quadrillionth the weight of a penny).



Blackbanded Sunfish

With the lab methods perfected and protocols in place, researchers set out across the swamps and sloughs of South Carolina and Georgia armed with an unorthodox arsenal of fish sampling gear - water sample bottles (10 samples taken throughout each site) and plenty of latex gloves and bleach, critical for cleaning equipment and avoiding DNA cross-contamination among sites. Water samples were collected at 30 sites in each state from places that looked suitable for the reclusive fish, including several locations in Georgia at which the species had not been seen in many years despite countless hours of searching with traditional sampling gears such as nets and traps. In addition to the water samples, habitat features were measured including water depth, flow rate and the type and amount of aquatic vegetation, in order to help identify the habitat types that support this sensitive species.

Then came the moments of truth, as the hundreds of water samples were filtered and the resulting material analyzed with a method called polymerase chain reaction (PCR). In PCR, just as a key is designed to fit only one lock, special lab-developed "primers" are mixed with the sample material and seek out and bind with the unique sequence of Blackbanded Sunfish DNA - and only Blackbanded Sunfish DNA. Once identified, even the smallest amounts of DNA are then replicated by the PCR process to a level that can be detected by specialized equipment, essentially indicating "Yes, Blackbanded Sunfish DNA is present." If the sunfish DNA is not there, the reaction does not happen, and the equipment does not indicate a detection.

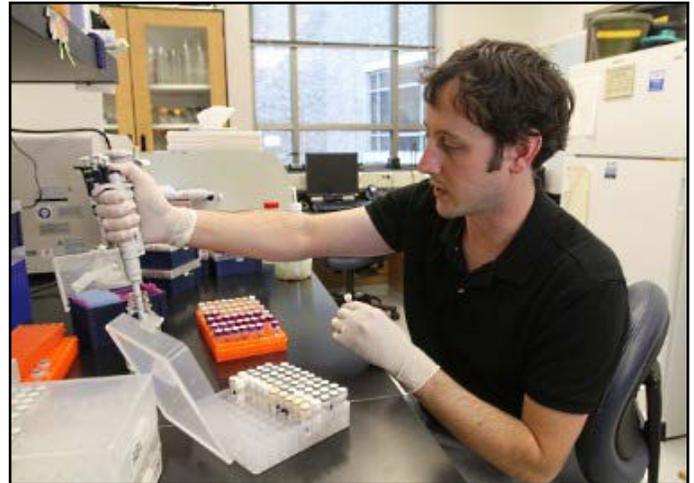
# STATE REPORTS

And although the news was positive in both cases, the results and follow-up surveys illustrate a puzzling discrepancy between states - an extremely patchy distribution that is mirrored elsewhere across the range of this fish. South Carolina appears to be a relative stronghold for the species, with populations found in suitable habitat across the entire Sand Hills region. Crews returned to DNA-positive sites with traditional sampling gears and in all cases in South Carolina set eyes on the fish, from a few individuals to as many as 34 collected in a matter of hours (a small piece of each fish's fin was clipped and preserved for assessment of population genetic health before the fish were released).

Georgia, on the other hand, remained quite a different story. Hundreds of hours of scouring the DNA-positive sites initially revealed no Blackbanded Sunfish. Eventually a couple individuals were collected during other fish surveys nearby - an exciting yet telling moment, as the fact remained that this species appears to be exceedingly uncommon in the state.

But why? The areas occupied by Blackbanded Sunfish in Georgia are rather remote and for the most part undisturbed by human activity; there is no apparent "smoking gun" for their low numbers and restricted range compared with neighboring South Carolina. The species has long been rare in Georgia, but collection rates still appear to be dropping in recent years, and such declines are seldom caused by a single issue and therefore can be difficult to decipher.

The fish's scarcity in Georgia still hits home with biologists across the state line, who are careful not to let their guard down just because the species currently appears relatively secure in South Carolina waters. Declines in Blackbanded Sunfish elsewhere may foretell a similar fate for fish in the Palmetto State (a major reason for its status of High Priority in the State Wildlife Action Plan), and the contrast in situations sets an ideal stage on which to hopefully zero in on these patterns and factors influencing the abundance and distribution of this blackwater gem. Future study objectives include the development of models



Fisheries research biologist processing samples.

to predict watersheds with conditions most likely to support Blackbanded Sunfish - an additional method that could pay immediate dividends by helping to locate potentially unknown populations in a huge state like Georgia, for example. Furthermore, such tools could also be used to identify sites most suitable for reintroduction efforts if necessary.

Even though the fish themselves might be hard to see, the value of eDNA technology stands out clearly. This tool provides an efficient way to locate populations and focus future efforts with limited resources, enhancing the ability of researchers to protect and restore the species. After all, simply knowing that the fish is there is the first piece of the puzzle.

Funding for this study was supplied by the State Wildlife Grants program administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

For more information on the Blackbanded Sunfish, please visit the SC State Wildlife Action Plan: <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/swap/supplemental/freshwaterfish/blackbandedsunfish2015.pdf>.

**Submitted by Kevin Kubach  
SCDNR Fisheries Research Biologist**

# STATE REPORTS

## Horry-Georgetown Technical College

Horry-Georgetown Technical College (HGTC) forestry and wildlife management student **Paige McMahan** was presented with the South Carolina Wildlife Society's Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award on December 4, 2018. SC Wildlife Society executive board member **Achi Treptow** presented McMahan with the award at HGTC's Georgetown Campus as McMahan's proud family members, professors and school administrators looked on.

McMahan was the only undergraduate student in South Carolina to receive the award this year, and is the fourth HGTC student to receive the award. She was nominated by her professor and former SC Wildlife Society president, **Jim Westerhold**, for being a positive team player, her stellar coursework in the classroom and in the field, and her involvement in the wildlife biology field outside of the classroom.

"These qualities are exactly what we look for when we hire employees from institutions like HGTC," said Treptow.



**Paige McMahan** receives Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award from SC Wildlife Society.



Left to right: HGTC Associate Professor **Amy McGrath**, HGTC Associate Dean Dr. **Dan Wysong**, HGTC Professor **Deanna Ruth**, SC Wildlife Society Executive Board Member **Achi Treptow**, HGTC Student **Paige McMahan**, HGTC Forestry Professor and Program Chair **Jim Westerhold**, HGTC Professor **Brian Clark**, and HGTC Provost **Greg Mitchell** at the award presentation on December 4.

# STATE REPORTS

McMahan plans to continue her education after receiving her associate's degree from HGTC.

The only accredited associate degree program of its kind in South Carolina, the HGTC forestry management technology program trains students for a successful and rewarding career in wildlife and forestry management and timber harvesting.

View video from the award presentation: <https://youtu.be/w8DimwlljA>

**Submitted by Jim Westerholt**

## International Association for Wildland Fire

**Johnny Stowe**, Heritage Preserve Manager with SCDNR, has been elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the International Association for Wildland Fire. His three-year term begins in January. Johnny has long been an advocate for prescribed fire as a management tool and his presence on the Board will be a great asset to the Association.

**Submitted by Anna Huckabee Smith**

**Reporter/contact: David Jachowski**  
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## TENNESSEE

### Tennessee Chapter

The Tennessee Chapter will be hosting their 2019 spring Annual meeting which will be held February 27 – March 1 in Gatlinburg at the Edgewater Hotel.

**Submitted by: Brett G. Dunlap**  
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## VIRGINIA

### Virginia Chapter



The 2019 Annual Meeting of the Virginia Chapter of The Wildlife Society will be held in Waynesboro, VA from Monday, February 4 through Wednesday, February 6, 2019.

The 2019 meeting features workshops, presentations, networking events and a field trip. The Chapter is providing professional development opportunities through three workshop offerings:

- 1) Introduction To Program R For Natural Resource Professionals
- 2) Handling, Restraint And Sample Techniques For Wildlife In The Field
- 3) Introduction to Unmanned Aerial Systems

Back by popular demand, we are offering a field trip to the Wildlife Center of Virginia, a hospital for native wildlife located in Waynesboro, VA. The tour includes a look at the state-of-the-art hospital and care facilities as well as outdoor facilities that house patients nearing release and education animals. You will hear about the veterinary process, the rehabilitation process, education programs and on-going research at the center. What better way to close out the meeting! New this year, we'll also be holding a silent auction to benefit student scholarships and chapter needs. More information is available at <http://wildlife.org/virginia-chapter/>.



Nancy Brandt

# STATE REPORTS

## DUCKS UNLIMITED

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

### Mississippi

#### **Mahannah WMA Enhanced**

Ducks Unlimited and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks each secured a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant to enhance more than 1,100 acres of moist soil wetlands on Mahannah WMA. Work included bottomland hardwood reforestation on 300 acres, installation of water control structures, renovation of levees, and installation of new water wells to vastly improve water management capability and moist soil habitat quality on 13 wetland units. Through the installation of new water control infrastructure, partners provided additional, independently managed moist soil units, more efficient water use, and better management capacity for WMA staff. Other partners include Cypress Brake Tree Farms, Mississippi Land Trust, Wetlands America Trust, Bradshaw Tree, Inc., and Delta Wind Birds.



This is one of the newly enhanced impoundments following construction. Water was left on this impoundment following a late natural flood into the summer. The late natural flooding turned into managed flooding and was used as a tool to control habitat conditions to provide quality wetland habitat during the fall/winter.

Mahannah WMA consists of 12,695 acres of bottomland hardwoods, agricultural fields, hardwood reforestation and managed impoundments in Issaquena County. It is open to public hunting through a draw system. In addition to improvements to Mahannah, the DU NAWCA grant also supports improvements to Morgan Brake and Hillside National Wildlife Refuges, Delta National Forest, and O'Keefe WMA, all public lands within a 30-mile radius. Together, these areas provide important wildlife habitat, particularly for waterfowl, in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley (MAV). The MAV is a priority for Ducks Unlimited based on the needs of wintering waterfowl and threats to habitat in the area.

<http://www.ducks.org/conservation/sr/mississippi/mahannah-wma-enhanced>



One of the newly created impoundments in summer, full of millet, sprangletop and other high quality wetland plants for waterfowl.

### North Louisiana

#### **Innovative On-Farm Water Management Project**

Conservation provisions of multiple Farm Bills have had a significant impact on restoration and enhancement of wildlife habitat in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley (MAV). Through highly effective programs such as the Wetlands Reserve Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program and Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Ducks Unlimited partnered with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to restore thousands of acres of waterfowl habitat throughout the MAV. However, as the conservation community

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evaluates the quantity and quality of wildlife habitat available in the MAV, significant needs and opportunities exist to further advance the integration of habitat development on working lands.

Through a recently approved NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) project, DU will work with farmers in Louisiana to combine applicable Farm Bill programs with restoration of degraded cypress-tupelo brakes. This unique, whole-farm strategy will utilize these restored wetlands as storage reservoirs to improve water quality and increase irrigation efficiency. Restoration of these wetlands, coupled with improving water delivery infrastructure, will also enhance capabilities to flood agricultural fields in winter for waterfowl and shorebirds, improving wildlife habitat and reducing groundwater extraction.

The hydrological restoration of brakes on working agricultural lands within the MAV to capture surface water and storm runoff from fields is an innovative practice to improve water quality, conserve and utilize water resources, and improve habitat for wildlife while reducing input costs from pumping groundwater from the substantially declining alluvial aquifer. Storm water is collected through tailwater recovery ditches, which allow sediment and nutrients to settle to the bottom prior to the water being moved into cypress-tupelo brakes where it is stored until needed.

This project includes Catahoula, Concordia, East Carroll, Franklin, Morehouse, Richland, and Tensas parishes. Partners anticipate initial sign-up opening early in 2019.

<http://www.ducks.org/conservation/sr/louisiana/innovative-on-farm-water-management-project>

## **Virginia** **Ducks Unlimited, DGIF Celebrate Coastal Restoration**

Ducks Unlimited partners and supporters gathered in November to celebrate two projects that enhanced wetland habitat on the Princess Anne Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in southeastern Virginia.

“Improvements on public lands like Princess Anne WMA enhance outdoor recreation opportunities for everyone. While we are enhancing habitat for waterfowl and other wetland-dependent wildlife, we are enhancing water quality and flood protection in the area,” said DU Director of Conservation Programs **Jamie Rader**.

Located on Back Bay, Princess Anne WMA serves as the DGIF’s major waterfowl hunting area. Hunting opportunities are further enhanced by a long-standing cooperative agreement with Virginia State Parks that provides limited access to False Cape State Park for hunting waterfowl and deer.

Four tracts, totaling 1,546 acres, make up the WMA. Through this two-phased project, DU constructed two pump stations, multiple water-control structures and water delivery systems to aid in the management of wetland habitat for shorebirds, wading birds and waterfowl on 200 acres in this important wetland complex.

“Through our great partnership with Ducks Unlimited, we now have the ability to manage water levels better and improve habitat for waterbirds and waterfowl that citizens of the Commonwealth enjoy seeing at Princess Anne,” said DGIF Executive Director **Bob Duncan**. “We are pleased to have contributed Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Stamp funds to complete this important project and look forward to working more with Ducks Unlimited in the future.”

Construction on the 150-acre Whitehurst Unit was completed in February 2016. This enhancement provided independent water delivery throughout the 12-impoundment complex.

DU secured a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant to finalize the funding needed for the 50-acre Beasley Unit, which was completed in May 2017. This grant also supported conservation work on two private properties and one other state-owned public property.

Other funding for work on Princess Anne WMA was provided by the Caterpillar Foundation, Carter

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Machinery, Dominion Energy, The Dominion Foundation, the Mary Morton Parsons Foundation, DGIF, the Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp Fund, the Virginia Environmental Endowment and the Ohrstrom Foundation.

Princess Anne WMA is open to the public for waterfowl hunting and managed by DGIF through the Quota Hunt System.

<http://www.ducks.org/conservation/sr/virginia/du-dgif-celebrate-coastal-restoration>

## **North Carolina**

### **North Carolina Public Land Expansion**

A DU project to expand public lands in coastal North Carolina was awarded \$1.2 million from the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) program. The grant supports the fee title acquisition of the 6,300-acre Hubbard-Pinkerton tract—an expansive forested wetland, marsh and river-front property on the North River in Camden County. The property is geographically, hydrologically and ecologically connected to several other conservation properties and projects in the region.

connected to several other conservation properties and projects in the region.

The property will be purchased and dedicated by NC-WRC as part of the expansive, publicly-accessible North River Game Lands, including protection of wetlands and waters, availability for NCWRC-guided workshops, and public access for hunting and recreation.

The resource protection objectives for this acquisition project with WRC include (1) permanent protection of ecologically-significant wetlands, contributing to the improvement of water quality discharged into the Albemarle Sound, (2) contributions toward a network of riparian protection throughout the North River watershed which yield environmental and recreational benefits by protecting riverfront habitats and scenic views from timbering or conversion, (3) acquisition of land that represents the ecological diversity of North Carolina and (4) providing passive recreation, hunting, fishing, and access to game lands along the extensive river frontage by holding the property as an undeveloped game land in state ownership.

The CWMTF grant funds are part of a multi-partner bargain-sale acquisition to expand the NC Wildlife Resource Commission's (NCWRC) adjacent North



Dedication attendees toured improved impoundments to see new water management infrastructure.  
(Photo credit **Meghan Marchetti**, VDGIF)

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River Game Lands. Additional project funding comes from a National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant, the Enviva Forest Conservation Fund and DU.

DU has a long history of conservation and restoration efforts in the area. Since 1984, the total habitat restored, protected or enhanced by DU in North Carolina is 130,000 acres. These protected and restored wetlands improve water quality, flood retention and provide recreational opportunities for the public.

<http://www.ducks.org/conservation/sr/north-carolina/north-carolina-public-land-expansion>



The Hubbard-Pinkerton tract will be added to the North River Game Lands to expand public land recreation in North Carolina.

## **South Carolina**

### **DU Partners with Magnolia Plantation and Gardens**

Ducks Unlimited is partnering with Magnolia Plantation and Gardens in Charleston County, South Carolina to enhance 165 acres of historic rice fields through a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Grant that DU received.

Founded in 1676 by the Drayton family, Magnolia Plantation has survived the centuries and witnessed the history of our nation unfold from the American Revolution through the Civil War and beyond. It is the oldest public tourist site in the Lowcountry and the oldest public gardens in America. Since it opened its doors to the public in 1870, thousands of visitors

view thousands of beautiful flowers and plants in its famous gardens each year. The Plantation gardens were the first to feature azaleas in America and among the first to utilize *Camellia japonica* in an outdoor setting. A great deal of Magnolia's horticultural fame today is based on the large and varied collection of varieties of these two species—not the abundant and lovely Southern Magnolia for which the plantation just happened to have been named.

“This project will enhance Magnolia’s historic tidal rice field and the inland rice field complex, which includes the Audubon Swamp Garden,” said **James Rader**, DU director of conservation programs. “The enhancement of both systems will improve breeding habitat as well as foraging habitat for species closely associated with the rookery.”

The inland rice field project will also improve the management of the fields by providing independent flooding, draining and circulation of each area as well as increasing connectivity between them.

**Winslow Hastie**, a member of the Drayton-Hastie family that has owned Magnolia since 1676, said, “My family’s stewardship of this land is well documented. We are looking forward to working with Ducks Unlimited to continue that legacy. We are excited about the potential this project holds to improve the wildlife habitat at Magnolia for the enjoyment of the people who visit our gardens and for the benefit of Lowcountry residents and wildlife.”



Rice trunks are a characteristic water control structure in the Lowcountry for managing intertidal impoundments.

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## Tennessee

### **Maddox Fund Supports Work at Cross Creeks NWR**

Ducks Unlimited and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) are enhancing 263 acres of moist soil wetlands on Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge. Cross Creeks is located four miles east of Dover, in Stewart County, Tennessee. Funding comes from the Dan and Margaret Maddox Charitable Fund, a small North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant and match provided by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA).

Enhancement work on Cross Creeks NWR is underway and includes improvements on three different impoundments that will enhance and increase wetland habitat in an area that is very important for both waterfowl and other wetland-dependent species. The USFWS has aerially applied herbicide to 120 acres of wetland habitat to control undesirable vegetation. Additional improvements include the installation of a new water control structure in one impoundment and the addition of a portable re-lift pump to be used on two different shallow water impoundments. Currently, USFWS staff is unable to draw down the water to appropriate levels to grow important quality moist soil plants in three impoundments on the refuge. With the new pump and water control structure, the USFWS will be able draw down and flood 263 acres of shallow water wetland habitat currently unable to be managed effectively. Cross Creeks NWR is an important refuge for migratory waterfowl in middle Tennessee and the Mississippi Flyway. This project will provide critical wetland habitat on this important refuge complex.

The same NAWCA small grant will also support improvements on the Bean Switch Wildlife Management Area (WMA). TWRA acquired 52 acres of scrub shrub wetland referred to as the Adams Tract. The area will be added to the Bean Switch WMA, permanently protecting an important piece of forested wetland habitat and allowing public access to the area.

<http://www.ducks.org/conservation/sr/tennessee/maddox-fund-supports-work-at-cross-creeks-nwr>

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

### South Louisiana

#### **Multi-project Dedication in Coastal Louisiana**

In October, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and Ducks Unlimited (DU) dedicated five coastal restoration projects that benefit thousands of acres on state-managed public lands.

Wetlands provide crucial habitat for hundreds of migratory species, however, managing the water levels in these areas require large water control structures. With the ability to manage water levels, LDWF is able to maximize habitat for wintering and migrating bird species, along with managing healthy estuaries and fisheries. Due to the large volumes of water moving through these structures, multi-million-dollar solutions are often needed, and partners from across the business, conservation, and community spectrum come together to fund these mutually beneficial projects.

Ducks Unlimited secured funding through the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) competitive grants process. NAWCA grants fund projects in the United States, Canada and Mexico that involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands. Various public and private partners provided match funding to leverage the grants' impacts.

These five projects on state-owned lands will provide better public recreation and coastal wetland management capacity:

Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge - Unit 4 Water Control Structure: DU replaced an older water control structure from the 1960s. The new design utilizes an inverted T-panel built off site, thus reducing cost and creating a more durable water control structure. Recreational fishing piers were constructed on the interior side of the unit, allowing recreational users a safe area to crab and fish. The Unit 4 impoundment contains 5,000 acres of wetlands. Total project cost was approximately \$1.5 million.

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State Wildlife Refuge - Tom's Bayou NAWCA Project and Prien Lake Weir: Tom's Bayou received rock weirs that slow tidal exchange and reduce tidal scour, improving the hydrology of approximately 7,500 acres. Additional funding was available, and Prien Lake Weir was added to the grant. A feed crest weir was constructed on Bayou Prien, benefitting a 630-acre area. Total project cost was approximately \$1,165,000.

Salvador WMA - White Tract Acquisition - 1,783 acres were purchased for \$1.4 million using NAWCA and LDWF funding. These lands are adjacent to Salvador WMA and will be incorporated into the boundary of Salvador WMA.

Pass a Loutre WMA - Bird Enhancement Project: A hydraulic dredge was utilized to clean out an existing crevasse near South Pass to increase the flow of sediment and freshwater from the Mississippi River into a shallow water bay. The dredge material was then pumped approximately 2 miles away into open water to create a bird nesting island. This island is 3 acres in size and provides a safe nesting area for shorebirds without the threat of land predators.

Pointe aux Chenes WMA - Moist Soil Unit Project: To be constructed in 2019. Creation of an 85-acre moist soil unit, properly managed through installation of 2 small water control structures, water pumps, and levee repairs. Approximate cost \$450,000, and additional funding is being secured.

<http://www.ducks.org/conservation/sr/louisiana/multi-project-dedication-in-coastal-louisiana>

## Resiliency Funding for Louisiana Restoration Work

Ducks Unlimited recently received funding for coastal restoration work through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) new National Coastal Resiliency Fund (NCRF). Established in 2018, the fund's goal is to restore and enhance natural resource infrastructure to reduce the vulnerability of coastal communities to storms, floods and other detrimental natural events. NFWF, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Shell Oil Company and TransRe announced 35 grants in the inaugural round of funding totaling \$28.93 million, leveraging \$38.29 million in match from grantees, and generating a total conservation impact of more than \$67.22 million.



Dedication attendees visited the recently completed Unit 4 Water Control Structure at Rockefeller, where members of the public were crabbing and fishing.

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Investments through this national program will advance regionally identified priorities to enhance fish and wildlife habitats and improve the resilience of coastal communities. The fund focuses on advancing implementation of projects that will have greatest benefit to both human community resilience and fish and wildlife benefit. DU's Terrebonne Basin Coastal Wetland Habitat Restoration and Community Resiliency proposal is the first such funding for DU's coastal restoration work, recognizing the tremendous benefits of our waterfowl habitat restoration work for coastal communities and people.

DU received \$1,705,000 from NFWF's NCRF. To fulfill the match obligation, we pulled together \$1,705,000 in cash provided by DU, ConocoPhillips, Lafourche Parish Government, and the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority that will also be put towards these project features for a total project budget of \$3.41 million for engineering and design, construction and monitoring. Projects will enhance coastal habitat for waterfowl and increase resilience for the communities of Golden Meadow, Isle de Jean Charles and Pointe aux Chenes.

A variety of coastal restoration techniques will be used on three sites in Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes. Marsh creation and nourishment with dredged material will be done on 115 acres west of Golden Meadow, Louisiana, bordering the South Lafourche Levee District flood protection levee. Marsh terraces

will be built to enhance approximately 375 acres of marsh just west of the town of Pointe aux Chenes, bordering the Morganza to the Gulf flood protection levee system. A third project will improve moist soil habitat and freshwater marsh on Pointe aux Chenes Wildlife Management Area. This project will enhance waterfowl and other wildlife habitat on 85 acres, which also border the Morganza to the Gulf flood protection levee system. Finally, a living shoreline protection feature will be constructed within the footprint of the marsh creation or terrace project to provide erosion control and project longevity. This "Biogenic Oyster Shoreline System" will benefit oysters and other marine organisms. Construction should begin in early 2019 with completion by June 2020. Project monitoring will be ongoing and provided by Mississippi State University Researchers.

The full list of partners on these projects includes DU, ConocoPhillips, Lafourche Parish Government, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Mississippi State University, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, ORA Technologies, NFWF, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Shell Oil Co., and NFWF Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund.

<http://www.ducks.org/conservation/sr/louisiana/resiliency-funding-for-louisiana-restoration-work>

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



USFWS/Steve Hillebrand

# BUSINESS

## SECRETARY-TREASURER REPORT

January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018

Submitted by: Kelly Douglass, SE Section Secretary/Treasurer

|                              |               |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Beginning Balance (01/01/18) | \$7,993.95    |
| Deposits                     | \$5,498.00    |
| Debits                       | \$(-1,908.51) |
| Outstanding Checks           | \$(-0.00)     |
| Ending Balance (12/31/18)    | \$11,583.44   |

### DEPOSITS

| Item                                   | Amount            |
|--|-------------------|
| TWS Third and Fourth Quarter 2017 Dues | \$2,900.00        |
| TWS First Quarter 2018 Dues            | \$1,130.00        |
| TWS Second Quarter 2018 Dues           | \$736.00          |
| TWS Third Quarter 2018 Dues            | \$732.00          |
| <b>TOTAL DEPOSITS</b>                  | <b>\$5,498.00</b> |

### DEBITS

| Item  | Amount            |
|---|-------------------|
| Harland Clarke (ordering checkbook)         | \$48.01           |
| Athens Stamp and Engraving (award plaques)  | \$160.50          |
| Katie Edwards (newsletter editor)           | \$1,500.00        |
| Joshua Nix (best student poster award)      | \$100.00          |
| Paul Burr (best student presentation award) | \$100.00          |
| <b>TOTAL DEBITS</b>                         | <b>\$1,908.51</b> |

## 2019 Southeastern Section Officers

### President:

Dr. Michael Mengak  
Associate Dean of Outreach  
& Professor – Wildlife  
Warnell School of Forestry  
& Natural Resources  
University of Georgia  
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### President-Elect:

Dr. Raymond B. Iglay  
Assistant Research Professor  
Center for Resolving Human-  
Wildlife Conflicts  
Department of Wildlife, Fisheries  
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### Southeastern Section

#### Representative:

Dr. L. Mike Conner  
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### Immediate Past President:

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Associate Professor  
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### Secretary/Treasurer:

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## Transforming Science Communication and Literacy

### A new report from Wiley sheds light on one of our profession's biggest challenges

We live in interesting times... I could stop there, link the report, and call it quits, but I'm not going to because I'm fascinated by the topic of science communication. In fact, nearly a decade ago I altered my career from studying wildlife to studying new frontiers in wildlife conservation. I say new frontiers because our profession is increasingly operating in uncharted territories. The world is changing, public attitudes are shifting, and skepticism towards science is increasing.

Gone are the days when we could produce a standalone scientific report, retreat to the field, and expect society to exhibit a heightened level of deference towards our research. Some may point to partisan politics or blame millennials because that seems to be a thing, but perhaps, we as a profession have failed to keep pace with the changing times. Our science may reach other scientists but is seemingly lost in the gluttony of information available to policy-makers and the public.

So, what's the solution? Unfortunately, there's no simple answer to that question, but Wiley's report—*To Know the World: Transforming Science Literacy and Communications to Improve Research Impact*—touches on several timely and thought-provoking concepts including:

- Recognizing the need for “translated” scientific information;
- Fostering curiosity and improving scientific literacy by inspiring others to ask questions and seek science-based answers;
- Making science relatable and the profession welcoming to all through providing diverse portrayals of scientists and by highlighting the personal stories of scientists;
- Contextualizing science and the scientific process; and
- Developing innovative ways to expand the audience and understanding of research.

This is not about becoming activists or about attacking the messaging of others. It's about improving our own messaging, becoming better storytellers, and figuring out ways to enhance our communication while still preserving the depth and integrity of our work. How can we as individual wildlife professionals shape our own personal networks, touch the lives of those around us, and inspire the next generation? Not every aspect of Wiley's report is relevant to wildlife professionals, but I hope the report sparks dialogue within your Section, Chapter, or Working Group while demonstrating that, while these are interesting times, we face boundless opportunity to forage new paths through the unknown.

Download the Wiley report at <http://news.wiley.com/R4GZM-ResearchReport-Download>

What do you think? Is the increased skepticism towards science a good thing? What role should wildlife professionals play in communicating science? How do you share your science? Share your thoughts with us on social media @wildlifesociety or #wildlifesociety.

Wiley is the publisher of TWS' three premier wildlife journals—*The Journal of Wildlife Management*, *Wildlife Monographs* and the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*.

**By Cameron Kovach, TWS General Manager**



# BUSINESS

## Council Approves Changes to CWB Renewal Requirements

The Wildlife Society is proud to be able to support the development and advancement of wildlife professionals throughout their careers, and the Professional Certification Program is just one of the ways the Society recognizes its members. During its fall meeting, TWS Council approved changes to both the Certified Wildlife Biologist® renewal and Professional Development Certificate applications. These changes were developed in an effort to ensure that the requirements of TWS' certification program appropriately and effectively encourages wildlife biologists to enhance their skills and pursue continual learning opportunities to remain current in their field.

As of October 2018, members have the opportunity to record continuing education units (CEUs) in six professional activity categories:

- Category I: Participation in Organized Activities
- Category II: Leadership of Organized Activities
- Category III: Mentorship Activities (previously a subcategory under Category I)
- Category IV: Publications Activities
- Category V: Self-Directed Activities
- Category VI: Professional Service Activities

Originally, members were only able to list CEUs in Category I of the CWB renewal application and in Category I-V of the Professional Development Certificate application. The addition of the mentorship subcategory was approved in September 2017 and retained as its own category during the most recent update of the applications. The minimum number of total CEUs required to receive a new certificate every five years will remain the same for both programs – CWB renewal requires at least 80 CEUs, while the Professional Development Certificate requires at least 150.

Renewing and retaining your certification with The Wildlife Society demonstrates your commitment to excellence within the profession through continued learning and professional development. Current members are eligible to apply for CWB renewal if they have previously been approved as a Certified Wildlife Biologist with The Wildlife Society. Renewal is required every five years for all CWBs who were not grandfathered in under the certification requirements prior to 2000.

The Professional Development Certificate is recognition by the Society that an individual has gone above and beyond in staying engaged in the wildlife profession over the past five years. Applicants do not have to be certified in order to apply. At the end of the five year timeframe, a new application can be submitted for a new certificate. If you have any questions about these programs or your current certification station please contact Jamila Blake, Professional Development Coordinator, at [certification@wildlife.org](mailto:certification@wildlife.org).

**73rd ANNUAL SEAFWA CONFERENCE  
SAVE THE DATE  
HILTON HEAD, SC | OCT. 27 – 30, 2019**

Hosted by South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, the 73rd Annual Conference will be held at the Hilton Head Marriott Resort in Hilton Head, South Carolina.

The Call for Symposia Proposals will open in February, and the regular Call for Presentations will open in April. Sponsor and Exhibitor registration will open in April, and attendee registration in July.

# BUSINESS

## TWS Leadership Institute Now Accepting Applications - Apply Now!

The Wildlife Society's flagship leadership training program, the Leadership Institute, is now accepting applications for its Class of 2019! The program begins in May and concludes at TWS's Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada in October. This year's Leadership Institute cohort will engage with Leadership Institute alumni and TWS Council members, work collaboratively to understand a wide array of leadership styles and perspectives, develop stronger written and verbal communication skills, and learn how to better navigate the conservation field. Participants will receive complimentary registration and a travel grant to attend the conference.

Participation in the Institute is geared toward early-career professionals, typically individuals 2 to 3 years out of school (either undergraduate or graduate school), currently working full-time in a wildlife professional position, and with demonstrated evidence of their leadership potential. All applicants must be members in good standing of TWS and a chapter or section of TWS. The selection committee will be seeking to create a diverse group with participants of varying gender, ethnic, and regional diversity, with selection based upon:

- An excellent academic record
- Demonstrated leadership capability or potential
- Demonstrated level of excellence in current position
- Commitment to and involvement in TWS

Preference will be given to individuals who are certified as Associate Wildlife Biologists® or Certified Wildlife Biologists®, or who have submitted such an application to TWS.

Applicants must submit (in one PDF, excluding recommendation letters):

- Completed Leadership Institute application form
- Cover letter with evidence of leadership capacity or potential, such as previous leadership in TWS organization units or in other organizations
- Résumé including a list of publications, awards, etc.
- Academic transcript(s)
- An essay (1000 word limit), which succinctly summarizes 1) your concept of leadership, 2) your aspiration for your engagement within TWS and the wildlife profession in 5 to 10 years, and 3) why you are an ideal candidate for the Leadership Institute
- Have two letters of recommendation sent from supervisors, academic advisors, professors, or others with whom you have worked and who are familiar with your previous and potential leadership, history and commitment to TWS, and commitment to wildlife management and conservation
- Letters should be sent directly to [leadership@wildlife.org](mailto:leadership@wildlife.org) with subject line "Leadership Institute Recommendation for [applicant last name]"

**Application deadline is March 24, 2019.** Email all materials to: [leadership@wildlife.org](mailto:leadership@wildlife.org).

Visit [wildlife.org/leadership-institute](http://wildlife.org/leadership-institute) for more information.



# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

## Awards 2018

**C.W. Watson (SEAFWA)**  
Karl V. Miller

**Caesar Kleberg Award for Excellence in Applied Wildlife Research**  
Olin E. Rhodes, Jr.

**Conservation Law Enforcement Award (AFWA)**  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation  
Commission Division of Law Enforcement

**Ernest Thompson Seton Award (AFWA)**  
Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study

**Jay N. "Ding" Darling Memorial Award for Wildlife Stewardship Through Art**  
Chester O. Martin

**SEAFWA Publication of the Year (2017)**  
Andy Little, Gino D'Angelo, Charlie Killmaster, Tina Johannsen, and Karl Miller,  
*"Understanding Deer, Bear, and Forest Trends in the North Georgia Mountains: The Value of  
Long Term Data"*

**SETWS Student Chapter of the Year**  
Virginia Tech Student Chapter

**SETWS Best Student Presentation**  
Paul Burr, Mississippi State University, *"Multi-scale Abundance and Distribution Trends of  
Double-crested Cormorants (Phalacrocorax auritus) in the Mississippi Delta"*

**SETWS Best Poster Presentation**  
Joshua H. Nix, University of Arkansas at Monticello, *"Habitat Selection of Male Eastern Wild  
Turkeys in Arkansas Mountain Regions During Reproduction Periods and Hunting Disturbances"*

**SEAFWA Wildlife Biologist of the Year**  
Melynda Hickman

**SEAFWA Diversity and Inclusion Award**  
Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

**TWS Fellows**  
Steven Castleberry, Mark Smith

# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

## UGA Professor Receives Highest Honor from Regional Wildlife Agencies Dr. Karl V. Miller Named C. W. Watson Award Winner

The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) named the University of Georgia's (UGA) Wheatley Distinguished Professor of Deer Management **Karl Miller**, Ph.D. the 2018 C. W. Watson Award winner at their annual meeting in Mobile this week. The award is the highest honor bestowed by the Association.

"While the careers of many wildlife professionals focus on one general area, Dr. Miller's accomplishments encompass white-tailed deer management practices, forest management impacts to wildlife habitat, and the education of future wildlife professionals," said SEAFWA President **Chuck Sykes**.

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Director **Bob Duncan** chaired the award committee. Duncan stated, "It was evident in Dr. Miller's nomination that his commitment to continued scientific investigation is coupled firmly with an understanding that practical, applicable management recommendations need to be determined and conveyed to the broader public. Though he has produced numerous scientific documents, his translation of research results into on-the-ground management guidelines has had the largest and most lasting impacts."

One example of this effort is his co-edited book *Quality Whitetails*, which has been critical in shaping deer hunters' and managers' expectations in the Southeast. Miller was also involved in the development of the Quality Deer Management Association and remains an engaged member.

Beyond white-tailed deer, Miller has provided important contributions to forest management and to conservation of bats, songbirds, squirrels, amphibians and coyotes. He has worked closely with the forest industry, the U.S. Forest Service, state forestry commissions, nongovernmental organizations and private landowners across the Southeast to better understand how wildlife respond to various forestry activities.



Award recipient **Karl Miller** (second from right) with SEAFWA President **Chuck Sykes** (second from left) and C.W. Watson Award Committee members **Emily Jo Williams** (left) and **Kevin Dockendorf**.

# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Recognizing the lack of a field guide that could help students and professionals not only identify plants but also provide information on their wildlife values, Miller and Dr. **James Miller** published the award-winning *Forest Plants of the Southeast and Their Wildlife Uses*. The book is the selected course text for several universities and is used extensively by most wildlife biologists in the Southeast.

“When it comes to passing on his considerable knowledge, Dr. Miller’s courses are some of the most frequently praised among our undergraduate students,” said UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources Dean **Dale Greene**. “He is a skilled and demanding mentor who repeatedly demonstrates a keen ability to pass on knowledge to future generations.”

Having worked for the University of Georgia since 1985 in a number of positions, Miller has served as advisor for 57 master’s students and 19 Ph.D. students. Miller serves as the sole scientist on the Board of Trustees for the Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy, an internationally acclaimed ecological research station in Georgia. He has received multiple Career Achievement awards from the QDMA and Southeast Deer Committee and the prestigious Caesar Kleberg Award for Excellence in Applied Wildlife Research from The Wildlife Society.

The C.W. Watson award 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. 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. This media release was originally published from SEAFWA at [www.seafwa.org/news/](http://www.seafwa.org/news/).

## TWS Fellows Award

Dr. **Mark Smith** and Dr. **Steven Castleberry** were recognized as TWS Fellows from the Southeastern Section at The Wildlife Society’s 25th Annual Conference. This award recognizes current TWS members who have distinguished themselves through exceptional service to the wildlife profession and have been members for at least 10 years. TWS Fellows serve as ambassadors of The Wildlife Society and are encouraged to engage in outreach and other activities that will benefit and promote both TWS and the wildlife profession. Fellows are appointed for life.



Dr. **Steven Castleberry** (left) and Dr. **Mark Smith** (right) were recognized as TWS Fellows.

# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

## Martin Receives Award for Wildlife Stewardship Through Art

Mississippi Wildlife Federation member **Chester O. Martin** traveled to Cleveland, Ohio, in October to receive the prestigious Jay N. “Ding” Darling Award for Wildlife Stewardship through Art. The award was presented at the 2018 annual meeting of The Wildlife Society. It was created as a lasting recognition of the heritage established by “Ding” Darling to promote wildlife and habitat conservation through artwork. Mr. Darling’s legacy of artwork and conservation efforts were instrumental in achieving significant national conservation measures, such as the Federal Duck Stamp Program, National Wildlife Federation, Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Program, and today’s system of National Wildlife Refuges.

Martin retired in 2008 as a Research Wildlife Biologist with the Environmental Laboratory (EL), U. S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, MS. During his professional career he served as Team Leader of the Wildlife Resources Team, EL, and directed a variety of wildlife and habitat related projects on Corps lands and military installations. He is a long-time member of The Wildlife Society and National Military Fish and Wildlife Association (NMFWA). In 2001, he founded the Mississippi Bat Working Group and is still active in bat conservation and management. In 2012, he was recognized as a Champion of Conservation by the Mississippi Wildlife Federation. In 2017, he was inducted into the NMFWA Hall of Fame.

Although professionally a wildlife biologist, Martin has a long history of using art to compliment his work interests. While working on his M.S. at Texas A&M University, he supplemented his income by providing technical drawings for numerous manuscripts, theses, and dissertations. His most significant accomplishment during that period was the production of 85 plates of approximately 100 species for D. J. Schmidly’s book *The Mammals of Trans Pecos, Texas*. He also provided several drawings for *The Mammals of Texas* by W. B. Davis, and created paintings and drawings for a variety of technical journals, brochures, and popular magazines. Two of his drawing served as illustrations for the covers of technical journals. Early studies were done primarily in pencil or pen-and-ink, but now Martin works mostly in watercolor and acrylic.



Martin at his art desk working on an acrylic painting.

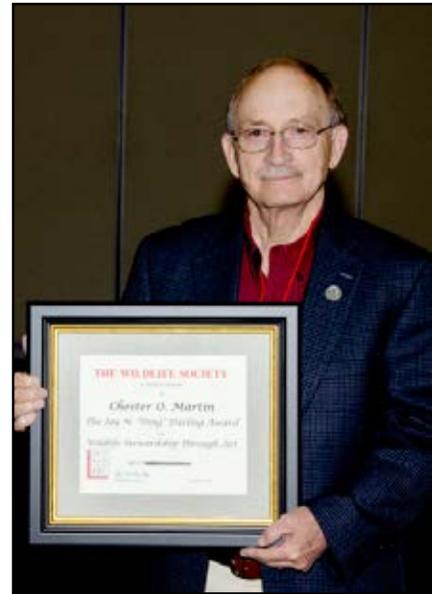
In the 1980s Chester began showing artwork at fishing festivals and other events on the Texas coast with his twin brother Victor, also a wildlife artist. He also began displaying his art at events in Mississippi and was featured as a “Mississippi Favorite Artist” for four years at the MS Medical Association Annual Conference in Biloxi. He served as staff artist for the NMFWA from 1999-2015, providing more than 50 drawings for programs and T-shirts. He has also created designs for the Mississippi Bat Working Group. Since 2009 Martin has been commissioned to do eight of the paintings presented to the first place winner of the Quiz Bowl at The Wildlife Society annual conference. These have included 12X16-in acrylic paintings of such species as the Ruffed Grouse, Common Loon, Cinnamon Teal, and Wood Duck.

Throughout his career Martin has made an effort to donate drawings and paintings to help support conservation programs and charitable organizations. He has given paintings as auction items and door prizes to the MS Chapter of The Wildlife Society, NMFWA, the Southwestern Association of Naturalists, the Southeastern Bat

# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



**Chester Martin** showing a watercolor of Crested Caracaras.



Martin presented with the Jay N. "Ding" Darling Award for Wildlife Stewardship through Art.

Diversity Network, and Mississippi Bat Working Group, to name a few. He has also donated art to help support the Red Cross and other community functions and to raise money for his church, especially for youth programs. During 2012 and 2013 he was part of a Mission Trip to Honduras and taught art skills to a women's ministry, which allowed them to sell their products to supplement their income during difficult times. Although retired, Martin continues to promote wildlife and art and frequently gives presentations to conservation organizations and civic groups. He is a member of the Vicksburg Art Association. Chester resides in Vicksburg, MS and works out of his home. His studio is a small back room, which he sometimes shares with his dog.

## **Rhodes Receives Caesar Kleberg Award**

**Olin E. Rhodes, Jr.**, director of the University of Georgia's Savannah River Ecology Laboratory and professor in the Odum School of Ecology, has been named the 2018 recipient of the Caesar Kleberg Award for Excellence in Applied Wildlife Research. The annual award is given by The Wildlife Society in honor of the late Texas conservationist Caesar Kleberg.

TWS defines the award as recognizing those who have distinguished themselves in applied research and whose body of work, in both inquiry and discovery, has resulted in application of management and conservation on the ground.

Rhodes' research has focused on wildlife ecology and genetics, including the genetic consequences of species reintroduction programs, the use of genetic tools for addressing issues of wildlife management and conservation, disease ecology and the sustainability of wildlife species in human-dominated landscapes, to name a few.

He has published over 200 peer-reviewed journal articles, books and chapters. His previous awards and recognitions include The Wildlife Society Fellow, 2015; TWS Professional Award of Merit, 2008; and the Hoosier Wildlife Award, 2007.

# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Rhodes previously served as assistant director of the National Wildlife Research Center, a branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in Fort Collins, Colorado. In this role he supervised over 170 research scientists and technicians working in the areas of wildlife diseases, invasive species and human-wildlife interactions in agricultural ecosystems.

Prior to the position with USDA, Rhodes was a professor in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at Purdue University. He also served as director of Purdue's Interdisciplinary Center for Ecological Sustainability.

Rhodes received a doctorate degree in wildlife ecology from Texas Tech University and a master's degree from Clemson University. The award, which includes a medal and monetary gift, was given at TWS' recent 25th Annual Conference in Cleveland, Ohio.



**Olin E. Rhodes, Jr.**, (right) was presented the 2018 Caesar Kleberg Award for Excellence in Applied Wildlife Research by TWS President **John McDonald** (left).

This media release was originally published from SEAFWA at [www.seafwa.org/news/](http://www.seafwa.org/news/).

## **Alabama DCNR Honored by Regional Peers for Diversity and Inclusion Efforts**

The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies named the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) as the 2018 SEAFWA Diversity and Inclusion Award winner at their annual meeting in Mobile. The ADCNR's Collegiate Mentoring Program assists minority students who desire to work with fish and wildlife agencies in gaining meaningful hands on experience with different outdoor activities.

"Students majoring in various natural sciences and conservation fields are being introduced to hunting, fishing, camping, canoeing, firearm safety and habitat management and participating in discussions on current issues facing conservation with practicing professionals," SEAFWA President and ADCNR Director **Chuck Sykes** said. "We recognize the challenges that many minority students face in trying to find mentors and opportunities to engage in such experiences, and we want to make it easier for those interested in the conservation profession to do so."

The program was initiated in 2016 at Tuskegee University. Since its inception, more than 80 students have participated in the program. Since 2017, the ADCNR Fisheries Division has reached more than 35,000 participants, more than 26,000 of whom are minorities, through career information sessions and community fishing events.

Participants are encouraged to engage with the SEAFWA Minorities in Natural Resources Committee (MINRC) as well. In support of the Collegiate Mentoring Program, ADCNR has established special opportunity hunt areas, an adult mentored hunt program and has helped pass legislation to reduce out of state license fees for college students.

"ADCNR, along with its nongovernmental organization partners, has been instrumental in providing educational equipment, training, opportunities to people who otherwise would not have much exposure to the outdoors," said MINRC Chair **David Buggs**. "We commend their efforts and look forward to the growth of the program."

# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Plans are in effect to implement additional Collegiate Mentoring Programs at Auburn University, Troy State University and Alabama A&M University.

The winner of the Diversity and Inclusion Award is chosen by a small group of volunteers with the SEAFWA MINRC and judged on their commitment to diversity and inclusion, the effectiveness of their programs, and any partnership developed and used to support their diversity and inclusion goals.

The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) is an organization whose members are the state agencies with primary responsibility for management and protection of the fish and wildlife resources in 15 states, Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands. Member states are Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. This media release was originally published from SEAFWA at [www.seafwa.org/news/](http://www.seafwa.org/news/).



Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer **David Buggs** presented the 2018 Diversity and Inclusion Award to representatives of the Alabama DCNR. (left to right: **David Buggs**, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Texas Parks and Wildlife; **William Freeman**, Conservation Enforcement Officer, Alabama Wildlife and Fresh Water Fisheries Division; Mrs. **LaDonna James**, (Widow of Alabama Conservation Enforcement Officer, **Steve James**) and **Chuck Sykes** Director, Alabama Wildlife and Fresh Water Fisheries Division).



# NOMINATIONS

## TWS Awards

The Wildlife Society's Awards Program annually honors professional excellence, recognizes outstanding achievement and highlights contributions to wildlife science and management. Through the years many new awards have been established to recognize accomplishments in wildlife publications, management, science and professionalism. Special recognition by The Wildlife Society promotes the professional growth of our members, provides our membership with role models and strengthens the image of our membership in the eyes of their peers, employers, our leadership and society. We encourage members to recognize the contributions of their peers by participating in the nomination process. Detailed nomination instructions and criteria can be found at <http://wildlife.org/engage/awards/>.

All award nominations are due by May 1, with a few exceptions:

- Group Achievement Award (nominations due February 1)
- Wildlife Publication Awards (nominations due March 1)
- TWS Fellows Award (nominations due February 1)

## LIST OF TWS AWARDS

### Education Awards

Conservation Education Award  
Donald H. Rusch Memorial Game Bird Research Scholarship  
Excellence in Wildlife Education Award

### Professional Achievement Awards

Aldo Leopold Memorial Award  
Caesar Kleberg Award For Excellence in Applied Wildlife Research  
Diversity Award  
Group Achievement Award  
Jay N. "Ding" Darling Award for Wildlife Stewardship Through Art  
Jim McDonough Award  
Special Recognition Service Award  
Wildlife Publication Awards  
Wildlife Restoration Awards

### Service Awards

Chapter of the Year Award  
Distinguished Service Awards  
Honorary Membership  
Student Chapter Advisor of the Year  
Student Chapter of the Year Award  
TWS Fellows Award  
W.L. McAtee and G.V. Burger Award for Outstanding Service as an Associate Editor



# NOMINATIONS

## **New TWS Award Category - Wildlife Restoration Awards**

The Wildlife Society has established new awards to recognize outstanding wildlife projects. The Wildlife Restoration Awards recognize projects that are supported by funding through the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration program and associated non-federal matching funds. The first recipients will be announced at TWS' 26th Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada.

Two Wildlife Restoration Awards will be presented each year, one in the Wildlife Management category and another in the Wildlife Research and Surveys category. Nominations for the 2019 awards are due by May 1. Nominated projects must have been funded through the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration program using non-federal matching funds consistent with Section 4(b) of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act. Completed projects or current projects with defined completion dates are eligible.

The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration program, also known as the Pittman-Robertson Fund after its primary Congressional sponsors, is funded by manufacturer excise taxes collected on rifles, shotguns, pistols, other firearms, ammunition, bows, quivers, broadheads and points. The funds are apportioned to state fish and wildlife agencies for wildlife conservation and hunter education. The program was first created in 1937 and has provided over \$11 billion since its inception. The Wildlife Society recognizes this program as being critically important for supporting wildlife conservation and management by state wildlife agencies.

The Wildlife Restoration Awards were established to highlight the importance and effectiveness of the United States' Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration program and showcase excellence in wildlife management and research.

Nominations and complete supporting documentation should be sent as a single PDF to [awards@wildlife.org](mailto:awards@wildlife.org) by **May 1, 2019** at 11:59 pm EST.

If you have any questions about TWS Awards, please contact Lilly Matheson, Member Services Coordinator, at [lmatheson@wildlife.org](mailto:lmatheson@wildlife.org).

## **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 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](mailto:amadison@uu.edu)). The deadline to submit an application is **June 30, 2019**, but Student Chapters are encouraged to complete and submit the application any time during the Spring 2019 semester. Please note that this is a separate award and application from the national TWS.

**Submitted by: Andy Madison, [amadison@uu.edu](mailto:amadison@uu.edu)**



# MEETINGS OF INTEREST

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

### 2019 Southeast/Midwest Joint Furbearer Workshop

April 29—May 3, 2019

Registration: \$125



Springhill Suites by Marriott

5815 KL Drive

Enid, OK 73703

## DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

# FEBRUARY 15, 2019

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation is proud to host the 2019 Joint Furbearer Workshop for the Southeast and Midwest regions. The call for abstracts has opened for any recent or ongoing furbearer or trapping research. We will also have invited guest speakers on the following topics:

Trapping Outreach/Communication

Muskrat Research

Eastern Spotted Skunk Research

Furbearer Population Estimation/Monitoring

**Abstract Criteria:** Word document (.doc or .docx), Trebuchet MS font, font size 11, single-space all lines conforming with the Journal of Wildlife Management format. Your abstract can be up to 300 words. Authors will be notified if their abstract was accepted for a presentation by March 1st, 2019. Abstracts not accepted for presentation will be considered for posters.

Please submit abstracts to Jerrod Davis, [jerrod.davis@odwc.ok.gov](mailto:jerrod.davis@odwc.ok.gov)



# MEETINGS OF INTEREST

## FEBRUARY 2019

### **42nd Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting**

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

### **SEPARC and NEPARC Joint Meeting**

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

### **24th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network and 29th Annual Colloquium on Conservation of Mammals in the Southeastern U.S.**

February 21-22, 2019  
Jacksonville, FL  
<https://sbdn.org/annual-meeting/>

## MARCH 2019

### **North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference**

March 4-8, 2019  
Denver, CO  
<https://wildlifemanagement.institute/conference>

### **18th Wildlife Damage Management Conference**

March 25-27, 2019  
Mississippi State University  
Starkville, MS  
<http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/workshops/wildlifedamage/>

## MAY 2019

### **Ducks Unlimited National Convention**

May 28 - June 2, 2019  
Waikoloa Village, Hawaii  
[www.ducks.org/ducks-unlimited-events/national-convention](http://www.ducks.org/ducks-unlimited-events/national-convention)

## JUNE 2019

### **International Urban Wildlife Conference**

June 2-5, 2019  
Portland, OR  
<http://www.urban-wildlife.org/>

## JULY 2019

### **American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists Annual Meeting**

July 24-28, 2019  
Snowbird, UT  
[www.asih.org/meetings](http://www.asih.org/meetings)

## AUGUST 2019

### **Ecological Society of America and USSEE Joint Meeting**

August 11-16, 2019  
Louisville, KY  
<https://esa.org/louisville/>

## SEPTEMBER 2019

### **109th AFWA Annual Meeting**

September 22-25, 2019  
Saint Paul, MN  
<http://www.afwaannualmeeting.org/>

### **AFS & TWS Joint Conference**

September 29 - October 3, 2019  
Reno, NV  
<http://wildlife.org/2019-conference/>

## OCTOBER 2019

### **73rd SEAFWA Conference**

October 27-30, 2019  
Hilton Head, SC  
[www.seafwa.org/conference](http://www.seafwa.org/conference)

# 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