

# The Wildlife Society

## SOUTHEASTERN SECTION



JANUARY 2020 VOLUME 62, NUMBER 1  
KATHERINE EDWARDS, EDITOR

### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

2020, we made it! We began the 2010s with the big bang of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill followed by the rise and fall of annual mean temperatures, the first total solar eclipse in North America since President Woodrow Wilson, the end of NASA's Space Shuttle era, and the rise of the iPhone with the phase out of the Blackberry. Meanwhile, we continued to observe rapid urban expansion, wildlife habitat loss and degradation, exotic species explosions, species loss and the continued pattern of information overload despite substantial knowledge gaps. So, what can we do about it!

I'm only an elected member of a subunit of The Wildlife Society! So, for the love of wild places and things, don't solely rely on me. After all, complex problems can be best addressed by innovative problem solving, which requires teamwork. Considering we as a profession are embedded in science, I think it's safe to assume we appreciate the process of gaining reliable knowledge and its application to problem solving. However, all too often we enjoy our little bubbles whether they are as small as our office space or only slightly larger such as our office building, state, or region. We enjoy these safe, comfortable spaces and are often encouraged to focus locally, especially on ourselves and individual or small group accomplishments, to succeed in this competitive field. Unfortunately, if we have such blinders on, we can be suddenly overwhelmed by larger scale processes and events such as CWD, exotic species, and climate change. I think we can do better about keeping the blinders off, working

together and tackling some major conservation challenges during this decade. I also believe TWS can serve as the hub of our group effort, facilitating communication among members, and encouraging partnerships.

As part of this belief, I would like to remind you that we, the Executive Board of the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society are here to serve you, our membership. Reach out, contact us, contact your fellow members, however you feel it's best to get your question addressed or to start your research and management team to smite a current conservation challenge. Second, let's try to improve our communication as a Section. We can converse face-to-face, email, call, Tweet, Instagram, Snapchat, DM, etc. However, we often fail to communicate. We can do better. Open your office door, walk down the hall, call an old colleague and get relationships rolling and avoid miscommunications. Let us, your Executive Board, know how you feel about our

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current communication approaches, most often these newsletters. Could we better serve you via hosting a blog or Twitter handle? Last, throw procrastination out the window this year. We all procrastinate to some extent whether we are directly avoiding a responsibility or letting minor distractions retard completing important tasks. All the while, deadlines remain fixed, exotic species keep expanding, and our calendars continue advancing. Let's start this decade with a productive bang that will benefit the conservation and management of the wild places and things we love!!

Last but not least, a few housekeeping items. Congratulations to all award winners last year! Recognition for your outstanding work is not only fitting for what you have accomplished but also motivates your peers and mentees. Congratulations again! Also, thank you to everyone who attended our annual meeting in Hilton Head, SC,

either in person or virtually. We discussed many items including proposed bylaw changes and committee updates. We also mentioned our upcoming field course. Students...get your learning on at the first SE Section Field Course at The Jones Center at Itchauway May 26 – June 10. Please check out the flyer in this newsletter and sign up now!! Space is limited for a wonderful opportunity to gain hands-on experience and college credit at a great price. Other meetings this year include The Wildlife Society's Annual Conference in Louisville, KY, September 27- October 1 (<https://wildlife.org/2020-conference/>), and the SEAFWA Annual Conference in Springfield, MO, October 25-28 (<http://www.seafwa.org/conference/>). See you soon!!

***Raymond Iglay***  
***President, Southeastern Section TWS***



## SOUTHEASTERN SECTION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Colleagues,

By all accounts our 26th Annual Conference was a great success. This joint meeting between The Wildlife Society and the American Fisheries Society was a record-breaking meeting in terms of attendance and provided excellent networking and educational opportunities. Several TWS members from the Southeast received awards. **Dr. Alan Wentz** received the Aldo Leopold Award. We also added two new TWS Fellows from the Southeast: **Colleen Olfenbuttel** from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, and **Dr. Lisa Muller** from the University of Tennessee. Please be sure to congratulate them.

We have more TWS members living in the Southeastern Section than in any other TWS section. In my opinion, we should have someone, or some group, from the Southeast nominated for every TWS award. Please take the opportunity to visit the TWS website, look at the awards offered by our Society, and consider nominating colleagues. The nomination deadlines for many awards is rapidly approaching. I am happy to help if needed.

The 27th annual meeting will take place Sept. 27 – Oct. 1 in Louisville, Kentucky. I hope you all

will be able to attend. The call for proposals is currently open and will close March 13. The call for abstracts will open February 19 and extend through April 17.

Please remind students who are interested in wildlife or natural resources management that there will be a SETWS Sponsored wildlife field course offered May 26 – June 10 this year. The course will be held at the Jones Center at Ichauway in southwestern Georgia and will focus on applied field techniques. The course will provide three hours of undergraduate or graduate credits, room, and board for \$1,500. Further, several State Chapters are offering scholarships to pay for part or all of the cost. Interested students should contact Daniel Greene at [dgreene907@gmail.com](mailto:dgreene907@gmail.com) for further information.

I hope you all had a great Holiday Season and that you are enjoying the start of a new decade. As always, thanks for your efforts in managing our wildlife resources and thank you for your continued membership and participation in The Wildlife Society.

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



# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## DEER COMMITTEE

### Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting

The 43rd Annual Meeting of the Southeast Deer Study Group, hosted by the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, will be held at The Hotel at Auburn University & Dixon Conference Center in Auburn, AL, February 23-25, 2020. The theme of this year's meeting will be "Deer Management in a Rapidly Changing World - Bridging a Generational Disconnect".

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 [sedsg.com](http://sedsg.com).

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

## PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

### Best Paper Award

Ten manuscripts were published in the 2018 *Journal of Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies*. The committee selected as the winner of the SEAFWA 2019 Outstanding Wildlife Technical Paper Award: **Schummer, M.L., A.M. Smith, R.M. Kaminski, K.M. Hunt, E. St. James, and H. Havens** "Achievement-Oriented Effects on Waterfowl-Hunt Quality at Mississippi Wildlife Management Areas."

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

## STUDENT AWARDS COMMITTEE

The following awards were presented at the 73rd Annual Conference of the Southeastern Fish and Wildlife Agencies in Hilton Head, SC.

### Student Presentation Award

There were 14 student oral presentations during the Wildlife Technical Sessions at SEAFWA. The winning presentation was given by **Ryo Ogawa** from Mississippi State University for his presentation entitled, "Movement Strategies of American White Pelicans During the Annual Cycle". He was recognized at the SEAFWA banquet with a certificate and monetary award.

### Student Poster Award

There were 7 student posters presented at SEAFWA with a wildlife biology theme. The winning poster was presented by **Briana Stewart** from Auburn University for her poster entitled, "Automated Techniques for Interpreting Game Camera Images from Surveys for Eastern Wild Turkeys". She 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 University of Tennessee at Martin 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 is the most prestigious award given in the Southeast and is presented to the career individual who, in the opinion of the Award Committee, has made the greatest contribution to wildlife or fish conservation during the previous year or years. Consideration includes research, administration, law enforcement, I&E, wildlife management, fish management, and includes teachers, professionals, and students. This award is presented jointly by the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society, the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society, and the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies named Retired SCDNR Director **Alvin A. Taylor** the 2019 C.W. Watson Award winner at their annual meeting in Hilton Head, SC. More information on this award recipient can be found on pp. 24-25.

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

## MINORITIES IN NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

This year's MINRC committee selected 20 students, representing eight of our SEAFWA member states, to attend the annual SEAFWA conference in Hilton Head, SC; the states represented by these students included Georgia, Alabama, Texas, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. This group of students was made up of 12 females, eight males, including six graduate students and one Ph.D. student.

For many of these students, it was their first time attending a professional conference. Once students arrived, they participated in the MINRC Student Workshop which introduced soft skills such as networking, elevator speeches, resume writing, professionalism, etc., and students also participated in a Careers in Conservation panel and an agency round table. In addition, students submitted essays that were considered for the Teddy Roosevelt Conservation award given by the USFWS. This year's Teddy Roosevelt Conservation winner was **Abby Florez**, a junior at Mississippi State University. Abby's essay emphasized the importance of taking action in order to reverse the damage we've done to our environment, "It starts by taking action. No matter how small. By taking that first step, you are making a difference. As President Roosevelt said, 'In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing.' By not acknowledging what is happening in the world around you, you choose the character of being a bystander. You say you are content with following down this futile path. A major driving force for conservation is the people that support it. To 'change the tone' about conservation we must educate, through student involvement to state and federal levels." Separate from the Student Workshop, MINRC hosted a professional workshop that focused on learning how to create a welcoming environment within your department and ways to enhance the employee experience. Professionals from multiple departments and universities attended this workshop and listened to a presentation from the 2018 Diversity Award Winner, participated in bystander training, and discussed the successes and works-in-progress of departmental programs. The MINRC committee concluded the SEAFWA conference by presenting the 2019 SEAFWA Diversity and Inclusion awards. This award was extra special this year as it was the

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

first time that two agencies were winners. The 2019 Workforce Diversity and Inclusion winner was the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the 2019 winner for the Diversity Outreach and Education Award was the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. MINRC wants to give a special thanks to **Emily Cope**, Deputy Director, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, and all of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officers who made this event a success by assisting with transporting both students and materials to and from various shops and transportation terminals. In addition, MINRC would like to thank our committed committee that attended the SEAFWA conference and presented the Student and Professional Workshops – 13 professionals from six departments.

**Mercedes Bartkovich**  
[mercedes.bartkovich@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:mercedes.bartkovich@dcnr.alabama.gov)



**Mr. David Buggs**, MINRC Committee Chair and the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, greets students and provides an introduction to the MINRC committee and the student workshop.



*MINRC students and committee members at the 2019 SEAFWA Annual Conference in Hilton Head, SC.*

# STATE REPORTS

## ALABAMA



### Alabama Chapter TWS

The Alabama Chapter of The Wildlife Society will host their annual meeting on July 14-16, 2020 at the Alabama Wildlife Federation Natureplex in Millbrook, AL. This year the AL Chapter is working with Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries to plan a professional development program focusing on wildlife disease issues and will possibly be led by personnel from the Southeast Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study.

The Alabama Chapter of The Wildlife Society will be hosting our second annual Beginning Birder Workshop in May. The workshop is a great opportunity for new birders or those who are needing a refresher course on bird songs and survey methods. Stay tuned for more details to come in early spring!

**Carrie Threadgill**

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

## ARKANSAS



### Arkansas Chapter TWS

The Chapter's annual meeting will be held March 5-6 at the CA Vines Four H Center in Ferndale. A call for papers and more detailed information on the meeting will be forthcoming.

### Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

The Wildlife Management Division's 2019 Technician of the Year was **Blake Massey** in Region 1 and **Drew Green**, Habitat Program Biologist for Regions 2 and 3 was named as the 2019 Biologist of the Year. In November, **Brian Infield**

was the recipient of the Commission's George H. Dunklin Jr. Arkansas Waterfowl and Wetland Management Award for his tireless work in promoting wetland and waterfowl habitat in the Arkansas River Valley.

### University of Arkansas

**Kristian Forbes** is a new Assistant Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences. He is a disease ecologist and eco-immunologist, who employs multidisciplinary techniques - including field, laboratory and statistical methods - to investigate how pathogens and parasites are maintained and transmitted in wildlife and their adverse effects on the host population dynamics. He works mostly with rodents and bats, and coordinates projects in USA, Finland and Kenya. In Arkansas, **Nathaniel Mull** (a PhD student of Kristian's), is beginning a project on rodents in prairies and adjacent habitats. Nathaniel will investigate how rodent diversity, abundance and infections dynamics are impacted by factors such as prairie size, age and management practices. This project is expected to help deliver important information for restoration activities.

### Arkansas State University

Former Masters student **Alix Matthews** came back to pursue a PhD working on host-parasite interactions between birds and feather mites. Four new masters students have come on board; **Emily Fields** who is working on Snake Fungal Disease prevalence in Arkansas, **Alysa Hartzheim** who is working on the innate immune system of freshwater turtles, **Valerie Kearny** is working on the distribution and roost selection by small-footed bats in the Ouachitas, and **Caitlin De Bellis** is working on body size trends in North American birds.

**Blake Sasse**

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

# STATE REPORTS

## FLORIDA



### FLTWS Spring Meeting Plans

The annual Spring Meeting of the Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society will be held at the Embassy Suites in Jacksonville, FL on March 25-27, 2020. The Meeting will include a symposium, Chapter business meeting, networking socials, student interaction activities, plenary session, technical sessions, poster session, banquet dinner, awards ceremony, field trips/a workshop. The conference theme is Diversity in Florida Wildlife. Papers and posters dealing with any wildlife-related topic are encouraged, including ecology, economics, management, restoration, risk assessment, policy and regulation, evolutionary biology, new ideas, and inter-disciplinary projects.

### Retirement

After 33 years with the Fish and Wildlife Commission, **Steve Rockwood** has retired. Steve was also a past president of the Florida Chapter of TWS in 2005-6 and held many other board positions over the years. He has relocated to Texas and is working part time with Ducks Unlimited during his retirement.

### Chapter Involvement

**Brigham Mason** and **Mark Ausley** will soon be serving as representatives of FLTWS on the Fish and Wildlife Commission's Alligator Stakeholder Assistance Group.

FLTWS was recently approached by the Florida Conservation Coalition and signed onto the Florida Forever letter. This letter requests that the legislature restore full funding for the Florida

Forever land conservation program. Recent appropriations have been capped at \$100 million, and are not sufficient to meet the needs of Florida's environment.

### Fall Meeting & Workshop

On Tuesday, September 10, 2019, the Florida Chapter held an excellent workshop on upland communities of Florida, hosted and instructed by staff of the University of Central Florida Arboretum. We learned about the ecology of five major plant communities, including identification of many plant, tree and shrub species, critical land management activities, and a few feature wildlife species dependent on these uplands. The afternoon was spent exploring beautiful examples of the communities and was the course highlight. Thanks to the two dozen participants that attended (despite the timing just after Hurricane Dorian) and to the superb UCF instructors.

### Wildlife & Forestry Field Techniques TWS Course Offering

FLTWS is co-hosting a Field Course in Wildlife & Forestry Field Techniques on May 26th through June 10, 2020. The course is open to undergraduate and graduate students majoring in any natural resource program. The course will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis up to a maximum of 24 students. Course topics will include wildlife surveys/capture and handling, habitat surveys, longleaf pine ecology and management, threatened and endangered species, prescribed fire, firearms safety, remote animal tracking, heavy equipment operation, and many more. The course will be held at The Jones Center at Ichauway. The tuition cost is \$1500 and includes 3 credit hours, room, and board. Contact **Dan Greene** at [dgreene907@gmail.com](mailto:dgreene907@gmail.com) for more information.

# STATE REPORTS

## UF Student Chapter News

The UF Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society allows students to build wildlife skills and network with wildlife professionals. Our Fall 2019 events include a Firearms Skills Day with FWC, a prescribed burn day with Florida Forest Service, recruitment opportunities by Deseret Ranches and USDA/APHIS Florida Wildlife Services, manatee health assessments with USGS, and an educational tour of Ashton Biological Preserve. We partnered with the UF Wildlife Graduate Students Association's Mentor/Mentee program to provide UF TWS members with career mentorship and research opportunities from graduate students. Additionally, two UF TWS members received funding from UF's Wildlife Ecology and Conservation department to attend the joint TWS and AFS conference in Reno, Nevada and represent our Student Chapter.

UF TWS is committed to community education, participating in outreach events such as the Natural Resources Diversity Initiative Career Showcase, the College of Agricultural and Life Science's Kick-Off, Lube Bat Conservancy's 2019 Florida Bat Festival, University of Florida's TailGATOR, and presentations about conservation at local Alachua schools.

We are busy preparing for our annual wild game dinner, Beast Feast, in February of 2020!

**Robin Boughton**  
[robin.boughton@fltws.org](mailto:robin.boughton@fltws.org)

GEORGIA

NO NEWS REPORTED



## 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 will be held on both campuses in Clyde, NC & Cullowhee, NC. 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 and must be received by Friday, February 14!** Please visit <https://www.wcu.edu/experience/conference-services/TWSSoutheasternStudentConclave.aspx> for more information and to register.



Pixabay

# STATE REPORTS

## MARYLAND/DELAWARE

NO NEWS REPORTED



## KENTUCKY

### Kentucky Chapter TWS



The annual meeting of KY TWS Chapter will be February 20-21 at Lake Cumberland State Resort Park.

### New National Wildlife Refuge in Kentucky!

Almost 20 years after the USFWS first published a proposal for a national wildlife refuge at the confluence of the Green and Ohio Rivers in Henderson County, KY, the Green River National Wildlife Refuge was officially established. The USFWS plans to ultimately acquire 24,000 acres for the refuge by buying easements and land from willing sellers.

### Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources (KDFWR)

After seeing good results in one lake, the KDFWR plans to expand a trial project that tracks the use of special man-made catfish spawning boxes placed in lakes and the impact natural spawning activity may have on catfish populations. Almost two dozen individual nests with eggs were found in the boxes over the course of the spawning period, meaning the boxes were used more than once. A generous donation of 15,000 blue catfish from the West Virginia DNR were used to boost catfish populations in the Kentucky River.

Kentucky's 10-year Quail Plan concludes this year and analyses from the plan have yielded correlations with the amount of CRP acres and bobwhite increases on Focal Areas; illuminating the need for more habitat across larger areas for the long-term benefit of bobwhite. KDFWR's Small Game Program has begun the next phases of bobwhite conservation in the state by moving from targeted management on Focal Areas to landscape level management, focusing on producers in grazing and haying systems.



In 2010, KDFWR ichthyologists discovered a new species of fish found only in the Buck Creek drainage located in southcentral Kentucky. Named the Buck darter (*Etheostoma nebra*), it was determined the species has declined significantly and is now restricted to two small streams. A conservation partnership between KDFWR, USFWS, Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) and Conservation Fisheries, Inc. (CFI) was formed to develop and implement conservation actions for the species. Since 2016, EKU has completed research on the Buck darter's population size and ecology; while CFI initiated a multiyear captive propagation study and is maintaining an ark population. Captive-spawned darters were tagged and released in 2018 and 2019; an August survey recaptured a tagged adult, indicating survival of fish released in 2018. Monitoring will continue into 2019 to assess survival and natural reproduction of stocked darters.

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

# STATE REPORTS

## LOUISIANA



NO NEWS REPORTED



### Early Career Professional Working Group

The January 2020 edition of the Early Career Professional Working Group newsletter is jam-packed with their involvements at TWS' Annual Conference last fall in Reno, results from their membership survey, and interviews with leading wildlife professionals **Auriel Fournier** and **Priya Nanjappa**. Please visit <https://wildlife.org/ecpwg/> to learn more about the working group and check out their current newsletter.

## MISSISSIPPI



### Mississippi Chapter TWS

In December, the MSTWS chapter sent letters to all their representatives in the U.S. House urging them to support the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. Mississippi has four representatives in the house and urges all four to support efforts to conserve the state's valuable wildlife resources.

### Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks

Prolonged flooding of the Mississippi River led to a limited hunting season in the Delta region of the state, affecting private landowners and public lands. The shortened season and reduced bag limits on deer in that region aimed to limit additional stress on deer, while still providing a hunting opportunity.

### The Nature Conservancy - Mississippi Chapter

In collaboration with MDWFP and the USFWS, TNC-MS dedicated Phil Bryant WMA "in the spirit of the Mississippi outdoorsman" with purchased lands from Anderson-Tully Company in Issaquena and Warren counties. The track of land protects a diminishing stretch of Mississippi River bottoms and will be open to hunters and other recreation activities.

### USFWS

**Travis Carpenter** was named Project Leader of the newly merged Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee and North Mississippi NWR Complexes, which includes Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee, Choctaw, Dahomey, Tallahatchie, and Coldwater NWRs and encompasses over 68,400 acres across the states of Mississippi and Alabama.

# STATE REPORTS

## Mississippi State University

Mississippi State University (MSU), in collaboration with DU and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, launched a multidisciplinary effort to study the efficacy of marsh terraces as a restoration technique in Gulf Coastal Louisiana. The collaborative effort includes graduate students **Madelyn McFarland**, **Joseph French**, and **Raul Osario**, as well as **Michael Brasher** of DU and six MSU faculty members across multiple departments including **Brian Davis**, **Mark Woodrey**, and **Adam Skarke**. Findings from the research, currently in its second year, will help improve best management practices and will help guide conservation efforts for Gulf Coastal wetlands.

**Taylor Hackemack, [th8370@gmail.com](mailto:th8370@gmail.com)**

## NORTH CAROLINA



### North Carolina Chapter TWS

We often reflect on how lucky we are to have such a diverse membership. We lost our 2018 President-elect, **Josh Parris**, when he moved to New Zealand. However, we are still in communication and get updates from the other side of the globe! Josh has been busy with the Predator Free Wellington project. In this role, he works to eradicate rats, stoats and weasels in order to protect native wildlife. We also want to mention **Russ Oates**, one of our Charter Members! Born and raised in North Carolina, he started his career as a District Biologist for the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. Several years later,



*Mississippi State University graduate students and faculty along with a Ducks Unlimited scientist stake a (temporary) flag on a terrace segment that serves as the location of an anemometer. From the left, **Raul Osario** (MSU graduate student), **Dr. Adam Skarke** (MSU faculty), **Joseph French** (MSU graduate student), **Madelyn McFarland** (MSU graduate student), and **Dr. Michael Brasher** (DU).*

# STATE REPORTS

he moved to Alaska to work for the US Fish & Wildlife Service. After a long and rewarding career, he retired and returned to North Carolina. Though he hasn't slowed down one bit. He is a volunteer for several local conservation organizations and has a store on Etsy (Birchwoods Workshop) where he sells handcrafted birdhouses and feeders made from sustainably sourced materials.

Since we highlighted membership diversity, we would be remiss if we didn't give accolades to recent award and grant recipients. **Colleen Ofenbuttel**, past President, recently received the prestigious TWS Fellows Award. This award is given to individuals who have been a TWS member for at least 10 years, are active in TWS at the section, chapter, working group or parent Society level, and have a distinguished record. **William Casola** received our 2019 NCTWS Conference Grant, allowing him to attend the joint annual conference of TWS and AFS in Reno. **Dr. Liz Rutledge** received our 2019 NCTWS Professional Development Grant, also allowing her to attend the joint annual conference in Reno. Lastly, we are excited to announce that three of our student chapters (NC State, Western Carolina University and Haywood Community College) attended the 2019 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave and all brought home awards. Congratulations to all award and grant recipients!

We are gearing up for our annual meeting at Haw River State Park in Browns Summit. The theme is 'Climate Change: Adaptation, Biodiversity and Communication'. It is planned for February 11-13 and promises to be an educational and captivating conference! With door prizes, raffles, socials and entertaining silent and live auctions, it's an event that shouldn't be missed. All are welcome to attend.

In a recent newsletter, we discussed the importance of bird banding as a tool for learning species information, including dispersal and migration, life span, population dynamics and toxicology. We caught up with **Susan Campbell**, NCTWS member and avian biologist, who bands hummingbirds at Weymouth Woods State Park. Susan places a wire mesh trap around a hummingbird feeder at the Visitor's Center. Standing at least ten feet away, she holds a string connected to the door of the trap. Once a hummer flies in for a sip, she releases the string which closes the door, trapping the unsuspecting hummingbird. Susan bands the tiny bird and records measurements, including wing length, beak length and weight. Lastly, she places a white dot of paint on the bird's head so that annual recaptures are easily recognizable. If you're ever in the neighborhood, she performs hummingbird banding demonstrations at Weymouth Woods every Wednesday morning (weather permitting) during the summer.

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)



# STATE REPORTS

## OKLAHOMA



### University of Central Oklahoma TWS Student Chapter

The University of Central Oklahoma TWS Student Chapter had an eventful fall semester and is gearing up for an even busier spring semester. In the fall, members had the opportunity to volunteer at the Wildlife Expo, Oklahoma City Zoo, and the Wildcare Foundation. We hope to continue our work this semester by volunteering for Oklahoma City Zoo, fundraising for the Wildcare Foundation's spring baby shower, and cleaning up Oklahoma City parks with Edmond Memorial's SUN Club. We are also very excited to be attending the Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference in February and the TWS Student Conclave in March. This will give our chapter an opportunity to observe how conclave operates, as we will be assisting the OSU Student Chapter with the 2021 Central Mountains and Plains TWS Student Conclave!

**Vicki Jackson**  
[vjackson4@uco.edu](mailto:vjackson4@uco.edu)

## SOUTH CAROLINA



### Clemson University

**Dr. Rick Kaminski** and colleagues were awarded the Best Technical Wildlife Paper delivered at the 2018 Southeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) conference in Mobile AL. The award was presented at the 2019 SEAFWA conference in Hilton Head, SC.

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



*Pictured are **Dr. Kevin Hunt** (right, Mississippi State University) and **Dr. Rick Kaminski** who accepted the award on behalf of the research team led by **Dr. Mike Schummer**, State University of New York in Syracuse.*

## TENNESSEE



### Tennessee Chapter TWS

The TN Chapter of TWS will be holding their 52nd annual meeting, Feb. 26 – 28 in Murfreesboro, TN. Executive Board elections will be held.

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



# STATE REPORTS

## VIRGINIA

### Virginia Chapter TWS



The Virginia Chapter of TWS will hold its annual meeting at Randolph-Macon College on February 6-7. See the meeting website for a full line up of talks, posters, activities, and workshops.

### Universities

Our three student chapters in Virginia are active year-round, including our newest chapter at George Mason University. We also have students active in wildlife research and conservation at other institutions around the state.

The Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society at Virginia Tech has had an eventful fall semester in 2019. Our regular club meetings have included research talks from new VT Professor (**Dr. Kevin Hamed**) and graduate students working in the field. We hosted an R workshop for undergraduates, and a resume workshop by our faculty advisor (**Dr. Marcella Kelly**). We held a quiz bowl competition to practice for the upcoming Southeastern Wildlife Conclave this coming spring. Additionally, we hosted an overnight camping trip

at Caldwell Fields, a bake sale in Cheatham Hall, and continued to conduct weekend camera trapping research at Mountain Lake Biological Station with our faculty advisor. Four of our members traveled to the TWS national conference in Reno, NV to compete in quiz bowl and network with the national TWS chapter. Our members also participated in a mussel salvage event at Claytor Lake as well as assisted with CWD sampling efforts in southwest Virginia. We hosted educational outreach events including presentations at local schools, and table displays at alumni events and Virginia Tech's annual Science Fest. Finally, we hosted our annual Game Dinner potluck and raised \$800 for our student chapter. We look forward to the VA-TWS meeting and numerous other events next semester!



# STATE REPORTS

The Radford chapter has been busy in the field helping with two projects recently. Last month, students helped with a native mussel rescue at Claytor Lake State Park. When the lake is drawn down for landowners to repair docks and piers, the mussels are exposed. The Radford group saved nearly 400 of the 7,600 mussels rescued this year! This month, students are helping with bat surveys of caves around Virginia.



*Radford students helping with bat surveys of caves.*

George Mason University (GMU) in Fairfax, Virginia just formed a student chapter of The Wildlife Society! The leaders of the chapter are very excited to offer one of the only wildlife and ecology-based student organizations on campus. They hope to combine their passion for wildlife and education while improving the knowledge and career success of GMU students. The chapter has several events planned for this semester to help connect students with TWS members and learn about different career paths and tips for success.

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

## DUCKS UNLIMITED

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

### Arkansas

#### **1,000 Acres of Arkansas Habitat Enhancements Funded**

DU and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) are working together to restore more than 1,000 acres of waterfowl habitat on Dave Donaldson Black River Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Construction should be completed by the end of summer 2020, weather permitting.

The Brookings Unit is located just north of Delaplaine on the south side of the Black River and managed for moist soil habitat. Currently, AGFC does not have an efficient way to flood the unit. Ducks Unlimited recently secured a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant to support water-control infrastructure improvements. Funds will be used to install a relief pump to carry water from the Black River into the Brookings Unit, allowing AGFC to flood 215 acres as needed. Additionally, grant funds will be used to repair areas of damaged levee, install a new levee and replace numerous water-control structures to ensure that the managed wetland units function properly and efficiently.

As part of this project, AGFC will also restore hydrology on large areas of the Brookings green-tree reservoir (GTR). Years of prolonged flooding and increasingly poor drainage have negatively impacted forest health and regeneration. This work will positively affect 880 acres of bottomland



# STATE REPORTS

hardwood wetlands The Brookings GTR tract is one site within a larger continuum of bottomland wetlands that require similar hydrology hydrology is the foundation for maintaining forest integrity and promoting red oak regeneration. Without restoration, continued forest degradation in a large portion of the WMA is expected.

<https://www.ducks.org/conservation/sr/arkansas/black-river-wma-enhancements?poe=arkansas>

## Georgia

### First Altamaha Project Completed in Georgia

We completed the first of multiple wetland restoration projects on Altamaha Wildlife Management Area in coastal Georgia to improve public recreation opportunities, water quality, coastal resilience and waterfowl habitat. The Rhett's Island Unit phase one restoration project is the first of nearly \$9 million funded through FEMA, the Georgia DNR and two NAWCA grants secured by DU.

<https://www.ducks.org/conservation/sr/georgia/first-phase-of-rhetts-island-restoration-complete>

## South Carolina

### DU's First REPI Project Protects 242 Acres

Ducks Unlimited has entered a strategic partnership with the United States Air Force (USAF) to increase conservation land surrounding their bases. The Department of Defense created the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program that benefits both conservation in surrounding areas and military training necessities. They asked DU to be the conservation partner on this South Carolina project because of our land protection success. Since the 1980s, DU has protected approximately 140,000 acres in South Carolina through conservation easements with nearly 170 landowners.

We worked with the USAF to map and prioritize conservation areas around the North Auxiliary Airfield in the North Fork Edisto River watershed that will provide DU mission benefit, buffer training areas and achieve rural land conservation. For private landowners within the project area, the REPI program is a way to receive payment for continuing to utilize their land as they always have while ensuring it will remain undeveloped in perpetuity. DU's efforts have been supported by a matching special project grant from the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation. Through a cooperative agreement with the USAF and Joint-Base Charleston, DU is working with landowners in the project area to secure voluntary agreements for bargain-sale conservation easements.

The partnership works with private landowners on the protection of strategic properties that provide important wetland values and contribute to a permanent, open-space buffer around the North Auxiliary Airfield. These properties typically include a combination of wetland or stream features with uplands used for either timber or farming. The project area includes significant wetland and stream habitats in the upper reaches of the Edisto River watershed, which has relatively-little permanent land conservation.

DU closed on the first REPI easement in December, protecting 242 acres. The property is dominated by upland forests consisting primarily of mixed pine-hardwood and planted loblolly and longleaf pine. Forested wetland areas along the southwest property line and forested buffers along streams have been preserved, protecting more than 28 acres of wood duck and songbird habitat. The owner will continue using the property for wildlife management, recreational hunting and pine production with the goal of increasing longleaf pine restoration in the future.

# STATE REPORTS

The Department of Defense's REPI Program is a key tool for combating development that can limit or restrict military training, testing, and operations. REPI also supports large landscape partnerships that advance cross-boundary solutions and link military readiness, conservation, and communities with federal and state partners through a common, collaborative framework.

## Florida

### **\$22 Million for Florida Wetland Restoration Work**

Four years of restoration work in Florida's Apalachicola River Wildlife Environmental Area was made possible thanks to a nearly \$22 million grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund. Over the next four years, Ducks Unlimited, in cooperation with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), will work together to restore wetland structure and function to the MK Ranch. MK Ranch comprises approximately 6,400 acres of historic tidal marsh in the lower Apalachicola River Basin that filters and stores water flowing from upland sites to the tributaries of Lake Wimico and Apalachicola Bay.

<https://www.ducks.org/press-room/nearly-22-million-awarded-to-restore-mk-ranch>

## Virginia

### **Chincoteague NWR Enhancement**

DU, in partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, is working on the restoration of 1,016 acres of managed wetlands on Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in the Delmarva Peninsula, Virginia. Chincoteague NWR includes more than 14,000 acres of beach, dunes, marsh, and maritime forest. Established in 1943 to provide habitat for migratory birds, the refuge continues to provide habitat for waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, and song birds as well as other species of wildlife and plants. Wildlife-dependent

recreational opportunities such as fishing, hunting, wildlife photography and observation, interpretation, and environmental education are abundant. Chincoteague is one of the most visited refuges in the country and best known for the fabled wild ponies, made famous by Marguerite Henry in her book *Misty of Chincoteague*.

This project will restore management capabilities, giving USFWS managers the ability to independently manage impoundments to encourage production of quality forage for waterfowl and mudflats and sheet water for shorebird foraging habitat. Water management will also control undesirable plant species and improve water quality in the adjacent Chincoteague Bay, an area that provides extensive submerged aquatic vegetation resources for migrating and wintering waterfowl.

Funding for the project comes from a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant, Virginia Outdoors Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife Service and DU.

<http://www.ducks.org/conservation/sr/virginia/chincoteague-nwr-enhancement-begins>

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

#### **South Louisiana**

#### **Golden Meadow Marsh Creation**

Ducks Unlimited (DU) is working on a marsh creation project to restore 115 acres near Golden Meadow, Louisiana. The project is located within the Terrebonne Basin, which is experiencing some of the highest rates of coastal land loss in Louisiana according to the United States Geological Survey (as high

# STATE REPORTS

as 6,500 acres lost per year). This marsh creation work is bordered by multiple restoration projects constructed by DU and other organizations, and the area is a high priority for the coastal restoration community. Beyond restoring wildlife habitat, projects like this one provide multiple benefits, including lessening storm surge and flooding during tropical storm events and providing water quality improvements and economic benefits.

DU is using a cutterhead dredge to pull material from the bottom of Catfish Lake and pump it through a pipeline system approximately 1.5 miles to fill in shallow water ponds that were once healthy marsh. The marsh creation area is owned by ConocoPhillips / Louisiana Land and Exploration Company and is next to South Lafourche Levee District's flood protection levee system. Marsh restoration will provide more erosion defense for the levee, strengthening community protection.

Project partners include DU, ConocoPhillips/Louisiana Land and Exploration Company, Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, Lafourche Parish Government, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Shell, and TransRe.

<http://www.ducks.org/conservation/sr/louisiana/golden-meadow-marsh-creation>

## Employee Changes

**Dr. Joe Lancaster** began serving as Biological Team Leader for the Gulf Coast Joint Venture (GCJV) on July 15. Through this partner-funded, DU-administered position, Joe will lead waterfowl conservation planning and science for the GCJV partnership as part of the GCJV Office at the USGS Wetland and Aquatic Research Center in Lafayette, Louisiana. Joe comes to us from the Illinois Natural History Survey's Forbes Biological

Station, where he's been serving as a Post-doctoral Research Assistant for the past 2 years. He obtained his B.S. from Lake Superior State University with a thesis on nesting waterfowl in North Dakota and his M.S. and Ph.D. from Mississippi State University, where he focused on various aspects of wintering mallards in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley. When not working, Joe enjoys duck hunting, boating, birding, and spending time with his wife, Jen, and 2 young daughters.

**Josh Green** began as the new Conservation Lands Coordinator for the Mississippi Alluvial Valley on Oct. 1. Josh has five years of experience as a real estate attorney at Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC. He has also worked for two different nonprofits dedicated to promoting sustainability in agriculture and conservation of land and natural resources – the Mississippi Sustainable Agriculture Network and the Athens Land Trust. Josh holds a Juris Doctor from Tulane University Law School and B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of Mississippi.

**Anna Rollosso** is extremely excited to be joining DU as a GIS Analyst. Anna has a strong interest in the applications of GIS and remote sensing technology for strategic conservation efforts and science communication. She is a native of Memphis, TN, and has been passionate about land and wildlife conservation since childhood. She received a B.A. in Environmental Science and English at the University of Virginia in 2015, and after working as a field technician in Virginia and Georgia, recently graduated from the University of Florida with an M.S. in Forest Resources and Conservation. Anna enjoys all things outdoors and looks forward to exploring Central Mississippi on foot and bike.

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

# BUSINESS

## SECRETARY-TREASURER REPORT

January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019

Submitted by: Kelly Douglass, SE Section Secretary/Treasurer

Beginning Balance (01/01/19)	\$11,583.44
Deposits	\$8,434.81
Debits	\$(-3,796.06)
Outstanding Checks	\$(-0.00)
Ending Balance (12/31/18)	\$16,222.19

### DEPOSITS

Item	Amount
TWS Fourth Quarter 2018 and First Quarter 2019 Dues	\$2,192.00
TWS Second Quarter 2019 Dues	\$1,562.00
TWS Third Quarter 2019 Dues	\$834.00
SETWS Fur Resources Committee Funds	\$3,060.81
TWS Third Quarter 2019 Dues	\$766.00
Dues - Steve Smith, Todd Menke	\$20.00
<b>TOTAL DEPOSITS</b>	<b>\$8,434.81</b>

### DEBITS

Item	Amount
ABAC Foundation, Inc. (Conclave)	\$1,000.00
Athens Stamp and Engraving (award plaques)	\$197.95
Athens Stamp and Engraving (Past President plaque)	\$55.64
Athens Stamp and Engraving (CW Watson plaque)	\$52.00
Katie Edwards (newsletter editor)	\$1,500.00
Mark Smith (award materials - card stock)	\$64.17
Mark Smith (award materials - printing)	\$9.63
Briana Stewart (best student poster award)	\$100.00
UT Martin TWS (best student chapter award)	\$500.00
Ryo Ogawa (best student presentation award)	\$100.00
TWS (partial registration w/TWS at SEAFWA 2019)	\$216.67
<b>TOTAL DEBITS</b>	<b>\$3,796.06</b>

### 74TH ANNUAL SEAFWA CONFERENCE

#### SAVE THE DATE

**SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI | SUNDAY, OCT. 25, 2020 – WEDNESDAY, OCT. 28, 2020**

Hosted by Missouri Department of Conservation, the 74th Annual Conference will be held at the University Plaza Hotel in Springfield, Missouri. Attendee registration will open in July and Sponsor and Exhibitor registration will open in April.

# BUSINESS

## Southeastern Section TWS Fall Business Meeting

The Fall business meeting of the Southeastern Section was held on October 29, 2019 during the SEAF-WA Conference in Hilton Head, SC. Results of the officer elections were announced and out-going officers were recognized for their service to the Section. The membership elected **Kelly Douglass** as SETWS President-elect and **Daniel Greene** for Secretary/Treasurer for 2020-2022.



*SETWS Past President **Mark Smith** (left) was recognized for his 6 years of service by Immediate Past President **Mike Mengak** (right).*



*SETWS Immediate Past President **Mike Mengak** (left) was recognized for his service by incoming SETWS President **Ray Iglay** (left).*



*SETWS Secretary-Treasurer **Kelly Douglass** (left) was recognized for her service by SETWS President **Mike Mengak** (right).*

## 2020 Southeastern Section Officers

### **President:**

Dr. Raymond B. Iglay  
Assistant Professor of Wildlife Ecology,  
Department of Wildlife, Fisheries &  
Aquaculture  
Mississippi State University  
Box 9690  
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Training Coordinator, 486 Series  
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Services National Training Academy  
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### **President-Elect:**

Kelly Douglass  
Wildlife Disease Biologist  
USDA Wildlife Services  
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### **Immediate Past President:**

Dr. Michael Mengak  
Associate Dean of Outreach &  
Professor – Wildlife  
Warnell School of Forestry  
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### **Southeastern Section Representative:**

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### **Secretary/Treasurer:**

Daniel Greene  
Wildlife Scientist, Environmental  
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# 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 2020! The program begins in May and concludes at TWS's Annual Conference in Louisville, Kentucky 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]"

**The application deadline is March 16, 2020.** 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 2019

### **C.W. Watson (SEAFWA)**

Alvin A. Taylor, Retired South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

### **SEAFWA Publication of the Year (2018)**

Michael L. Schummer, Allison M. Smith, Richard M. Kaminski, Kevin M. Hunt, Elizabeth St. James, and Houston Havens "*Achievement Oriented Effects on Waterfowl-Hunt Quality at Mississippi Wildlife Management Areas*"

### **SETWS Student Chapter of the Year**

University of Tennessee at Martin Student Chapter

### **SETWS Best Student Presentation**

Ryo Ogawa, Mississippi State University, "*Movement Strategies of American White Pelicans During the Annual Cycle*"

### **SETWS Best Poster Presentation**

Briana Stewart, Auburn University, "*Automated Techniques for Interpreting Game Camera Images from Surveys for Eastern Wild Turkeys*"

### **SETWS Wildlife Management Excellence Award**

Georgia DNR, Wildlife Resources Division, Southwest Georgia, Region 5 Staff

### **SEAFWA Wildlife Biologist of the Year**

Gary Norman, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

### **SEAFWA Officer of the Year**

Cole Edwards, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks

### **SEAFWA Diversity and Inclusion Awards**

Alabama DCNR and Oklahoma DWC

### **Seth Gordon Award (AFWA)**

Ed Carter, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

### **SFI Conservation Leadership Award**

Emily Jo Williams (American Bird Conservancy) and Healy Hamilton (NatureServe)

### **TWS Diversity Award**

Rena Borkhataria, University of Florida, Everglades Research and Education Center and the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program

### **TWS Fellows**

Lisa Muller, University of Tennessee; Colleen Olfenbuttel, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

## Retired SCDNR Director Alvin A. Taylor named C. W. Watson Award Winner

The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) named **Alvin A. Taylor** the 2019 C. W. Watson Award winner at their annual meeting in Hilton Head, South Carolina. The award is the highest honor bestowed by the Association.

Taylor retired earlier this year after almost 42 years of service with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR). He served as SCDNR Director from March 2012 until May 2019.

"Director Taylor has a long history of serving in leadership positions within SEAFWA including a recent tenure as association president," SEAFWA President **Chuck Sykes** said. "Through these roles, he has positively impacted policies and programs at the state, regional and national levels. We believe this award is the perfect way to celebrate and honor his career-long achievements and commitment to natural resources."

Chair of the C. W. Watson Award Committee, **Emily Jo Williams**, Vice President of Migratory Birds and Habitats for the American Bird Conservancy, said that Director Taylor exemplifies the qualities and spirit of this prestigious award.

"We received a number of excellent nominations for the 2019 award from every sector of our Southeastern conservation community including wildlife, fisheries, law enforcement, administration and research," Williams said. "Although our decision was difficult given the qualifications of so many incredible professionals, we were blown away with Director Taylor's contributions to the South Carolina DNR and the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies."

Throughout Taylor's career, he has been a tireless advocate for South Carolina's natural resources and has been instrumental in rebuilding the agency's relationship with the General Assembly. When Taylor first became director, the agency was suffering from reduced budgets and staffing as a result of the economic downturn. With Director Taylor as the agency's most vocal ambassador, state funding for SCDNR has doubled since 2012.

As director, Taylor also helped reform many wildlife laws and regulations, added thousands of acres to the state's Wildlife Management Area program at no cost to the agency, helped to strengthen conservation measures for popular saltwater game species while providing increased angling opportunities, championed an update to the South Carolina State Water Plan, and established interstate boating and wildlife violator compacts.

Director Taylor has a keen understanding that outreach efforts are critical to the future of conservation. Under his leadership, SCDNR experienced the largest expansion of outreach programs in its history. Through programs such as the National Archery in the Schools Program, Take One Make One, Scholastic Clay Shooting Sports, and middle and high school bass fishing clubs, the agency interacts with more than 170,000 youth each year – not including the constituents impacted through shooting range expansions and the establishment of the agency's Hispanic outreach program.

# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

"Alvin is filled with integrity, believes in doing what is right and always wants what is best for our Department and its employees," Interim SCDNR Director **Robert Boyles** said. "He is respected and admired not because of his title and accomplishments, but because he truly cares about the people and natural resources of our state."

Prior to becoming SCDNR Director, Taylor spent the majority of his career with the agency's Law Enforcement Division serving as Deputy Director from July 2004 until May 2012. During his tenure with SCDNR's Law Enforcement Division, Taylor was at the forefront of boating safety and led the charge to establish comprehensive boating safety laws in the state. For those efforts, he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association Of State Boating Law Administrators in 2014.

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.



*From left to right: **Ed Carter**, Award Committee Chair, Master of Ceremonies, TWRA Executive Director, **E.J. Williams**, Watson Award Committee Chair representing Southeastern Section, The Wildlife Society, **Alvin Taylor**, South Carolina, and **Chuck Sykes**, SEAFWA President; Director Wildlife and Fisheries Division, AL Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources.*



# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

## SETWS Wildlife Management Excellence Award

Each year during our annual meeting, the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society (SETWS) presents the Wildlife Management Excellence Award (WMEA) to recognize excellence in wildlife management activities carried out within the member states of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. This year, the committee selected the Southwest Georgia Region 5 Staff of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division, to receive the WMEA for their efforts toward conservation of Northern Bobwhite and other grassland obligate species on state lands. A brief summary of their efforts from their nomination is provided below. Their efforts truly represent excellence in wildlife management and their staff went above and beyond to accomplish these important goals.

Northern Bobwhite Quail have declined by about 90% since 1966, due to land use changes. For many years, staff with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources have been working with private landowners to proactively direct and restore habitat for bobwhites within established state priority areas. As part of ongoing recovery efforts for bobwhite and other grassland obligate species in decline, the Department identified four state properties (Chickasawhatchee, Elmodel, River Creek, and Silver Lake Wildlife Management Areas) in 2014 within this priority area to grow and sustain bobwhite populations. The main goal of the Department's recovery efforts is to restore and maintain quality early successional habitat and open pine habitat on as many focal landscapes as possible to increase and maintain a viable and huntable population bobwhite quail; while providing habitat for other obligate wildlife species of priority conservation concern.

Few intact pine savanna habitats remain in the southeastern United States. Industrial forestry practices, development, agriculture, and lack of or inconsistent use of prescribed fire have reduced the acreage of savanna habitat in the region. While many species of wildlife have adapted to this change in habitat (e.g. white-tailed deer, racoons, etc.), others have declined. The Department has and is restoring this valuable habitat on these four focal areas. State properties are protected; therefore, this important habitat will be preserved in perpetuity for wildlife that depend on this type habitat.

Surveys on these properties, indicated a combined average of .18 bobwhite quail per acre. The nominated staff have restored thousands of acres of early successional and woodland savanna habitat to increase wild bobwhite populations. As of November 2018, combined population estimates on these properties have almost doubled to .35 bobwhite per acre.

Since 93% of Georgia is under private ownership, habitat management on private lands is the key to achieving success. Management on these properties allow the Department to demonstrate and teach landowners practical and affordable management techniques for bobwhite quail. They also provide public hunting opportunity, that will foster an appreciation for the resource and its value.

The Department participates in the NBCI inventory to assess and track bobwhite conservation. Survey results are shared with the National Bobwhite Technical Committee and NBCI Management Board and are published in the State of Bobwhite report.

# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

## TWS Fellows Award

**Colleen Olfenbittel** and **Dr. Lisa Muller** were recognized as TWS Fellows from the Southeastern Section at The Wildlife Society's 26th 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.



*Colleen Olfenbittel (left) and Dr. Lisa Muller (right) were recognized as TWS Fellows by TWS President Dr. Darren Miller (center) at the AFS & TWS Joint Conference in Reno, NV.*

## TWS Diversity Award

**Dr. Rena Borkhataria** (left) was presented the TWS Diversity Award by TWS President **Dr. Darren Miller** at the TWS Conference this fall. The Diversity Award recognizes an individual or organization for outstanding efforts in promoting ethnic and gender diversity in the natural resource professions, especially wildlife conservation and education.



# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

## Gary Norman Named 2019 SEAFWA Wildlife Biologist of the Year

The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) named **Gary Norman** the 2019 Wildlife Biologist of the Year at their annual meeting in Hilton Head, South Carolina. Norman is the Forest Game Bird Project Leader for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF).

“Gary has dedicated his life to promoting and conserving Virginia’s natural resources,” said **Chuck Sykes**, SEAFWA President. “After more than 30 years, he continues to look for opportunities to improve the understanding and management of upland game birds. We are proud to present Gary with SEAFWA’s Wildlife Biologist of the Year award.”

Norman joined the Virginia DGIF in 1987 as a District Wildlife Biologist. Since 1989, he has served in his current role as DGIF’s Forest Game Bird Project Leader. Prior to joining DGIF, Norman was an Assistant District Game Biologist with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources from 1980 to 1986. As Virginia’s Forest Game Bird Project Leader, Norman has been the key investigator and leader for several large-scale research and monitoring projects that have significantly contributed to a better understanding of ruffed grouse, wild turkey and other wildlife species.

Highlights of Norman’s career include some of the largest studies of upland game birds ever conducted including the Appalachian Cooperative Grouse Research Project, Wild Turkey Population Dynamics in Virginia and West Virginia, and the Eastern Regional Mast Survey. The results of these studies have influenced management decisions throughout the region and are being used to teach future wildlife professionals across the country.

“Gary exemplifies how a state agency biologist can significantly advance the science-based understanding of wildlife conservation by merging the research efforts of multiple agencies and institutions,” said **Ryan Brown**, Virginia DGIF Executive Director. “He is well-deserving of this award.”

Norman earned a bachelor’s in wildlife science from West Virginia University in 1978 and a master’s in wildlife science from Virginia Tech in 1980. He has been active in The Wildlife Society serving on the Certification Review Board and as treasurer of the Virginia Chapter.



From left to right: **Gary Norman**, Forest Game Bird Project Leader, DGIF; **Chuck Sykes**, SEAFWA President.

# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

## Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Honored for Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Efforts

*SEAFWA Award Recognizes Outstanding Work for Career Recruitment, Outdoor Awareness*

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) has received the 2019 Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Award from the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) at their annual meeting in Hilton Head, South Carolina. The Alabama agency was recognized for multiple efforts to engage racial minorities, women and people with disabilities.

ADCNR has shown exceptional leadership in working to diversify its workforce, an important challenge that must be faced to better serve people of all backgrounds into the future. Their work provides a valuable model for other fish and game agencies facing the same challenges across our nation.

“When you work with people that are doing great things in the community and making progress in an area which we all need to focus on, the best thing we can do is to support their efforts,” said **Chris Blankenship**, ADCNR Commissioner.

For five years, the agency has led the Alabama Collegiate Mentoring Program. This program gives minority students at Tuskegee, Troy, Alabama, Alabama A&M and Auburn universities hands-on experience in the field through internships and ride-along programs. The goal is to expose students to career opportunities in conservation science.

The agency also expanded public outreach to a broader demographic. It started a series of urban workshops to provide information and answer questions about wildlife concerns in urban areas. The workshop locations were chosen to engage minorities and more diverse audiences. The Department also produced Facebook Live events hosted by agency staff on topics ranging from hunting and hunter education to fisheries and wildlife conservation as well as employment opportunities.

The 2018-2019 hunting season marked the second year of Alabama’s Adult Mentored Hunting Program, which experienced a 200 percent increase in applicants over the previous year. Last season, the program provided hands-on education and opportunity for 137 people – up from 66 in 2017-2018. One quarter of all applicants were female



*From left to right: **David Buggs**, Chair of Diversity and Inclusion Award Committee MINRC Chair, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer/HR Director; **Chuck Sykes**, SEAFWA President; Director Wildlife and Fisheries Division, AL Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.*

# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

and a fifth were minorities. Participants learned wildlife biology and ecology, hunting safety and skills, equipment, wild game cleaning and cooking, game laws and more. The program also provides opportunities for people with disabilities and maintains 20 accessible hunting sites with 233 permits issued last season.

Attracting and retaining a diverse workforce is a challenge for many organizations today. The Department has created two positions to address this issue. Additionally, ADCNR Conservation Enforcement Officers took part in 192 outreach and education events reaching 22,961 people in early 2019. The goal is to enhance state outreach, education and recruiting activities and strengthen partnerships with non-governmental organizations and communities.

The SEAFWA annual Diversity and Inclusion Award allows member agencies to learn from best practices implemented by other agencies, creating benchmarks of progress toward developing more inclusion among wildlife agencies across America. More information is on the SEAFWA website.

## **Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Honored for Diversity Outreach and Education**

*SEAFWA Award Recognizes Outstanding Work Introducing Schools, Diverse Youth to the Outdoors*

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) has received the 2019 Diversity Outreach and Education Award from the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) at their annual meeting in Hilton Head, South Carolina. The Oklahoma agency was recognized for forging fruitful partnerships to introduce students from diverse backgrounds to the outdoors through fishing.

“At a time when young people in cities are increasingly disconnected from nature and the outdoors, especially those from diverse backgrounds who may lack access or opportunity for time in nature, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation is providing a model for many other organizations facing similar challenges across our nation,” said **J. D. Strong**, ODWC Executive Director.

In 2017 the Department partnered with the Paul George Foundation to help introduce the Oklahoma Fishing in the Schools Program into more urban classrooms. In addition to being a professional basketball player (formerly with the Oklahoma City Thunder), George is also an avid angler. Since 2011, the Fishing in the Schools Program had recruited nearly 400 schools, and George saw a way to use this established platform to reach more diverse urban audiences.

The Department and the foundation picked 13 new schools in the Oklahoma City metro area to be part of the new PG13 fishing program. Teachers received training to teach the Fishing in the Schools Program in their classrooms. The 13 schools also received tickets to an Oklahoma City Thunder basketball game from the Paul George Foundation—students got a chance at a ticket by writing essays on what they love about the outdoors. The partnership grew in 2018-2019, with the foundation providing \$8,000 to cover transportation costs for participating schools.

# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Additionally many of those kids will have a new opportunity for fishing access, thanks to a partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, the Paul George Foundation, the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation and the City of Oklahoma City Parks and Recreation Department. This partnership is leveraging \$50,000 to build an accessible fishing dock for South Park Lake in Oklahoma City. This brand new dock will be open to the public free of charge and is within easy walking distance for neighborhood children. South Lake Park Lake is one of the official Close To Home Fishing Areas in municipalities around the state.

Most of the schools involved with the Fishing in the Schools Program were mainly rural. The partnership with the Paul George Foundation helped the program reach a broader and more diverse audience in an urban center. Oklahoma City school district students are 54 percent Hispanic, 22 percent African-American, 14 percent Caucasian and the rest Native American and Asian.

Many schools took advantage of the ODWC's Arcadia Conservation Education Area in the northern part of the metro area. Students got to fish in the education pond and walk the three-quarter mile education trail where they learned about different habits and species they might find in Oklahoma.

The Department has since secured equipment grants for the 2019-2020 school year to add up to 40 new schools to the program in urban areas. This will help continue to grow and diversify the program, expanding from a fourth grade focus in recent years into higher grade levels up through 12th grade.

The SEAFWA annual Diversity and Inclusion Award allows member agencies to learn from best practices implemented by other agencies, creating benchmarks of progress toward developing more inclusion among wildlife agencies across America. More information is on the SEAFWA website.

*From left to right: **David Buggs**, Chair of MINRC and Diversity and Inclusion Awards Committee, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer/HR Director; **Daniel Griffith**, Aquatic Education Coordinator, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation; **Chuck Sykes**, SEAFWA President; Director Wildlife and Fisheries Division, AL Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources.*



# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

## Cole Edwards Named 2019 SEAFWA Wildlife Officer of the Year

The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) named **Cole Edwards** the 2019 Colonel Bob Brantley Wildlife Officer of the Year at their annual meeting in Hilton Head, South Carolina. Edwards is a conservation officer for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP).

“Today’s conservation enforcement officer must be an educator, mentor, public relations officer, hunting and fishing promoter, search and rescue professional and law enforcement,” said **Chuck Sykes**, SEAFWA President. “Corporal Cole Edwards meets every one of these demands with a positive attitude and unwavering professionalism.”

Edwards is assigned to Bolivar County. He earned a bachelor’s degree in parks and recreation from the University of Mississippi in 2014 and joined MDWFP as a conservation officer in 2015. Edwards grew up in Houlka, Mississippi.

Since joining the Department, Edwards has quickly become an important mentor to other new officers. In his role as a Field Training Officer, he ensures that his trainees are properly briefed and equipped for any situation that may occur. Under Edwards’ leadership, two well-trained officers have recently been placed in the field.

Edwards’ reputation for taking initiative and building solid cases is well-known within the Department, but it is his response to an emergency call at the end of his shift on December 15, 2018, that best illustrates his dedication to public service. On that day, Edwards, assisted by trainee Private Ryan Watson, navigated a patrol boat through flood waters on the Mississippi River to rescue a man stranded 200 yards from shore. After helping the subject into the boat, Edwards gave him the clothes off his back. During a follow-up investigation, officials with the Bolivar Medical Center in Cleveland, Mississippi said the subject would have died from hypothermia within the hour if the officers had not arrived in time.

*From left to right: **Corporal Cole Edwards**, Law Enforcement, Mississippi Department Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks; **Chuck Sykes**, SEAFWA President; Director Wildlife and Fisheries Division, AL Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources.*



# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

“Corporal Edwards is a dedicated officer who works diligently to get the job done while going above and beyond the call of duty,” said MDWFP Executive Director **Sam Polles**. “He is very deserving of this award.”

In addition to his law enforcement duties, Edwards takes public outreach seriously. Throughout the year, he volunteers to educate the public about Mississippi’s game and fish laws, hunter safety, boater education and career opportunities in conservation.

The Association’s Wildlife Officer of the Year Award is determined by nominations submitted to the head of law enforcement from the SEAFWA states and territories. In addition to direct law enforcement, an officer is selected based on community service, outreach and education, interdepartmental cooperation and innovations that may be utilized by other officers and departments.

## **Emily Jo Williams Wins SFI Conservation Leadership Award for Championing SFI’s Conservation Impact Project**

At the Sustainable Forestry Initiative’s annual conference in Richmond, VA, in October 2019, **Emily Jo “EJ” Williams** received the SFI Conservation Leadership Award along with **Dr. Healy Hamilton** of NatureServe. EJ is Vice President for Migratory Birds and Habitats at American Bird Conservancy, and was recognized for leadership in facilitating projects that illustrate conservation values on lands certified to the SFI standards or affected by SFI Fiber Sourcing. Her work engaged a wide range of SFI certified organizations to enhance biodiversity, specifically birds of conservation concern, on managed forests in the U.S. South in accordance with best practices outlined in the SFI standards and quantified by the SFI Conservation Impact Project. The Conservation Impact Project is focused on measuring the benefits on lands that adhere to SFI standards relative to enhancing biodiversity, water quality, and carbon sequestration across the almost 370 million acres of SFI certified forestland in the U.S. and Canada.

“We knew the SFI standards were making a difference in specific places, and we wanted to involve multiple SFI certified organizations at a meaningful scale to measure the wider impact. We used an SFI Conservation Grant to work in partnership with 11 SFI certified organizations and several technical partners that focused on the conservation value of sustainably managed forestlands in providing habitat for a number of declining bird species,” Williams said.

The project focused on birds of conservation concern including Swallow-tailed Kite, Brown-Headed Nuthatch, Wood Thrush, Swainson’s Warbler, Prairie Warbler, and other species at risk. All of these species have experienced declines over the last few decades, leading to concern over the health of their populations. The study helped clarify the potentially critical role that sustainably managed forests can play in reversing the loss of these, and other birds. Outcomes of the project include population estimates for several species, an initial bird diversity index comparing survey results on managed forests with BBS routes from the surrounding landscape, a Bird Friendly Forests guide, and several successful workshops to engage foresters, biologists, and landowners in discussions of forest management practices and resulting habitat conditions that support breeding by at risk and other bird species.

# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

## UT- Martin Wildlife Society Named Student Chapter of the Year

The University of Tennessee at Martin Wildlife Society received the Student Chapter of the Year Award from The Wildlife Society's Southeastern Section on Oct. 29 at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' 73rd annual conference in Hilton Head, South Carolina. **Dr. Eric Pelren**, professor of wildlife biology, led a group from the UT Martin Wildlife Society to the event, which focused on the management and protection of fish and wildlife resources and allowed 500 representatives to share ideas and information. This award is presented annually to encourage and recognize exceptional achievements by Student Chapters in the Southeastern Section.



*Dr. Eric Pelren (left) and the University of Tennessee at Martin Student Chapter members with Southeastern Section Representative Dr. Mike Conner (right), at the SEAFWA Conference.*

# NOMINATIONS

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

The SETWS annually presents the Student Chapter of the Year Award to encourage and recognize exceptional achievements by Student Chapters in the Southeastern Section. This award is normally presented at the Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Winning chapters receive a certificate and monetary award. All student chapters in the Southeast Section are invited to nominate themselves for the award by completing the application form, which can be obtained from the SETWS Awards Committee Chairperson, Andy Madison ([amadison@uu.edu](mailto:amadison@uu.edu)). The deadline to submit an application has changed from previous years and is now due by **May 1, 2020**. Student Chapters are encouraged to complete and submit the application any time during the Spring 2020 semester. Please note that this is a separate award and application from the national TWS.

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

# 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, 2020, unless otherwise noted:  
Group Achievement Award & TWS Fellows Nominations due by February 1, 2020  
Wildlife Publication Awards Nominations due March 1, 2020

## 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



# 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  
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 Greene, Ph.D.**

Weyerhaeuser Company  
3477 S. Frontage Road  
Columbus, MS 39701

Email: [dgreene907@gmail.com](mailto:dgreene907@gmail.com)



*The Jones Center at Ichauway is 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

## FEBRUARY 2020

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

February 12-14, 2020  
The Classic Center, Athens, Georgia  
<https://sbdn.org/annual-meeting/>

### **43rd Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting**

February 23-25, 2020  
The Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center  
Auburn, AL  
<http://www.sedsg.com>

### **2020 Annual SEPARC Meeting**

February 27 - March 1, 2020  
Camp McDowell  
Nauvoo, AL  
<http://separc.org/>

## MARCH 2020

### **85th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference**

March 8-13, 2020  
Omaha, NE  
<https://wildlifemanagement.institute/conference>

## MAY 2020

### **Ducks Unlimited National Convention**

May 27-30, 2020  
Orlando, FL  
[www.ducks.org/ducks-unlimited-events/national-convention](http://www.ducks.org/ducks-unlimited-events/national-convention)

## JULY 2020

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

July 22-26, 2020  
Norfolk, VA  
[www.asih.org/meetings](http://www.asih.org/meetings)

## AUGUST 2020

### **Ecological Society of America 105th Annual Meeting**

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

## SEPTEMBER 2020

### **110th AFWA Annual Meeting**

September 13-16, 2020  
Sacramento, CA  
<http://www.afwaannualmeeting.org/>

### **The Wildlife Society 27th Annual Conference**

September 27 - October 1, 2020  
Louisville, KY  
<https://twconference.org/>

## OCTOBER 2020

### **74th SEAFWA Conference**

October 25-28, 2020  
Springfield, MO  
[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:

Daniel Greene  
Wildlife Scientist, Environmental Research South  
Weyerhaeuser Company  
3477 S. Frontage Road  
Columbus, MS 39701  
Phone (850) 890-9360  
dgreene907@gmail.com