



Southeastern Section – The Wildlife Society

Annual Members/Business Meeting

19 October 2021

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Ray Iglay

2. President’s Report

Ray Iglay

3. Report by the Secretary-Treasurer

Guests

Daniel Greene

Secretary Minutes
Treasurer’s Report

4. Report of Committees

Standing Committees

Audit	VACANT
Conservation Affairs Planning Committee	Lisa Lord
Nominations	Kelly Douglass
Resolutions and Bylaws	Mike Mengak

Special Committees – Permanent

Deer	Steve Shea
Furbearer Resources	Colleen Olfenbuttel
Publications	Lora Smith
Awards	Andy Madison
Wildlife Management Excellence Award	Travis DeVault

Special Committees – Joint Section/Association

C.W. Watson Award	Lisa Muller
Minorities in Natural Resources	David Buggs
Wetland Wildlife	Dale James/Jamie Feddersen
The Wildlife Professional Advisory Board	Matt Chopp
SEAFWA Wildlife Technical Sessions	Daniel Greene
Newsletter Editor & Webmaster	Katie Edwards

5. Other Business

Ray Iglay

SE Field Course
Voting Reminders

6. Adjourn

Fall Business Meeting Minutes
Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society
Virtual Meeting
19 October 2021

ATTENDEES

Executive Board

Ray Iglay
Kelly Douglass
Mike Mengak
Dan Greene (virtual)
Mike Conner

Position

President
President-elect
Past President
Secretary/Treasurer
SE Section Rep to Council

MEMBERS MEETING MINUTES

41 attendees, of which 32 are confirmed members (members underlined if in the Oct or Nov 2021 TWS membership roster):

In-person: Katherine Edwards, Andrea Darracq, Vanessa Lane, James Wren, Luke Adams, Philo Kavouriaris, Lawrence Langston, Dawn Greer (member?; there is an Abigail Greer), Audrey Grimes, Claire Webe, Angela Larsen-Grey, Gavin Landsittel, Jessica Mannion, William Gooden, Lisa Muller, Will Gulsby, Scott Klopfer, Caroline Murphy, Colleen Olfenbuttel, Franne Hinks, Emma Fehlker Campbell, Tina Johannsen, Boica A Chanelle, Mercedes Maddox, and Darren Miller.

Virtual: Daniel Greene, Edward Entsminger, Paul Johns, Monica Folk, Jeremy Poirier, Kelli Applegate, Phillip Stephenson, Randy Spencer, Louise McCallie, Matthew Chopp, Call-in User 4, Derek Colbert, Jeff Trollinger, Chuck Yoest, Jordan Grotts, and EJ Williams.

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 A.M. EST.

Presidents Report:

Welcome and Opening Statements: Ray Iglay welcomed everyone and gave a motivational speech. Introduced the board. Thanked them for the challenges of leading through COVID-19.

Update from Caroline Murphy, TWS Government Relations Manager: cmurphy@wildlife.org. Updates – conference is all virtual again – Nov 1-5. Registration prices are reasonable, and registration closes this Friday the 22. Presently without a CEO/Ex. Director. TWS Council is in final stages of consideration. On the policy front they are monitoring several items, including recovering America’s Wildlife Act. Will provide 1.4 billion dollars to do proactive at-risk recovery work. Each unit has a conservation affairs network – our chair is Lisa Lord. Gordon Batcheller is the new incoming TWS President. His tenure will likely be targeted at international engagement. TWS just because a member of the IUCN and looking to be engaged in more international policy work.

Meeting Minutes: Dan Greene itemized the main topics for discussion related to the previous board meeting calls in 2020-2021.

2020-2021 has been quiet due to ongoing effects of COVID-19. All our activities followed the items laid out before us within our Strategic Plan topics are as follows:

- Discussions around member benefits and how to have a broader reach on membership.
- We planned and held a meeting with state chapter board members
 - One goal from those communications is to identify high priority topics that might be applicable to multiple organizational units, such as a letter of support or position statement.
 - Started discussions regarding how to increase interactions with our committees. We have limited communications outside of the annual reports.
- [Bylaws](#) revisions
- Field course planning
 - How to host a course under uncertainty of COVID
- Nominations for vacant and upcoming positions
- Meeting planning

22 October 2020

1. Members meeting agenda briefing and necessary revisions
 - a. Discussed three things for our next year. Benefits of membership dues, increasing membership, and communication.
 - b. Otherwise, we focused on committee updates.

10 December 2020

1. We discussed holding reoccurring meetings with state chapter board members to create a pathway for them to bring items to us that are important at their unit level.
 - a. Collectively, we may increase the number of letters of support, position statements, and comments to provide on high-priority items.
 - b. Committee Engagement:
 - i. We began discussions about how our committees are not vocal to membership or the EB except through annual reports. We are still working to improve this issue. E.g., state chapters have SE Section Representatives, but they don't communicate with us, and we don't have great communication with other subunits.
2. SETWS Bylaws - Began discussions about how to update our bylaws - this continued to be a reoccurring conversation through our reoccurring meetings and those were distributed to be voted upon.
3. SE Section Rep - Mike Conner's term is expiring, and we created a list of potential candidates for his replacement.
 - a. Similarly, we discussed a potential list of candidates for TWS Fellows.
4. Field Course - Discussions about funding opportunities and whether a 2021 field course could occur.
5. Elections - Discussions about Nominations and Elections - President-Elect and Secretary/Treasurer will be available next year.

21 January 2021

1. Continued to progress on same topics.
 - a. Finalized loose ends such as SEAFWA poster/talk awards.

March 24, 2021

1. Discussed chair positions to fill
2. Scheduled date to meet with state chapters
3. Discussed innovation ideas - opportunities to make state chapter members or members living in a section automatic member of TWS. Did not progress.

Membership: We currently have 588 members paid through TWS which is the same as last year. Family (17), Honorary (2), International Regular (1), New Professional (49), Regular (337), Retired (72), Student (110).

Treasurer's Report: Dan provided an overview of the Section's finances. Current funds = **\$23,322.39**

Of those funds, \$3,152.52 are being held for the Fur Resources Committee which is no change from last year. Therefore, SETWS funds are \$20,169.87. Of those, \$1000 are donations for SETWS field supplies, and another \$400 are donations for the field course. Expected expenses include Best Student Presentation and Poster awards. All other reoccurring annual expenses are accounted for at this time.

Since last year's October meeting:

- Debits
 - \$1500 for newsletter services
 - \$100 best presentation
 - \$100 best poster
 - \$109.13 to Ray for 2020 Plaques
- Deposits:
 - \$100 deposit from NC TWS for field course sponsorship
 - \$1000 Weyerhaeuser for SETWS Field Course
 - \$4,452 TWS (\$2070, \$764, \$1618)
- Outstanding:
 - \$158.36 outstanding check

Began discussion on reallocating funds to go into an investment account.

Audit Chair is vacant. Will conduct an audit (split into 2 periods) once we have our bylaws finalized. The reason for this is our operating and fiscal year were set as Jan 1 to Dec 31, but our fiscal year was out of alignment with TWS's and needed to be corrected.

Committee Reports

Standing Committees

Audit Committee: Darren Miller recently volunteered for the chair position vacated earlier this year. The 2020 audit report found SE TWS in good standing. We are currently seeking a new chair for this committee. If you are interested, please contact Ray or any other member of the Executive Board.

Conservation Affairs Planning Committee: Lisa Lord is the chair. Report was received and highlighted the multiple interactions among this committee, state chapter leadership, and TWS CAN. Three state chapters (AR, MS, NC) submitted letters to respective state representatives about co-sponsoring RAWA. The report also emphasized the continued efforts within states regarding local conservation affairs issues. As an aside, meetings among state representatives and Executive Board members also highlighted conservation affairs as a main area in which support from the Section could be most beneficial.

Nominations: Kelly Douglass is the chair. Two candidates have been nominated for President-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer. Candidate bios were shared with membership during September and the election ballot was emailed on Sunday October 17, 2021. Members will have 30 days to submit completed ballots to Kelly Douglass and election results will be shared with members soon thereafter.

Bylaws Committee: Mike Mengak is the chair. Revised bylaws were shared with members and editorial comments have been received. The revised bylaws were then shared with TWS and additional comments and suggestions received. The committee has evaluated all revisions and will work with the Executive Board on TWS suggestions prior to sharing the new set of revisions with members for additional comment.

Special Committees - Permanent

Deer Committee: Steve Shea is the chair. A written report was submitted. The Deer Committee continued sharing updates throughout the year and recently met with members during September. During the meeting, it was decided to go virtual for 2022. The group also discussed the 2023 meeting and meeting rotation.

Fur Resources Committee: Colleen Olfenbuttel is the chair. A written report was received, and the chair joined the Executive Board during their meeting Oct 17. A few action items need to be considered and addressed by the SE TWS Executive Board regarding recommendations and procedures requests of the Fur Resources Committee.

Publications Committee: Lora Smith is the chair and formed a committee. The committee evaluated 2020 publications and have identified a Publication Award recipient who will be recognized during the banquet.

Awards Committee: Andy Madison is the chair. We have experienced a second year of no applications for the Student Chapter of the Year Award. We are hopeful that once Conclave is back, we will see more movement on this award but also encourage members to nominate student chapters. The 2020 Best Student Presentation and Best Student Poster winners will be recognized during the banquet tonight and the 2021 winners announced after the conference via the SE TWS list-serve and SEAFWA.

Wildlife Management Excellence Award: Travis DeVault is the chair and formed a committee for evaluating nominees. The committee identified an awardee that will be announced during the banquet.

Special Committees - Joint Section-Association Committees

C.W. Watson Award: Lisa Muller is the SE TWS Section Representative on the committee. A reminder was sent to the SE Section for nominations. The committee reviewed nominees and the awardee will be recognized at the awards banquet.

MINRC: David Buggs is the chair. Mercedes, vice chair. Mercedes provided an update that a new vice-chair will be selected this year (today?) and voting a new secretary. They had 9 members they sponsored to attend SEAFWA and otherwise had few applications. Sponsoring the Diversity and Inclusion meeting tonight. Caroline mentioned needing information to highlight. Phillip Stephenson said they were able to get the message sent out in the newsletter and the TWS email blast. Reminded that females also qualify as a minority.

SEAFWA Editors and Wildlife Technical Session: Dr. Daniel Greene is Associate Editor. Given the lack of 2020 submissions and uncertainty of submissions in 2021, it was decided to postpone filling the Assistant Editor role until 2022. Twelve wildlife manuscripts were submitted this year, and they are being processed with reviewers. There remains lots of confusion between the manuscript submission process and simply submitting an abstract for SEAFWA. We are working to increase clarity in 2021.

Wetland Wildlife: Dale James and Jamie Feddersen are co-chairs. A report has been received and the committee intends to reconvene next year. In the meantime, co-chairs will continue to communicate with committee members.

Wildlife Professional Editorial Advisory Board: Matthew Chopp is the current southeastern representative. Colleen Olfenbuttel will be stepping down as an at-large member this year. It would behoove the Section to have another representative from the Southeast. It's the editorial review panel. For The Wildlife Professional.

Matthew Chopp TWP EAB solicits article contributions from our membership. We need relevant articles on all topics, so please check out article submissions at wildlife.org/publications or email me for more information at matthew.chopp@myfwc.com

Newsletter Update: Katie Edwards. Annual pitch for news. It's been gradually increasing each year but need submissions from academics, agencies, etc. E-mail to SE rep or directly to Katie. Switched the e-mail address to a Gmail address and still getting some email rejections. Newsletter is supposed to go out January, May, September.

Other Business

Field Course: Dan Greene, SETWS Wildlife and Forestry Field Techniques Course: Dan Greene announced the upcoming SETWS Field Course to be held at the Jones Center at Ichuaway in Newton, GA June 1 to June 14, 2022. We have a few loose ends to address, and we will start accepting applications soon. We will renew conversations with universities, chapters, and advertise externally. Cap is planned at 24 students. Registration is first come, first serve, except last year's participants are being offered first chance to reserve. Tuition and credits were run through Castleton University in Vermont to reduce costs, which include food, lodging, and instruction which is a great deal. If State Chapters would like to sponsor a student, they can, they just need to email Dan to reserve a spot. Katie Edwards will send the registration/Eventbrite link to all SETWS members.

New Business

Out in The Field - see Colleen for more information and a pin. Goals are to increase visibility of LGBTQ+ wildliflers. <https://wildlife.org/oitf/>

Vanessa Lane – have 3 student clubs attending this year.

- ABAC President – Jessica Manion.
 - Been focusing on workdays on campus, including at their nature study area (24 acres managed by ABAC student chapter). Invasive species control and updating boardwalk. Skeet shooting, learning to hunt, pigeon mountain salamander.
- UT Martin – Luke Adams
 - Weekly meetings – someone in the chapter each week teach a new skill. CWD sampling. Stream Cleanups, bluebird box maintenance and surveys. Outdoor University – will host event that will teach archery, shooting, kayaking.
- Murray State University – Lizzie Donaldson and Emma?
 - Last year, main thing is bringing in virtual speakers, bio blitz, invasive species task force, CWD sampling, removal of Bradford pairs and other invasive species. Audio recorders to track changes with timber harvesting.
- Conclave is happening in 2022 in North Carolina – hosted by Haywood Community College and Western Carolina University

Dr. Mike Conner: SE Rep. to Council. Thank you for allowing him to serve in this role for the last 6 years. Encourages people to serve in the future. Darren emphasized that his service on Council was the most professionally relevant thing he has done in his career. Please nominate your fellow TWS members for awards.

Caroline – Opening internship for Joe Burns Memorial Policy and operation outreach internship. Jan-June 2022 timeline.

Adjournment: Eric Pelren, motioned to adjourn the meeting; Vanessa Lane seconded. All were in favor. Motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 11:19 A.M. EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel U. Greene

Daniel U. Greene
SETWS Secretary/Treasurer