

# The Wildlife Society

## SOUTHEASTERN SECTION



SEPTEMBER 2019 VOLUME 61, NUMBER 3  
KATHERINE EDWARDS, EDITOR

### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

This is my final Newsletter. The next time you read this column, President-Elect **Ray Iglay** will be the author. Ray has an excellent team lined up to continue to serve the SE Section. It has been a great pleasure and honor to serve this Section as President. I look forward to the next two years of service as Past-president ready to assist President Iglay and the new officers. This section can only continue to grow and serve the members if each of you stays actively engaged in section business. ATTEND the SEAFWA conference in October if your work situation allows. VOTE in the section election this month. RECRUIT a colleague, mentee, friend, or co-worker to join the SE SECTION. The Wildlife Society has over 2,000 members living and working in the Southeast but only 585 are members of the section and we can and should do better than this.

The annual conference will be held in Reno, NV from 28 Sept to 3 Oct. I hope to see many of you in Reno. The SEAFWA conference will be in Hilton Head, SC from 27-30 Oct. I look forward to meeting many of you "at the beach".

This summer, **Dan Greene** (Weyerhaeuser Company) and I had the pleasure and opportunity to attend the NE-TWS field course in Castleton, VT at the gracious invitation of TWS Past-President, Dr. **John McDonald**. This is a wonderful field course held at a beautiful camp on Lake Bomoseen near Castleton, VT. The hands-on components were very well presented, the student enthusiasm was contagious and everyone seemed to have a great experience. In May/June 2020, the Southeastern Section-TWS will offer the inaugural iteration of the SETWS Field Course. The course will be hosted by Dr. **Mike Connor** (SE Section Representative) at the Jones Center at Ichuaway near Albany, GA. Last week, we met to finalize the agenda and syllabus for the course. Information on

the course is included in this newsletter. We will be contacting state chapters and student chapters to further advertise this outstanding opportunity for students. We hope state chapters will support this effort by sponsoring one or more students from your state to attend the course. We will offer an exciting suite of topics in practical, hands-on, field-based wildlife management skills such as hunter education, vehicle operation, trapping and handling wildlife, forest ecology, plant surveys, prescribed burning and more. This course is open to all students who want to experience and learn practical wildlife management. We especially encourage students from smaller institutions that may not have access to traditional wildlife techniques classes to attend and learn.

Thank you again for the support you have provided to the section over the past two years. It has been an honor to serve as SE Section President. Please VOTE in the section election. Stay actively engaged in section activities and don't hesitate to contact me or the other officers if we can assist you.

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

### In This Issue

<b>President's Address</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>SE Section Representative Report</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Committee Reports</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>State Reports</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Business</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Officer Nominations</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Conservation Affairs</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Professional Development</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Meetings of Interest</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Member Application</b>	<b>32</b>

# SECTION REPRESENTATIVE

## SOUTHEASTERN SECTION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Greetings,

During my last article, I mentioned a new field course that was being developed by the Southeastern Section of TWS. In this issue of the newsletter, you should find more information as broad-scale planning for the course has taken place. We hope that the course will attract undergraduate and graduate students from throughout the Southeast. Students will have the opportunity to meet and network with other students and experience the diverse flora and fauna of the fire-maintained longleaf pine forest while learning field techniques that will be useful throughout their career. This course will focus on applied aspects of wildlife management and research and will emphasize hands-on activities. The Jones Center at Ichauway ([www.jonesctr.org](http://www.jonesctr.org)) will serve as the field site for the course. The Jones Center is located about 35 miles south of Albany, Georgia in the southwestern corner of the state. The course will take place May 26 – June 10 and three credit hours will be granted for successful completion. Please share this information with any prospective students.

Our first joint meeting with the American Fisheries Society is just around the corner. Between our two societies, we expect over four thousand attendees. I am looking forward to catching up with some old graduate student buddies who are now fisheries biologists scattered all over the country. I hope that I see you there as well. Next year, the annual meeting will be in Louisville, Kentucky.

As always, thanks for your efforts in managing our wildlife resources and thank you for your continued membership and participation in The Wildlife Society. Feel free to contact me if I can assist you with anything TWS related.

Take care and have a great fall.

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



# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## C.W. WATSON AWARD COMMITTEE

### C.W. Watson Award

The 2019 Clarence W. Watson Award will be presented at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Conference in Hilton Head, SC this October. The Clarence W. Watson Award is the most prestigious award given at the conference and is presented to the career individual who, in the opinion of the Award Committee, has made the greatest contribution to wildlife or fish conservation during the previous year or years. The award is presented jointly by the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society, the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society, and the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

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

## WETLANDS WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

### Wetlands Wildlife Committee

SETWS and SEAFWA Joint Wetlands Wildlife Committee Chair, **Stephen V. Rockwood**, is expected to retire this Fall. Stephen has worked for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for 32 years and most recently served as their Section Leader (Bureau Chief) for the Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Section. Stephen has been an active member of SETWS serving as President from 2009 to 2011, and served as Chair of the Wetlands Wildlife Committee since 2001.

The Wetlands Wildlife Committee has been very involved having worked and collaborated with various committees in supporting key conservation legislation, establishing joint resolutions, and hosting several SEAFWA Special symposia. However most importantly, Stephen is proud of his efforts, and those before him, to convince the SEAFWA Directors to approve and establish the *Journal of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies*, which is now in its 6th year of publication.

The Wetlands Wildlife Committee remains in good hands. Last year, **Jamie Feddersen** (TN) was appointed to serve as SEAFWA's Vice Chair; **Dale James** (DU) was appointed as SETWS's Vice Chair. Both Jamie and Dale are expected to be the new Co-Chairs for the committee. This Fall, Wetlands Wildlife Committee is scheduled during the SEAFWA Conference at Hilton Head, South Carolina, on Sunday, October 27 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. For more information about the committee, please contact Jamie Feddersen ([Jamie.Feddersen@tn.gov](mailto:Jamie.Feddersen@tn.gov)) or Dale James ([djames@ducks.org](mailto:djames@ducks.org)).

**SETWS Committee Chair: Steve Rockwood**  
[Steve.Rockwood@MyFWC.com](mailto:Steve.Rockwood@MyFWC.com)

## DEER COMMITTEE

### Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting

The 43rd Annual Meeting of the Southeast Deer Study Group will be held from February 23-25, 2020 in Auburn, AL. The Southeast Deer Study Group provides an important forum to share the latest research and management strategies relative to the management of white-tailed deer.

**SETWS Committee Chair: Steve Shea**  
[sheawildlife@gmail.com](mailto:sheawildlife@gmail.com)

## STUDENT AWARDS COMMITTEE

### Student Awards - Judges Needed

Each year at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference, the SETWS presents awards to the best student oral presentation and poster in the wildlife technical sessions presented at the conference. I am looking for volunteers to help me judge the oral presentations and/or posters. The only qualification for being a judge is that you cannot be a student. If you know that you will be attending this year's SEAFWA at Hilton Head Island in South Carolina and are willing to serve as a judge, please contact me, **Andy Madison** ([amadison@uu.edu](mailto:amadison@uu.edu)).

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

# STATE REPORTS

## ALABAMA



### Alabama Chapter

#### Workshops

**Mercedes Bartkovich**, Nongame Biologist with AL-WFF and at-large board member of ACTWS, coordinated with **Eric Soehren** to develop a two-day “Beginner Birding Workshop.” The event was held on May 13-14 at the Wehle Center. Participants were introduced to basic bird ecology, habitat association, and bird behavior of various birds common in Alabama. A session focusing on basic monitoring techniques was also conducted. Approximately 15 individuals participated in the two-day event and gathered a great deal of information from some of Alabama’s best ‘birders.’

In the spring of 2019, several members of the Alabama Bat Working Group approached the ACTWS Executive Board regarding their interest in conducting a “Forest Bats Management Workshop” for

foresters and biologists actively involved in forest management. The Board agreed to assist in sponsoring the event and all indications are that it will be well attended and highly informative. The workshop is scheduled for September 10 at the Cleburne County Mountain Center in Heflin, AL. **Darren Miller**, current President of The Wildlife Society, and **Roger Perry**, Research Biologist with the US Forest Service in Arkansas, are among the list of scheduled speakers. **Jonathan Stober**, Wildlife Biologist at the Shoal Creek Ranger District of the Talladega National Forest, and others will lead a field tour to provide information regarding habitat use and requirements of forest dwelling bats. Thanks to the Alabama Bat Working Group for their interest in partnering with ACTWS for this workshop!

#### 2019 Annual ACTWS Meeting

The 2019 ACTWS Annual Meeting and professional development workshop were conducted at the Alabama Nature Center in Millbrook, AL on July 10-11. Thanks go to **Tim Gothard**, Executive Director of



**Eric Soehren**, State Lands Division Biologist, and participants of the Birding Workshop ‘work up’ a captured bird during the monitoring techniques portion of the field tour.

# STATE REPORTS

AWF, and the staff at The Nature Center for hosting our meeting and workshop. Camera trapping was the focus of the professional development workshop held on July 10. Kudos to Dr. **Barry Grand**, **Skylar Keller**, **Briana Stewart**, **Carolyn Moore**, and **Lee Margadant** for a job well done in conducting this program. The workshop focused on a variety of topics including camera selection, survey objectives, deployment, and data storage. Much of the data/pictures used in the presentations were from the wild turkey research projects at Skyline, Barbour, and Oakmulgee Wildlife Management Areas. The information was very informative and useful to anyone wanting to conduct scientific camera-based projects.

Approximately 25 chapter members met for the social after the professional development workshop, enjoying some lively interaction and camaraderie. It was a great opportunity for members to interact and relax after a very informative professional development workshop!

The 2019 ACTWS business meeting, presentations, and poster session were held on Thursday, July 11. The agenda consisted of several scientific presentations and agency updates. **Franco Gigliotti**, a student at the University of Alabama won a student poster award for his presentation entitled "Prey Availability for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in Talladega National Forest, Oakmulgee Ranger District, AL." **Mark Turner**, an M.S. student under Dr. **Will Gulsby** at Auburn University won the award for best student presentation entitled "Demographic consequences of late breeding chronology in translocated white-tailed deer." Both individuals went home with a \$150.00 cash award.

## ACTWS Officer Elections

**Mercedes Bartkovich** has served as an at-large board member for the past two years and was elected to the secretary-treasurer position for the next



**Lee Margadant** discusses proper game camera placement to ACTWS members during the professional development workshop on July 10th.

# STATE REPORTS

next two years (2020-2021). **Jeff Baker**, biologist with Alabama Power, was elected to the at-large position being vacated by Mercedes. Thanks go out to **Christine Easterwood** for serving as secretary-treasurer for the past 4 years. She did a tremendous job in her position and the Chapter benefitted greatly from her efforts.

## ACTWS Awards

In January 2019, the Board approved the establishment of an annual ACTWS “Biologist of the Year Award” and a “Lifetime Achievement Award.” Nomination forms were developed and distributed to Chapter members via email in March. Nominations were accepted through April and a selection committee selected the recipient for the Biologist of the Year Award. **Allison Cochran**, Wildlife Biologist on the Bankhead National Forest, was nominated by **Ryan Shurette** in the Montgomery office of the U.S. Forest Service. Allison was very surprised and honored to be recognized by her peers. She received a plaque and cash award.



**Allison Cochran** received the first ACTWS Biologist of the Year Award during the Annual Meeting.

The Chapter’s “Lifetime Achievement Award” is presented to wildlife professionals, who in the opinion of the ACTWS Awards Committee, have made significant impacts over their career to the field of wildlife management in Alabama. Dr. **Jim Armstrong** nominated **Frank Boyd** for the 1st Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the ACTWS. **Rhett Johnson** and **Kevin McKinstry** wrote letters of support for the nomination. Frank had many accomplishments during his career with USDA Wildlife Services. He retired several years ago but continues to work on a part-time basis. Frank has served in several capacities with the ACTWS as well as The Alabama Wildlife Federation. The Board felt strongly that Frank met the criteria for the Lifetime Achievement Award.



**Frank Boyd** received the first ACTWS Lifetime Achievement Award during the Annual Meeting held in July.

# STATE REPORTS

Congratulations to Allison and Frank for being recognized as the “1st” recipients for their respective awards. The “Biologist of the Year Award” will be an annual award while the “Lifetime Achievement Award” will only be given as needed when suitable candidates are nominated by Chapter members. The nomination forms will be distributed to Chapter members several months prior to each of the annual meetings.

## Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division

### Alabama Archery Parks

Alabama’s newest community archery park held its grand opening on Friday, September 6, 2019, at Pike County Public Fishing Lake located at 200 Pike County Lake Rd., near Troy, Alabama. The archery park will be open year-round during the lake’s operational hours for recreational shooting, competitive tournaments and outdoor educational programming. The facility features an eight-target adult range from 15 to 50 yards and a four-target youth range of 5 to 20 yards.

Pike County joins 16 other community archery parks currently in operation throughout the state. These facilities are one component of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources’ (ADCNR) effort to increase awareness and participation in the life skill of archery.

For more information about Alabama’s community archery parks, visit [www.outdooralabama.com/activities/archery-parks](http://www.outdooralabama.com/activities/archery-parks).

### Alabama Black Bear Research 2018 - 2023

Alabama plays host to one of the smallest and most fragmented black bear (*Ursus americanus*) populations in North America. Identified as a Priority 1 species in the Alabama State Wildlife Action Plan, the Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division has partnered with Auburn University to conduct a research project supported by State Wildlife Grants. This project will seek to understand the reproductive ecology of black bear populations in Alabama; specifically, the habitats that female bears den in, the structure of those dens, and the survival and recruitment of cubs. Females will be trapped and fitted with a GPS



The recently opened Troy Archery Park becomes the 17th community archery park in Alabama.

# STATE REPORTS

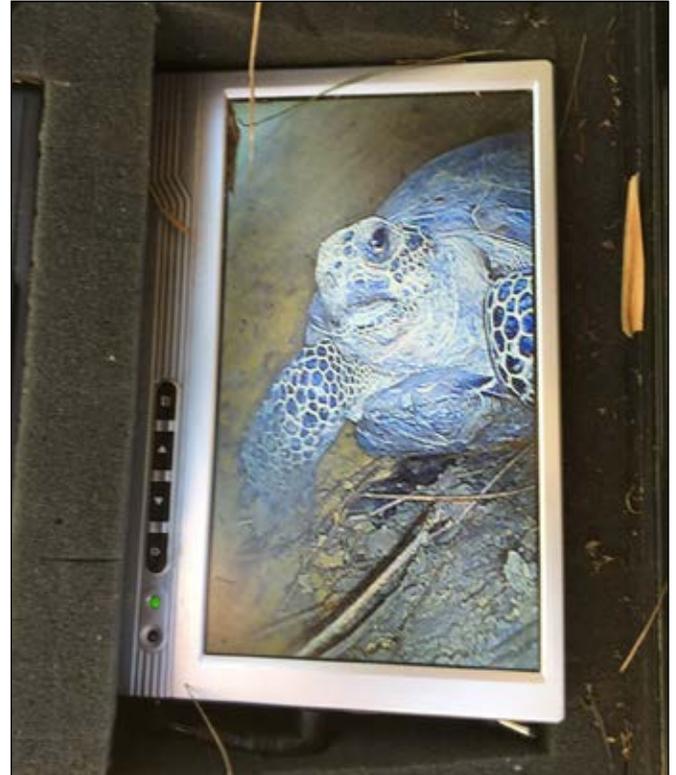
enabled radio telemetry collar to monitor denning behavior. Cubs will be monitored intensively for 9 months to understand cub survival and their fate after dispersing from their mother. We will also evaluate the viability and need of supplemental dens.



A collared female black bear, as part of AFFF's Black Bear Research Project with Auburn University.

## Alabama Forestry Commission

A field trip to the Geneva State Forest WMA was held as part of the spring SERPPAS meeting held at Ft. Rucker. **Chris Cotton**, Work Unit Manager for AFC, introduced tour participants to the management regime and process to naturally regenerate longleaf pine at Geneva State Forest. Much of the 7200-acre forest is managed longleaf pine. Several tortoise burrows were scoped to provide military and state partners with a view of life "underground" as a gopher tortoise.



During the spring SERPASS meeting participants were able to scope tortoise burrows at Geneva State Forest WMA.

The Alabama Forestry Commission obtained a Section 6 Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration grant from the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries to treat approximately 600 acres of longleaf pine habitat with Garlon XRT at the 7200-acre Geneva State Forest. Spraying will begin in mid-August and should be completed by September 30. The work is being done to minimize a woody understory of gallberry and yaupon in several stands where prescribed fire has not been adequately applied in recent years. Hopefully the spraying and subsequent prescribed burning will improve habitat for gopher tortoises and a full suite of sandhill species. The current managers have implemented a two-year burning cycle that should decrease the woody understory throughout the forest.

# STATE REPORTS

## Alabama Forestry Association

Over 20 landowners and natural resource professionals gathered recently to spend a day on a Tree Farm in Cullman County for a Learn and Burn event. This workshop offered a live fire demonstration, allowing participants to become familiar with the process of planning and executing a prescribed fire.

Alabama Tree Farm hosted the event, which started with learning how to plan a burn. Weather, humidity, fuel, and terrain all factor in to when, where, and how you burn. Alabama Forestry Commission's **Jason Berry** showed participants both a NOAA weather report and a fire weather report, and what information was crucial. He then went over the burn plan for the day, which included the landowner's objectives for the burn. After learning about the tools they would be using that day it was time to head to the woods.

Drip torches are one of the most common tools used in prescribed fire, and landowners in attendance were given the opportunity to run the drip torch, as well as learn about optimal fuel mix and factors that affect the mix. Participants also learned the difference between a back fire, head fire, and flanking fire, and appropriate uses of each. These burn methods were then put into action by those in attendance, offering them a first hand look at difference between them.

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

## ARKANSAS



### Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Retired regional supervisor **Robert "Bob" McNally**, passed away on March 30th. He served as President of the Arkansas Chapter in 1979. **Rick Darter**, technician out of the Russellville office, retired in June.

**Luke Lewis**, formerly of the National Wild Turkey Federation, began serving as Assistant Chief in the Wildlife Management Division in July and will supervise Regions 4 and 5, Quail Program, Turkey Program, Private Lands Program and Feral Hog Program.

Other recently hired employees include Habitat Biologists **Bradley Bradey** (Monticello office), and **Joshua Harris** (Hope office) as well as **Billy Sanders**, **Chester Allwhite**, **Kaleb Ward**, and **Eric Wickman** (Technicians, Brinkley office), **Joshua Stockwell** (Technician, Jonesboro office), **Rush Montgomery** (technician, Fort Smith office), **Alex Land** and **Noah Wyatt** (Russellville office).

### USDA Wildlife Services

Mr. **Robert Byrd** will report to Arkansas on September 29th to fill the Wildlife Services state director position vacated when long-time director **Thurman Booth** retired.

**2019 CONFERENCE**  
**SOUTHEASTERN**  
**ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND**  
**WILDLIFE AGENCIES**

2019 • 73rd Annual  
**SEAFWA**  
Hilton Head Island, SC

October 27-30, 2019 • Hilton Head Marriott Resort  
Hosted by South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

# STATE REPORTS

## University of Arkansas at Monticello

Three new graduate students have recently joined the School of Forestry and Natural Resources. **Cody Martin** is a Pathway student with USFWS and is working on assessing accuracy of field methods to assess moist-soil seed yield on National Wildlife Refuges in the Southeast region. **Gabrielle Hargrove** is a Pathway student with the National Park Service and is using acoustic recorders to assess avian community assemblage in emergent wetlands in eastern Arkansas. **Jacob Bethell** is a Graduate Research Assistant working on food selection and body condition of dabbling ducks in moist-soil wetlands on a NWR sanctuary.

**Blake Sasse**  
[blake.sasse@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:blake.sasse@agfc.ar.gov)

## FLORIDA

NO NEWS REPORTED



## GEORGIA

NO NEWS REPORTED



## KENTUCKY

### Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources

A surplus of Yellowstone-strain cutthroat trout provided to KDFWR by the Norfolk National Fish Hatchery in Arkansas enabled the agency to stock 38,000 cutthroat trout in the Cumberland River earlier this spring. Construction of the Bio-Acoustic Fish Fence (BAFF), an experimental project designed to deter Asian carp from entering Lake Barkley in western Kentucky, is underway. If the weather cooperates, the project is scheduled to become operational by

the Fall of 2019. In an effort to reduce Asian carp numbers in the Ohio River basin, KDFWR and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are working together on a grant funded project that funds commercial contract fishing to remove Asian carp. Although KDFWR staff conduct removal efforts, the vast majority of Asian carp removal in Kentucky is through commercial harvest. In 2018, commercial fishermen harvested more than 2.5 million pounds of Asian carp in Kentucky. By July 2019, commercial fisherman have already harvested over 2.2 million pounds. This increase in harvest is partially due to the opening of the Kentucky Fish Center in January 2019. The Kentucky Fish Center is a partnership with the state of Kentucky; created to help stabilize the Asian carp market in Kentucky and provide a guaranteed place for commercial fishermen to sell their catch. Fish purchased by the Kentucky Fish Center are sold online via a bid auction system.

**Chuck Elliott**  
[charles.elliott@eku.edu](mailto:charles.elliott@eku.edu)

## LOUISIANA



### Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists / LA TWS

Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists / LA TWS held their annual meeting on August 8-9, 2019 at the Estuarine Habitats Coastal Fisheries Research Center in Lafayette, LA. Eleven students presented their research at the meeting. The outstanding student presentation award went to **Christina Keathley**, LDWF student intern, with her research on "Site selection of Louisiana bats in alternative roost structures". **Scott P. Graham**, LSU, won the outstanding student poster award with his research on "Managing coastal marsh impoundments for vertical accretion in the face of sea level rise".

Dr. **Paul Leberg**, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, gave a presentation on "Successes and challenges of creating avian habitats through restoration of Louisiana's coastal islands: If you build it, will they come?" during the Thursday evening social. Photography

# STATE REPORTS

contest winners were announced during the evening social. **Angela Guidry**, LDWF, won first place and Dr. **Kim Marie Tolson**, ULM, won second place.

The Friday morning focus session on “The Private Landowner’s Perspective on Managing Natural Resources in Louisiana” was big hit with attendees. Speakers were **Mike Carloss**, Ducks Unlimited; **Drew Keeth**, Honey Brake; **David Daigle**, private landowner growing longleaf pine and utilizing cattle and fire to manage the native understory; and **Chad Courville**, Miami Corporation.

## Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

**James Whitaker**, LDWF Biologist, recently took a position with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

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

## MARYLAND/DELAWARE



### Maryland-Delaware Chapter

The MD-DE Chapter’s Fall meeting will be held on September 25th at the Robinson Nature Center in Columbia, MD. This Fall’s theme is “Geese, Galliformes, and Geocaching.”



Pixabay

## The Wildlife Society - Certification Programs



The Wildlife Society is the only organization to provide the peer-reviewed wildlife biologist certification process that bestows the title of Associate Wildlife Biologist® and Certified Wildlife Biologist®. Learn more about this members-only program and log into your membership portal to see which of your colleagues and peers have already achieved this professional standing.

### Associate Wildlife Biologist®

An individual who has completed rigorous academic standards and is judged able to represent the profession as an ethical practitioner will be designated as an Associate Wildlife Biologist®. The AWB® certification is granted for 10 years and cannot be renewed. An AWB® certified individual can upgrade to Certified Wildlife Biologist® during the 10 year time period once the necessary experience requirements are obtained.

### Certified Wildlife Biologist®

An individual with the educational background and demonstrated expertise in the art and science of applying the principles of ecology to the conservation and management of wildlife and its habitats, and is judged able to represent the profession as an ethical practitioner, will be designated as a Certified Wildlife Biologist®. The CWB® certification is valid for 5 years and may be renewed.

For more information, please visit: <https://wildlife.org/learn/professional-development-certification/>

# STATE REPORTS

## MISSISSIPPI



### Mississippi Chapter

#### MS TWS Remembers State Conservation Biologist Kathy Shelton

The Mississippi Chapter of The Wildlife Society recently lost a long-time supporter, colleague, and friend. **Kathy Shelton**, a conservation biologist at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, had many passions for non-game conservation, but was particularly passionate in conservation of bats and herpetiles. As state wildlife diversity coordinator, she also led coordination of the Mississippi State Wildlife Action Plan. A native of Greensboro, NC, Kathy moved to Mississippi to pursue her M.S. degree at Mississippi State University under the direction of Dr. **Jeanne Jones**. For years Kathy coordinated the Mississippi Bat Working Group and Mississippi Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, in addition to serving in several capacities on the board of the MS Chapter of The Wildlife Society and volunteering to coordinate communications for the group for many years even when not on the board. Kathy was a linchpin to the success of MS-TWS. Kathy will be remembered for her sharp wit, easy-going personality, and life-long lover of animals. In

her personal life, she was active in domestic animal rescue, with a particularly special place in her heart for dogs, cats, and chickens. Kathy was preceded in death by her husband, **Les Shelton**, and is survived by her parents, brother, stepdaughter and stepson, and five step-grandchildren. MS-TWS honors Kathy and Les' contributions to the organization and passions for introducing young scientists to the wildlife field through a memorial scholarship in their name.

#### Annual Meeting

The MS Chapter Annual Meeting will be held from September 19-20, 2019 at the Margaritaville Resort in Vicksburg. The theme of the meeting is "Changing Landscapes and Effects on Conservation." The MS River and South Delta are critical areas for agriculture, forestry, and wildlife habitat. The region has a rich history and vibrant culture through the many human and natural challenges it has faced over the last 100 years. This year's meeting will discuss some of the current challenges and natural resource strategies being designed and implemented in the area, along with other statewide wildlife and conservation issues.

**Kristine Evans**

[kristine.evans@msstate.edu](mailto:kristine.evans@msstate.edu)



Photo credits: MS Museum of Natural Sciences



# STATE REPORTS

## NORTH CAROLINA



### North Carolina Chapter

We have kicked off this summer with a new Board to represent our Chapter! Led by Dr. **Rachael Urbanek** of the University of North Carolina in Wilmington, we're excited to make new strides under her leadership. In addition, we are happy to welcome our newest student chapter at the University of Mount Olive.

We are fortunate to have such a great membership. We granted several recognition awards to the following professionals that strive for excellence: **Kacy Cook** received our 2019 Chapter Award and **Allen Boynton** received our 2019 Wildlife Conservation Award. In addition, we had four students that received the 2019 Ken Wilson Memorial Award: **Kayla McNeilly, Kyle Watkins, Candace Moreau** and **Josh Benfield**. Congratulations!

In our most recent newsletter, we highlighted the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, particularly Willie Duke's Bluff to the Eno River State Park in the Piedmont region of North Carolina. It is a very popular hiking trail because of its proximity to urban areas, lake and river vistas, swimming holes, and beautiful wildflower displays. This stretch is just under 12 miles. If you find yourself in this spot, and you're still longing for more wildflowers, check out Penny's Bend Nature Preserve. Owned by the US Army Corps of Engineers and managed by the NC Botanical Garden, this area boasts 461 plant species!

We also included a great article discussing recent work by Duke biologists that observe and monitor bald eagles. No longer listed under the Endangered Species Act, they are still protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. This year's aerial survey included a three-day tour along the Yadkin and Catawba Rivers. They found 35 eagles on the first day, seven eagles on the second day and rounded out with 23 eagles on the last day. In addition to using this information for compiling reports for federal and state agencies, Duke keeps property owners informed of federally protected birds near their property.

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/)).

**Gabriela Garrison**

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

### TWS Southeastern Student Conclave

The Haywood Community College and Western Carolina University Student Chapters of TWS will co-host the 2020 TWS Southeastern Student Conclave March 12-14, 2020.

The event provides college students with valuable hands-on training in wildlife management and conservation, and networking opportunities with wildlife professionals. Activities include field trips, workshops, field competitions, local tours, game calling competitions, quiz bowls, photography contests, banquets, and guest speakers.

## OKLAHOMA



### University of Central Oklahoma Student Chapter

The student chapter of The Wildlife Society at UCO has been working incredibly hard this past year. Last October, TWS helped the Oklahoma City Zoo prepare for Chomp and Stomp, the zoo's annual Halloween event, by making enrichment items for the animals. TWS also raised money for the Wildcare Foundation for wildlife rehabilitation's spring baby shower that provides supplies for newborn animals. Some TWS members also volunteered their time to the Toby Keith Foundation and taught children with medical needs about wildlife. This upcoming school year, TWS plans to continue their hard work! TWS will continue their work volunteering for the Oklahoma City Zoo and Wildcare Foundation, along with other wildlife related organizations. TWS also hopes

# STATE REPORTS

to collaborate with other student chapters and UCO clubs this upcoming year. The UCO student chapter has a very exciting and eventful year ahead!

**Kaitlin Flores, Student Chapter President**  
**Vicki Jackson, [vjackson4@uco.edu](mailto:vjackson4@uco.edu)**



UCO Student Chapter

## SOUTH CAROLINA



### Clemson University's James C. Kennedy Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation Center

The 2019 annual report of Clemson University's James C. Kennedy Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation Center can be downloaded in the lower left corner of the Center's website at: <https://www.clemson.edu/cafls/departments/kennedycenter/>. The Kennedy Center annual report describes a new study on return and recruitment of female wood ducks from nest structures in the Southeastern USA. The Nemours Wildlife Foundation, the Kennedy Center, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the states of SC, NC, GA, FL, LA, MS, and WI will partner in this premiere study beginning in 2020 through 2024. The SC DNR, Nemours Foundation, Kennedy Center, and USFWS conducted a pilot study during spring-summer 2019. About 135 nesting females and nearly 600 wood duck ducklings were tagged in boxes at Lake Moultrie, SC.

We'll be awaiting return of the hens to determine recruitment rates from the 150+ boxes at Lake Moultrie. **Emily Miller**, **Jacob Shurba**, and **Jake Merendino** worked as technicians on the pilot study; Emily and Jacob continue on the wood duck study for their M.S. degree through Clemson University, working under Drs. **Beth Ross** and **Rick Kaminski**. **Nick Masto** successfully defended his thesis (Evaluation of Aerial Surveys to Monitor Fall-Winter Waterbird Populations in South Carolina) and received his M.S. degree from Clemson University in August 2019. Nick has begun a doctoral program at Tennessee Tech University, working with Drs. **Brad Cohen** and **Heath Hagy** on movement ecology, habitat use, and survival of mallard ducks wintering in west Tennessee and the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley.

*Contributed by: Rick Kaminski*

### Clemson Student Chapter

The Clemson student chapter of The Wildlife Society had an amazing Spring semester. We held elections in February and the following individuals were voted in for the upcoming school year: **Abigail Greer** as President, **Martha Stowasser** as Vice-President, **Crystal Strickland** as Secretary, with graduate students **Alex Jensen** and **Kiefer Titus** elected to the board.

In March, we drove to Yamasee, South Carolina, where **Beau Bauer** hosted members of the student chapter for two days of hands-on learning at Nemours Wildlife Foundation. Our time was spent acquiring knowledge about coastal ecosystems, upland pine savannahs, and ecosystem management. We had the opportunity to view over 50 different bird species and plenty of alligators. One aspect of wildlife management that wildlife students do not always have the opportunity to experience is prescribed fire. With fire being an integral part of management for many ecosystems, Beau Bauer gave the students the chance to gain field knowledge in implementing a prescribed burn. While there, Beau also treated us to a regional favorite of low country boil. Our group of students are very grateful for this opportunity afforded us by Beau Bauer and Nemours Wildlife Foundation.

# STATE REPORTS

A group of our society members attended conclave at ABAC this year. While we did not win any of the competitions, a great time was had by the students. April saw the students put on our annual fundraiser, The Buzzard Banquet. Thanks to meats donated by local hunters, faculty at Clemson University, and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, we were able to serve venison stew, bear burgers, venison and bear kabobs, woodcock, chicken of the tree jambalaya, barbecoon, venison chili, and buckin' shephards pie, just to name a few! We had a record turnout with over 200 people in attendance. It was a huge success thanks to all of the amazing volunteers and students. We are so glad to have this partnership with The Esso Club each year. This event helps fund our outdoor educational excursions every year. Thank you to all who came out to support us.

The Clemson student chapter of The Wildlife Society is looking for field experience. If you would like to host our members and teach hands on activities related to wildlife management, please reach out to us at [cuws@g.clemson.edu](mailto:cuws@g.clemson.edu).

*Contributed by: Crystal Strickland*

**David Jachowski**  
[djachow@clemson.edu](mailto:djachow@clemson.edu)



Clemson student chapter of The Wildlife Society hosts the annual spring Buzzard Banquet fundraiser at the Esso Club.



Above: Clemson student chapter of The Wildlife Society learn about coastal vegetative communities from Nemours Foundation biologist **Beau Bauer**.

Left: Clemson undergraduate student **Erin McDaniel** assisting in a controlled burn at Nemours Wildlife Foundation.



# STATE REPORTS

## TENNESSEE



### Tennessee Chapter

The TN TWS Executive Board will be having their fall meeting in either September or October to discuss a variety of wildlife and natural resource issues and begin planning for their Annual meeting next March.

### Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) continues to have a big focus on chronic wasting disease (CWD) since discovering it in the state for the first time last December. Much of the recent work has involved preparing to implement CWD surveillance and monitoring for the upcoming 2019-2020 hunting season. TWRA anticipates having a more complete understanding of the status of CWD in TN following these efforts this fall. The agency achieved a significant milestone recently transitioning from a CWD response to CWD management by establishing new disease management hunting regulations for the affected area (AKA Unit CWD) which are science-based and data-driven. Two of the more significant hunting regulation changes were the establishment of the Earn-A-Buck and Replacement Buck programs. These programs are meant to increase the deer harvest and, therefore, decrease the deer population in Unit CWD for disease management purposes. Other significant and related efforts over the summer have been hosting a series of CWD public meetings in the counties making up Unit CWD and working with Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks to ensure the two states are best managing CWD together.

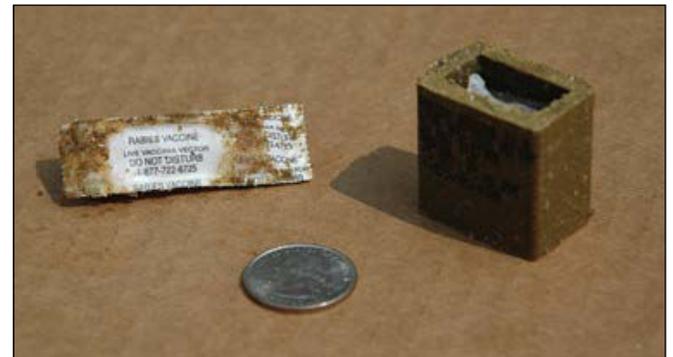
### TN Bird Conservation Partnership

The Tennessee Bird Conservation Partnership (TBCP) is a group of individuals that represent a variety of federal and state agencies, universities and non-government organizations that are working to conserve birds in Tennessee. This group will meet annually to give updates on projects and develop priorities for bird conservation and management. There were several issues that were discussed and then priorities were developed by the group. The top three priorities

were: 1) Focus more research and conservation efforts on grassland birds; 2) Increase and coordinate monitoring efforts for species of concern across the state; and 3) To define and expand education and outreach opportunities related to the conservation of priority species. The next TBCP meeting will occur in January.

### USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services

USDA Wildlife Services (WS) will begin its annual distribution of oral rabies vaccine (ORV) baits across the southeastern United States beginning October 2, 2019. WS and their cooperators will distribute ORV baits across rural areas by airplane and in suburban or urban areas by helicopter or vehicle. Over 2.1 million ORV baits will be distributed across parts of Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Virginia. The ORV baits are coated with a fishmeal attractant and are packaged in one-inch square cubes or two-inch plastic sachets.



Over the past 30 years, rabies management has grown in complexity in the United States, as wild animals, including raccoons, skunks, foxes, coyotes, and bats have replaced the domestic dog as the primary reservoir for the disease. The WS National Rabies Management Program was established in 1997 to prevent the further spread of wildlife rabies in the United States. Through the program, WS works with local, state and federal governments, universities and other partners to address this public health challenge by distributing ORV baits in targeted areas. Through the efforts of APHIS and partners across the United States, the program has achieved three significant

# STATE REPORTS

accomplishments: the elimination of canine rabies; the near-elimination of gray fox rabies in Texas; and preventing the spread of raccoon rabies from the Eastern United States into new areas.

The RABORAL V-RG® vaccine is safe for more than 60 different species of animals, including domestic dogs and cats. Humans and pets cannot get rabies from contact with the baits, but should leave them undisturbed if they encounter them. Dogs that consume large numbers of baits may experience an upset stomach, but no long-term health risks. If adults or children come in contact with baits, immediately rinse the contact area with warm water and soap.

## Cleveland State Student Chapter

The Cleveland State student chapter had another productive year, logging well over 1000 volunteer hours with state and federal agencies. As always, we assisted with hunting check stations and abomasal parasite counts for TWRA as well as CWD monitoring. We were also involved with several outreach activities, including two hunts for warriors, Sandhill Crane Days in Birchwood, the Naturalist Rally at Standing Stone, and Conservation Day for area elementary schools. Students were also certified as Project Wild instructors to facilitate outreach education. In

addition, we began a five-year undergraduate research project in collaboration with the US Forest Service in the Cherokee National Forest. Twice a year, June and December, students collect fish and salamanders to monitor aquatic organism passage following culvert restorations. Two CSCC students analyzed data from the first year of sampling, and created posters that placed first and second place at the TN TWS state meeting in February. Components of this research are also serving as capstone projects for CSCC Honor's students in the wildlife program, which will be presented as both oral and poster presentations at the next state meeting. This summer, CSCC students traveled to New Mexico, along with wildlife students from other state institutions as well, as part of the SWAP program (Student Wildlands Adventure Program). SWAP students that traveled to TN last summer served as hosts this summer, and together we spent ten days in the desert following the footsteps of **Aldo Leopold**. The basecamp for half of the trip was a cabin built by Leopold himself. We explored both the Gila and Carson National Forests, delving through issues related to natural resources management. We are looking forward to another busy year!

**Brett Dunlap**  
[brett.g.dunlap@usda.gov](mailto:brett.g.dunlap@usda.gov)



Cleveland State – SWAP Program in New Mexico

# STATE REPORTS

## UT Martin Student Chapter

After a successful last year, the UT Martin Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society is entering a new year full of academic success, community service, and camaraderie. Last year, we successfully held two-stream clean-ups on Cane creek, a fishing Rodeo for local children, and helped local landowners with tree plantings. All of this was possible because of the hard work and dedication of last years officers. This year we have new officers stepping up to the stand to give another wonderful year in The Wildlife Society. Our 2019 chapter president, **Jordan Ramey**, has high sights in leading the club throughout the year with the help of our new vice president, **Brooke Mueller**. The deer check-in stations for Chronic Wasting Disease testing and aging of deer, in which many students participate, will be organized by our new Wildlife Executive, **Michael Samko**. Our local fish rodeo and stream clean-up will be planned by our Fisheries executive, **Blake Rummage**. **Colton Snyder** is responsible for our chapter's budget in his position as the new treasurer. Our secretary position has been given to **Luke Adams**. We are all looking forward to another wonderful year of gaining professional guidance to our dream careers and experience in a field we all love.

**Dillon Mooney, UT Martin Student Chapter  
Committee Chair for Publicity**



UT Martin Student Chapter

## VIRGINIA



### Virginia Chapter

As the state chapter continues to grow we are pleased to announce that George Mason University (GMU) in Fairfax, Virginia just formed a student chapter of The Wildlife Society, giving us three chapters in the state including Virginia Tech (VT), and Radford University. The GMU chapter offers one of the only wildlife and ecology-based student organizations on campus. The chapter officers hope to combine their passion for wildlife and education to improve knowledge and career success of GMU students. As with all our student chapters, several events are planned to connect students with TWS members and learn about different career paths and tips for success. We are looking forward to having the GMU students join us for our annual meeting in February.

Our annual meeting will be held at Randolph-Macon College in February 2020. More details to come.

### Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF)

The Department recently initiated a citizen-scientist turkey and grouse brood reporting program that will provide additional information on annual reproduction. Historically the Department has relied on

# STATE REPORTS

brood observations by staff, which typically results in 100-200 reports. Similar citizen-scientist programs in PA and NC have resulted in thousands of reports. The goal of this new program is to increase the accuracy and precision of our annual estimates of the number of young per female. The information is critical for the Department's annual assessment of fall harvests and long-term, in understanding population trends. Further, the information is very helpful as we prepare forecasts for fall turkey and grouse hunting. Through our Outdoor Report, the public has been invited to participate in the survey by logging into their account on our Go Outdoors web site. Information on the program has also been provided to outdoor writers across the state.

VDGIF staff have also been developing a GIS model to locate the optimal sites to create habitat (young forests) for ruffed grouse. Recent research has determined that the prevalence of West Nile virus (WNV) in mosquito populations varied by elevation, with higher elevations being the optimal sites to locate grouse habitats. Grouse chicks exposed to WNV have nearly 100% fatality rates so planning future management for grouse habitats in higher elevations is preferred. Elevations above 1,600, 1,900, and 2,200 feet are relatively good, better, and best sites to expect lower prevalence rates of WNV in mosquito populations. The GIS program will be provided to VDGIF, USFS, and other natural resources agencies staff in Virginia.

## Universities

The Powers lab at Radford University has been working on a number of projects, including: monitoring the endangered gray bat in southwestern Virginia (with VT, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (VADCR), and VDGIF), monitoring little brown bat colonies in Virginia (with VDGIF), assessing the utility of bait in wildlife camera studies of Allegheny woodrats (with VDGIF, VT), quantifying

the impact of autumn olive removal on bird communities at the Radford Arsenal, and investigating influences on bird-window collisions on Radford University's campus. Several manuscripts are in progress, and several others are in review, most of them including undergraduate student co-authors.

This summer the Coster lab at Randolph-Macon College worked on optimizing an environmental DNA assay for monitoring the spread of the invasive rusty crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*). After sampling water for DNA from all organisms in a stream, researchers then use a species-specific genetic marker to amplify the DNA of the target organism. Because the rusty crayfish is closely related to the native Allegheny crayfish (*Orconectes obscurus*) the Coster lab is working on refining techniques to isolate DNA from only rustys. After perfecting the technique in the lab with tissue samples, the Coster lab visited collaborator **George Merovich** at Juniata College to test the assay in the Juniata River watershed of Pennsylvania at sites with known presence and absence. The collaborators successfully matched lab analysis with field surveys, and are now perfecting the technique for broader monitoring of the invasion front.

The Johnstone-Yellin lab at Bridgewater College is finishing up lab work on two projects, effects of enclosures on nutritional content of 5 tree species in the Allegheny national forest, and the effects of drying and storage methods on nutritional quality of acorns used in wildlife rehabilitation. Manuscripts for these two projects are in process with undergraduate authorship. Bridgewater College student, **Alexys Talkington**, will continue to monitor bird window collision on campus, a project set up by alum **Jessy Wilson** last fall, as part of a broader project with Radford University and VT.

**Tamara Johnstone-Yellin**  
[tyellin@bridgewater.edu](mailto:tyellin@bridgewater.edu)



# STATE REPORTS

## DUCKS UNLIMITED

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

### Arkansas

#### **White River NWR Farm Unit Enhancement Begins**

Ducks Unlimited and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are beginning to enhance the 108 acres on the Farm Unit on White River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Arkansas. Through the installation of new levees and new water-control structures, DU will enable USFWS managers to provide high quality moist soil/unharvested rice habitat and hold early shallow water for migrating and wintering shorebirds and waterfowl. This project was funded through a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant.

The Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture (LMVJV) focuses on the protection, restoration and management of bird populations and their habitats by implementing national and international conservation plans. While originally developed to benefit waterfowl and their habitats, the goals and objectives of the Joint Ventures now embrace a more comprehensive approach that emphasizes all-bird conservation. This has been accomplished by a series of step-down plans being utilized to reach goals and objectives. The Farm Unit project addresses geographic conservation goals and objectives for all four LMVJV major bird conservation plans.

### Tennessee

#### **Eagle Lake Enhancement Continues**

Ducks Unlimited is working with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) to continue enhancements to Eagle Lake Refuge in Shelby County. Six shallow water impoundments were enhanced through a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant last year. Thanks to leveraging of DU dollars with Pittman-Robertson funds from the state, the partners are installing water wells and purchasing two trailer-mounted diesel power units.

These additions will provide a dependable water supply for the impoundments and facilitate habitat management for waterfowl and other wetland-dependent species.

### South Carolina

#### **Laurel Hill County Park Wetlands Enhancement Project**

DU partnered with the Charleston County Parks and Recreation Commission (CCPRC) to enhance water management capabilities on 182 acres of wetland habitat on the 745-acre Laurel Hill County Park in Charleston County through the installation of a water control structure, an emergency spillway for high water events, and embankment enhancement. Prior to this project, non-functioning structures prevented CCPRC from managing these wetlands to support the wildlife and birds that depend upon this system. Now staff can manage for a variety of priority species and assist in meeting Atlantic Coast Joint Venture goals for increased shorebird habitat during migration. The public will greatly benefit as they currently utilize the walking trails around the project area for birding, hiking, biking, and general enjoyment.

### North Carolina

#### **Pea Island NWR South Pond Project**

Ducks Unlimited recently secured funding in partnership with Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) to enhance 307 acres of managed wetlands on the refuge for waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds and other wetland-dependent species within the Southern Outer Banks Focus Area of the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture (ACJV) South Atlantic Migratory Bird Initiative Area. The ACJV Waterfowl Implementation Plan identifies the importance of Pea Island to waterfowl and other migratory birds as over 300 bird species have been sighted on or near the refuge.

The proposed contract work includes installation of an aluminum half round riser between existing managed impoundments to enable refuge staff to move water between units to manage these units for quality waterfowl and water bird habitat. The proposed project also includes the installation of a pump station

# STATE REPORTS

and power unit to address the refuge's lack of reliable water delivery into and out of the South Pond impoundment in the project area.

These improvements will allow USFWS refuge managers to achieve independent management of impoundments, encourage production of quality forage for waterfowl, provide mudflats and sheet water for shorebird foraging habitat and control undesirable plant species. Construction of this project is slated for 2020.

## North Carolina Agency First to Use Pitman-Robertson Funds for Canada Conservation

Realizing the connection between Canadian prairies and waterfowl populations, state wildlife agencies have been contributing to waterfowl breeding habitat conservation in Canada for decades. Following the development of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies established a goal for each state totaling a collective \$10 million

per year in support of conservation in Canada. States that choose to contribute their funding through Ducks Unlimited have the advantage of a minimum four-fold leverage on their dollars thanks to leveraging through DU and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

The North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission (NCWRC) has been making state contributions since 1969. Most funding for these contributions comes from state license fees, but the NCWRC recently found a new way to increase their investment in waterfowl breeding habitat. The NCWRC worked with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to become the first state to use part of their allotted Pittman-Robertson (PR) Act funding for contributions to Canadian habitat projects. Going forward, NCWRC will provide \$116,000 per year of the state's PR funding for 10-years to complement the \$50,000 in state dollars and reach their goal of \$166,000 annually. For the PR portion of the funds, the funding will be matched by 25% from Canadian contributions from DU Canada and be used for project maintenance and rebuilds.



Commissioners and staff from the NCWRC toured one of the habitat restoration projects their agency supported in Canada.

# STATE REPORTS

In recognition of the new funding mechanism, a project dedication honoring North Carolina was held at Hazlett's Marsh in New Brunswick this summer. This wetland was originally restored in 1983, when **Beverly and Darlene Hazlett** signed a 21-year conservation agreement. The wetland has been very productive for waterfowl production, and the landowners thoroughly enjoyed their little slice of paradise. Following the arrival of a family of beavers and corrosion of the original pipe, DUC staff determined that the structure needed to be replaced. The landowners signed a new, 30-year conservation agreement, and the project was rebuilt the summer of 2018. The new structure included beaver management adaptations to ensure lower maintenance costs. DUC dedicated Hazlett's Marsh to North Carolina's citizens and state agency on May 15th, 2019, and the landowners were very happy to host the delegation and celebrate our partnership.

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

### **South Louisiana Pointe-aux-Chenes WMA Moist-Soil Unit Project**

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Ducks Unlimited partnered to create an intensively managed moist-soil unit on approximately 85 acres of Pointe-aux-Chenes Wildlife Management Area. Pointe-aux-Chenes WMA lies on the front lines of coastal land loss along the Gulf of Mexico. Its coastal marshes protect nearby cities such as Houma. It is also among the most popular Louisiana WMAs, providing a great area for fishing, camping, hunting and wildlife watching. In addition to LDWF and DU, project partners include Energy Transfer, Apache Corporation, Lamar Advertising Company, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation, Shell, Phillips 66, Chevron, Axalta, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Global Wildlife Center. The project is dedicated to **Kell McInnis**, retired executive director of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation, past Louisiana DU state chairman and a DU major sponsor.



PAC WMA Moist-Soil Project: Installation of a water control structure with weir box on the inside of the unit to manage water levels.

### **Oklahoma DU, ODWC Dedicate Project at Drummond Flats**

With the last parcel of the Drummond Flats Wildlife Management Area now in the hands of the state, conservationists, sportsmen and state employees gathered at Drummond Flats WMA Aug. 10 to celebrate the acquisition and commemorate a volunteer who helped make it happen.

Ducks Unlimited purchased 125 acres of privately owned wetland basin set amidst the wildlife area two years ago, handing it off to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation this summer. With that, the entire Drummond Flats management area of nearly 5,000 acres, is under ODWC's management.

DU and ODWC have been working for years to acquire privately held parcels in and around the flood-prone ecosystem. Though a relatively small swath, the last 125 acres of wetland basin were "key to the whole puzzle" of the Drummond Flats management area, ODWC employees said.

# STATE REPORTS

The amount of wetland in the area ebbs and flows depending on rainfall but can reach up to 4,000 acres during periods of extreme flooding. This propensity for retaining moisture makes the Flats a popular stop for migratory birds along the way to their seasonal destinations. In turn, hunters flock to the spot as well.

Members of Ducks Unlimited and the ODWC met off of Oklahoma 132 outside the town of Drummond to reveal a new plaque at the conservation site, and to dedicate the project to former Ducks Unlimited volunteer **Charles “Skip” Hurlburt**, who died in the fall of 2015.

An avid sportsman, Hurlburt served as the Oklahoma DU chairman for three years, raising big money for wetlands conservation work. Shortly after Hurlburt’s death, a tribute dinner was held to honor him, raising another \$75,000 in his name.

Those funds, along with contributions from the Treeman Family Foundation, were used to buy the final acreage.

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



Ducks Unlimited and the ODWC dedicate project at Drummond Flats to former Ducks Unlimited volunteer **Charles “Skip” Hurlburt**.

# BUSINESS

## AFS & TWS Joint Conference Reno, Nevada | September 29 - October 3, 2019

### TWS Council Meeting

Dates: September 28, 2019  
Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

### TWS Council Meeting

Dates: September 29, 2019  
Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

### TWS Council Meeting

Date: October 3, 2019  
Time: 1:10 pm - 2:50 pm

## Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies 73rd Annual Conference Hilton Head, South Carolina | October 27-30, 2019

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

Sunday, October 27 • 3:30pm - 5:00pm

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

Tuesday, October 29 • 3:00pm - 4:30pm (Updated time)

## 2018-2019 Southeastern Section Officers

#### President:

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

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Assistant Research Professor  
Center for Resolving Human-  
Wildlife Conflicts  
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#### Southeastern Section

#### Representative:

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#### Immediate Past President:

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#### Secretary/Treasurer:

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# OFFICER NOMINATIONS

## 2019 OFFICER NOMINATIONS

The Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society (SE TWS) is proud to present the following slate of officers for the 2019 election of President-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer. Please find below the candidate statements. Ballots will be sent to current SE TWS members via email. Members are encouraged to vote electronically by sending their completed ballot to SE TWS President-Elect Ray Iglay, ray.iglay@msstate.edu. All ballots must be received by the **close of voting at 5:00 pm EST on October 28, 2019**. The SE TWS Executive Board would like to thank Colleen Olfenbuttel and Kristine Evans for their assistance with developing the following slate of fantastic nominees.

### CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT

#### ***Kelly Douglass, CWB®***

Kelly Douglass currently serves as a Technical Assistance Biologist with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission since 2010 and primarily works with private landowners in the Piedmont region of North Carolina to manage their property for various wildlife species. Prior to this position, she worked as Captive Cervid Biologist with the NCWRC for 6 years and was responsible for establishing and coordinating the statewide Captive Cervid Program. Kelly is very active in TWS, and has held many leadership roles with the NC Chapter, Southeast Section, and parent society since 2002. She currently serves as Associate Editor of the NC Chapter newsletter, *NC Wildlifer*, chairs the Communications Committee, and co-chairs the Grants and Finance Committee. She has recently served as President-elect, President, and Past President of the Chapter (possibly the youngest in Chapter history), Secretary, chair of the Professional Development Committee, chair of the Procedures Committee, chair of the Nominating and Elections Committee, and member of the Awards Committee, Membership Committee, and Conservation Affairs Committee in the past five years. For SE TWS, she currently serves as Secretary/Treasurer and has served in the past as chair of the Student Awards Committee and Publications Committee. For the parent society, she currently serves as Secretary/Treasurer for the Forestry & Wildlife Working Group, Executive Board Member for the Biological Diversity Working Group, and chair of the Honorary Membership & Special Recognition Service Awards Committee. She also served on the Arrangements Committee and chaired the Local Information Subcommittee to help plan the 2016 TWS Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina. She is a Certified Wildlife Biologist®, a Certified NC Environmental Educator, Certified Wildlife Damage Control Agent, and an alumni of the TWS Leadership Institute. She received her B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences and M.S. in Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology from NC State University in 2002 and 2011, respectively.



# OFFICER NOMINATIONS

## **Lisa Muller, Ph.D., CWB®**

Dr. Lisa Muller is a Professor of Wildlife Science and currently Interim Department Head in Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries at the University of Tennessee - Knoxville. She received a B.S. and M.S. at Auburn University, working on mourning doves. Her Ph.D. was in Wildlife Ecology and Management at the University of Georgia on deer management. She teaches courses in Ecology and Management of Mammals and Wildlife Physiology and Nutrition. Her research interests include ecology of mammals and wildlife physiology/health. She is a member of The Wildlife Society (TWS) and is a Certified Wildlife Biologist®. She is also a member of the Wildlife Disease Association, American Society of Mammalogists, and the Quality Deer Management Association. She currently serves as secretary/treasurer for the Wildlife Damage Management Working Group (WDMWG) and held this position in 2012-2014 as well. She co-hosted the 16th WDMWG meeting in 2015 in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. She has served on various TWS committees and helped with meeting preparations and manuscript and abstract reviews. She was secretary/treasurer for the Tennessee State Chapter and served as Associate Editor for the Proceedings of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. She enjoys working with the great members of the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society and glad to help if selected for the position.



## **Chris Moorman, Ph.D., CWB®**

Dr. Chris Moorman is a Certified Wildlife Biologist® and Professor and Coordinator of the Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology Program at North Carolina State University. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Wildlife Biology at the University of Georgia and his Ph.D. in Wildlife Biology at Clemson University. Chris has been involved with TWS at national, sectional, state, and student levels for over 25 years. He has co-advised the NC State University Student Chapter of TWS since 2010 and serves as Past-President of the NC Chapter of TWS. He was the Southeastern Section Representative to the TWS Student Affairs Committee in 1996-1997, while a Ph.D. student. Chris is Past-Chair of the Urban Wildlife Working Group of TWS and also a member of the Renewable Energy Working Group. He was an Associate Editor for the *Wildlife Society Bulletin* from 2002-2004 and co-chaired the Contributed Paper Subcommittee for the Annual TWS Conference in Raleigh, 2016. Chris co-organized symposia or conference workshops at 10 Annual Conferences of TWS, moderated sessions at 5 Annual Conferences, and served as an abstract reviewer for 6 Annual Conferences. Chris has co-edited 2 books, including *Renewable Energy and Wildlife Conservation*, which is part of the The Wildlife Society book series, and *Urban Wildlife Science: Theory and Practice*. Chris has authored or co-authored more than 140 journal articles, 9 book chapters, over 50 extension publications, and numerous popular articles. He and his collaborators have made over 325 research presentations, and he has contributed over 400 extension presentations and trainings. Chris has directed or co-directed 40 graduate students and has acquired ~\$13 million in extension and research grants. Chris teaches courses related to wildlife-habitat relationships and fire ecology at NC State. Chris grew up in rural south Georgia, hunting and fishing with his father during his childhood and continues to enjoy hunting and fishing, birding, and hiking with his family, including his two young sons. He welcomes the opportunity to work collaboratively with others in the SE TWS and continuing to serve the professional society for the greater good of the resource.



# OFFICER NOMINATIONS

## CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY-TREASURER

### **Daniel Greene, Ph.D., CWB®**

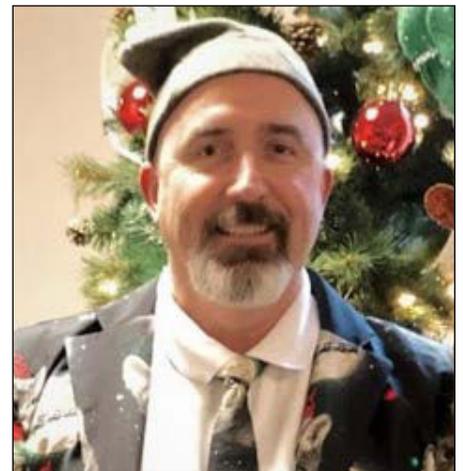
Dr. Daniel Greene is a Wildlife Scientist for Weyerhaeuser Company's Southern Environmental Research Program based out of Columbus, MS, focused on maximizing biodiversity on managed forests and conservation lands. His responsibilities include studying wildlife-habitat relationships on managed forest landscapes and developing management approaches that integrate wildlife habitat within private working forests. Prior to this role, he was an Environmental Specialist with the Florida Park Service, a Wildlife Biologist with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, and a postdoctoral research position in the Department of Natural Resources Management at Texas Tech University. He has a B.A. in Biology from Earlham College, a M.S. in Forest Resources (Wildlife Ecology and Management focus) from The University of Georgia, and a Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation from the University of Florida. Daniel has been working and conducting



wildlife research in the southeastern U.S. for approximately 16 years. During that time, he has actively sought to increase student engagement and promote and enhance the profession through service and mentorship. Since becoming a TWS member, Daniel has also been engaged in all levels of TWS. With the Florida Chapter, Daniel served as Member at Large and Secretary and multiple committees. He currently serves as Chair of the Student Development Working Group. He also served on the Publication Awards Committee with the Texas Chapter. Within SE TWS, Daniel is co-organizing a newly established Field Course and has volunteered for Student Chapter of the Year Award judging and the Financial Audit Committee. He is also currently serving as Co-Editor for the Wildlife Technical Papers for the *Journal of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies*. With TWS, Daniel has been a member of several Working Groups (Forestry and Wildlife, Student Development, Early Career Professional, and Climate Change and Wildlife) and reviewed student travel grants, and served on the 2019 Program Committee (Abstracts/Scheduling Subcommittee). He was also a member of TWS Leadership Institute Class of 2018 and is currently a Mentor for the Class of 2019.

### **Jay Butfiloski, CWB®**

Jay Butfiloski is the Furbearer and Alligator Program Coordinator with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR). Recently, all wildlife permitting and lottery hunt programs along with a new permitting biologist and administrative assistant have been transferred under his supervision after the agency created a new, combined wildlife permitting and lottery hunts program. He began his wildlife career in 1994 as a wildlife biologist for USDA Wildlife Services in Savannah, Georgia, working with suburban deer issues and other wildlife damage-related concerns in southeastern Georgia. In 1999, he joined SCDNR as a small game and furbearer project biologist assisting both programs' project leaders. In 2004, Jay became the Furbearer Project Leader, then assumed the alligator project duties beginning in 2006. In 2008, he oversaw the implementation of the first online lottery hunting program for SCDNR with the creation of their public alligator lottery hunting program. This lottery hunting program now supports



# OFFICER NOMINATIONS

cost of SCDNR's nuisance separate project biologist, as well as research and administration of the entire alligator program. He also assists with drafting legislation and regulations related to activities surrounding furbearers and alligators, most recently working to craft legislation related to wildlife possession and rehabilitation. Jay is a member of the AFWA Sustainable Use of Wildlife Committee and has also been a member of the Furbearer Conservation Technical Working Group since 2004 dealing with current and emerging national and international furbearer resources issues, national trap testing research, and trapping BMP development. He has been a member of the SEAFWA Fur Resources Committee since 1999. Jay has been an executive board member of the SC Chapter of The Wildlife Society since 2015. He holds a bachelor's degree in Wildlife Biology from Clemson University in 1990, and a master's degree in Wildlife Biology, also from Clemson University in 1996. Jay became a Certified Wildlife Biologist® in 2000.

## CONSERVATION AFFAIRS

### Opportunities: Scientist Sign-On Letter

Help us reach 1,000 sign-ons! – TWS and other members of the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife are building signatures for a scientist signon letter in support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. This is your opportunity as an individual scientist to show your support for Recovering America's Wildlife Act with your signature. We are asking TWS units to distribute this letter to their network in order to reach 1,000 sign-ons before the AFS/TWS Joint Conference begins on September 29. A robust signature list of scientists will allow us to show to support of the scientific community behind this legislation. Staff Contact: **Caroline Murphy** (TWS Headquarters)

### Scientist Sign-on Letter in Support of Dedicated Conservation Funding

To America's natural resources scientists, ecologists, and fish and wildlife managers,

National conservation leaders from the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife are seeking your support in addressing America's wildlife crisis. Up to one-third of America's species are at increased risk of extinction, and efforts to combat this crisis have yet to be met with congressional action. Movement however has begun in the US House of Representatives, where Representatives **Debbie Dingell** (D-MI) and **Jeff Fortenberry** (R-NE) have reintroduced the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

We ask that you sign onto the letter expressing support for this game-changing legislation, which would dedicate funds to proactive conservation work conducted on the state and tribal level.

Our nation has been blessed with a diverse array of fish and wildlife. While some of these species are thriving thanks to public and private efforts, many more are facing mounting challenges and are in steep decline – increasing the very real possibility of Endangered Species Act listings. State wildlife agencies have identified over 12,000 species as in need of additional conservation and monitoring action.

The passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act will not only provide the funds needed to adequately address this crisis, it will also afford representatives from the academic, NGO, and private setting new opportunities to provide input and expertise to government partners. The American public will see a direct benefit from this added coordination and investment in the form of cost savings, more plentiful native species, and more opportunity for scientific engagement.

# CONSERVATION AFFAIRS

By signing onto the letter, you will show members of Congress that you and other members of the scientific community support the United States working to combat the wildlife conservation crisis.

The letter, copied below, and link to the signature page can be found in the  
TWS Conservation Affairs Network September 2019 Newsletter:  
[https://wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/TWS-CAN-Newsletter\\_5.9\\_SEPTEMBER2019.pdf](https://wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/TWS-CAN-Newsletter_5.9_SEPTEMBER2019.pdf)

To learn more about this effort, visit:  
[ournatureusa.com](http://ournatureusa.com)  
<https://www.nwf.org/ReversingWildlifeCrisis>

## **America's Scientists Support Dedicated Conservation Funding for At-risk Species**

The undersigned natural resource scientists and managers working in partnership with state and tribal fish and wildlife agencies stand in support of dedicated funding for the conservation of America's at-risk fish and wildlife. We urge Congress to take up measures that work towards this goal, including the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

America harbors a remarkable array of fish and wildlife species, many of which face increased risk of extinction due to threats such as habitat alteration, invasive species, disease, and other problems exacerbated by the impacts of a changing climate. Over one third of these species are in need of immediate conservation action from these human-induced threats, including up to 40 percent of freshwater fish species, 42 percent of amphibian species, and 18 percent of bat species. On a global scale, a recent United Nations report detailed over 1 million species at risk of extinction, with approximately 680 vertebrate species already having gone extinct since the 1500s.

State fish and wildlife agencies operating on the front lines of this crisis have spent the past several years working to identify at-risk species and define appropriate conservation strategies to address their declines through the creation of State Wildlife Action Plans.

Unfortunately, since first mandated by Congress nearly two decades ago, State Wildlife Action Plans have remained chronically underfunded. Today, nearly 12,000 species are in need of urgent action in order to avoid costly scenarios such as Endangered Species Act listing.

Sufficient, dedicated funding for Wildlife Action Plans would provide states and tribes with the resources and certainty needed to plan long-term conservation and monitoring. This problem is exacerbated in tribal agencies, where tribal professionals have no reliable funding mechanism to work with partners on at-risk species conservation or the creation of action plans.

The passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act would dramatically change this dynamic by providing state and tribal agencies with the funding needed to promote voluntary and cost-effective on-the-ground conservation work. By providing states, tribes and partner biologists funds to conserve these species today, we can avoid Endangered Species Act listings tomorrow.

Thank you for considering the views of biologists, ecologists, and natural resource professionals on the need for proactive conservation of our country's most precious natural resources. We urge the timely passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act in order to secure the future of our nation's fish and wildlife resources.

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Wildlife & Forestry Field Techniques Southeastern TWS Field Course



### Course Topics

- Wildlife surveys/capture & handling
- Habitat surveys
- Longleaf pine ecology & management
- Threatened & endangered species
- Prescribed fire
- Firearms safety
- Remote animal tracking
- Heavy equipment operation
- And many more!

### College Credit

You will earn 3 credits through Castleton University in Vermont that can be transferred back to your home institution. In addition, there are unparalleled networking opportunities with your peers and practicing biologists!



May 26<sup>th</sup> – June 10<sup>th</sup> 2020  
Jones Center at Ichaaway, GA  
Total Cost: \$1,500  
Includes Tuition (3 credits),  
Room and Board



### Who is Eligible?

This course is open to undergraduate and graduate students majoring in any natural resource program. Preference will be given to members of The Wildlife Society or a student chapter. This course will be filled on a first-come first-served basis up to a maximum of 24 students.

### More Information? Contact:

**Daniel U. Greene, Ph.D.**  
**SE-TWS Field Course Committee**  
P.O. Box 2288  
Columbus, MS 39704  
Email: [dgreene907@gmail.com](mailto:dgreene907@gmail.com)



*This course will be instructed at the Jones Center at Ichaaway, a 29,000 acre ecological center that includes a diverse range of ecological communities unique to the historic landscape of the southeastern Coastal Plain.*

# MEETINGS OF INTEREST

## 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  
<https://afstws2019.org>

## OCTOBER 2019

### 73rd SEAFWA Conference

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

## FEBRUARY 2020

### 43rd Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting

February 23-25, 2020  
Auburn, AL  
<http://www.sedsg.com>

### 25th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network & 30th Annual Colloquium of the Conservation of Mammals in the Southeastern U.S.

February 12-14, 2020  
Athens, GA  
<https://sbdn.org/annual-meeting/>

## MARCH 2020

### North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference

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

## JULY 2020

### American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

July 20-26, 2020  
Norfolk, VA  
<https://asih.org/meetings>

## AUGUST 2020

### Ecological Society of America

August 2-7, 2020  
Salt Lake City, UT  
<https://www.esa.org/saltlake/>



# 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