

The Wildlife Society

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION



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KATHERINE EDWARDS, EDITOR

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

I hesitate to compose any President's Address of hope. Not because of changes in political powers, because it's rainy and bland this time of year in Mississippi, or any foreseeable concerns, but this time last year, none of us were expecting the rocky roads of 2020. Yet, there truly is hope. Many of us in the southeastern United States have enjoyed our children going back to school, college students in the classroom, and field work occurring. Small changes such as restaurants reopening or just favorite businesses remaining intact can lead to a nice evening out or even a quiet smile. Most of all, while each of us has likely been impacted by the virus in some way whether directly, through family and friends, or at work, we are soldiering on to a brighter future. What does that future entail? I have no idea. But, I do look forward to enjoying this second year of my presidency.

Our 2021 as the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society begins with a host of announcements and upcoming activities. First, we have a few winners to announce, our SEAFWA award winning publication and student presenters listed at the end of this address. Second, the Executive Board is proud to announce the we submitted multiple TWS Fellows' nominations. We have so many outstanding members willing to serve our section, their state, students, and even national TWS. Thank you for your service! We hope to continue growing our pool of fantastic men and women. Third, the Executive Board wants to hear from you. Our request is not simply a Post It with scribbles for you to come across 3 years

from now but instead an intentional outreach from us to you. State Chapter Executive Boards, especially presidents, please keep an eye on your email for an invitation to meet with at least me and likely many of the Section's board members. We hope to conduct these video calls up to twice annually so that we are not detached from our membership but fully engaged with you. We know from these interactions that ideas will flourish and help us steer the ship and benefit all members.

On a similar note, my take home message for this address is for all members to be creative. I think the message of stepping outside the rigid box of education and into the free world of creativity is often hidden or otherwise misconstrued in many courses. Personally, I was more of a machine during my undergraduate and graduate studies than a creative mind. However, it's

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

new ideas, pushing the envelope of traditions but grounded in reason that can really lead to fantastic outcomes. For example, the first step of the scientific method involves observations. From those observations, we start to form theories, predictions, hunches, or even formal, testable questions. Creativity at this stage, grounded in science, can lead to scientific breakthroughs. They can take us on new paths. Paths that may intersect unimaginable challenges but often leave us unscathed and on a new adventure to benefit wildlife management. After all, wildlife management is the art and science of manipulating wildlife for the benefit of wildlife and man. Let's not forget the forging of creativity and the process of gaining reliable knowledge to benefit our natural resources and human-wildlife interactions with them.

But wait. . . there's more!! Congratulations to our winners from SEAFWA 2020!! All winners have been notified and plaques (and checks) are in the mail. Once again, we have some fantastic people in our Section, many of whom are recognized in this newsletter.

Publication Award: **Burger, L.M.**, and **K.E. Abell**. 2020. Participation in nature-based recreation by diverse, rural Mississippi youth. *Journal of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies* 7: 238–245.

Student Oral Presentation: **Turner, Mark, J. W. GeFellers, L. M. Phillips, B. L. Powell, and C. A. Harper**. Influence of soil amendment on forage quality and vegetation structure in old-field communities. University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

Student Poster Presentation: **Masto, Nick, A. G. Blake-Bradshaw, C. J. Highway, J. C. Feddersen, P. Link, H. M. Hagy, D. L. Combs, and B. S. Cohen**. Prebreeding migration strategies of mallards wintering in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley. Tennessee Tech University.

Thanks to Wildlife Publication Award Committee members **Lora Smith** (Chair), **Elizabeth Parsons**, and **Chris Murphy**, and to **Andy Madison** (Chair, Student Awards Committee) and volunteer judges.

Take care and we'll talk to you soon!!

Ray Iglay, President, Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society



Pixabay/Didier Aires

SECTION REPRESENTATIVE

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Friends,

Happy New Year! I am hopeful that you had a wonderful and restful Holiday Season and that this letter finds you off to a great start in 2021. There is no doubt that most of us had a challenging year during the 2020 pandemic. Here's to hoping that we will soon have a break from the pandemic that has affected nearly every aspect of our lives.

By now you know that the 2021 annual meeting of The Wildlife Society will be virtual again this year. Although the virtual platform may not be preferred by some, it cuts down on travel costs and allows greater attendance. Hopefully, you will make plans to attend. Understandably, I have received some questions regarding why the meeting was changed to a virtual platform when widespread vaccinations should be possible by that time. I think we all hope that we are well on our way to herd immunity by the time our meeting is held, but scheduling and final planning must take place well in advance of the meeting. As a result, it seemed prudent to move to a virtual platform for one more year as opposed to accepting the financial risks associated with a last minute change of plans.

Regrettably, we also are delaying our kickoff of the Southeastern TWS field course for another

year. The delay was precipitated by our concern for potential students' academic and summer work needs. We did not want to advertise the course, have students register, and then be required to cancel at the last moment if COVID-19 infections were prevalent. A late cancelation could cause students to miss out on other opportunities. Our plans are to push forward in 2022 in hopes that the pandemic will be behind us.

Please note that TWS award nomination deadlines are just around the corner, and I encourage you to consider nominating colleagues. A complete list of awards, deadlines for submission, and nomination procedures are available on The Wildlife Society's web site (<https://wildlife.org/engage/awards/>). If I can help explain nomination procedures or offer advice regarding various awards, I will be happy to do so.

As always, please let me know if I can help out with any TWS issues. I can be reached at mike.conner@jonesctr.org.

Stay safe.

Mike Conner
Southeastern Section TWS,
Representative to Council



Pixabay/David Mark

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DEER COMMITTEE

Annual Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting to be Held Virtually

For the past 41 years, nothing stopped the largest, longest-running annual gathering of deer researchers in the nation, the Southeast Deer Study Group (SEDSG) meeting, until COVID-19. But the National Deer Association (NDA) is stepping up to ensure this important event stays alive in 2021 by hosting it as a virtual conference, February 23-24, 2021.

The SEDSG meeting is the largest annual gathering of whitetail researchers in the nation, where scientists, college students, state agency wildlife biologists and other deer managers gather to share recent research and discuss important issues. Traditionally, SEDSG is hosted by a different SEAFWA state each year in rotation throughout the 17 member states. When it appeared the February 2021 meeting would be postponed for a full year, NDA volunteered to fill in for the state wildlife agency that was next in line by hosting a virtual conference, knowing the importance of this meeting to deer research, scientific discussion and deer conservation.

Registration to attend the virtual conference is currently open. For more information on registration costs, event sponsors and other relevant intel, visit <https://www.deerassociation.com/sedsg/>.

This year's conference experience is designed, like other SEDSG conferences, to include plenary and technical sessions, posters, sponsors, networking opportunities and an awards ceremony. However, the virtual platform will do all that via an integrated mobile and desktop app.

SEDSG was formed as a subcommittee of the Forest Game Committee of the Southeastern Section of TWS. Since 1979, these meetings have been held in-person annually for the purpose of bringing together managers, researchers, administrators, and users of this vitally important renewable natural resource to share recent research and discuss important issues.

Contact: Matt Ross, NDA Director of Conservation, matt@deerassociation.com

Committee Chair: Steve Shea sheawildlife@gmail.com



PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Best Paper Award

The committee selected as the winner of the SEAFWA 2020 Outstanding Wildlife Technical Paper Award: **Leslie M. Burger** and **Katherine E. Abell**, Mississippi State University, for their paper "Participation in nature-based recreation by diverse, rural Mississippi youth," *Journal of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies* 7: 238–245.

Committee Chair: Lora Smith lora.smith@jonesctr.org

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MINORITIES IN NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The MINRC committee sponsored nine students to attend the 74th Annual SEAFWA Virtual Conference. All students were first-time attendees, included four graduate students, and represented five of the SEAFWA member states including Georgia, Alabama, Texas, Florida, and Kentucky.

Due to the virtual setting of the conference, MINRC was not able to have a hands-on student workshop like in previous years. Instead, the committee adopted the normal two-day workshop into a four-hour session that focused on refining soft skills, resume/cover letter writing, and ways to utilize MINRC after the conference. The workshop concluded with a Careers in Conservation panel

where students interacted with Conservation Enforcement Officers, Wildlife Biologists, and Outreach Specialists. Like every year, this workshop was open to all students, whether sponsored by MINRC or not, and interested professionals.

MINRC also hosted a Professional Development Workshop that focused on creating a welcoming environment within your department and ways to enhance the employee experience. Professionals from multiple agencies, departments, and universities attended this workshop and listened to presentations from the 2019 Diversity Award Winners, and participated in various need and needs discussions. These discussions provided a time to learn new information that could help departments fill their “needs,” and offered professionals a time to share initiatives/programs that are already being utilized (i.e. needs). Discussion

Meet the 2020 MINRC Students!

 Elysea Jackson Biology Troy University AL	 Marreese Bolton Animal Sciences Tuskegee University AL	 Trinity Joshua Agriculture Prairie View A&M Univ. TX	 Josiah Gullatte Wildlife Ecology Auburn University AL	
 Mackenzie Griffin Marine Sciences Savannah State Univ. GA	 Melike Saylam Marine Sciences Savannah State Univ. GA	 DaRon Shavers Pre-Veterinary & Forestry University of Kentucky KY	 Gabriela Vara Env. Science and Ecology Univ. of TX – San Antonio	 Sabine Bailey Natural Resource Management Auburn University AL

Nine students from six states received MINRC scholarships to attend the 74th Annual SEAFWA Virtual Conference and participated in the MINRC Student Workshop.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

topics included the difference between equity vs equality, the often-overlooked exclusivity of volunteer programs, communication, and how diversity adds value. Recordings of both the Student and Professional Workshop can be found on the SEAFWA Conference website, and PDFs of the slides can be found here: MINRC Student Workshop and Professional Development Workshop.

The MINRC committee concluded the SEAFWA conference by presenting the 2020 SEAFWA Diversity and Inclusion award to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Community Grants Program for their strong commitment to recruiting a diverse workforce and their unique efforts to increase the importance of conservation to all ages, minorities, women, and persons with disabilities across the state of Texas.

MINRC would like to thank our committed committee members and those that attended the SEAFWA conference and presented the Student and Professional Workshops, including 16 professionals from 10 departments. A summary of the MINRC workshops and programs can be found in our After Action Report. To keep up to date on MINRC news, jobs, and events throughout the Southeast, please follow us on social media. You can find us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

Committee Secretary/Treasurer:
Mercedes Bartkovich
mercedes.bartkovich@dcnr.alabama.gov

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 committee named **Dr. Leandro Esteban “Steve” Miranda** recipient of the 2020 C.W. Watson Award at the 74th annual SEAFWA conference, held virtually in October (more on pp. 24-25 of this newsletter).

Committee Chair (SETWS):
Lisa Muller, lmuller@utk.edu

STUDENT AWARDS COMMITTEE

The following awards were presented at the 74th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies:

Student Presentation Award

The winning presentation was given by **Mark Turner**, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, for his presentation “Influence of soil amendment on forage quality and vegetation structure in old-field communities.” He was recognized at the virtual SEAFWA awards ceremony and will receive a certificate and monetary award.

Student Poster Award

The winning poster was presented by **Nick Masto**, Tennessee Tech University, for his poster “Prebreeding migration strategies of mallards wintering in the Mississippi alluvial valley.” He was recognized at the virtual SEAFWA awards ceremony and will receive a certificate and monetary award.

Committee Chair: Andy Madison
amadison@uu.edu

STATE REPORTS

ALABAMA



Alabama Chapter TWS

COVID-related issues of 2020 caused the Alabama Chapter of TWS to change our in-person annual meeting originally scheduled for July, 2020 to a virtual meeting held on October 8. Unfortunately, we were not able to provide any professional development training as part of the meeting. Attendance was very good and the agenda included two invited speakers, student presentations and a poster session. **William McKinley** from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks provided an excellent presentation regarding their experiences with Chronic Wasting Disease and gave some insight into what Alabama might expect if it was found in our state. **Jim Godwin** with the Auburn University Natural Heritage Program provided an excellent update on the efforts to restore indigo snake populations in Alabama. All things considered, our executive board was very happy with the results of the virtual meeting and wants to express our gratitude to **Mercedes Bartkovich** for taking a leading role in the coordination and facilitation of the WebEx meeting.

Rhett Johnson was recognized as the second recipient of the ACTWS Lifetime Achievement Award. Rhett is well known throughout the Southeast for his work as Director of the Solon Dixon Center in Andalusia, Alabama and for his leadership role with the Longleaf Alliance. He has been a long-time member of the ACTWS, served as President many years ago, continues to support chapter functions and is a great role model for young, aspiring conservationists. We understand that he has a great back porch where he enjoys doing business with friends and partners over a cold beer.



Rhett Johnson was presented with the ACTWS Lifetime Achievement Award. He is the second recipient of this award.

Ericha Shelton-Nix, nongame biologist for AL Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, received our chapter's "Biologist of the Year" award for her work in leading gopher tortoise survey and restoration efforts. She has been extremely busy the past few years while developing the necessary partnerships to gather more data regarding Alabama's gopher tortoise populations for use in the ongoing species status assessment.



Ericha Nix was presented the Biologist of the Year Award by chapter president **Ray Metzler**.

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University of Alabama

Graduate students at the University of Alabama's Department of Biological Sciences have recently formed a grassroots conservation group at the university, the Conservation Biology Society. In fall 2019, UA alum **Maddie McCutcheon**, M.S., began an informal paper discussion group aimed at exploring historic and modern conservation literature. Since then, our group has blossomed into an officially recognized UA student organization dedicated to promoting local conservation, generating biodiversity data via citizen science initiatives, and education and outreach.

Since our inception we've been busy, despite the setbacks and delays due to the pandemic. First, we've penned four letters to local government officials in Tuscaloosa. Specifically, we've written letters pertaining to general environmental concerns, water quality, insect conservation, and trash management. Each letter we've written has been well received and opened a dialogue between our group, the Mayor's office, the Director of Public Services, the city's Environmental Educator, and other local officials. In addition to our correspondence with local government, we've organized several socially-distant litter cleanup events. These litter events ask participants to clean up litter in their own neighborhoods, a local park, or any place around them that could use care and attention. We now hold these events regularly on the first weekend of every month; if you'd like to help our efforts, grab a trash bag and take a walk through your neighborhood.

Another focus of our group has been to generate biodiversity data for our area. Our group has a dedicated iNaturalist project that has so far accrued 300 observations of 217 unique species. Additionally, in October we organized a two-day 'expert bioblitz' at the UA arboretum. An expert bioblitz is a short, intensive biodiversity survey

involving volunteers with a specific taxonomic specialty. During the bioblitz many UA graduate and undergraduate students worked tirelessly to record the plants, insects, amphibians, birds, and mammals present at the arboretum. Overall, we generated a high quantity of data for the arboretum staff and managers. We observed 48 bird species, 5 mammal species, 2 reptile species, and 3 amphibian species. We've also collected a multitude of insects, but identification is still in progress. Additionally, we generated 267 observations of plants and fungi for the arboretum's iNaturalist project. This data is especially valuable to the arboretum staff because previous biodiversity surveys have been conducted in the Spring and Summer, thus the data generated by our group fills a seasonal gap in the property's biological inventory.



Students from the Conservation Biology Society during the bioblitz at the UA Arboretum.

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The bioblitz conducted by the Conservation Biology Society resulted in a large number of species observations for the AU Arboretum.

Moving forward, our group plans to continue, expand, and diversify our efforts. We will continue to advocate for local environmental issues, expand our litter-cleanup initiatives, and seek opportunities for our group to educate students and citizens about conservation. Further, we will continue our biodiversity data gathering by expanding our iNaturalist efforts and conducting more bioblitzes at properties managed by the Department of Biological Sciences at UA. If you would like to learn more about our group or join our efforts, follow us on Facebook (UA Conservation Biology Society) or Twitter (@uaconservation).

Carrie Threadgill
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ARKANSAS



Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Mike Harris, Conservation Program Technician based in the Hope office, received the Commission's George H. Dunklin Jr. Award for his work in conserving and promoting wetlands conservation and waterfowl management in Arkansas. **Noah Wyatt**, Conservation Program Technician based at the Camp Robinson Special Use Area, earned the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative's Firebird Award for his work in promoting northern bobwhite habitat on Arkansas's landscape. **Clint Johnson**, Private Lands Biologist based in the Mayflower office, earned the Arkansas Forestry Association's Forestry Educator of the Year award for his work with teaching prescribed fire to private landowners.

In September, Wildlife Management Division's Region 3 (southeastern Arkansas) was presented with the 2020 "No Pig Left Behind" award for removing more than 1,700 feral hogs in their district so far this year. **Paul Dunham**, Conservation Program Technician based in Russellville, was presented with the 2020 Wildlife Technician of the Year Award and **Blake Sasse**, Nongame Mammal/Furbearer Program Leader, earned the 2020 Wildlife Biologist of the Year Award.

Blake Sasse
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STATE REPORTS

FLORIDA



Florida Chapter TWS

The Florida chapter will be holding its annual spring conference virtually this year on a date yet to be determined. They hope to return to an in-person conference in late fall 2021.

University of Florida

In November, the University of Florida received a historic 27,000-acre land donation in Osceola County from **Mrs. Elisabeth DeLuca**, widow of Subway founder **Fred DeLuca**. A permanent conservation easement granted to Ducks Unlimited was simultaneously placed on the newly created DeLuca Preserve making it the largest in the conservation organization's history. The rural property contains a diverse mixture of working lands and wildlife habitat including dry prairie which supports the critically endangered Florida grasshopper sparrow. Other documented listed species include the Florida panther, crested caracara, red-cockaded woodpecker, and the gopher tortoise. In addition, the Preserve's vast network of wetlands will continue to support water quality within the Northern Everglades, ultimately supporting Everglades Restoration.

The donation could not have come at a better time as Florida, and this region in particular, continues to experience exponential growth, highlighting the importance of protecting wildlife habitat and the critical linkages providing safe passage. Not only is the property a conservation focal area for the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area, it also abuts the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park significantly expanding the complex of protected land known to support Florida grasshopper sparrows. Other stakeholders celebrating the conservation win include Audubon Florida, Archbold Biological

Station, and the Avon Park Air Force Range Sentinel Landscape Partnership which coordinates local land protection efforts in support of agriculture, conservation, and military training.

Robin Boughton
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GEORGIA



Georgia Chapter TWS

The Georgia Chapter of TWS made the difficult decision to postpone our annual meeting due to the pandemic. The meeting, which usually occurs in the fall, is tentatively scheduled for a virtual format in early Spring 2021.

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Conservation Section (WCS) has released its Annual Report for 2020. Despite the many challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, WCS had a successful year striving to conserve the state's non-hunted wildlife, fish, and plant species. Noteworthy topics include: North Atlantic right whale monitoring, southeastern American kestrel nesting, prescribed fire, white-nose syndrome surveillance, rare plant tracking, surveys for Suwannee alligator snapping turtles, and more. The report can be viewed [here](#).

Laci Pattavina
twsgachapter@gmail.com



Denis Doukhan

STATE REPORTS

KENTUCKY



Kentucky Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Resources (KDFWR)

Researchers with KDFWR and Morehead State University discovered established populations of the eastern banded killifish in the Little Sandy River [near its confluence with the Ohio River]...the first record of this minnow in the Commonwealth. The eastern banded killifish was originally transplanted from the Delaware River drainage in eastern Pennsylvania to parts of Ohio in the 1930s. The fish will be monitored by KDFWR as an introduced and potentially destructive invasive species.

A tar spill in Pennsylvania's Allegheny River resulted in the relocation of 2400 individuals of the rare rayed bean mussel into Kentucky's Green River...where the species has not been seen since the 1960s. The rayed bean mussel was once found in 115 streams in the eastern U.S; today the species exists in 11 streams nationwide. In conjunction with Mammoth Cave National Park, the KDFWR's Center for Mollusk Conservation released half of the mussels into the park section of the Green River, while the remainder were released up-river of the park boundary.

Since listing the Barn Owl as a 'Species of Greatest Conservation Need' in its State Wildlife Action Plan, KDFWR biologists have conducted triennial surveys for the species since 2010. Results of the 2019 survey indicated the species has exhibited marked improvement; from 26 nesting pairs located in 2010 to 77 pairs in 2019.

Biologists with the KDFWR and University of Kentucky completed the first year of a planned 3-year study of elk calf survival. The project involves the use of natal-linked systems. The system includes an adult GPS collar, an implanted

transmitter and a calf collar. Together, these devices allow researchers to locate and remotely monitor a cow-calf pair. When the implanted transmitter is released at birth, the adult collar notifies researchers via text messages so that the calf can be located, temporarily captured and collared for study. Once the calf has been captured and collared, the adult GPS collar transmits status updates about the calf for one year. This year's field efforts resulted in the capture of 21 calves from 22 viable cows. Staff seek to deploy an additional 33 natal-lined systems each year for the next two years of the study.

Friends of Green River National Wildlife Refuge

Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge, the first National Wildlife Refuge (estab. 1903) has a boardwalk that incorporates engraved planks for each National Wildlife Refuge in the system. When a new refuge is established, the USFWS has a ceremony where a plank, engraved with the name of the new refuge, is added to the boardwalk. Because of COVID-19, a virtual ceremony was held and viewers got to see the plank bearing the name of the Green River National Wildlife Refuge added to the boardwalk.

Chuck Elliott, charles.elliott@eku.edu



Elk-calf survival study being conducted by the KDFWR and the University of Kentucky.
Photo: KDFWR.

STATE REPORTS

LOUISIANA



Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists / LA TWS

Although LAPB/LA TWS was not able to hold their annual symposium, outstanding publication nominations were accepted. Outstanding publication award recipients were:

Popular Category: **Dustin Champagne**, "Living with the Louisiana black bear" published in the Louisiana Wildlife Insider Fall/Winter 2019:8-9.

General Conservation Category: **Zenzal Jr., T. J., W. G. Vermillion, J. R. Ferrato, L. A. Randall, R. C. Dobbs, and H. Q. Baldwin**, "GoMAMN Strategic Bird Monitoring Guidelines: Landbirds. Strategic Bird Monitoring Guidelines for the Northern Gulf of Mexico." Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station Research Bulletin 1228, Mississippi State University.

Basic Research Outstanding Publication: **Armando H. Escobedo-Galvin, R. M. Eelsey, F. McCann, F. G. Cupul-Magana, and M. A. Lopez-Luna**. "Putting eggs in one big basket: communal egg-laying between long-lived reptiles." North-Western Journal of Zoology 15:96-100.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Archery in Louisiana Schools Program (ALAS) has been named the 2019 Louisiana Youth Conservation Organization Award winner in the 56th annual state Conservation Achievement Awards, presented by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation and the National Wildlife Federation.

LDWF's ALAS program, part of the National Archery in Schools Program (NASP), introduces students in grades 4-12 to international target-style archery and is generally taught as part of in-school curriculum. The program, founded in May of 2012, now serves more than 200 Louisiana schools and about 23,000 students.

"I'm so proud of the job our ALAS team has done with this outstanding program," LDWF Secretary **Jack Montoucet** said. "We appreciate the Louisiana Wildlife Federation and the National Wildlife Federation recognizing ALAS with the Youth Conservation Organization award. This program is a gateway for students in our state to discover the great sport of hunting. We're excited about the future for ALAS and the impact it will continue to make."

"One of the nice things about ALAS is that you don't have to be the strongest or the fastest athlete to take part, and it's designed so that all students can learn about archery and participate," said **Chad Moore**, who oversees the ALAS program for LDWF. "But, it's more than just participating. It's about learning something most know nothing about, then becoming proficient at it. The focus and discipline used to develop this proficiency then crosses over to other aspects of the student's life, including academics."



Chad Moore, LDWF ALAS Coordinator.

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“It’s exciting to see archery programs in Louisiana schools because it is an inclusive sport and the ALAS program is promoting scholastic achievement as well,” said **Rebecca Triche**, executive director of Louisiana Wildlife Federation. “We are pleased to commend the commitment of LDWF and the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation for fostering the program and encouraging the growth in student participation.”

Jeff Duguay, duguay@wlf.la.gov

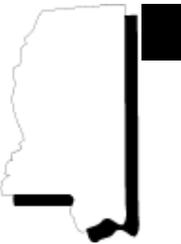
MARYLAND/DELAWARE

NO NEWS REPORTED



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NO NEWS REPORTED



NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina Chapter

In our most recent newsletter, we paid tribute to **David Woodward**, known to most as Woody. Sadly, Woody died unexpectedly in August 2020. He was a well-known wildlife professional for three decades in the NC State Zoology Department and Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences Program. He was an informal advisor and mentor to countless undergraduate and graduate wildlife students and a fervent participant in the NC State Leopold Wildlife Club. Woody was a long-time member of the Wake County Wildlife Club and always active in the NC Chapter of The Wildlife Society. He was also involved in the NC Herpetological Society and a driving force in the NC Trappers Association.



His enthusiasm and accomplishments will always be remembered, along with his passion for all things wild!

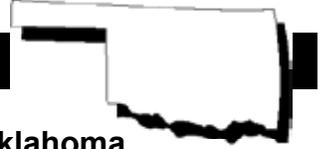
It is no secret that beavers can be problematic for wildlife professionals. As such, the NC Beaver Management Assistance Program (BMAP) is designed to help manage problems caused by beaver on private and public lands. Rather than eliminate beaver, the program’s primary goal is to address specific beaver damage problems. The program places priority on issues that threaten public health and safety then aids landowners experiencing beaver damage. BMAP is a collaborative program, with funding and support coming from multiple entities, including state and federal agencies, participating counties, private landowners, businesses and municipalities. In 2019, BMAP services prevented the impending loss or repair expenditures of an estimated \$10.06 million, to include: roads and bridges, timber and other agricultural resources, railroad trestles, dams and ditches, city and county sewer systems and water treatment facilities, landscape plantings, and other resources such as homes, airport runways and golf courses. In simple terms, for every \$1.00 spent, \$5.28 in resources were saved across the State!



In our latest segment of #ExploreNC, we visited the White Pines Nature Preserve in Chatham County. Acquired in 1986, it is owned and managed by the Triangle Land Conservancy. Located

STATE REPORTS

OKLAHOMA



University of Central Oklahoma Student Chapter

With the many challenges brought on by the pandemic, the UCO Student Chapter of TWS worked hard to do our part in the community! We had cleanup events at the OKC Zoo, Lake Arcadia, and WildCare to relieve problems caused by COVID-19 and the major ice storm in October. For the spring semester, we plan to have more outdoor, masked, and socially-distanced events, as well as meetings with an in-person and virtual option. We are all excited to get back to work and see what the new year has in store for us!

Vicki Jackson
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at the confluence of the Deep and Rocky Rivers, it contains the world's largest known population of the federal and state-endangered, Cape Fear shiner. The preserve is 270 acres and known for its remnant stands of white pine; some of these pines are over 150 years old and 30 inches in diameter. The preserve contains several other natural communities, including rocky slope bluffs, mesic mixed hardwoods, floodplain forest and upland forest with second growth oak-hickory woodland. These different communities provide shelter and resources for a variety of spring ephemerals and other wildflowers. This preserve is also on the North Carolina Birding Trail and boasts 55 nesting bird species. If you are in the neighborhood, be sure to stop by and enjoy all the beautiful treasures this preserve has to offer!

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

Gabriela Garrison
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UCO student chapter members are excited and hopeful for the year ahead.

STATE REPORTS

SOUTH CAROLINA



Clemson University

Notable awards and new faces at Clemson

Dr. Todd Petty has been named the new Chair of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Conservation after serving for the past five years as an Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at West Virginia University, where he worked with division directors and faculty program coordinators to coordinate all undergraduate and graduate level academic programming in its College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design. <https://newsstand.clemson.edu/mediarelations/clemson-names-petty-chair-of-forestry-and-environmental-conservation/>

Dr. William Conner, a professor in Clemson University's Forestry and Environmental Conservation Department, has won the Society of Wetland Scientists 40th Anniversary Award recognizing him for "the high level and sustained contributions made to wetland research, practice, education, communication and support to the Society."

Dr. Drew Lanham was named the 2020 E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Award Recipient by the Center for Biological Diversity. He was recognized for his tireless work "to make conservation science more compelling, relevant and inclusive." <https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/clemson-ornithologist-named-2020-eo-wilson-biodiversity-award-recipient-2020-12-16/>

Dr. Greg Yarrow, a professor and former chair of Clemson University's Forestry and Environmental Conservation Department, was awarded the 2020 Thomas Green Clemson Award for Excellence. The prestigious recognition honors an outstanding faculty member who has made a significant contribution to academic life at

Clemson. Along with a cash award, a donation to the Clemson University Libraries will be given in Yarrow's honor to purchase new materials to be added to the Libraries' collection. <https://newsstand.clemson.edu/thomas-green-clemson-award-winners-legacy-reveals-power-of-personal-relationships/>

Dr. Gary Machlis, a professor in Clemson University's Forestry and Environmental Conservation Department, was appointed to serve on the Response and Resilient Recovery Strategic Science Initiative related to the COVID-19 pandemic by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. As a member of the executive council, Dr. Machlis is working to identify science-based scenarios for recovery from the pandemic. <https://newsstand.clemson.edu/mediarelations/clemson-faculty-member-joins-ranks-of-national-covid-19-strategic-science-initiative/>

David Jachowski, djachow@clemson.edu



Professor **Greg Yarrow**, left, talks with a student during a class meeting in 2010. Photo Credit: Clemson University.

STATE REPORTS

TENNESSEE



Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

TWRA Considers Changes to Public Lands Duck Hunting and Blinds Drawings

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) and its governing commission are considering regulatory changes aimed at improving public land duck hunting by provide more waterfowl hunting opportunities while retaining longstanding traditions of Tennessee duck hunting. TWRA recommends moving from a predominately single type of hunting on wildlife management areas for a relatively small number of hunters to a four-tier system to provide for more hunting opportunity for more hunters. No changes will be proposed for private blinds, also known as permanent registered blinds, on certain West Tennessee hunting areas. The overall goal of the proposed changes is to have even more fair and equitable opportunities for hunters and improve duck hunting for all affected stakeholders.

TWRA Encouraging Stakeholders to Report Sick Rabbits

The TWRA is making Tennesseans aware, that in several western states, there is currently an outbreak of rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus type 2 (RHDV2). At present, RHDV2 has not been found in rabbits in Tennessee or any neighboring states. The virus is highly contagious and lethal to wild and domestic rabbits and hares. In Tennessee, eastern cottontails, Appalachian cottontails, and swamp rabbits are susceptible to RHDV2.

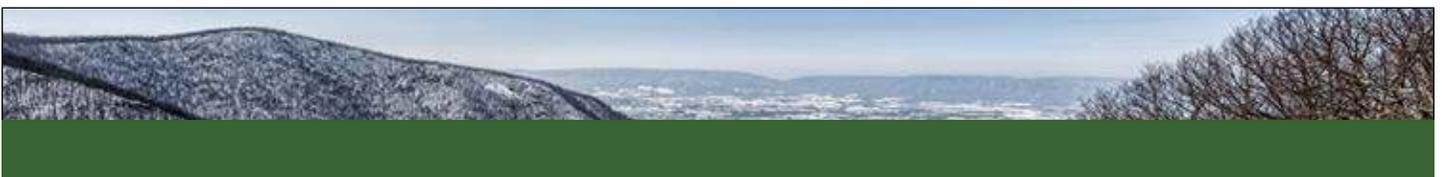
Rabbit hemorrhagic disease is caused by one of several strains of calicivirus. The disease has been detected in Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Texas, and Utah. This strain of the virus is considered a foreign animal disease and is reportable to state and federal authorities. RHDV2 only infects rabbit species and is not known to affect humans, livestock, or other pets.

Infected rabbits may experience swelling, internal bleeding and liver damage. Disease onset is rapid and, although, bleeding from the nose or mouth sometimes occurs, often the only outward sign is death of the rabbit.



Chronic Wasting Disease Update

Nearing the end of the 2020-21 deer hunting season, there remains seven CWD-Positive and 4 CWD High-Risk counties which are contiguously located in southwest Tennessee. There have been 361 CWD-positive deer this hunting season, bringing the cumulative total for TN to 1,039 since 2018. Prevalence continues to be highest in the Core Zone of Fayette and Harde-man counties (13.5% and 7.8%, respectively) with markedly lower prevalence (below 1%) in the remaining positive counties.



STATE REPORTS

TWRA is contracting deer density estimation using aerial infrared imagery to document current deer densities in CWD-affected areas, and targeted removal of deer aimed at supplementing hunter harvest (up 30% in the affected area this season), in isolated areas of disease on the periphery of the spatial distribution with landowner permission beginning in January 2021, in partnership with USDA Wildlife Services.

TWRA was awarded a one-year grant from US Department of Agriculture – APHIS in partnership with Colorado State University and the National Wildlife Health Center to train dogs to detect metabolic changes from CWD in feces, urine, carcasses and the environment. Laboratory training of the dogs is ongoing, and if the lab training goes well, field trials will be completed in TN later this year. This one-year study may aid TWRA and other CWD managers in optimizing targeted removal efforts, understanding environmental contamination, and identifying positive carcasses for specialized disposal.

Cleveland State Community College

Cleveland State Community College returned to campus in a hybrid format this past Fall. To say this fall was challenging would be an understatement. However, we were able to participate in several of our usual activities in a limited capacity. We assisted with APC collections at Enterprise South in August. We assisted with the Hunt for Warriors at Enterprise South. Students processed deer at the checking station with TWRA personnel and helped to cook for the first day of the hunt (grilled venison medallions, salad, rolls, and banana pudding). As usual, we assisted at checking stations in three counties on opening day of muzzleloader and opening day of rifle seasons. Unfortunately, we were all quarantined at the time of the Fall Creek Falls Hunt for

Warriors, so we did not get to assist with that hunt this year. We are hopeful for an active Spring semester working to assist with several student research projects. We are currently planning a SWAP trip for the last half of July. If we can make it happen with COVID restrictions, this trip will take students from Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Tennessee to Yellowstone National Park and Grand Tetons National Park. Chapter advisors should keep an eye out for student applications in the near future.

University of Tennessee- Knoxville

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville's chapter of The Wildlife Society has kept very busy despite the setbacks of 2020's COVID-19 pandemic. This fall semester, both in-person and online opportunities for professional and personal development were offered. In August, the chapter hosted a stream clean-up of Third Creek with proper social distancing and mask wearing, and sent several current members to the virtual TWS meeting. In September, the chapter hosted a workshop focusing on what it's like to go to and how to get into graduate school and a workshop for how to appropriately build a resume and create a cover letter. Three members participated in the Heroes 4 Wildlife virtual wildlife rehabilitation conference, and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) helped 3 members gain their hunters safety license via an in-person course. In October, the chapter hosted an online diversity and inclusion workshop and 3 students attended the Wildlife Center of Virginia's virtual "Call of the Wild" rehabilitation conference. Members were also sent to the virtual Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference. In December, members were able to assist TWRA with bear check stations for some hands-on experience.

STATE REPORTS

University of Tennessee- Martin

This year, the student chapter faced obstacles and challenges that are, unfortunately, not unique to our university. At the beginning of the semester, our officers found innovative ways to engage the students on our campus, while also following the guidelines that have been put in place to ensure the health and safety of all members. This new adversity provided us with the valuable opportunity to review our purpose and priorities as a student chapter of The Wildlife Society. We were able to develop new methods to meet our goals, such as engagement and networking with working professionals, development of skills pertinent to wildlife management, as well as outreach and recruitment of new student members.

This semester, we accomplished these new objectives by hosting weekly workshops with students, learning skills such as radio telemetry, trapping, species identification, and many others. Students worked with the staff of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to collect CWD samples in West Tennessee on the opening weekends of muzzleloader and rifle season. Additionally, our chapter was joined via Zoom by multiple unique guests, including **Nick Wiley** of Ducks Unlimited. One thing that remained the same was our bi-annual stream cleanup – an event where we identify and clean a local waterway that has been heavily littered. This spring semester we look forward to using what lessons we learned this fall and further developing ways to provide the best opportunities for our students!

Chuck Yoest
Chuck.Yoest@tn.gov

VIRGINIA



Radford University's Karen Powers Tackles Bird Collisions with Buildings

Karen Powers' work to mitigate harm to birds caused by collisions with building windows was recently profiled by The Wildlife Society (TWS) and Radford Public Radio (WVTF). Powers, who is a TWS member and faculty advisor for the university's student chapter of TWS, advocates inexpensive window decals to help birds see the windows.



Virginia Chapter Annual Meeting

The 2021 annual meeting of the Virginia Chapter was held February 2-4. The meeting was 100% virtual and included workshops, a poster session, presentations, and a silent auction. Plenary speakers included **James Nichols**, Senior Scientist Emeritus at the U.S. Geological Survey and **George Braxton**, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer at Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources.

Grant Sizemore
GSizemore@abcbirds.org



STATE REPORTS

DUCKS UNLIMITED

Megan Martin is the new Conservation Specialist II in the Southern Region. Growing up on a dairy farm in the Appalachian foothills of Kentucky instilled in her a love of wildlife, which led her to her B.S. in Wildlife Management at Eastern Kentucky University and her M.S. in Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture at Mississippi State University. Her master's work involved northern bobwhites and she has had several field jobs and internships related to avian research and environmental education. Her love of all things avian, her passion for conservation within agriculture, and desire to work with landowners led her to DU. She is excited for the opportunity to lend her talent and continue to grow as a young conservation professional.



Megan Martin, Conservation Specialist II,
Ducks Unlimited Southern Region.

Emily Austin
eaustin@ducks.org

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BUSINESS

SECRETARY-TREASURER REPORT

January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

Submitted by: Daniel Greene, SE Section Secretary/Treasurer

Beginning Balance (01/01/20)	\$16,222.19
Deposits	\$6,386.72
Debits	\$(-3,029.39)
Outstanding Checks	\$(-0.00)
Ending Balance (12/31/20)	\$19,579.52

DEPOSITS

Item	Amount
TWS First Quarter 2020 Dues	\$2,696.00
TWS Second Quarter 2020 Dues	\$1,180.00
TWS Third Quarter 2020 Dues	\$836.00
TWS Fourth Quarter 2020 Dues	\$784.00
AL TWS Field Course Donation	\$300.00
Field Course Student Donation	\$500.00
Fur Resources Committee Funds	\$90.71
Interest	\$0.01
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$6,386.72

DEBITS

Item	Amount
Western Carolina University – Conclave	\$500.00
Haywood Community College – Conclave	\$500.00
Field Course Student Reimbursement	\$500.00
US Postal Service – Stamps	\$11.00
SETWS Checks	\$18.39
Katie Edwards (newsletter editor)	\$1,500.00
TOTAL DEBITS	\$3,029.39

TOTAL FUR RESOURCES COMMITTEE FUNDS (includes 2020 deposit)

Item	Amount
Fur Resources Committee Funds	\$3,242.33



USFWS/Ronnie Maum

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Awards 2020

Aldo Leopold Memorial Award (TWS)

John Organ, USGS Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Program (Retired)

C.W. Watson (SEAFWA)

L. E. "Steve" Miranda, USGS Mississippi Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

SEAFWA Publication of the Year (2020)

Leslie M. Burger and Katherine E. Abell. 2020. Participation in nature-based recreation by diverse, rural Mississippi youth. *Journal of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies* 7: 238–245.

SETWS Best Student Presentation

Mark Turner, Influence of soil amendment on forage quality and vegetation structure in old-field communities, University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

SETWS Best Poster Presentation

Nick Masto, Prebreeding migration strategies of mallards wintering in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley, Tennessee Tech University.

SEAFWA Wildlife Biologist of the Year

Felicia Sanders, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

SEAFWA Officer of the Year

Corporal Mac Davis, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

TWS Diversity Award

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Diversity Outreach Program

TWS Publications - Edited Book

Kurt C. VerCauteren, James C. Beasley, Stephen S. Ditchkoff, John J. Mayer, Gary J. Roloff and Bronson K. Strickland, *Invasive Wild Pigs in North America: Ecology, Impacts, and Management*.

TWS Publications - Monograph

Madelon van de Kerk, David P. Onorato, Jeffrey A. Hostetler, Benjamin M. Bolker and Madan K. Oli. 2019. Dynamics, persistence, and genetic management of the endangered Florida panther population. *Wildlife Monographs* 203.

SEAFWA Director's Special Recognition Awards

Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center, Oklahoma Fishing Trail, and Oklahoma's Outdoors Are Always Open Campaign

TWS Fellows

Kelly Douglass, USDA Wildlife Services, North Carolina
Leslie Burger, Mississippi State University

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

John Organ Earns 2020 Aldo Leopold Award

When **John Organ** retired last year as chief of the U.S. Geological Survey's Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Program, it was with mixed feelings. After more than four years in the position, supervising 119 federal employees and some 550 graduate students, he was on the verge of shoring up funding for a program that was struggling when he arrived. The budget had been declining for years. Vacancies were on the rise. Organ assembled a coalition of partners and cooperators who advocated for full funding.

"The program was in dire straits," Organ said.

But Organ was undergoing experimental treatment to fight cancer, including aggressive radiation and chemical treatments. "I felt like my energy just wasn't there," he said. "I needed to step aside and let someone else take over. That would free me up to work behind the scenes."

Since he retired in January 2019, the funding has been secured. Vacancies are being filled. New cooperative research units at state universities are expected to come on board.

Retirement hasn't meant the end of a wildlife career, though, for Organ, the recipient of this year's Aldo Leopold Memorial Award from The Wildlife Society, an honor that recognizes his lifelong contribution to the field. In his nomination, which was supported by five previous Leopold Award recipients, Organ was praised for a 42-year career that has spanned research, conservation, management and contribution to understanding the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

"Dr. Organ is among the most respected professionals in the Western Hemisphere," wrote TWS past president **Thomas Ryder** in his nomination letter. "In my humble opinion," he continued, "Dr. Organ's professional values, work ethic and ability to convey complicated biological concepts to laymen make him a modern-day conservationist in the same mold as Aldo Leopold himself."



John Organ supports a Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) that was tagged as part of his research of the animal in the Northeast. Photo Credit: John Organ.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Raised in the western Massachusetts community of Northampton, Organ grew up in the outdoors, fishing, hunting, hiking and nursing a fascination with wildlife. He dreamed of following in the footsteps of his early heroes, grizzly (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) researchers **Frank and John Craighead**.

After graduating from the University of Massachusetts, he embarked on a career that led him from the cooperative wildlife research unit at the university to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, where he started out inventorying wetlands.

“I spent most of my time traveling from Virginia to Maine spending time in swamps,” he said.

Organ spent the next 35 years with the USFWS, serving as a research ecologist, identifying lands for inclusion in the National Wildlife Refuge system, overseeing projects in the Northeast funded by the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program and the Endangered Species Act, directing cooperative fish and wildlife research programs and leading the Division of Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration, a position that gave him oversight of \$200 million in grant programs to northeastern states.

“I got to do the things I dreamed about as a kid,” he said. “I got to work with all sorts of animals, from bears to Canada lynx to a variety of invertebrate species up to top predators.” Some of his recent research has focused on the Andean bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*) in Peru, carnivores in Chile and spotted-neck otters (*Hydrictis maculicollis*) in Tanzania.

If it was animals that drew him to the profession, it was people who continued to inspire him. There were mentors who guided him — some of whom studied with the early pioneers of the field — and legions of students and employees he guided along the way.

“That’s why I find the award so humbling,” Organ said. “I don’t feel worthy, because I’ve worked with so many great people and it was the inspiration of so many of those great people that I think resulted in me getting to the grindstone. It was on the coattails of so many great folks.”

Organ went on to receive his master’s degree and PhD from the University of Massachusetts, and he continues to serve as an adjunct associate professor there and at Michigan State, and a permanent invited professor at the Universidad Andres Bello, in Chile.

A member of The Wildlife Society since 1979, he has held a number of positions, including serving as president from 2006 to 2007. He currently serves as associate editor of the *Human Dimensions of Wildlife Journal* and as science and education editor for the Boone and Crockett Club’s magazine, *Fair Chase*.

Organ has authored over 80 peer-reviewed papers, 14 book chapters and one book, but he is particularly recognized for his work developing the idea of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, a set of principles, collectively representing the United States and Canada’s unique approach to wildlife management — one that Organ believes can help wildlifers identify new policies needed to meet current and emerging conservation needs.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

“It is a seminal concept that will continue to influence wildlife policy far into the future,” Ryder wrote. Organ’s nomination was supported by past Aldo Leopold award winners TWS President **Gary White**, *Journal of Wildlife Management* editor in chief **Paul Krausman**, **Dan Decker**, **Robert Warren** and **Wini Kessler**.

“John is known by wildlife professionals nationwide as one who gives voice to the philosophy and culture of the wildlife profession, including challenging us to think about how to maintain relevancy to society and therefore continue to provide leadership in conservation into the future,” Decker wrote. Kessler praised Organ’s efforts to make the profession more inclusive and welcoming.

“Rare is the individual whose commitment runs so deep, engagement so complete and contributions so significant that they change our profession for the better and help shape the future of wildlife conservation,” she wrote. “John Organ is such a rare individual.”

This story was published by David Frey, managing editor at The Wildlife Society, on the TWS website in July 2020 at <https://wildlife.org/john-organ-earns-2020-aldo-leopold-award/>.

Mississippi Researcher Receives Highest Honor From Regional Wildlife Agencies Dr. L. E. "Steve" Miranda Named 2020 C. W. Watson Award Winner

The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) bestowed the Clarence W. Watson Award upon **Dr. Leandro Esteban "Steve" Miranda** during its 74th annual meeting, held virtually Oct. 26-28.

Miranda has been a prominent freshwater fisheries biologist for the USGS Mississippi Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit since 1986. The award is the highest honor given by the Association and is presented in conjunction with the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society and the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society.

“Dr. Steve Miranda is one of the most accomplished freshwater fishery biologists in the world,” said SEAFWA President **Paul Johansen**. “His research program over the past 30-plus years has addressed critical challenges facing inland fisheries management, including habitat loss in rivers and reservoirs, harvest management strategies for sustainable fisheries and social aspects of fisheries management.”

As the invited keynote speaker at the 4th International Reservoir Symposium in 2007, Miranda is recognized as one of the most accomplished reservoir research biologists in the world. His promotion of managing reservoirs as impounded rivers, including the importance of floodplain management for fisheries, yielded a paradigm shift in the scientific and fisheries management community.

He has broadened his research beyond reservoirs to include river-influenced oxbow lakes, little studied systems with significant conservation and recreational values in the Southeastern U.S. and worldwide. In addition to his own research, Miranda has mentored more than 40 graduate students who have gone on to influence fishery management as agency biologists, environmental scientists and academics.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

“Few fisheries researchers have had a deeper or broader impact on practical, on-the-ground fisheries management in the southeastern U.S. than Dr. Miranda,” said **Larry Pugh**, Director of Technical Programs, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. “The concepts and techniques that he has pioneered are used by every fisheries manager in state and federal agencies in the southeastern United States.”

“Dr. Miranda has conducted numerous workshops for Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks biologists, including data analysis and strategic decision making. He also provides assistance and technical consultation to Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, the U.S. Geological Survey Mississippi Water Office, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Engineer Research and Development Center within Mississippi. Numerous state agency fisheries biologists in surrounding states consult with him on reservoir and oxbow lake fisheries management issues,” Pugh added.

Miranda has received many awards throughout his career, including the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) Outstanding Achievement; AFS Distinguished Service; AFS Fisheries Management Section Award of Merit; AFS Excellence in Fisheries Education; Mississippi AFS Lifetime Achievement; and AFS Fisheries Management Section Fisheries Management Hall of Excellence. Additionally, Miranda is an AFS Fellow in recognition as being one of the most influential North American fisheries scientists in history.

Miranda received a B.S. in biology and chemistry from Morehead State University, a M.S. in fisheries biology from Auburn University, and a Ph.D. in forest ecology and statistics from Mississippi State University. Prior to working for the USGS Mississippi Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, he worked for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.



Dr. Curtis Hopkins (right), Executive Secretary of SEAFWA, and **Mr. Larry Pugh** (left), Director of Technical Programs, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks presented the C.W. Watson Award to **Dr. Steve Miranda** (center).

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

South Carolina Biologist Honored By Regional Peers Felicia Sanders Named 2020 SEAFWA Wildlife Biologist of the Year

The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) named **Felicia Sanders** the 2020 Wildlife Biologist of the Year at their 74th annual meeting, held virtually Oct. 26-28. Sanders is the Coastal Bird Conservation Project Supervisor for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), where she has worked since 2001.

“Sanders has led the state's coastal bird management and built an internationally recognized program,” SEAFWA President **Paul Johansen** said. “Throughout her career, she has been a dedicated champion for coastal birds, and her work has dramatically improved the understanding and conservation of these species.”

Sanders' many conservation accomplishments include designation of five coastal island seabird sanctuaries and the designation of the Cape Romain - Santee Delta Region as a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network Site of International Importance. Dedicated to helping the next generation of conservationists excel, she has also mentored numerous wildlife professionals and served on 10 graduate committees.

“Felicia is a model wildlife biologist, a recognized expert in her field, and an effective advocate for wildlife conservation,” said SCDNR Director **Robert Boyles**. “If we could bottle her enthusiasm and dedication for the resource, South Carolina would have an army of folks committed to being stewards for coastal birds.”

Sanders graduated from Duke University with a bachelor's degree and from Clemson University with a master's degree in wildlife and fisheries biology.

The Association's Biologist of the Year Awards are presented to two career biologists of state wildlife agencies, one each in the categories of wildlife and fisheries, who, in the opinion of the SEAFWA Awards Committee, have made outstanding contributions toward wildlife/fisheries conservation.



Felicia Sanders, SEAFWA Wildlife Biologist of the Year. Photo: SCDNR.

Present at The Wildlife Society's 2021 Annual Conference!
Virtual Conference, November 1-5, 2021
<https://twconference.org/>

Calls and Dates:

Associated Networking Receptions, Working Group Meetings: TBD

Proposals for Educational & Training Program: Closes April 19

Paper & Poster Abstracts (Includes Student Research in Progress posters): February 15 – May 14

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Arkansas Conservation Officer Honored By Regional Peers Corporal Mac Davis Named 2020 SEAFWA Wildlife Officer of the Year

The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) named **Corporal Mac Davis** the 2020 Colonel Bob Brantley Wildlife Officer of the Year at their 74th annual meeting, held virtually Oct. 26-28. Davis has 20 years of law enforcement experience, including seven with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC).

“Our conservation officers do so much more than the already daunting task of law enforcement, and Corporal Davis is no exception,” SEAFWA President **Paul Johansen** said. “From coordinating fishing derbies for nursing home residents to hosting antler shed hunting classes for Becoming an Outdoors Woman, Officer Davis promotes hunting, fishing, and conservation with a dedication and passion befitting the front line, public facing employees of our fish and wildlife agencies.”

Davis has worked in Scott County for two decades and is called upon by other divisions and agencies as an expert for his county and community. He is the local contact for the AGFC Chronic Wasting Disease team and the citizens of Scott County. He is a leader on the disaster response team, saving six different people from flood waters last year. Freely sharing his knowledge, Davis is a field training officer, an instructor at the AGFC training academy in defensive driving, traffic stops, and safe ATV operation, and taught 10 hunter education courses last year, including certifying the entire 8th grade class at Waldron Middle School.

In addition to tremendous community engagement through organized sports and other events, Davis is a volunteer fireman. He regularly recovers deer hit by vehicles, cleans them, and takes them to a family in need and assists two local food banks with food distribution.

“Corporal Davis has a true heart for service for the community he serves. I am very proud of the positive light he shines on this agency, and all Wildlife Officers, through his daily engagement with the public,” said AGFC Director **Pat Fitts**.

Davis was selected as the National Wild Turkey Federation’s State Officer of the Year in 2018. He received a Regional Forester Award from US Forest Service in 2019 for assistance in a Cultural Resource Theft investigation.

The Association’s Colonel Bob Brantley 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, attitude and leadership, outreach and education, interdepartmental cooperation, and innovations that may be utilized by other officers and departments.



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 <https://wildlife.org/engage/awards/>.

All award nominations are due by May 1, 2021, unless otherwise noted:
Group Achievement Award & TWS Fellows Nominations due by February 1, 2021
Wildlife Publication Awards Nominations due March 1, 2021

LIST OF TWS AWARDS

Education Awards

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

Professional Achievement Awards

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

Service Awards

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



NOMINATIONS

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

The SETWS annually presents the Student Chapter of the Year Award to encourage and recognize exceptional achievements by Student Chapters in the Southeastern Section. This award is normally presented at the Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Winning chapters receive a certificate and monetary award. All student chapters in the Southeastern Section are invited to nominate themselves for the award by completing the application form, which can be obtained from the SETWS Awards Committee Chairperson, **Andy Madison** (amadison@uu.edu). The deadline to submit an application has changed from previous years and is now due by **May 1, 2021**. Student Chapters are encouraged to complete and submit the application any time during the Spring 2021 semester. Please note that this is a separate award and application from the national TWS.

Andy Madison, amadison@uu.edu

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

New Changes Announced for TWS Certification Program

The Wildlife Society's Wildlife Biologist Certification Program — established in 1977 — is regularly evaluated to ensure the requirements reflect a level of training and experience necessary for professional stewardship of wildlife. TWS Council has recently approved several updates. Some will be implemented by the Certification Review Board (CRB) immediately. Two updates will go into effect as of January 1, 2023.

Changes with immediate effect, include:

Applicants must have, at minimum, completed a course of study in a college or university leading to a bachelor of science, bachelor of arts, or equivalent. This degree no longer needs to have been completed in a wildlife-related field. Focus will remain on the educational requirements for certification, not the degree title.

The CRB will now accept unofficial transcripts as long as there is documentation of degree conferral. Evidence of conferral of degree(s) should be either the graduation date(s) imprinted on the transcript(s), a copy of the diploma or, when necessary, an official letter from the academic institution confirming completion of degree requirements.

Associate Wildlife Biologist® applicants are encouraged, but are no longer required, to include at least one professional reference that is a current Certified Wildlife Biologist®.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Wildlife Management and Wildlife Biology categories will now be combined into one category with a required minimum of 12 semester hours. At least one course (≥ 3 semester hours) must emphasize the principles and practices of wildlife management. One course (≥ 3 semester hours) must focus solely on the science of mammalogy, ornithology or herpetology. Up to three semester hours of invertebrate biology courses can be counted as long as there is specific focus on natural resource management applications.

In the Botany category, any combination of silvics, silviculture or dendrology may be accepted. Partial course credit may be allowed for silviculture if content related to dendrology and/or silvics is included.

Also in the Botany category, experience or non-traditional coursework may now be used to meet the requirement of at least two semester hours primarily concerned with plant taxonomy or identification.

In the Quantitative Sciences category, Geographical Information Systems (GIS) courses may now be accepted if they incorporate analytical components through data collection, analysis and interpretation.

In the Communications category, the CRB may now accept non-communication courses designated by the college or university as communication-intensive (e.g., writing-intensive courses) as long as applicants provide official documentation.

Any applications submitted on or after Jan. 1, 2023 will be evaluated using updated certification requirements, including:

The minimum grade accepted for all courses will be raised from D to C- (or the numerical equivalent). All courses must be taken for credit. The Board will also accept courses graded as “pass” in the case of pass-fail or “satisfactory” for courses taken with a satisfactory/unsatisfactory grading option.

Applicants will only be able to substitute up to 9 semester hours total across an application. In a single category, applicants may substitute up to three semester hours and must have at least one college or university course in each educational category.



TWS Southeastern Student Conclave

The Haywood Community College and Western Carolina University Student Chapters of TWS will co-host the 2022 TWS Southeastern Student Conclave. More information will be added as it becomes available.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

26th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network and 31st Annual Colloquium on the Conservation of Mammals in the Southeastern United States

We invite you to join us for the 26th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network and 31st Annual Colloquium on the Conservation of Mammals in the Southeastern United States virtually on February 25, 2021. This virtual meeting will bring together biologists, private and public land managers, private consultation organizations, educational institutions, and citizen scientists from across the Southeast.

Registration cost will be included in your annual SBDN membership fee (\$21.00 – Professionals/ \$11.00 – Students). If you would like to attend the meeting but do not wish to become a member of the SBDN, a non-membership registration option is available.



Please register for the meeting here: [SBDN 2021 Registration](#)

19th Wildlife Damage Management (Virtual) Conference

The Wildlife Damage Management Working Group (WDMWG) of The Wildlife Society works to promote better understanding of the challenges of managing human-wildlife conflicts and to provide a forum for professionals to advance their skills and knowledge of wildlife damage management practices. The Working Group aims to facilitate information transfer of the newest technologies and issues in wildlife damage management, and to serve as a professional conduit for communications and knowledge. For over 25 years, the main outlet of disseminating the latest science in wildlife damage has been our biennial national conference and thus, we welcome you to the 19th installment of our efforts!

The biennial conference will be held virtually for the first time ever (April 19-22, 2021) with reduced registration rates for students, retirees, and single-day attendees. This biennial conference serves as the main outlet of disseminating the latest science in wildlife damage management and the hard-working organizers of the 19th WDM Conference, as well as the WDMWG Board, welcome you and encourage your attendance.

The call for abstracts and registration for the upcoming WDM Virtual Conference is now open:
<https://conference.usu.edu/wildlife-damage-management/>

In these unprecedented times, the Board Members and Conference Committee of the Wildlife Damage Management Working Group would not be deterred by inability to gather in person and decided unanimously to hold the conference on a virtual platform. We feel you will still experience the same level of networking, interaction, and information exchange as our traditional conferences- with a unique platform of virtual technology! Stayed tuned for more information on the draft program and be sure to submit your abstract by February 28, 2021!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

75th Annual SEAFWA Conference
Sunday, October 17 - Wednesday, October 20, 2021
Roanoke, Virginia
Host: Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources



The Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is a forum for the exchange of ideas and critical information regarding the management and protection of fish and wildlife resources primarily in the Southeast. The conference attracts over 500 representatives from state and federal agencies, citizen's organizations, universities, and private wildlife research groups, fisheries and wildlife scientists, agency enforcement personnel, and other natural resource-related organizations.

Thank you to all who joined us online for the virtual 74th Annual Conference. Please visit the Conference Archives to review the 2020 conference program, and to learn more about the event.

At this time, we are planning to hold the 75th Annual Conference in person in 2021. We will continue to monitor the impact of the pandemic and announce here in the coming months if it becomes necessary to move the event online. For more information, please visit the SEAFWA Conference website at: <http://www.seafwa.org/conference/overview/>.

2021 Annual Southeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Meeting

Southeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (SEPARC) is an organization of scientists, naturalists, government representatives and citizens that are devoted to the preservation of amphibian and reptile populations in the southeastern United States, and we serve as the southeast branch of the national PARC organization.

The 2021 Annual SEPARC Meeting will be held completely virtually from February 25–27, 2021. Registration is \$20 for all attendees; all proceeds will go towards funding future SEPARC activities and initiatives (e.g., supporting Participation Awards [PIPA] through the PARC Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Team [DEITT]). Because this virtual meeting has limited costs, we are not offering our typical travel grants or the PARC Increasing Participation Award (PIPA). Instead, we are waiving registration fees for anyone who meets the primary criterion for last year's awards (i.e., "a member of a historically underrepresented or marginalized group in amphibian and reptile conservation"; more details here) and/or for whom this registration fee would pose a financial burden. We hope that this option helps make our meeting accessible to everyone.

To register or view our draft agenda, please visit:
<http://separc.org/separc2021>.



MEETINGS OF INTEREST

FEBRUARY 2021

44th Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting

Virtual Meeting
February 22-24, 2021
<https://www.deerassociation.com/sedsg/>

26th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network and 31st Annual Colloquium on Conservation of Mammals in the Southeastern U.S.

Virtual Meeting
February 25, 2021
<https://sbdn.org/annual-meeting/upcoming-annual-meeting/>

2021 Annual SEPARC Meeting

Virtual Meeting
February 25-27, 2021
<http://separc.org/separc2021>

MARCH 2021

86th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference

Virtual Meeting
March 8-12, 2021
<https://wildlifemanagement.institute/conference>

APRIL 2021

19th Wildlife Damage Management Conference

Virtual Meeting
April 19-22, 2021
<https://conference.usu.edu/wildlife-damage-management/>

MAY 2021

2021 International Urban Wildlife Conference

Virtual Meeting
May 25-27, 2021
<https://www.urban-wildlife.org/>

AUGUST 2021

Ecological Society of America 106th Annual Meeting

Hybrid meeting – in person and virtual
August 1-6, 2021
Long Beach, California
<https://www.esa.org/longbeach/>

SEPTEMBER 2021

111th AFWA Annual Meeting

September 12-15, 2021
Providence, Rhode Island
<https://www.afwaannualmeeting.org/>

OCTOBER 2021

75th SEAFWA Conference

October 17-20, 2021
Roanoke, Virginia
<http://www.seafwa.org/conference/>

NOVEMBER 2021

The Wildlife Society 28th Annual Conference

Virtual Meeting
November 1-5, 2021
<https://twconference.org/>

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Better **TOGETHER**

SEAFWA
Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies



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:

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