

The Wildlife Society

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION



FEBRUARY 2023 VOLUME 65, NUMBER 1
KATHERINE EDWARDS, EDITOR

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Happy New Year, SETWS Members!

I can't believe how quickly this winter season has progressed. It feels like I just finished writing my address for the fall newsletter issue, and here we are with spring just around the corner! I will do my best to keep this short, and just hit the highlights.

Our Section sailed into October with a splash, starting with an Executive Board meeting on October 23, 2022 – at which we voted on Section business, shared committee updates, and received reports from the six state chapters (Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina) in attendance – continuing with our Annual Members Meeting on October 25, 2022 at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference in Charleston, WV – at which we summarized our annual accomplishments and business for the Section, received some fantastic updates from our state (Alabama, Georgia, and Oklahoma) and student (ABAC, Murray State, and UT Martin) chapters in attendance, and even had the opportunity to open the floor for comments and new ideas (some of which we've already started implementing) – and rounding out the month on the last night of the SEAFWA Conference with the great honor of presenting our Section awards (see below for this year's list of winners).

We flew into November in a flurry, with some of our Section members getting dusted by a bit of snow in Spokane, WA at the TWS Conference November 5-10, 2022. Our Section was well represented

by its leadership at the conference, with four of our five Executive Board members and several committee chairs in attendance to participate in various meetings and events including both TWS Council meetings, the Sections & Chapters Collaboration meeting, the Annual Members meeting, the joint meeting of TWS Heritage Committee and TWS Retired Wildlife Professionals Committee (to discuss the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation), the Student-Professional Networking Event, and the Leadership Institute reception, just to name a few.

We bounced into December in a bundle, trying to wrap up business before the holidays, and we closed out the calendar year with a cherry on top, having increased our account balance by almost \$9,000 (thanks mostly to our inaugural field course and membership dues)! Our Section has never been in such solid financial shape (see the annual Treasurer's Report on p. 24) rolling into a New Year.

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

We rang in January with a raucous, submitting three award nominations to TWS on behalf of the Section, submitting our annual report form, officer report form, and tax form to TWS, and filling two committee chair vacancies before the end of the month.

We cruised into February in a cascade, with an Executive board meeting on February 6, 2023 – at which we identified several local members to approach about representing the Section on various planning committees for the TWS Conference that will be held in Louisville, KY November 5-9, 2023 and identified several members to approach about representing the Section on the TWS Retired Wildlife Professionals Committee. Shortly after the meeting, we announced open registration for our 2023 Wildlife & Forestry Field Techniques Course (to be co-hosted by the Northeastern Section TWS this year) at The Jones Center in Newton, Georgia from June 12-25, 2023. Thanks to the financial savviness of our planning committee, the total cost was reduced this year to only \$1,200 (that includes tuition (3 credits), room and board!). Please help us advertise this amazing opportunity by spreading the word to any natural resources program undergraduate or graduate students you may know! See the enclosed flier for more details.

And we are marching into spring with mettle, with plans to have a Section representative attend part of the TWS Southeastern Wildlife Conclave at Cleveland State Community College March 15-18, 2023, and with several administrative tasks on the to-do list before our next Executive Board meeting on April 10, 2023. We will continue to invite state and student chapters to attend future meetings to help strengthen our communication link with



Snow outside the Spokane Convention Center, 2022 TWS Conference.

Photo courtesy **Kelly Douglass**.

organization units within our boundaries, so state and student chapter presidents and representatives, be on the lookout for an email invitation to this meeting.

As always, please [reach out to us](#) if you have any thoughts, ideas, questions, concerns, or suggestions as we move forward. And I hope you have a lovely spring!

Kelly Douglass, President
Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society



SECTION REPRESENTATIVE

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

I am continually impressed with how much goes on with TWS at all levels. I am honored to represent you on Council and have enjoyed learning about what is happening to promote wildlife and the profession in our Section and beyond. The meeting in Spokane in November was a reminder of all the important work to enhance what we do for wildlife. TWS is working on a new strategic plan and look for opportunities for input soon. Position statements are being revised and technical reviews can now be published in *Wildlife Monographs*. Hopefully this will make it easier for all of us to find the necessary information we need when working with the public or legislators in terms of promoting wildlife. TWS Conservation Affairs Committee and staff are doing an outstanding job of endorsing wildlife policy and have a toolkit available for use. They are constantly monitoring ongoing legislation and pushing for changes to regulations and support of funding sources for natural resource management.

The Plenary Session in Spokane was devoted to recognizing the importance of tribal wildlife management. Looks like the 2023 Conference in Louisville, Kentucky will build on the momentum and continue to support tribal and indigenous peoples in the profession. **Don Yasuda** is the current TWS President and has a

vision for diversity, equity, and inclusion and wants to cultivate future leaders in wildlife and natural resources. He is very interested in cultivating relationships with all units of TWS and providing more leadership pathways. If you have an interest in getting involved, please let me know.

Awards nomination season is ongoing. Please take the time to nominate your colleagues for the outstanding work they do for wildlife. The Southeastern Section is always well represented with TWS awards (as you would expect)! We are working on a mechanism to honor **Dr. Jim Miller** and other professionals we have sadly lost too soon. There should be a mechanism in place soon to donate to causes important to these icons of the wildlife profession.

As always, please let me know how I can help. I am blessed to be representing you and glad to bring up issues important in your state or the section. May be a little late, but Happy New Year! I hope it is a great one for everyone!

Lisa Muller
Southeastern Section Representative
to TWS Council



COMMITTEE REPORTS

MINORITIES IN NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The MINRC committee sponsored 16 students to attend the 76th Annual SEAFWA Conference in Charleston, West Virginia. All the students were first-time conference attendees, consisting of 12 undergraduates and four graduate students. This cohort hailed from 12 SEAFWA member states (AL, FL, GA, LA, MO, MS, NC, OK, SC, TX, TN, and VA). **Click [HERE](#) to meet the MINRC Fellows!**

Once students arrived, they participated in the MINRC Student Workshop, which focused on networking, resume writing, mock interviews, and ways to utilize MINRC after the conference. In addition, students submitted essays for the Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Award given by the US-FWS. This year's Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Award winner was **Lavendar Harris**, an undergraduate student at the University of Georgia. Lavendar's essay touched on various recruitment

methods, including integrating more teleworking opportunities. Harris stated that these remote opportunities would “expand the talent pool” and “enable the agency to embrace diversity and inclusion by hiring scientists from different socioeconomic and geographic backgrounds.” Harris also mentioned the importance of retention in the workforce. She stated, “An organization cannot simply rely on a diversity policy statement . . . Retention efforts will only succeed if we create an inclusive environment. This is because inclusion is vital for creating a safe space within the conservation field.” To learn more about Lavendar's essay, you can [view it here](#).

At the SEAFWA Conference, MINRC also hosted a “[Relevancy: Where R3 and DEI Intersect](#)” workshop. Attendees learned from keynote speaker **Ashley Smith** with the [Minority Outdoor Alliance](#) what it means to be a Union Perfector and the significance behind each of us being alive at this specific time to make an impact. The 2021 Diversity Award Winners, SC Dept. of Natural Resources and VA Dept. of Wildlife



MINRC Committee professionals with MINRC fellows at the 2022 SEAFWA conference.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resources, gave presentations highlighting their work in DEI. The second half of the workshop focused on partnerships with Minority Serving Institutions (MSI). It consisted of short presentations from agencies discussing their current partnerships with MSIs, followed by a panel of professionals in R3, DEI, MSI, NGOs, and Human Dimensions.

The MINRC committee concluded the SEAFWA conference by presenting the 2022 SEAFWA Diversity and Inclusion awards. The award format shifted from two categories to gold and silver winners. The [two gold winners](#) for 2022 were the FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the MO Department of Conservation.



MINRC Fellows and professionals' network with **Ashley and Durrell Smith** of Minority Outdoor Alliance and the Gundog Notebook.



MINRC Fellows at the award ceremony at the 2022 SEAFWA conference.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MINRC would like to thank our dedicated committee members and those that attended the SEAFWA conference and presented the Student and Professional Workshops, including 18 professionals from 12 agencies. A vital member of the MINRC Committee, **David Buggs** (TX Parks and Wildlife Dept.) was honored with the MINRC Leadership Award for his many years promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in conservation. Committee members eagerly plan for the 2023 SEAFWA Conference in Corpus Christi, TX. MINRC Sponsorship application will go live on the [MINRC website](#) in early Summer.

Please follow us on social media to keep up to date on MINRC news, jobs, and events throughout the southeast. You can find us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

Mercedes Maddox
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WILDLIFE VOCALIZATIONS

Wildlife Vocalizations are short personal perspectives from people in the field of wildlife sciences. Each featured wildlifer will answer one question that reflects on the past and looks toward the future, providing a voice that shows we are not alone. These stories will be woven together through the common theme of passion, ingenuity, tenacity and perseverance. Wildlife Vocalizations articles are published on [wildlife.org](#) and are also available through the *eWildlifer*. Read the latest [Wildlife Vocalizations](#), including the most recent interviews from members representing the Southeast!

Wildlife Vocalizations: [Jacob Powers](#)
Wildlife Vocalizations: [Grace Hummell](#)



MINRC Fellows learn about professionalism during the MINRC Student Workshop.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

C.W. WATSON AWARD COMMITTEE

C.W. Watson Award

The C.W. Watson Award is the most prestigious award given in the Southeast and is presented to the career individual who, in the opinion of the Award Committee, has made the greatest contribution to wildlife or fish conservation during the previous year or years. Consideration includes research, administration, law enforcement, I&E, wildlife management, fish management, and includes teachers, professionals, and students. This award is presented jointly by the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society, the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society, and the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The committee named **Dennis Krusac** as recipient of the 2022 C.W. Watson Award at the 76th annual SEAFWA conference, held in October (more on pp. 27-28 of this newsletter).

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

DEER COMMITTEE

Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting

The 46th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Deer Study Group, hosted by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation, will be held at the Crowne Plaza Executive Center in Baton Rouge, LA, February 26-28, 2023. More information and registration can be found at <https://www.sedsg.msstate.edu> or <https://www.lawff.org>.

Committee Chair: Steve Shea
sheawildlife@gmail.com

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Wildlife Outstanding Technical Paper Award

The 2022 Wildlife Outstanding Technical Paper judges included **Lora Smith** (Jones Center at Ichauway), **Micah Perkins** (Owensboro Community and Technical College), and **Aubrey Greene** (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission). We selected the paper titled "Effects of alligatorweed control in seasonal wetlands managed for waterfowl," by **McClanahan et al.** as this year's outstanding wildlife paper because it has significant potential to contribute to the wildlife profession. Invasive species are a major challenge for managers throughout the Southeast and this paper used a novel experimental approach that led to recommendations for management of an invasive wetland species.

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



COMMITTEE REPORTS

STUDENT AWARDS COMMITTEE

Student presentations and posters in the Wildlife Technical Sessions at the 76th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Fish and Wildlife Agencies in Charleston, WV, were evaluated for the Best Student Presentation Award and the Best Student Poster Award.

Student Presentation Award

There were 17 student oral presentations at SEAFWA. The winning presentation was given by **Lacy Rucker** from West Virginia University for her talk entitled, "Potential Impacts of Climate Change on the Geographic Distributions of *Plethodon nettingi* (Cheat Mountain Salamander) and its Primary Competitor". She received a monetary award and will be publicly recognized at the SEAFWA banquet in Corpus Christi, TX, in October 2023.

Student Poster Award

There were 6 student posters presented at SEAFWA. **Cindy L. Von Haugg** from Clemson University received the award for her poster entitled, "Relative Abundance of Natural Cavities Suitable for Nesting Wood Ducks". She received a monetary award and will be publicly recognized at the SEAFWA banquet in Corpus Christi, TX, in October 2023.



John P. Clare

Student Chapter Award

Student chapters in the SETWS were evaluated from an overall application package including professionalism and involvement in research, education, management, stewardship, and outreach to name a few categories. The Haywood Community College Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society in North Carolina was recognized at the SEAFWA banquet in Charleston, WV, as the Student Chapter of the Year for their outstanding service to their members and SETWS.

Committee Chair: Andy Madison
amadison@uu.edu

TWS Southeastern Student Wildlife Conclave

The Cleveland State Community College Student Chapter of TWS will host the 2023 TWS Southeastern Student Wildlife Conclave March 16-18, 2023.

Students and faculty from wildlife programs at colleges and universities throughout the Southeast will gather for three days of competitions and learning opportunities. The Southeastern Wildlife Conclave provides college students with valuable hands-on training in wildlife management and conservation, and networking opportunities with wildlife professionals. Some activities include field trips, workshops (i.e., telemetry, trapping, chemical immobilization, mistnetting), field competitions, local tours, game-calling competitions, quiz bowls, banquets, photography contests, and guest speakers.

STATE REPORTS

ALABAMA

NO NEWS REPORTED



“This program is designed to introduce college students from nontraditional backgrounds to hunting and recreational shooting through community-based mentorship,” Sanders said.

ARKANSAS

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission/ University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff



The Georgia Wildlife Federation launched Academics Afield in 2019. It's since grown to eight states across the Southeast with money from a multistate grant through the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program. The AGFC, UAPB and the Arkansas Outdoor Society are program partners.

AGFC, Academics Afield Brings New Audience Outdoors

A group of students has begun building a community of hunters on the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff campus.

Sanders says Arkansas was invited to join Academics Afield in 2021; events began with the 2022 fall semester. An intern, **Cadarius Gilbert**, was hired from a pool of UAPB students and charged with facilitating four hunting events per year.

Hollie Sanders, an assistant chief in the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Education Division, offered a glimpse into the Academics Afield program during the Commission's January

“A hunting event includes a safety shoot, an educational component where they learn about wildlife management and species identification, they actually hunt and then we will use the processed game to eat it together in a social event,” Sanders said.



A quail hunt was held at Caviness Cattle and Quail, thanks to **Harlan Cainess** and **Lea White**, **Hollie Sanders** and **Trenton Powell** with AGFC.

STATE REPORTS

Events began with a trap shoot (including safety training) for interested students, followed by on-campus recruiting.

“The majority of those students have lasted with us through the whole fall semester and into the spring semester,” Sanders said.

The first hunt focused on northern bobwhite, partially because of its social nature.

“This hunt was held at Caviness Cattle and Quail, and allowed beginning student hunters to participate in a group hunt that was easy to learn from,” Sanders said. “They also got to experience hunting with dogs. Our students were highly engaged, they were successful in harvest and they did get to process quail as well.”

Next came pursuit of larger game.



The first outing of the program was to Blue Rock Gun Club to become more familiar with wingshooting.

“They also managed a deer hunt held at Hilburn Farms, which was also very successful thanks to the Arkansas Outdoor Society and our own Education staff,” Sanders said.



Participants enjoyed a successful deer hunt at Hilburn Farms, thanks to **Scott Hilburn** and **Ben Haynes** with the Arkansas Outdoor Society and **Joe Huggins** and **Jake Wilkerson** with AGFC.

STATE REPORTS

Students enjoyed a duck hunt in mid-January. The plan is to end the semester with another trap shoot aimed at recruitment of new students.

“One thing that I like about this program is we really built relationships,” Sanders said. “It’s not just a one-off mentored hunt and you don’t see folks again. We spent many months with these students through hunter education and instructor certification, safety shoots and hunts. And they have built a small hunting community on the UAPB campus that is growing.”

Arkansas Wildlife Weekly Newsletter
Jeff Williams, Editor
Arkansas Wildlife Magazine

FLORIDA

NO NEWS REPORTED

GEORGIA

Georgia Chapter

The Georgia Chapter of The Wildlife Society’s Annual Meeting will be held March 2-3, 2023 in Macon, Georgia. We are looking forward to another great meeting, including field trips for attendees!

University of Georgia Student Research

My name is **Faith Kruis** and I am a master’s student at the University of Georgia. Since 2021, I have been working on a project to evaluate several easily acquired body measurements as predictors of wild pig body mass. Because it can be difficult to weigh live large animals, using body measurements to estimate body mass is sometimes used in field studies. Several statistical

models exist for estimating domestic pig mass from body measurements, but models based on domestic animals are not likely good estimators of wild pig mass because wild pigs experience very different environmental conditions than domestic pigs. I have partnered with Wildlife Services in Florida and Georgia and researchers at the Savannah River Ecology Lab in South Carolina to obtain measurements of heart girth, neck girth, total length, and weight of wild pigs that have been trapped and/or removed. This new knowledge of how body measurements relate to body mass of wild pigs will aid in estimating age, judging health, or estimating size for administering sedatives or affixing telemetry equipment to wild pigs.



Faith Kruis and her technician measuring the heart girth of a wild pig in southwest Georgia during the summer of 2022.

STATE REPORTS

University of Georgia Student Chapter

The UGA Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society won first place in the national TWS Annual Conference's quiz bowl. The students on the team included: **Dare Scott**, **Seamus O'Brien**, **Rhys Medcalfe**, and **Katherine Carlsrud**. UGA advisors were **Michel Kohl** and **Gino D'Angelo** with coaching help from **Steven Castleberry** (emeritus advisor) and **Ben Thesing** (MS student; past quiz bowl team member).

Jessy Patterson; jrpatterson@ung.edu



UGA quiz bowl team during competition at the national TWS quiz bowl.



UGA quiz bowl team as the quiz bowl champions at the national TWS annual meeting.

STATE REPORTS

KENTUCKY



Murray State University Student Chapter

The Murray State University Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society started out the semester with their annual rafting trip. This was followed by MSU TWS and the MSU Chapter of The Backcountry Hunters and Anglers co-hosting a showing of Deer 139 at Hancock Biological Station. The chapter learned a ton from five guest speakers that were invited to their meetings throughout the semester. These speakers included alumni and local wildlife professionals. The chapter had a wonderful time at their annual Garden of the Gods hike in October, which was another opportunity to get to know one another. Ten MSU TWS members and their advisor attended the South-eastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

annual meeting and two undergraduate students in the Darracq Lab attended and presented at The Wildlife Society meeting in Spokane Washington. As usual, the chapter ended their fall semester with their annual chili cookoff, won by chapter member **Rosie Carey**, and trivia night.

Outside of their classes, students also gained hands-on experience in the field. Over 10 members assisted Indiana DNR with chronic wasting disease (CWD) testing and several students volunteered at Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife's check stations. The MSU TWS students also form the backbone of the Riverlands Alliance Calloway County Invasive Species Taskforce (RAIST). In fall 2023, the RAIST team increased from 10 to 18 members. The team organized a chainsaw safety course that was attended by 6 members of their RAIST team and two members each from the newly forming



Murray State RAIST Team's 2022 Fall Field Day.

STATE REPORTS



Student chapter members assisted Indiana DNR with CWD testing.

University of Tennessee at Martin/Weakley County, TN and Marshall County, KY RAIST teams. Sixteen members attended the RAIST field event held in early November. The field event was successful as over 70 Bradford pears were removed. We also removed additional native, woody vegetation that was encroaching into the native prairie on the landowner's property. Moreover, student members of the RAIST team took part in outreach events where kids made kudzu monsters and sang a song about kudzu.

Andrea Darracq
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LOUISIANA

NO NEWS REPORTED



MARYLAND/DELAWARE

NO NEWS REPORTED



MISSISSIPPI

NO NEWS REPORTED



NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina Chapter

The 2023 NCTWS Annual Meeting was held at Dogwood on Lake Norman located in Sherrills Ford, NC on February 7-9, 2023.

Kelsey Pistner; kelseynicolepistner@gmail.com



OKLAHOMA

NO NEWS REPORTED



WOMEN OF WILDLIFE

The [Women of Wildlife Community](#) was created to promote and support women in the wildlife profession and to provide mentoring opportunities and advice. The community members – composed of volunteers housed within The Wildlife Society's [Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Awareness Working Group](#) and staff develops symposia and programming, and hosts networking events for local, national, and international meetings. We encourage you to become a member of that working group so you stay informed on all aspects of diversity and inclusion within TWS. Membership is not limited to women, all gender identities are welcome!

STATE REPORTS

SOUTH CAROLINA



South Carolina Chapter

The South Carolina Chapter of TWS held its annual meeting on October 12, 2022, at the Clemson Sandhills REC, Columbia, SC. This was the first in-person gathering after 2 years of virtual meetings due to COVID-19. The program included a morning session addressing “Barriers to Resilience” with talks delivered by SCDNR and USDA-APHIS biologists. The afternoon session featured current research presentations by graduate students representing Clemson University and University of Georgia. Awards were presented to **Breck Carmichael** (SCDNR, Lifetime Achievement Award), **April Atkinson** (SCDNR, Professional Wildlife Management Award), and **Rachel Brown-Villarreal** (Clemson University, Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award).

Beau Bauer, CWB®
Nemours Wildlife Foundation
President, South Carolina Chapter of TWS



Breck Carmichael receives Lifetime Achievement Award from Chapter President, **Beau Bauer**.

SAVE THE DATE!

77th Annual SEAFWA Conference
OCTOBER 15-18, 2023 | Corpus Christi, Texas
Host: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

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, citizens’ organizations, universities, and private wildlife research groups, fisheries and wildlife scientists, agency enforcement personnel, and other natural resource-related organizations.

Visit <https://seafwa.org/conference/2023> for more information.

STATE REPORTS

Clemson Bobcat and Rodenticide Project

In a world where major threats to biodiversity include habitat loss and climate change, rodenticide poisoning is not often at the forefront of wildlife managers' minds. That is, until you start losing your charismatic carnivores. Beginning in 2017, Kiawah Island noticed a sharp decline in its bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) population. Monitored intensely since the early 2000s, Town biologists were quick to notice a change. Further testing revealed that several deaths were classified as acute poisoning by second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGAs).

Motivated to understand non-target rodenticide exposure further, a project was developed in partnership with Clemson University's Department of Forestry and Environmental Conservation. The early goals of the project were to understand the direct and indirect effects of SGAs on the Kiawah population, which brought together a group of biologists, pesticide regulatory agents, researchers, and land conservationists. In mid-2021, PhD student **Meghan Keating** was brought onto the project.

Keating's research aims to highlight the long-term effects of human development and SGA use on Kiawah's bobcat population by digging into decades of GPS location and capture data on the island. Further, her research aims to highlight the spatial and behavioral effects of the presence of SGAs by continuing to monitor Kiawah's population through telemetry, scat, and toxicological sampling. This data will help identify areas of exposure to, and refugia from, SGAs across Kiawah Island and reveal temporal shifts in SGA exposure.

To broaden the project, a second population of bobcats within the Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center is also being monitored. This property is managed

by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the Yawkey Foundation, is closed to the public, and experiences minimal human disturbance. By comparing movement patterns, habitat selection, and prey selection across both sites, Keating hopes to pinpoint key differences in behavior and space-use that can be correlated with human development and SGA exposure.

To generate even greater impact, the collaboration extends beyond funding partners. Local community members have participated in data collection, outreach events such as Kiawah's Bobcat Week, and by joining the Bobcat Guardian Program, a grassroots effort to reduce the use of SGAs on Kiawah Island and encourage an integrated approach to pest management. The project has also involved undergraduate students through undergraduate research projects and by giving students an opportunity to participate in data collection and fieldwork.



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Keating, assisted by her technicians and volunteers, monitors over 30 scat transects and 100 trail cameras across both sites. Transects are walked twice a month, and cameras are checked once a month. During the first field season, Keating and partners captured and collared 8 bobcats, collected over 300,000 trail camera photos, and collected over 600 scat samples. Data collection will continue for two additional years.

This study would not be possible if not for the dedicated partnerships between Clemson University, The Town of Kiawah Island, the Kiawah Conservancy, the Yawkey Foundation, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, and Clemson's Department of Pest Control Regulation.

***Meghan Keating, Wildlife & Fisheries
PhD Student, Clemson University
mpkeati@g.clemson.edu***

Southeast Bat Hub

The Southeast (SE) Bat Hub was created in 2022 to provide regional support for the North American Bat Monitoring Program (NABat). The NABat program guidelines, published in 2015 primarily in response to white-nose syndrome and other significant threats to bat populations, proposed multiple standardized methods for monitoring bats. Data from these monitoring efforts across the continent are submitted to the central NABat coordinating office. The resulting datasets are used for local decision making, as well as for comprehensive, range-wide analyses of bat populations, and provide information critical to developing informed management practices and assessments relevant to these cryptic species.



Based in Clemson, SC, the SE Bat Hub is working with current NABat practitioners and recruiting new partners in the region to promote and assist the long-term sustainability of standardized bat monitoring based on NABat guidelines. We are establishing a regional data management and processing center, finding solutions and improving efficiencies of NABat tasks, and providing data for species recovery and classification assessments. We will strive to achieve our goals of increasing bat monitoring efforts, gathering the highest quality data possible, and gaining knowledge to better inform management decisions that impact the conservation of bat populations.

Join our community and find out more about how the SE Bat Hub is assisting bat research by visiting our new website at sebathub.org. Learn more about the NABat program at nabatmonitoring.org. If you are interested in starting new bat surveys, determining if your data can be submitted to NABat, or becoming a partner of the Hub, feel free to reach out to **Ben Neece**, the Hub's coordinator, at bneece@clemson.edu.



STATE REPORTS

Sulliván Named Director of Clemson's Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science

Mažeika Patricio Sulliván firmly believes in the aphorism that a rising tide lifts all boats, and he plans to bring that philosophy with him as he takes charge at a place where the influence of the tides is ever present. In the landscape of academia, where competition can be just as constant, Sulliván said his vision is to create an environment for collaboration, teamwork and shared success in his new role as director of Clemson University's Belle W. Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science (BICEFS).



In his new position, Sulliván will oversee research efforts at BICEFS, one of six Research and Education Centers (RECs), collectively known as the Clemson Experiment Station, located strategically throughout South Carolina. He replaces **John Andrae**, who served as interim director since 2021.

Full article: <https://news.clemson.edu/sullivan-named-director-of-clemsons-baruch-institute-of-coastal-ecology-and-forest-science/>

Rabbits in Greenville County Diagnosed with Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus Type-2 (RHDV2) has been detected for the first time in South Carolina after animal health authorities were alerted to a sudden die-off of feral rabbits at a homestead in Greenville County. The Clemson University Veterinary Diagnostic Center tested the rabbits in Columbia, and the diagnosis was confirmed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS). The surviving rabbits at the location have been quarantined and animal health authorities have asked the owners to contain them in hutches to avoid further spread and to prevent further contact with wild rabbits.

Clinical signs of the virus include sudden death, anorexia, lethargy, conjunctivitis, respiratory signs, and bloodstained noses or mouths. RHDV2 is a highly contagious Calicivirus that affects domestic rabbits, wild or feral rabbits and hares. The virus is shed by infected rabbits and transmitted through direct contact, bedding, water, feed, hay and other materials used in the care and feeding of rabbits. It can also be spread by insects and human contact.

Full article: <https://news.clemson.edu/rabbits-in-greenville-county-diagnosed-with-rabbit-hemorrhagic-disease/>

Emily Kearse
KearseE@dnr.sc.gov



STATE REPORTS

TENNESSEE



Tennessee Chapter

The 2023 Annual Meeting for the TN Chapter of TWS will be held at Montgomery Bell State Park in Burns, TN from March 8-10, 2023. Please visit wildlife.org/Tennessee-chapter/annual-meeting/ for updates and additional information.

Cleveland State Student Chapter

The Cleveland State Student Chapter has been very busy this year. Chapter members have worked as USFS interns and Creel Clerks for the TWRA. We have also worked checking stations in several locations and assisted with retriever trials in our area. We have 8 students completing the Delta University Hunt Program with a guided duck hunting trip to Reelfoot Lake. These students completed their hunter safety, then spent a day at the range with a mentor before embarking on their hunt on December 14th. Of course, the chapter has been very active in campus activities, which has led to a record number of students in the chapter and the FWF program in general. The chapter advisor traveled to Spokane to The Wildlife Society Conference in November where he and his co-founder of the SWAP Program received the Diversity Award. We have plans to attend the Tennessee State Chapter meeting in March, and we have been busy preparing for Conclave, which we will host March 16-18, 2023. We also assisted the TWRA with the Sandhill Crane Festival in January. All Tennessee Student Chapters will be receiving application packets for this year's SWAP program very soon. This year, we will take students from Tennessee to Angel Fire, New Mexico, where they will be led on daily field activities by local biologists to learn about different aspects of natural resource management in the west. That trip will be from July 8-15, 2023.

University of Tennessee - Knoxville Student Chapter

In years past, our membership recruitment has relied on wildlife, fisheries, and forestry classes to mention our chapter of The Wildlife Society - that changed this year. With the coming of the 2026 class, we suspended our typical absence from campus-wide tabling events and showed up. We set up a booth at the Herbert College Connect event for freshmen and transfers in the Herbert College of Agriculture, and another booth on main campus for the annual Student Engagement Fair on Pedestrian Walkway. Our booths featured a Powerpoint slideshow of pictures from things we've done in the past, a deer jawbone for students to guess the deer's age for the chance at a prize, several mammal pelts, information on our first meeting and how to stay connected, and an email sign-up sheet. We also posted flyers around campus to advertise for our first meeting of the year. With these new recruitment efforts, we gained over a hundred new students on our chapter email list!

The Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) allowed deer hunting on their property for the first time since COVID-19's outbreak, and our members were excited to be back in action at the ORNL deer check station as a result. Three weekends of cold or rainy weather, early mornings and late nights, and hard work, students were nevertheless smiling all the way and ready to volunteer. In addition to the expected presence of our seniors and juniors, a huge number of our newer underclassmen showed interest and were involved; we even had one of our recent graduates join in the fun. Our members got the opportunity to practice speaking with the public (i.e. hunters), to gain experience working up harvested deer for data, to perfect their ability to age by dentition analysis, to work side-by-side with TWRA's wildlife officers and biologists,

STATE REPORTS

ORNL's staff, and UTK Veterinary personnel, to learn about recent research on meningeal worm and hemorrhagic disease, and to witness some unique genetic mutations you'd usually only see pictures of in class (i.e. peruke). The team also managed to acquire meat donations from several hunters for our upcoming annual Wild Game Dinner this March.

On December 1st, we invited wildlife and fisheries related professionals from around the Southeast to join us for our second annual professional mixer. Attendees ranged from private business owners to public lands work to higher education to governmental and NGO positions. We had 18 professionals and 35 student members in attendance - a significant increase from the previous year. With overwhelming success and positive feedback, we are aiming even higher next year to have more participants (professional and student) and to perhaps have representatives from National Geographic and the World Wildlife Fund in attendance.

The University of Tennessee - Knoxville chapter has enjoyed expanding its outreach efforts this year, starting with its experience at Mt. Olive Elementary in early November. We had the pleasure of sending four members to work a booth at their STEM Night. The kids and their families got to "fish" for native species and identify what they caught. They also enjoyed feeling animal pelts, identifying mammalian species, and matching tracks to the correct animals.

Our chapter has held a continued partnership with the TWRA and USFWS that allows us to aid in the Southeastern Lake Sturgeon Working Group's restoration efforts on Ft. Loudon Lake. Every day

for a week in early December, undergraduate and graduate student members go out on the lake to pull and release trotlines to sample the lake's population of endangered lake sturgeon. We caught and released a total of 15 sturgeon!

Jordan Nanney
Jordan.Nanney@compasssouth.com

VIRGINIA

Virginia Chapter



The Virginia Chapter of The Wildlife Society held its 2023 Annual Meeting in Martinsville, Virginia from February 15-17 at the New College Institute and Virginia Museum of Natural History. Meeting attendees had an opportunity to participate in one of four workshops, or getting a "behind the exhibit" tour of the museum on the first day. The meeting featured a special session entitled "Virginia's Changing Natural History Landscape – Pleistocene to the Present" with talks from invited speakers representing the fields of archaeology, paleontology, and wildlife biology. The evening activities included a reception at the Virginia Museum of Natural History that provided additional opportunities for attendees to see the exhibits and meet the museum staff. Of course, all of the regular meeting activities occurred as well with the Chapter business meeting, annual awards, poster sessions, and presentations.

Scott Klopfer
sklopfer@vt.edu



STATE REPORTS

DUCKS UNLIMITED

Nansemond Indian Nation Reacquires Ancestral Lands

Ducks Unlimited and partners help return ancestral land for conservation protection

In a precedent-setting land transfer, Ducks Unlimited has acquired from a private owner more than 500 acres of ancestral land of the Nansemond Indian Nation and then returned it to the Tribe for protection and stewardship. This historic gift of the forested wetlands of Cross Swamp will enable the Tribe to develop a conservation program, educate tribal youth about their historic ties to the land, and strengthen coastal resilience for future generations. This project received support from Dominion Energy, the Enviva Forest Conservation Fund, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant program, the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, and The Mary Morton Parsons Foundation.

After decades of work to achieve federal recognition, which occurred in 2018, and more than 350 years of efforts to reacquire access to their ancestral territory, the Nansemond Indian Nation celebrates this achievement for equity and conservation. “We are filled with joy to have the Cross Swamp property returned to our people. This land was inhabited by our ancestors long before the arrival of English settlers, and now we will again own and manage it as a cultural and natural resource,” said Nansemond Tribal Chief **Keith Anderson**. “Today marks an important milestone in the restoration of our heritage.”

In addition to ensuring that the wetlands and critical habitat remain protected, the Tribe will steward the property as a vital space for cultural and environmental education. Now that the Tribe owns the property, they will have greater access to federal programs and services to assist with their stewardship goals.



Representative **Rob Wittman**, Assistant Chief **Dave Hennaman**, Chief **Keith Anderson**, Dr. **Karen Waldrop** (Ducks Unlimited), **Ken Custalow** (Dominion Energy).

STATE REPORTS



Chief **Keith Anderson**, Dr. **Karen Waldrop**, and Representative **Rob Wittman**.

“Cross Swamp consists of forested wetlands that provide critical habitat for a wide variety of birds, wildlife, and plants,” said **Emily Purcell**, Ducks Unlimited Director of Conservation Programs. “By protecting this historic landscape, this project ensures future generations of the Nansemond Indian Nation have the opportunity to reconnect with the land and enjoy this iconic area in the Atlantic Flyway. Additionally, the City of Suffolk will forever benefit from the additional ecosystem services that wetlands provide, such as improved water quality, carbon storage, and flood reduction.”

“Opportunities do not come along often to help Tribal communities reclaim part of their history and traditional Tribal lands. As a member of the Virginia Native American community, I am elated Dominion Energy was able to support Ducks Unlimited in acquiring and returning traditional Tribal lands to the

Nansemond Tribe as well as helping preserve these important landscapes for future generations,” said **Ken Custalow**, Tribal Relations Manager for Dominion Energy.

“As a leading environmental steward across the U.S. Southeast, Enviva seeks to act with respect, humility, and integrity to ensure the best outcomes for forests, people, and the environment. We are proud to support and partner with organizations like Ducks Unlimited to return and conserve ancestral land to the Nansemond Indian Nation,” said **Thomas Meth**, President of Enviva.

Katherine Sorrell, an attorney with Cultural Heritage Partners, legal counsel to the Tribe and five other federally-recognized tribal nations headquartered in Virginia, observed,

STATE REPORTS

"It's most gratifying when Tribes are not compelled to buy back places once stolen from them. May Ducks Unlimited's example of acquiring and restoring tribal stewardship of ancestral lands inspire similar efforts throughout the Commonwealth and beyond."

For more information, visit www.ducks.org. Follow DU's news Twitter feed – @DUNews1937 – to get the most up-to-date news from Ducks Unlimited.

About Ducks Unlimited

Ducks Unlimited Inc. is the world's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving North America's continually disappearing waterfowl habitats. Established in 1937, Ducks Unlimited has conserved more than 15 million acres thanks to contributions from more than a million

supporters across the continent. Guided by science and dedicated to program efficiency, DU works toward the vision of wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever. For more information on our work, visit www.ducks.org.

About the Nansemond Indian Nation

The Nansemond Indian Nation is a federally recognized sovereign nation dedicated to cultural preservation, environmental conservation, and the betterment of their citizens as well as of the communities they call home. Those include the cities of Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, and Isle of Wight County.

Emily Austin, eaustin@ducks.org

BUSINESS

2023 Southeastern Section Officers

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BUSINESS

SECRETARY-TREASURER REPORT

January - December 2022

Submitted by: Lynn Lewis, SE Section Secretary-Treasurer

Beginning Balance (01/01/22)*	\$23,924.03
Deposits	\$30,288.01
Debits	\$17,490.51
Outstanding Checks	\$0.00
Ending Balance (12/31/22)	\$36,721.53
SETWS Fur Resources Committee Balance	\$3,398.50
Field Course Planned	\$500.00
SETWS Available Balance	\$32,823.03

*Regions account closed and funds transferred to new First Citizens account March 2022.
Dan Greene and Lynn Lewis are listed on account and have debit cards.

Deposits

Item	Amount
TWS Ap verify	\$0.01
TWS 4th Quarter (October-December) 2021 Dues	\$2,472.00
TWS 1st Quarter (Jan-Mar) 2022 Dues	\$1,370.00
TWS 2nd Quarter (April-June) 2022 Dues	\$910.00
TWS 3rd Quarter (Jul-September) 2022 Dues	\$892.00
2022 Field Course Registrations	\$24,100.00
SETWS Fur Resources Committee	\$544.00
Total Deposits	\$30,288.01

Debits

Item	Amount
First Citizens checks	\$23.88
SEAFWA Plaques Postage	\$47.19
2022 Field Course	\$13,317.20
SETWS Fur Resources Committee Meeting	\$297.02
SEAFWA Oral Presentation Award	\$100.00
SEAFWA Poster Presentation Award	\$100.00
OiTF Support	\$1,001.00
President Travel TWS	\$1,090.72
Newsletter/website support	\$1,500.00
Banking Fees/Cashier's Check	\$13.50
Total Debits	\$17,490.51

BUSINESS

Southeastern Section TWS Fall Members Meeting

The annual fall members meeting of the Southeastern Section was held on October 25, 2022 during the SEAFWA Conference in Charleston, WV. Sixty-four people were in attendance (11 virtual and 53 in-person), including students from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, University of Tennessee at Martin, and Murray State University. Topics covered include a welcome from President **Kelly Douglass**, report from Secretary/Treasurer **Lynn Lewis**, report from Newsletter Editor/Webmaster **Dr. Katie Edwards**, and summaries of SETWS committees activities during 2022. In addition, members received updates from **Kelly O'Conner**, TWS Conservation Affairs Network Fellow, **Colleen Olfenbuttel** on the Out in the Field (OiTF) initiative, **Mercedes Maddox** on Minorities in Natural Resources activities, and reports from the three student chapters and four state chapters (Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Oklahoma) in attendance on their 2022 activities. **Drs. Daniel Greene** and **Mike Conner** were recognized for their service to the Section in 2022 for co-instructing the field course. And lastly, members were given an open forum to discuss matters of importance with the Executive Board.



University of Tennessee at Martin Student Chapter.



Dr. Mike Conner, Kelly Douglass, and Dr. Daniel Greene at the SEAFWA Conference, Charleston, WV.



Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College Student Chapter.



Murray State University Student Chapter.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



Awards 2022



C.W. Watson (SEAFWA)
Dennis Krusac, U.S. Forest Service

SETWS Wildlife Management Excellence Award

Christine Hand, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
Conservation of black rails through significant advancement of data, knowledge, and understanding of black rails necessary to advance management and reverse population declines range-wide.

SEAFWA Publication of the Year (2022)

Matthew D. McClanahan, Joshua M. Osborn, Heath M. Hagy, J. Brian Davis, Robert M. Wheat, and Matthew J. Gray. Effects of alligatorweed control in seasonal wetlands managed for waterfowl. *Journal of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies* 9:105-113.

SEAFWA Best Student Presentation

Lacy Rucker, West Virginia University
Potential impacts of climate change on the geographic distributions of *Plethodon nettingi* (Cheat Mountain Salamander) and its primary competitor

SEAFWA Best Poster Presentation

Cindy L. Von Haugg, Clemson University
Relative abundance of natural cavities suitable for nesting wood ducks

SETWS Student Chapter of the Year

Haywood Community College

SEAFWA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Officer Brandon Lyon, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

TWS Diversity Award

Daryl Ratajczak and Robert Brewer, Student Wildlands Adventure Program

SEAFWA Diversity and Inclusion Award



Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

TWS Group Achievement Award

Eastern Spotted Skunk Cooperative Study Group

TWS Fellows

W. Daryl Jones, Karen Powers, John Kilgo



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Forest Service's Dennis Krusac Named 2022 C.W. Watson Award Recipient

The C.W. Watson Award is the most prestigious award given by the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. This award was established in 1964 to recognize individuals who have contributed the most to fish and wildlife conservation. The 2022 winner of the award, **Dennis Krusac**, endangered species specialist with the USDA Forest Service in Atlanta, GA, has maintained the tradition of conservation excellence in the Southeast for his entire 43-year career. Dennis stood out for his development of innovative conservation and education programs, managing habitat for many species in the Southeast, and facilitating partnerships and support for the work of the USDA Forest Service throughout his career.

Dennis developed innovative strategies for red-cockaded woodpecker management while also allowing for production of forest products. Dennis managed the red-cockaded woodpecker translocation program and served on the recovery team since 2000. He worked on bat conservation and provided leadership and guidance to multi-agency partnerships to promote bats on all land ownership types. He helped create the first BioBlitz in the nation to facilitate collection of bat baseline data needed for management on southern forests. He has been instrumental in species recovery plans and restoration for the rusty-patched bumble bee, Louisiana pine snake and promoted reintroduction of the peregrine falcon and bald eagle. Dennis also worked on creating early successional habitat for ruffed grouse and wild turkeys, acquisition of conservation lands for other species, and promoting fishing opportunities for family friendly recreation.



Pictured left to right: **J.D. Strong**, SEAFWA Awards Committee Chairman, **Lisa Muller**, C.W. Watson Award Committee Chairwoman, **Dennis Krusac**, 2022 C.W. Watson Award recipient, and **Eric Sutton**, President of SEAFWA. Photo Credit: **Joshua Toner**, WV DNR.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

“I’m honored and humbled to have received the C.W. Watson award. I share it with everyone I have had the pleasure of working with the past 43 years, said **Dennis Krusac**, 2022 C.W. Watson Award recipient. “Everything of significance that I accomplished in my career was done through partnerships. When you think about it, everything we have accomplished as a conservation community has been done through partnerships, and that’s important for the next generation of wildlife and fisheries professional to understand.”

Dennis has clearly had a huge impact on conservation of species and habitats across the Southeast but also education and outreach about natural resources to urban and underserved communities. **Ken Arney** who nominated Dennis for the award wrote, “He has served his agency and community tirelessly in making a difference for urban and minority youth. He has applied humility, passion, commitment, and innovation in working with a wide range of diverse groups throughout the Atlanta metro area to make a positive change in the lives of others.” Much of this educational programming was done outside of his regular work responsibilities.

Dennis continues to work for fish and wildlife species and habitats across the Southeast. He shares his passion by connecting people with the importance of nature. The C.W. Watson Award recognizes Dennis Krusac for his impactful and distinguished service.

<https://seafwa.org/news/forest-services-dennis-krusac-named-2022-cw-watson-award-recipient>

Student Wildlands Adventure Program Wins Diversity Award

When **Daryl Ratajczak** first moved out west to New Mexico from Tennessee, where he had worked for two decades, he was amazed by the wildlife and natural landscapes. He quickly came to the conclusion that he’d love to share the experience with others. He reached out to his colleague **Robert Brewer**, an associate professor at the Cleveland State Community College in Tennessee, to see about bringing members of the school’s student chapter of The Wildlife Society out for a trip.

The idea culminated in a 14-student field trip to New Mexico in 2017. But Ratajczak, now a Big Game Specialist for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, saw an opportunity to continue the idea with a focus on underserved communities in the profession, “giving those wildlife students a chance to experience something they would never get a chance to experience,” he said. That resulted in the development of the Student Wildlands Adventure Program (SWAP) nonprofit organization.

In 2018, he reached out to students living in the western U.S., eventually signing up 16 for a field trip to Tennessee from various schools, this time. Eleven of these came from Native American or Hispanic communities. Funding for the trip came from the U.S. Forest Service.

Since then, the [Student Wildlands Adventure Program](#) has switched back and forth—or swapped—from [bringing students east to west and vice versa every year](#). The program has accommodated 75 students from 21 different universities in 11 states or provinces. Roughly three-quarters of the majority-female participants have been minorities or from underserved communities.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Due to his work organizing the SWAP program, the SWAP organization won The Wildlife Society's 2022 Diversity Award. But Ratajczak said the real winners are the students that experience opportunities they never would have had otherwise. Students taking part in the program have visited a grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) den in Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming, saw cougar (*Puma concolor*) kill sites in New Mexico, and snorkeled in the extremely diverse Conasauga River in Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee.

"We've made so many great connections with the students," Ratajczak said.

But these experiences are also coupled with opportunities to make connections with future employers, or future supervisors for graduate programs. For some of the students, these connections and opportunities are "changing their life," Ratajczak said.

Karl Malcolm, a regional wildlife ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service, said in his nomination letter, that the program is the first time some students had the opportunity to travel outside their home state.



SWAP program students in New Mexico on the inaugural trip in 2017. Credit: Student Wildlands Adventure Program.

"The vision of putting students from widely disparate life experiences in the roles of host and guest so they can learn about the cultures, landscapes, and ecologies of their counterparts' homes is highly innovative and creative," he said. "By providing full scholarship support to young adults who would not otherwise have the opportunity, SWAP overcomes challenges and obstacles to the participation of students who would otherwise be left on the sidelines."

Ratajczak said he's not the one that deserves all the recognition. "This award should be in recognition of the students that took that chance," he said.

<https://wildlife.org/student-wildlife-adventure-program-wins-diversity-award/>

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Steve Demarais of MSU Deer Lab Wins NDA Lifetime Achievement Award

The National Deer Association is pleased to announce **Dr. Steve Demarais** from Mississippi State University's Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture as the 2022 Joe Hamilton Lifetime Achievement Award winner. This award is presented to a person who has dedicated their life and/or career to wildlife management in general, and deer management in particular. The recipient must also have made a significant impact in deer management, deer research, or deer hunting.

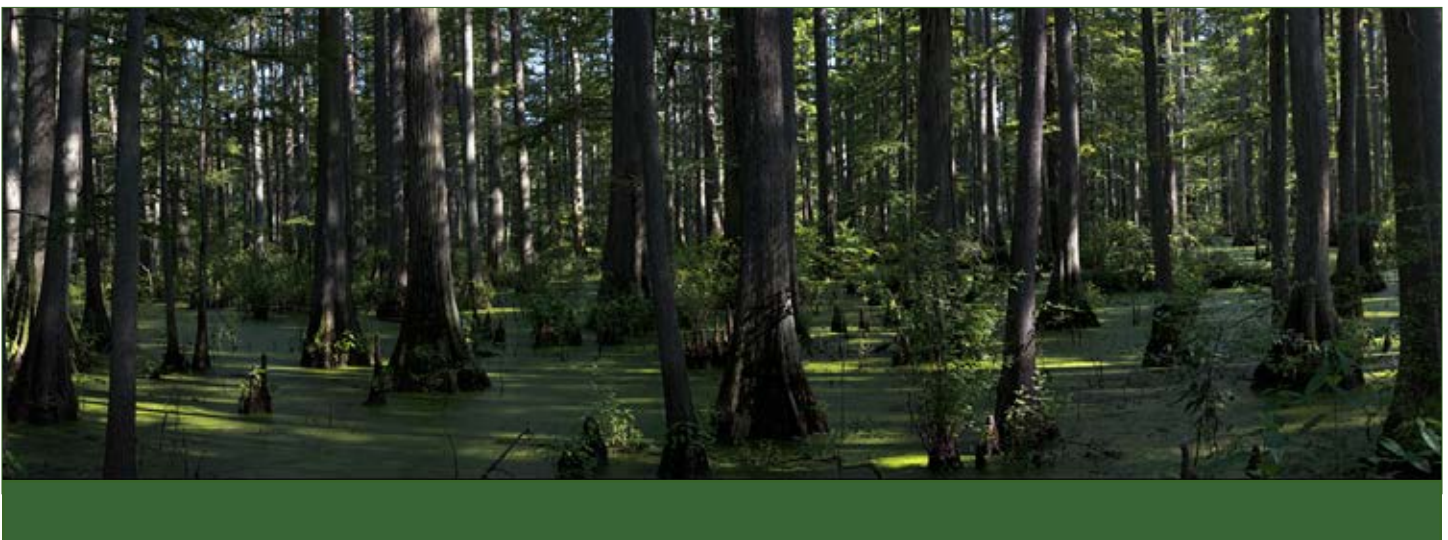
Steve holds the Taylor Endowed Chair in Applied Big Game Research and Instruction at Mississippi State University, and is also the Dale H. Arner Professor of Wildlife Ecology and Management. He recently was named winner of the 2022 SEC Faculty Achievement Award. During his time at MSU he has taught undergraduate and graduate courses on essential concepts in ecology and conservation, while mentoring master's degree and doctoral degree students. He and 50 co-authors have published 150 peer-reviewed articles. Through his research and various media platforms he has educated hundreds of thousands of people on deer management around the globe.

That influence continues with his involvement in the MSU Deer Lab.



"I have known Dr. Steve Demarais throughout my professional career and am proud to announce that he will receive the 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award in my name from the National Deer Association," said **Joe Hamilton**, NDA Board member and founder of the Quality Deer Management Association.

<https://deerassociation.com/steve-demarais-of-msu-deer-lab-wins-nda-lifetime-achievement-award/>



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, 2023, unless otherwise noted:
Wildlife Publication Awards Nominations due March 1, 2023

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
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
W.L. McAtee and G.V. Burger Award for Outstanding Service as an Associate Editor



STUDENT CHAPTER CONTEST

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

The SETWS annually presents the Student Chapter of the Year Award to encourage and recognize exceptional achievements by Student Chapters in the Southeastern Section. This award is normally presented at the Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Winning chapters receive a certificate and monetary award. All student chapters in the Southeast Section are invited to compete in a contest 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 is **May 1, 2023**. Student Chapters are encouraged to complete and submit the application any time during the Spring 2023 semester. Please note that this is a separate award and application from the national TWS.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Wildlife and Forestry Field Techniques Course

Once again, the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society will host a Wildlife and Forestry Field Techniques Course during the Summer Term. This year, our course will be held in collaboration with the Northeast Section of TWS field course.

The course will be taught June 12–25, 2023 and hosted by the Jones Center at Ichauway (<http://www.jonesctr.org/>) in Newton, Georgia. The Jones Center is a 29,000-acre working forest managed for longleaf pine, northern bobwhite, and numerous plant and animal species native to the Southeast. The purpose of this course is to offer a field experience that covers numerous topics, including hands-on learning in capture, handling, and tracking wildlife (e.g., birds, small mammals, bats, meso-mammals, amphibians, reptiles), species identification, and assessing wildlife-habitat relationships. Additionally, we plan to offer exposure to firearms, equipment operation, plant ID, and prescribed fire. All are important skills for any wildlife biologist, manager, or natural resource specialist.

The course is open to undergraduate and graduate students from any college or university, or recent (≤ 3 years) graduates who have already completed a degree and are looking to gain field skills. Students should be majoring in a natural resource program and have completed at least 8 credit hours of their core curriculum (e.g., natural resources, biology, wildlife, ecology, forestry). This course will be filled on a first-come first-served basis up to a maximum of 20 students.

The cost is \$1,200 and will include instruction, food, housing, material and equipment, on-site transportation, tuition, and 3 hours of college credit that may qualify as elective credits in a student's program of study.

Please contact **Dr. Daniel Greene** (dgreene.tws@gmail.com) for more information.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Wildlife & Forestry Field Techniques Course Southeastern and Northeast Sections of TWS



Course Topics

- Wildlife surveys/capture & handling
- Wildlife vegetation surveys
- Longleaf pine ecology and management
- Threatened and endangered species monitoring
- Prescribed fire overview and implementation
- Firearms safety training
- Remote animal tracking
- Observing and evaluating animal behavior
- Heavy equipment operation
- Forest entomology techniques
- And many more!

College Credit

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



June 12-25, 2023
Jones Center at
Ichauway, GA
Total Cost: \$1,200
Includes Tuition (3
credits), Room and
Board



Who is Eligible?

Undergraduate and graduate students majoring in any natural resource program who have completed at least 8 credit hours of their core curriculum (e.g., natural resources, biology, wildlife, ecology, forestry). This course will be filled on a first-come first-served basis up to a maximum of 20 students.

Contacts:

SETWS: Daniel U. Greene, Ph.D.
dgreene.tws@gmail.com

NETWS: John McDonald, Ph.D.
twsmdonald@gmail.com



The Jones Center at Ichauway is a 29,000 acre ecological center that includes a diverse range of ecological communities unique to the historic landscape of the southeastern Coastal Plain.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Apply Now for the TWS Leadership Institute Class of 2023

The Wildlife Society's flagship leadership training program, the Leadership Institute, is now accepting applications for the Class of 2023. The **deadline** to [submit applications](#) is **March 12 by 11:59 p.m. ET**.

Leadership Institute participants work on a variety of distance learning and hands-on projects, which include analysis of leadership themes and concepts, engaging in mentorship with Leadership Institute alumni, TWS Council, and TWS Heritage Committee, and develop a greater understanding of how to apply their personal leadership skills to their vision for the conservation field. The six-month program begins in May and concludes at The Wildlife Society's 30th Annual Conference in Louisville, Kentucky in November. Participants will receive complimentary registration and a travel grant to attend the conference.

The Wildlife Society works with participants to build essential leadership skills and expand their capacity in their current and future roles in the wildlife profession. Throughout the program, participants will enhance their skills to lead both as an individual and part of a team, have opportunities to build community and identify meaningful support systems, and learn more about TWS and leadership within the conservation field. Participants can expect to dedicate approximately 2-3 hours a week to the program to complete readings, participate in calls and webinars, and work on individual and group assignments.

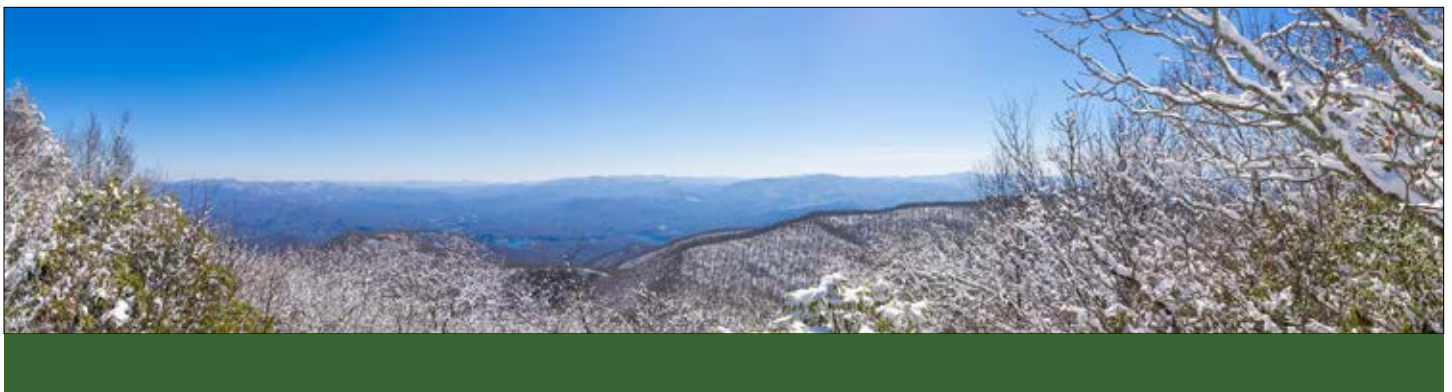
The Leadership Institute is geared toward early-career professionals who are actively pursuing employment in the wildlife profession—whether that is seasonal, part-time or full-time experience. Membership with TWS is not required to participate in the Leadership Institute. All applications are reviewed by the Leadership Institute Committee. The committee strives to create pathways to help enhance the diversity, capacity, and efficacy of current and future leaders of TWS and the wildlife profession.

To apply:

- Complete and submit the [Leadership Institute Application Form](#) and upload your resume
- Provide two letters of recommendation

For questions, please contact leadership@wildlife.org.
Learn more about The Wildlife Society's [Leadership Institute](#).

Jamila Blake, The Wildlife Society



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

TWS Out in The Field

In August 2022, the SE Section of TWS showed their support for fostering a safe and welcoming environment for LGBTQ+ wildlifery by giving the largest donation of all TWS organization units to the [Out in The Field \(OiTF\) Initiative](#). This donation went to support OiTF events and activities during the 2022 TWS Annual Conference in Spokane, WA and beyond. The 2022 TWS Annual Conference offered the opportunity to promote OiTF in-person for the first time in over 2 years, since it was first introduced during the 2019 TWS-AFS Joint Annual Conference in Reno, NV.

What is OiTF? Simply put, it's an initiative designed to show all our fellow Wildlifery that "We are some of you" and to let LGBTQ+ wildlife students and professionals know they are safe and welcome in TWS as their authentic self. As former TWS President **Gary Potts** famously said, "We are The Wildlife Society!" and that includes LGBTQ+ wildlifery.

Why the need for OiTF? We outlined the need for TWS OiTF Initiative in the March/April 2020 [Wildlife Professional](#) article. But briefly, LGBTQ+ wildlife students and professionals tend to be closeted to their peers because of the lack of legal protections from harassment and discrimination (e.g., hiring, salary, career advancement, housing) in most US states, as well as safety issues that occur in the workplace from being out. Concerns about acceptance and personal safety in the wildlife profession have resulted in promising individuals changing to other professions and is occurring at a time when wildlife agencies are increasingly faced with a public that is far more diverse than the wildlife profession itself. Recognizing the need to encourage LGBTQ+ wildlifery to remain in the profession and become leaders in their fields, TWS "Out in the Field" (OiTF) was initiated in 2019.

Thanks to the financial support from SET-WS, as well as 17 other TWS organizational units, including all eight TWS geographic sections, the OiTF Initiative had several successful events during the 2022 TWS Conference. This included a Saturday walking tour and evening social for LGBTQ+ wildlifery prior to the conference, which set a welcoming environment for these wildlifery that continued throughout the conference. We also had an OiTF Luncheon for all wildlifery, including allies, that not only introduced the OiTF Initiative to conference attendees, but provided an opportunity for networking and fellowship. The luncheon drew almost 200 attendees! OiTF also had a booth in the exhibit hall that received A LOT of traffic during the conference. Lastly, we distributed almost 500 OiTF pins and pledge cards, as well as other outreach material.



Colleen Olfenbuttel addresses about 200 TWS Conference attendees at the TWS OiTF Luncheon.

Photo credit: **Travis Booms**.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

TWS OiTF plans to be at the 2023 TWS Annual Conference in Louisville, KY and can't wait to see you all there! To learn more about OiTF and find out how you can have OiTF events in your state chapter, please visit wildlife.org/oitf and/or contact me! And thanks again to the SETWS Executive Board for their generous donation and support!

Colleen Olfenbuttel, CWB®
TWS OiTF Organizer
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(Above): TWS President **Gordon Batchellor** addresses the crowd at the TWS OiTF Luncheon. Photo credit: **Travis Booms**.

(Left): OiTF organizer **Liz Hillard** and SETWS President **Kelly Douglass**, attach OiTF pins to pledge cards to distribute to TWS Conference attendees. Photo credit: **Colleen Olfenbuttel**.



Almost 30 LGBTQ+ Wildlifers showed up prior to the TWS Conference for a Spokane walking tour social. Photo credit: **Colleen Olfenbuttel**.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2023 Wildlife Damage Management Conference

Entering New Territory – Navigating Wildlife Interactions in a post-COVID Society

The Wildlife Damage Management Working Group 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 20th installment of our efforts!

Registration is now open for the 20th Wildlife Damage Management Conference, which will take place April 17-20, 2023 at Utah State University in Logan, Utah. For more information and to register, visit <https://cvent.me/zXln0a>.

Wilson Ornithological Society 2023 Conference

The Wilson Ornithological Society is excited to announce that our [2023 conference](#) will be held June 20–23, 2023, at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania, with an additional option to participate virtually. Wilson Ornithological Society conferences are relatively small bird-focused meetings with a warm, informal atmosphere. The WOS has a special commitment to supporting student and early-career researchers, and it is common for both undergraduates and graduate students to present research at our meetings. Special programs for students include [student travel funding](#) and a [mentoring program](#) centered around the meeting. Students who present at the meeting also receive free WOS membership. Abstract submissions for the WOS's 2023 meeting and applications for Student Travel Awards are due **March 1**. See here for a full list of [key dates](#) and deadlines.

TWS WEBINAR SERIES

HABITAT RESTORATION: ADDRESSING CHALLENGES IN A CHANGING WORLD

Hosted By: Habitat Restoration and Conservation Working Group

Date: February 23, 2023

Habitat loss and fragmentation are the leading causes of species losses and declines. Restoration actions are critically needed. But how do we know if we are providing what is needed and will restored areas be adequate and sustainable in the future? In this webinar, **Jonathan Haufler** with the Ecosystem Management Research Institute will discuss how we can restore needed habitat in strategic locations. Jon will address challenges such as climate change, invasive species, and novel ecosystems, provide examples in various types of ecosystems, and also discuss differences in potential solutions for public versus private lands.

<https://wildlife.org/events/event/habitat-restoration-addressing-challenges-in-a-changing-world/>

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

FEBRUARY 2023

2023 Annual SEPARC Meeting

February 23-26, 2023
Blue Mountain, NC
<http://separc.org/separc2023>

46th Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting

February 26-28, 2023
Batonouge, LA
<https://www.lawff.org/sedsg>

MARCH 2023

28th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network and 33rd Annual Colloquium on Conservation of Mammals in the Southeastern U.S.

March 8-10, 2023
Jonesboro, AR
<https://sbdn.org/annual-meeting/upcoming-annual-meeting/>

88th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference

March 19-24, 2023
St. Louis, MO
<https://wildlifemanagement.institute/conference>

APRIL 2023

20th Wildlife Damage Management Conference

April 17-20, 2023
Logan, UT
<https://cvent.me/zXln0a>

JUNE 2023

International Urban Wildlife Conference

June 4-7, 2023
Washington, D.C.
<https://www.urban-wildlife.org>

AUGUST 2023

Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting

August 6-11, 2023
Portland, OR
<https://www.esa.org/portland2023/>

SEPTEMBER 2023

113th AFWA Annual Meeting

September 24-27, 2023
Calgary, Alberta Canada
<https://www.visitcalgary.com/AFWA2023>

OCTOBER 2023

77th SEAFWA Conference

October 15-18, 2023
Corpus Christi, TX
<http://www.seafwa.org/conference/2023>

NOVEMBER 2023

The Wildlife Society 30th Annual Conference

November 5-9, 2023
Louisville, KY
<https://twconference.org/>

