

# The Wildlife Society

## SOUTHEASTERN SECTION



JUNE 2025 VOLUME 67, NUMBER 2  
KATHERINE EDWARDS, EDITOR

### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Dear Members,

Similar to my message in our previous newsletter, I want to start this message by acknowledging the significant challenges many of our federal colleagues have encountered in recent months. The recent federal budget cuts have affected agencies and professionals throughout the Southeast, restricting conservation and management projects, pausing restoration efforts, and halting or reducing funding for graduate research and student programs. These decisions, made far from where we operate, do not reflect the value of your daily contributions.

The consequences of these cuts are tangible and deeply felt, including looming threats of workforce reductions, constraints on daily operations, the loss of grants and contracts, and uncertainty for students whose futures rely on federal funding. On behalf of the entire Southeastern Section Executive Board, I want to convey our concern, not just for the professional setbacks but for the personal toll this is having on you and your families.

The Southeastern Section will continue advocating for science-based policy, defending the role of professional wildlife biologists in decision-making, and supporting your efforts alongside State Chapters and TWS.

Looking ahead, I'm excited to share a few important updates from SETWS:

#### **Wildlife and Forestry Field Techniques**

**Course:** This month, we once again hosted our annual course at the Jones Center at Ichauway. This immersive experience helps students build essential field skills, and we're grateful to the state chapters of TWS for supporting student scholarships—your commitment to our future professionals is what keeps this program thriving!

**Leadership and Governance:** This spring, the Executive Board partnered with the Alabama Chapter and TWS by signing a coalition letter opposing a highly controversial House Bill that aimed to make it harder for scientists to detect chronic wasting disease on deer farms in Alabama. Additionally, this bill sought to designate cervids, fur-bearing mammals, and game birds as property of the breeder. Furthermore, we

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# PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

continue to finalize a Committee and Officer Procedures document to provide clear guidance on roles, responsibilities, and timelines. We're also revising and modernizing the Section Bylaws to better reflect current needs and ensure continuity in leadership.

## Important Dates:

- August 1 – Deadline for nominations for the SETWS Wildlife Management Excellence Award. Please consider submitting a nomination. <https://wildlife.org/se-section/about/awards/wildlife-management-excellence-award/>
- October 26–29 – The 79th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) will be held in Biloxi,

Mississippi, hosted by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. The SETWS Members' Meeting will take place during the conference—details to follow.

Thank you for all you do, especially for your commitment to conservation in the Southeast. Your work is now more important than ever, and despite the political challenges, your impact is undeniable. I look forward to seeing many of you soon, and as always, please reach out with your ideas on how we can strengthen this Section and better serve our membership.

Warm regards,

***Dan Greene, President  
Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society***



["White-tailed Deer-Doe and Fawn"](#) by Shenandoah National Park, Public Domain.

# SECTION REPRESENTATIVE

## SOUTHEASTERN SECTION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

It has been a difficult time for wildlife professionals with budget cuts, firing of federal employees, assault on public lands and reducing or removing regulations designed to protect natural resources. Somedays I am depressed and not sure what I can do as an individual. But I am so proud of TWS taking the lead to promote science and wildlife professionals. This gives me some hope.

Earlier this spring, TWS sent out information on the continued commitment to DEI as part of the core principles. TWS signed a joint letter with American Fisheries Society, Society of American Foresters, and Society of Range Management to fight for federal employees and their vital work for natural resource conservation. Since these early notifications, TWS has worked with other groups and visited legislators to fight for wildlife professionals, wildlife and public lands. TWS staff continue to monitor events and executive orders and engage where they can make our concerns known.

There is a great information on the TWS website – under news. They have also been having listening sessions to support and inform members. TWS is doing an outstanding job of keeping everyone updated about new policies and how these affect our profession. The most

recent one talks about the cuts to USGS personnel and the Ecosystems Mission area including the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units. The articles include details on budgeting and executive orders and what that means for wildlife and the profession. TWS continues to fight for us all.

TWS Council will be going over the budget in June and we must consider what can be done without any federal funding. I anticipate the budget will be tight but please know TWS is trying to maintain services and opportunities we enjoy. The TWS annual conference will be happening in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada from October 5-9. This will be a great opportunity to catch up and learn about the latest research and policy issues. I think the solidarity of TWS and connecting with friends is important at this time. I know many may not be able to attend but hope we can connect soon.

Please feel free to contact me and let me know how you are doing and how TWS can help. I think our TWS community is vital now more than ever.

***Lisa Muller, Southeastern Section  
Representative to TWS Council***



["View from Hogback Overlook"](#), Shenandoah National Park, Public Domain.



# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## DEER COMMITTEE

### Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting

The 48th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Deer Study Group was jointly hosted by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control during February 16–18, 2025 at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Resort in Cambridge, Maryland. The Southeast Deer Study Group was formed in 1979 and the annual meeting has been an important forum for wildlife professionals to share the latest information about research, management, and biology of deer in North America. The theme of this year's meeting was "Bridging the Latitudes: "White-tailed Deer Disease Research and Management." Over 200 biologists, managers, researchers, students, and media participated in the meeting. The conference included two plenary speakers and a plenary panel discussion, 32 technical presentations, 12 posters, and a town hall-style discussion about management philosophies related to chronic wasting disease.

Six students from four universities earned awards for their presentations.

#### Outstanding Student Oral Presentations:

- 1st place: **Thomas Roverly**  
(University of Tennessee)  
2nd place: **Rachel Correia**  
(Michigan State University)  
3rd place: **Marcelo Jorge**  
(University of Georgia)

#### Outstanding Student Posters:

- 1st place: **Nathan Cowley**  
(Mississippi State University)  
2nd place: **William Ellsworth**  
(University of Georgia)  
3rd place: **Luke Resop**  
(Mississippi State University)

The Southeast Deer Study Group recognized the careers of three recent retirees, including **George Timko** (Maryland Department of Natural Resources), **Betsy Stinson** (Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources), and **Fred Frenzel** (Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources).

**Dr. Robert J. Warren** was honored with the Deer Management Career Achievement Award. Dr. Warren retired from University of Georgia in 2016 after 33 years of service. He is widely regarded as a highly distinguished wildlife professional whose career spanned four decades working with deer. Dr. Warren positively impacted thousands of students and contributed significantly to the advancement of deer management and the wildlife profession as a whole.



**Dr. Robert J. Warren** received the 2025 Deer Management Career Achievement Award from the Southeast Deer Study Group.

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

The conference was followed by a joint meeting of the Southeast Cervid Working Group, the Northeast Deer Technical Committee, and the Southeast Deer Study Group. Participants discussed hurdles to future deer management with topics including uncertainty about conservation funding, hunter numbers, disease management, and urban deer management.

The 49th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Deer Study Group will be held February 22–24, 2026 at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center in Roanoke, Virginia. More information about the Southeast Deer Study Group may be found at [www.sedsg.msstate.edu](http://www.sedsg.msstate.edu).

**Gino D'Angelo, Deer Committee Chair**  
[gdangelo@uga.edu](mailto:gdangelo@uga.edu)

## C.W. WATSON AWARD COMMITTEE

### C.W. Watson Award

The C. W. Watson Award Committee is responsible for the annual selection of the recipient of this award. The Committee is composed of a representation of the SEAFWA, the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society, and the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society. Members are appointed by the organizations represented for a three-year term, each member scheduled to serve as Chairman in their third year. Procedures and qualifications for nomination of recipients shall be as prescribed by the previously approved C. W. Watson Award criteria. This award shall be presented at the annual conference banquet by the Chairman of the Watson Committee. See [seafwa.org](http://seafwa.org), Awards and Committees, for more information on the 2025 nominating process.

**SETWS Committee Chair: Vanessa Lane,**  
[vlane@abac.edu](mailto:vlane@abac.edu)

## STUDENT AWARDS COMMITTEE

### Student Presentation and Poster Awards

The Southeastern Section of TWS annually recognizes the best student presentation and poster given at the SEAFWA Conference. To be eligible to receive this award, a student must have graduated within one year prior to the meeting and be presenting research at the conference conducted as a student. If you have or know of students presenting in the wildlife technical session or presenting a poster at the upcoming 79th Annual SEAFWA Conference, please encourage them to participate. If you are a student who will be giving a presentation or poster at SEAFWA, be sure to indicate that when you submit your abstract. The deadline for submitting abstracts for general contributed oral presentations and posters is June 28, 2025. The winning students will be recognized at SEAFWA and will be presented an award (a plaque and \$100 for best poster and \$200 for best presentation).

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



*"American Toad on Mossy Substrate"*

by Shenandoah National Park, Public Domain.



# STATE REPORTS

## ALABAMA

### Alabama Chapter 2025 Annual Conference



The ACTWS 2025 Annual Conference was held from March 19-21 at the Anniston Museum of Natural History in Anniston, Alabama. Due to unexpected travel and budget restrictions affecting federal employees, the chapter provided free registration and a virtual attendance option for those affected. Additionally, the Alabama Chapter provided 12 travel grants to students to assist with attending the annual conference. We were able to sponsor students and hold our annual meeting thanks to our sponsors. Our platinum sponsors were Alabama Power, the National Wild Turkey Federation, and the Alabama Wildlife Federation. We are also grateful for our gold, silver and bronze sponsors. For a complete list, please visit our ACTWS webpage: <https://wildlife.org/alabama/2025-annual-meeting/>

The conference theme, Managing and Monitoring the Health of Alabama's Wildlife, focused on disease-related challenges, including emerging threats. Day one began with Keynote speaker **Ellen Hayes**, Regional Wildlife Health Coordinator at the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, providing a comprehensive overview of wildlife disease in the Southeast. Invited speakers addressed a range of topics, including white-nose syndrome (WNS) and other bat stressors, rabies control efforts, chronic wasting disease (CWD) in white-tailed deer, and lead-free ammunition initiatives to reduce Golden Eagle mortality. The day ended with a welcome social and dinner at Coldwater Mountain Brewpub.

Day Two opened with agency updates and the business meeting. All agencies, organizations, and universities attending provided brief introductions and updates. The annual business meeting included the financial report and committee updates. New business included a review of all edits



Attendees of the 2025 ACTWS Annual Meeting, Anniston Museum of Natural History.

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to the ACTWS bylaws. After lunch, there were eleven oral presentations and eleven posters by students and professionals highlighting their current wildlife research on various species and subjects. Student presentation awards went to:

- **Madelyn Thompson** (AU) – best student poster presentation, *Evaluating best fall management practices of pollinator plantings in Alabama croplands*.
- **Sinka Khadijah Abubakar** (AU) – best student oral presentation, *The application of freely available geospatial tools to monitor land management progress in Wildlife Management Areas*.



**Sinka Khadijah Abubakar** (Auburn University, center) – best student oral presentation, *The application of freely available geospatial tools to monitor land management progress in Wildlife Management Areas*. With Student Outreach Committee Chair **Wes Anderson** (L) and ACTWS President **Mercedes Maddox** (R).



**Madelyn Thompson** (Auburn University, center) – best student poster presentation, *Evaluating best fall management practices of pollinator plantings in Alabama croplands*. With Student Outreach Committee Chair **Wes Anderson** (L) and ACTWS President **Mercedes Maddox** (R).

The Silent Auction raised \$650.00. The second day ended with a closing social and dinner at Top O' the River restaurant in Anniston.

On the final day of the conference, participants attended a PDP field workshop at Weaver Cave, led by Lesley Hanson of the Georgia-Alabama Land Trust. The session focused on cave conservation and the role caves play in supporting local wildlife.



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PDP field workshop at Weaver Cave.



# STATE REPORTS



2025 ACTWS Board, L to R: **Olivia Sciandra** (SE Section Rep), **Logan McCord** (Board Member, At-large), **Mark Bailey** (President-elect), **Mercedes Maddox** (President), **Jeff Baker** (Secretary/Treasurer), **Tyler Sibley** (Board Member, At-large).

## Committee Updates

### Student Outreach

The ACTWS Mentor Program recently concluded its 4th session. Five students from three universities participated, and five professionals from universities and federal agencies participated. Each student was paired with a professional mentor they engaged with throughout the spring semester. Activities included reviewing resumes, conducting mock interviews, discussing job boards, and participating in field opportunities. A big thank you to all of this year's participants, and an extra thank you to the Student Outreach Committee chair, **Dr. Wesley Anderson**, for coordinating this year's mentor program!

Right: Mentor, **Matthew Hodges** (USFWS), and mentee, **Emma Edmondson** (University of South Alabama) at a tree planting day on a USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Project.



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In addition, the Chapter is sponsoring **Darcey Gans**, M.S., Wildlife Science Graduate Student at Auburn University, and **Kayla Beitzel**, M.S., a Biology Graduate Student at the University of South Alabama, to participate in the Southeastern Section of TWS Wildlife and Forestry Field Techniques Course at the Jones Center at Ichauway from June 6 to 20, 2025. Check out next quarter's newsletter to hear about their experience!

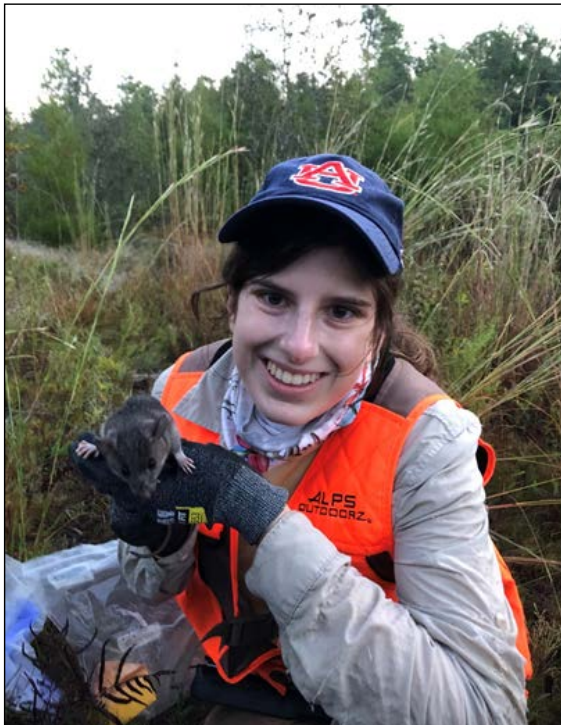
## Conservation Policy Committee

The Policy Committee of the Alabama Chapter of TWS, along with other conservation organizations within and outside of Alabama, engaged on House Bill 509 which sought to limit the Department of Conservation's (Department) ability to test cervids in high fences for Chronic Wasting Disease. We wrote letters to House and Senate members prior to votes in the respective chambers. The [final bill](#),

signed by the governor, mandates the Department to develop a set of rules to address disease testing of cervids within high fence facilities. We also wrote a letter regarding the recent Federal Register notice to rescind the definition of "harm" in the Endangered Species Act.

## Award Committee

The Alabama Chapter of The Wildlife Society sponsored the Auburn University College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment (CFWE) Leadership Award. ACTWS Board Member, **Logan McCord**, presented the Leadership award to **Shelby Davis** on Wednesday, April 16, 2025. Shelby is a Wildlife Ecology and Management major with a minor in Spanish, graduating in 2026 from CFWE. In addition to being a full-time student, Shelby is the President of the Auburn Student Chapter of TWS and an



**Darcey Gans**, M.S., Wildlife Science Graduate Student at Auburn University.



**Kayla Beitzel**, M.S., Biology Graduate Student at the University of South Alabama.



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Undergraduate Research Fellow with CFWE, quantifying the public's relationship with alligator snapping turtles. We are excited to present this award to such a well-deserving student!

## Alabama Audubon Leads Record-Breaking Fort Morgan Migration Banding Station

In partnership with Fort Morgan State Historic Site, the Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, and Mississippi State University, Alabama Audubon conducted spring migration bird banding at Fort Morgan during April 14–19, 2025. The week started slowly; we banded 26 birds on the first day and 33 on the second. However, the wind shifted from a south wind to a north wind, and on the third day, we experienced a fallout. We kept nets open for 12 hours that day and banded 494 birds. We banded 744 birds total over the course of the week; our three most common species were Wood Thrush (196), Red-eyed Vireo (120), and



Partners showing off two male Summer Tanagers to visitors at the Fort Morgan Banding Station.



At-Large Board Member, **Logan McCord**, presenting the CFWE Leadership Award to **Shelby Davis**.

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Gray Catbird (106). Everyone was excited to see 9 Painted Buntings, a new record for us for the total number of Painted Buntings caught in a single day. We had ~450 people visit the station during the week, and they were able to get up close looks at birds and learn about their migration from some expert birders.

**Scott Rush, Eric Soehren, Lianne Koczur, and Mercedes Maddox** were our master banders for the week. We want to thank all the volunteers who came to help: **Olivia, Sofia, Carter, Ava, Pat, Tabby, Allia, Karrie, Matthew, Winston, Shelby, and Patrick.**

**Mercedes Maddox,**  
[mercedes.maddox@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:mercedes.maddox@dcnr.alabama.gov)



At the Fort Morgan banding station, the team captured and banded nine Painted Buntings. All banding was conducted under a federally authorized Bird Banding Permit issued by the U.S. Geological Survey's BBL.



The banding and extraction team is both tired and happy at the end of the 12-hour, 494-bird fallout day.



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## ARKANSAS



### Arkansas Chapter

The Chapter held a joint annual meeting with the Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society on February 26-28, 2025 at the Arkansas 4-H Center in Ferndale. A total of 239 people registered with 97 being associated with TWS. The meeting included field tours, oral and poster presentations, a student quiz bowl and socials. The Chapter elected **Noah Wyatt** to serve as President-elect and **Grace Griffiths** as Treasurer and they will assume office in July. **Jaclyn Reifeiss**, University of Central Arkansas, won 1st place in the student oral presentation competition for her talk on the effects of home range thermal quality on the fitness of eastern collared lizards. **Paul Akpejelu**, University of Arkansas-Fayetteville, won second place for his presentation. **Kai Scarangella**, Arkansas Tech University won 1st place in the graduate student poster competition and **Lauren Luther**, University of Arkansas-Fayetteville won 1st place in the undergraduate student poster competition.

### Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

**Jeremy Brown**, Statewide Deer Management Assistance Program Coordinator, has been selected as the 2024 National Deer Association Professional Deer Manager of the Year. Jeremy was selected for this award due to his on-the-ground experience and for his significant impacts on deer and deer hunting through education, research and management on private lands.

**Spencer Daniels** has joined the Commission as the Black Bear Program Coordinator. Spencer previously served as an active duty United States Marine from 2014 to 2019. He received his bachelor's degree in wildlife, fisheries, and aquaculture science from Mississippi State

University in December 2022, and has been researching factors that affect American black bear reproductive success as part of his master's thesis research since January 2023.

**Rachel Norton** has been promoted to Assistant Regional Supervisor for Wildlife Management Division Region 6 (northwest Arkansas). Rachel has worked for the last nine years as the Wildlife Biologist for the Buffalo National River WMA and other WMAs within Region 6. Prior to working for AGFC, she spent 9 years working in the Fire Management Division on the Buffalo National River.

Recently hired or promoted biologists include **Michael Shepherd**, **Hayden Towner**, **Bailey Coffelt**, **Kevin Morrison**, **Lee Chambers**, **Jared Stroman**, and **Brent Burkheart**.

### University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service

**Dr. Rebecca McPeake** passed away on May 2nd. She had served as the Extension Wildlife Specialist since 1988. She was an active member of the Arkansas Chapter and served as Chapter President from 2020-2022 and Secretary-Treasurer from 2002-2003.

### Arkansas State University

**Dr. Stephen Beaupre** was named as Dean of the Graduate School in January after serving on the biology faculty of the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville since 1995.

### Arkansas Tech University

**Lark Skybrant** won first place in the Graduate Student Division at Tech's Student Research Symposium for her poster on "Using Guano to Determine Ozark Big-Eared Bat Cave Occupancy in Arkansas." **Dr. Doug Barron**, current

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Arkansas Chapter Board Member, recently received the ATU Faculty Award of Excellence in the scholarly and creative activities category.

## University of Arkansas Monticello

**Dr. Tiffany Osborne** was named to the Arkansas Wildlife Federation Board of Directors. **Alyssa Tomb** was named as a Research Fellow by the Southeast Climate Adaption Science Center and will achieve additional funding and support for her graduate student work on waterfowl.

## Hendrix University

**Kathryn Youn** was selected to attend the Wildlife and Forestry Techniques Course hosted by the Southeastern Section.

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

## FLORIDA



## Florida Chapter

Spring 2025 for the Florida TWS Chapter was filled with new opportunities, camaraderie, and recognitions.

FLTWS members gathered in Tallahassee April 16 – 18 for the Spring conference, themed “From Wetlands to Pine Forests: Conserving Florida’s Diverse Habitats for Future Generations.” We welcomed speakers and guests from state agencies, non-profits, universities, federal agencies, and more, to share research and management presentations and posters. During the business meeting, the new executive board was onboarded, with special recognition of the outgoing officers. We sincerely thank the previous executive board members for their commitment to the FLTWS. For many, the highlight of the Spring conference was the dinner banquet and presentation

ceremony, where we recognized our most deserving recipients for the following awards:

- **Dr. Kent Vliet** – Paul Moler Herpetological Conservation Award
- **George Heinrich** – Outstanding Educator Award
- **Beth Stys** – Influential Woman in Wildlife Award, and four student scholarships.

To read more about these well-deserving award recipients and the new Executive Board, please visit our webpage at <https://fltws.org/>.

The FLTWS continues to encourage engagement and refinement of professional skills among members. For example, our bimonthly Wildlife Connections Zoom® socials continue to be a popular outlet for engagement among members, and an opportunity to share expertise. In January, we had staff from a Water Management District provide insight through a talk “Machine Learning and Satellite Imagery: Revolutionizing Plant Community Mapping.” In March, a panel of FLTWS members offered insights during the “Perspectives from Land Managers,” where panelists from different backgrounds and agencies engaged on how they are meeting wildlife conservation goals within their varying agency missions.

The FLTWS continues to offer training opportunities for professionals, open to both FLTWS members and nonmembers, such as the Prescribed Fire for Wildlife class, held February 4-6, and the Hydric Soils Field training course, held May 7, that provides valuable opportunities for wildlife professionals to gain these important skills.

Members of our Conservation Committee assisted the TWS Conservation Affairs Network by engaging on national policy priority issues, specifically offering the new topic of Combatting



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Wildlife Trafficking for consideration, and ranking the finalized list of policies for consideration. Members of the Conservation Committee are engaged with the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) on updating the trapping rules through the Technical Assistance Group. The Conservation Committee recently met to discuss the draft proposal for the 2025 bear hunt, which was proposed at the May FWC commission meeting.

**Brooke L. Talley, Ph.D.**  
[se.section.rep@fltws.org](mailto:se.section.rep@fltws.org)

## GEORGIA

NO NEWS REPORTED



["Spotted Turtle"](#) by Danielle Brigida, CC BY 2.0.

### SAVE THE DATE! 79th Annual SEAFWA Conference OCTOBER 26-29, 2025 | Biloxi, Mississippi

The [79th Annual SEAFWA Conference](#) will be hosted by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. Make plans now to join us October 26-29, 2025, at the Beau Rivage Resort in Biloxi, Mississippi.

The Call for Presentation Abstracts is now open. We invite you to submit your abstract for either an individual presentation with an organized symposium, for a general contributed oral presentation, or a poster. All abstracts must be submitted by the deadline of **June 28, 2025**. All presenters, whether presenting in a symposium, oral, or poster session, are required to register and pay the applicable fees.

Related meeting requests are now being accepted for committees and working groups, universities, organizations, agencies, and others interested in holding a meeting or social function. Deadline to submit: **August 8, 2025**.

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## KENTUCKY



### Kentucky Chapter

The 2025 annual meeting of the Kentucky State Chapter took place at Natural Bridge State Resort Park. The invited speakers were **Josh Lillpop** (USFWS - 'Endangered Species Act in Kentucky'), **Christina Wampler** (NRCS - 'Overview of NEPA'), **Dr. Darren Miller** (NCASI - 'Wildlife Conservation Initiative and Species at Risk'), and **Michaela Rogers** (KDFWR - 'ESA and KDFWR actions'). Additionally, the Chapter offered an 'Introduction to R' workshop that was presented by **Josh Castle** (Univ. of Kentucky). Five students gave oral presentations and **William Gibson** (UK) won first place for his presentation titled 'Assessing Cooper's Hawk and Sharp-shinned Hawk prey size and species composition using citizen science data'. The poster session consisted of 19 posters representing research efforts of students from three universities [University of Kentucky (UK), Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) and Murray State University (MSU)]. **Eleonor Lane** (UK) received first place for her poster presentation titled 'Effects of snake fungal disease on snake density, space use and detection'. During the meeting **Christina Wampler** (outgoing Immediate Past President) and **Gregg Janos** (outgoing secretary) were acknowledged for their > 6 years of service to the Chapter. Additionally, **Zach Beyers** (past treasurer) and **Cody Rhoden** (past treasurer and current chair of the Student Development committee) were acknowledged for their service. **Dr. Matt Springer** (UK) became the Immediate Past President and **Dr. Andrea Darracq** (MSU) assumed the role of President. Following elections, **Bryan Cobban** (KDFWR) became President-elect, **Brandon Preston** (KDFWR) became secretary, and **Rebecca Ijames** became Member-at-large. **Dr. Jon Dudko** continued in the Treasurer position.

### Murray State University (MSU) Student Chapter

In February, 16 MSU students attended the Kentucky State Chapter annual meeting and five of them presented posters. In March, 20 members of the MSU Wildlife and Fisheries Society and three faculty, **Dr. Andrea Darracq** (advisor), **Dr. Matt Carroll**, and **Dr. Howard Whiteman**, headed to the University of TN Martin for the SE Student Wildlife Conclave. The students did awesome, placing 6th overall out of 20 schools that attended. Our quiz bowl tied for 5th place, and we placed in the top three for 8 individual competitions. These included: **Garret Gallion** (3rd place Research Presentation), **William Gooden** (3rd place lab practical, 2nd place wildlife photography), **Taylor Hilton** (1st place free form art), **Noah Lasley** (2nd place duck calling), **Hunter Lynch** (1st place Law Enforcement Interview), **Ever Roberts** (1st place radio telemetry), and **Jaxson Youngblood** (1st place shotgun). We are proud of our WCB students for representing MSU so well - way to go Racers! Students had multiple guest speakers during the spring semester and helped with the Earth Day Celebration by helping set up, hosting the Riverlands Alliance Invasive Species Task Force Table, and serving lunch. In early May, following a date change thanks to historic flooding in the region, the chapter hosted their annual game dinner for the community along with the MSU Chapter of the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers. **Jaxson Youngblood**, the immediate past president of the MSU TWS, received the 'Best Wildlife Student Award' during the Department of Biological Sciences awards ceremony. Fifteen students graduated with their wildlife and conservation biology degrees in spring 2025.

# STATE REPORTS

## Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) Student Chapter

The EKU Student Chapter received its charter from TWS in 1975 and is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2025!

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

Initial efforts to reintroduce a missing fish species to southeastern Kentucky are showing promise. Researchers surveying a tributary of Flat Lick Creek found 17 adult buck darters that were originally released into the stream a year earlier. The survey also revealed two untagged young-of-the-year buck darters, indicating successful natural reproduction in the stream. Following the survey, 439 hatchery reared buck darter progeny were tagged and released into Flat Lick Creek. Survival, growth and reproduction of these fish will be assessed through future surveys.

## 30th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network and the 35th Colloquium on the Conservation of Mammals in the South- eastern United States

The 2025 annual meeting of the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network and Colloquium on the Conservation of Mammals in the Southeastern U.S. took place in Lexington, Kentucky, on February 12-14, 2025 at the Hilton Lexington Downtown. Meeting registration was facilitated by the EKU Student Chapter of TWS. The meeting was attended by over 225 researchers, students, managers, agency biologists, and ecological consultants. Plenary contributions included presentations by **Steve Thomas**, **Rick Toomey**, and **Carrie Allison** (US NPS – ‘Bat conservation at Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky, with a focus on Long Cave), as well as **Michaela Rogers** and **John MacGregor** (KDFWR, ‘Preserving Kentucky’s

bats: a historic and modern perspective on conservation and monitoring in the state’). Seven students gave oral presentations. The best student presentation on bats went to **Chance Rankin** (Univ. of Colorado) for his talk ‘Free-flight maneuvering and kinematics of Townsend’s big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*) while hunting’ and the best student non-bat presentation went to **Katie Wood** (EKU) for her talk ‘Curation and digitization of the Eastern Kentucky University’s mammal collection.’

A total of 17 student posters were presented, with the best student poster award going to **Kristen Stierman** (Univ. of North Carolina – Greensboro) for her entry, ‘Shrinking shrews: Exploring Dehnel’s Phenomenon in the appendicular skeleton of *Sorex cinereus*.’ Otherwise, 15 contributed talks and 13 contributed posters were presented. Working group meetings were held at the larger conference focusing on North American beavers, spotted skunks, ‘bats and transportation,’ and a panel on banding practices for bats. The Krusac-Belwood Scholarship was presented to **Carolina Abramowitz** (Clemson Univ.) and the SBDN Lifetime Achievement award was presented to **Dr. Michael J. Lacki** (emeritus, Univ. of Kentucky) for his role in research, conservation, and service to the SBDN dating to its first meeting in 1992. Additionally, **Holly Ober** (past president, Oregon State Univ.), and **Sue Cameron** (secretary, USFWS) were acknowledged for their service.



“Beaver” by Daniel Arndt, CC BY-NC-SA 2.0.



# STATE REPORTS

The executive committee for the upcoming year includes **Dr. Luke Dodd** (Eastern Kentucky Univ., president), **Dr. Scott Bergeson** (Purdue Univ. - Fort Wayne, past president), **Lydia Moore** (Wormsloe Institute for Environmental History, incoming president), **Piper Roby** (Copperhead Environmental Consulting, treasurer), **Megan Wallrichs** (secretary), and **Nick Sharp** (TTL, member at large). The next annual meeting of this group will be held March 11-13, 2026 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

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

## LOUISIANA

NO NEWS REPORTED

## MARYLAND/DELAWARE

NO NEWS REPORTED



"[Semipalmated sandpiper](#)", Florida Fish and Wildlife, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

## MISSISSIPPI

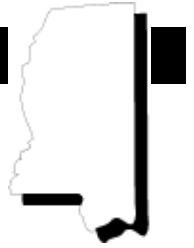
### Mississippi Chapter

The Mississippi Chapter of The Wildlife Society has scheduled its annual meeting for August 28-29, 2025 at Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg.

### Mississippi State University Student Chapter

In the Spring 2025 Semester, MSU TWS has held 4 workshops, 8 general body meetings, 7 education outreach activities, the annual Starkville Watershed Cleanup, and attended the 2025 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave. The Bat Box Committee has also made major progress on the construction of an MSU bat house on Blackjack Road. We have also started a Prairie Restoration project on the MSU campus. Our members have had the opportunity to take an ATV certification course and a Stop the Bleed certification course. We sent a full team to the 2025 SE Conclave and won for the 3rd consecutive year, with many members placing in individual competitions. We participated in Mississippi State University's Annual Science Night at the Museum, where we communicated natural resources management and identification tactics to approximately 80 members of the Starkville community. At the 2025 Starkville Watershed Cleanup, we collaborated with the MSU Veterinary Club to remove 1,400 pounds of trash from 4 Starkville Watersheds.

**Leslie Burger**, [Leslie.Burger@msstate.edu](mailto:Leslie.Burger@msstate.edu)



# STATE REPORTS

## NORTH CAROLINA

### North Carolina Chapter



In late February, NCTWS held our 2025 annual chapter meeting in conjunction with the North Carolina Chapter of Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (NCPARC). It was refreshing to collaborate with our herp-centric colleagues, and NCPARC brought with them a slew of amazing speakers. This year's theme was entitled, "Human-Wildlife Interactions: Why can't we all get along?" Broad themes included invertebrates and aquatic landscapes, wildlife and people, bats and birds, herps and people, wildlife challenges, landscape scale conservation, wildlife and roads, and bears and gators. A particular pleasure with the pupils was the 'Potentially Puzzling and Perplexing Pieces and Parts Practical'.

### Haywood Community College (HCC) Wildlife Society Student Chapter

HCC Wildlife Society Student Chapter attended the TWS 2025 Southeastern Student Conclave. They proudly took 1st place in landscape photography and canoeing, 2nd place in Quiz Bowl and field measurements, 3rd place in plant taxonomy and freeform art, 4th place in lab practicum

and radio telemetry, and 5th in bait casting. They came in 7th place overall, and NCTWS is really proud of their accomplishments!

### University of North Carolina, Wilmington (UNCW) Seahawk Wildlife Society Student Chapter

UNCW Seahawk Wildlife Society Student Chapter has had a busy spring semester full of workshops, job shadowing, fundraising, and field trips. In early April, the Seahawks participated in a sustainable game meat feast fundraiser, where they helped cook game meat and educate attendees on the sustainability of hunting and trapping. This event was designated as a 'Gold Talon' Sustainable Event by UNCW Office of Sustainability. The \$200 profit the student chapter raised helped secure funding for an educational trip to the Raleigh Museum of Natural Sciences and the Asheboro Zoo, a generator and solar panel, and promotional materials for the chapter. Talk about sustainability!

UNCW's Department of Environmental Science is now accepting students in their new B.S. Environmental Sciences - Wildlife Management Option starting this fall. Link to the program description can be found [here](#).

**Kelli Applegate, [kelli.applegate@usmc.mil](mailto:kelli.applegate@usmc.mil)**



NCTWS Practical "NCTWS Annual Meeting attendees participate in a 'Potentially Puzzling and Perplexing Pieces and Parts Practical'."



# STATE REPORTS

## OKLAHOMA

NO NEWS REPORTED



## SOUTH CAROLINA

**South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR)**



**South Carolina Senate confirms Thomas S. (Tom) Mullikin, Ph.D., J.D. as SCDNR director**

The South Carolina Senate confirmed **Thomas S. (Tom) Mullikin, Ph.D., J.D.**, as director of the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) in a unanimous vote in February. Mullikin assumes the top post at SCDNR, serving as the agency's chief administrator at the direction of the seven-member Natural Resources Board. He replaces **Robert H. Boyles Jr.**, who has retired after more than 30 years of service to the agency.

"Serving our state as the Director of the Department of Natural Resources for one of the most beautiful places on earth is the honor of a lifetime," Mullikin said. "I grew up hunting, fishing, hiking and diving across the Palmetto State. Our hunters and anglers were the original conservationists, and we will work together with incredible state leaders and great professionals in SCDNR to ensure that we protect these natural resources for future generations." Mullikin served as chairman of the South Carolina Floodwater Commission, to which he was appointed by **Gov. Henry McMaster**. He is a seasoned environmental attorney who has studied environmental issues worldwide. In addition, he has a joint appointment as a research professor at the University of South Carolina and Coastal Carolina University's School of Coastal Environment. An avid outdoorsman, he has logged certified scuba dives in every ocean on Earth and has summited

more than 20 mountains including peaks on every continent. In addition to his environmental and outdoor experiences, Mullikin is a decorated retired senior military officer, having served with the US Army Judge Advocate General Corps, US Army Reserve, where he was the international legal officer and assistant staff judge advocate attached to an element of the US Army Special Operations Command. Mullikin retired as Major General/Commander of the SC State Guard.

SCDNR News Release, [News@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:News@dnr.sc.gov)

### **Deveaux Bank Recognized as a Site of International Importance in the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network**

Conservation partners and community members gathered to celebrate a major milestone for shorebird conservation: the formal recognition of Deveaux Bank as a Site of International Importance in the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN). Located at the mouth of the North Edisto River in Charleston County, Deveaux Bank Seabird Sanctuary encompasses approximately 215 acres. This critical estuarine island supports over 25% of the entire North American population of Whimbrels—a stunning figure that helped secure its WHSRN status. In 2019 researchers documented nearly 20,000 birds (half of the East Coast population) roosting at the site. The island also supports one of the largest roosts in the Southeast for the federally threatened Red Knot, another migratory shorebird facing steep population declines.

On March 14, 2025, the South Carolina legislature officially approved a regulatory change that closes Deveaux Bank to public access annually from March 15 to October 15, protecting birds during their most vulnerable nesting and migration periods. The new rule builds on a

# STATE REPORTS

a successful temporary closure last spring, when SCDNR restricted access during peak breeding season due to rising threats from human disturbance. This is a sensible, science-based solution that balances recreation with the urgent needs of wildlife. Thanks to this regulation, birds can now nest and rest a little easier—this season and for years to come.

SCDNR News Release, [News@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:News@dnr.sc.gov)

## SCDNR Biologist Felicia Sanders Awarded South Carolina's Highest Civilian Honor

In March, SCDNR biologist **Felicia Sanders** was awarded the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest civilian honor. Granted by the Governor's office, the award is presented in recognition of a lifetime of extraordinary achievement, service, and contributions on a statewide, national and even international scale.

Since 2001, Sanders has worked for SCDNR as lead biologist for the Coastal Bird Conservation Program, a project that works across the entire coast to monitor, manage and research seabirds and shorebirds. In recent years, Sanders and her team have played a leading role in several significant conservation success stories, including the discovery of the world's largest whimbrel night roost at Deveau Bank and the restoration of Crab Bank Seabird Sanctuary.

"Felicia's passion for birds and the coast is contagious," said **Emily Cope**, Deputy Director of SCDNR's Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division. "She's inspired so many with her quiet leadership and relentless commitment. There is no doubt that her efforts have had a tremendous impact on conservation of our coastal birds and the areas they utilize. We're incredibly proud to see her honored with the Order of the Palmetto."

SCDNR News Release, [News@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:News@dnr.sc.gov)



**Felicia Sanders** (center) awarded the Order of the Palmetto with the rest of the SCDNR Coastal Bird Management Team.



# STATE REPORTS

## Clemson University

### Rodenticide use to be restricted under new statewide regulations

Clemson University regulators are imposing a statewide, one-year restriction on the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides, known as SGARs, after research confirmed the chemicals are affecting non-target wildlife. In some cases, wildlife that feed on rodents have died from exposure to the chemicals. The decision follows efforts that began in 2020 to reduce SGAR use in sensitive ecological areas through public education and voluntary programs. It also comes after an extended public comment period, which included dialogue with state and national pesticide industry members.

“We have designed these restrictions so that certified pest control applicators and the agricultural industry will be minimally impacted. We will provide compliance assistance to all retailers during our visits should they choose to continue selling SGARs, including a window of time to achieve compliance,” said **Ryan Okey**, assistant director of the Department of Pesticide Regulation.

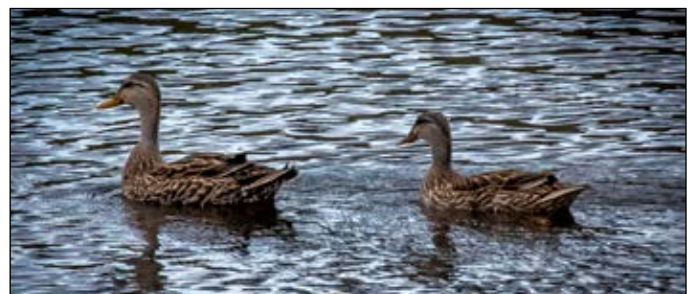
Researchers with Clemson University’s Department of Forestry and Environmental Conservation, along with other published and unpublished scientific data, show that active ingredients in SGARs have a high potential to cause adverse effects to non-target wildlife, even when used correctly under current pesticide label directions. These ingredients include: brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difethialone, and difenacoum.

**Jonathan Veit, Clemson University,**  
[Veit@Clemson.edu](mailto:Veit@Clemson.edu)

### History, drones and surveys give undergraduates valuable experience

Doctoral students **Akshit Suthar** and **Crystal Anderson** have been working on an umbrella project at the James C. Kennedy Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation Center at Clemson University’s Belle W. Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science in Georgetown, South Carolina. As part of their research, Suthar and Anderson co-teach an undergraduate class – Historical Rice Fields and Tidal Wetlands of Coastal South Carolina: Drones, Ducks and Decision Support.

In speaking with **Jim Anderson**, director of the Kennedy Center and the Baruch Institute, Suthar and Crystal Anderson thought it would be good to get the undergrads into the field where they could better understand the wetlands and waterfowl, the history of the antebellum rice fields and the Gullah-Geechee community, as well as assist with data collecting for his and Anderson’s research. Suthar has been using drones for waterfowl research and wetlands management. It is the first waterfowl drone survey conducted in South Carolina. Crystal Anderson is currently conducting a social dimension survey to explore how waterfowl managers, the public and Gullah communities engage with antebellum rice fields and their perspectives on priorities for future management. To deepen their understanding of social surveys, students have been assigned to design their own survey focusing on hunter satisfaction with current hunting rules and regulations.



[“Mottled Duck pair”](#) by Trish Hartmann, CC BY 2.0

# STATE REPORTS

"We designed the program for students to learn about the history, wildlife ecology and simultaneously they can go in the field and have real-world experience which will help them to be ready for the job market or their master's program in the future," Suthar said. "We teach about the different methodologies and how they can use drones for wildlife research. Also, our social dimension theme helps them design their social surveys and reach out to the people and collect their perceptions about the landscape."

**Marlon Morgan, Clemson University**  
[MorganM@Clemson.edu](mailto:MorganM@Clemson.edu)

**Jamie Dozier, DozierJ@dnr.sc.gov**

## TENNESSEE

NO NEWS REPORTED

### TWS' Annual Conference heads to Canada

[Registration](#) is now open for The Wildlife Society's 32nd Annual Conference in Edmonton, Alberta, which will take place Oct. 5-8. To secure the early-bird registration rate, be sure to register by **June 30**. Visit [twsconference.org](https://twsconference.org) to register today and learn more about the conference.

## VIRGINIA

### Virginia Chapter



The Virginia Chapter held its 2025 Annual Meeting from March 17-19 in Richmond, VA. The meeting had over 100 attendees and included 12 full presentations, 6 speed talks, poster presentations, a field trip around the Maymont Foundation animal enclosures, and a silent auction. Two members received awards: **Mark Puckett** was awarded the Henry S. Mosby Award and **Laura Bruno** was awarded the Professional Development Award. Chapter board elections were held, and four new officers joined the Chapter Board, including **Leah Card** as President-Elect, **Amy Roberts** as Treasurer, and **Mitchell Kern** and **Karen Powers** as Members-At-Large. In addition to the four new members, the Board now has **Mary Beth Manjerovic** as President, **Joe Ferdinandsen** as Past-President, and **Katie Martin** continues her term as Secretary. The Chapter also has **David Luther** leading the Conservation Affairs Committee, **Angela Larsen-Gray** leading the IDEA Committee, and Student Reps **Conner Coleman** for Virginia Tech and **Alston Jones** for Radford University. Many thanks to outgoing board members **Mike Fies**, **Marcella Kelly**, and **Lauren Mastro** for their service and hard work!

**Leah Card, Leah.Card@dwr.virginia.gov**



"DSC 0549" by Alistair Nicol, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0



# BUSINESS

## Seeking Nominations for President-Elect and Secretary/Treasurer

Have you served or chaired a SETWS committee? Have you served on a state chapter board? Are you looking for the next step? Then email the SETWS Nominating Committee ([urbanekr@uncw.edu](mailto:urbanekr@uncw.edu)) and ask us about our open positions this year. We are looking for candidates who are willing to serve as Secretary/Treasurer and President-Elect. If interested, please email the nominating committee ([urbanekr@uncw.edu](mailto:urbanekr@uncw.edu)) by **August 15, 2025**.

### Federal Resources

The Wildlife Society stands with our members and colleagues affected by recent federal workforce reductions. We recognize the critical role federal employees play in wildlife conservation and understand the challenges these changes bring. TWS is committed to advocating for you and providing resources to support your professional and personal well-being during this time. Find out more about membership extensions, career opportunities, policy engagement and more at <https://wildlife.org/federal-resources/>.



"Raccoons", Shenandoah National Park, Public Domain.

## 2025 Southeastern Section Officers

### President

**Dr. Daniel Greene, CWB®**

Wildlife Scientist, Environmental Research South  
Weyerhaeuser Company  
3477 S. Frontage Road  
Columbus, MS 39701  
[dgreene.tws@gmail.com](mailto:dgreene.tws@gmail.com)

### President-Elect

**Dr. Rachael E. Urbanek, CWB®**

Professor of Wildlife Ecology  
Department Chair  
Department of Environmental Sciences  
University of North Carolina Wilmington  
601 South College Road  
Wilmington, North Carolina 28403  
[urbanekr@uncw.edu](mailto:urbanekr@uncw.edu)

### Southeastern Section Representative

**Dr. Lisa Muller, CWB®**

Professor and Assistant Director  
School of Natural Resources  
University of Tennessee  
427 Plant Biotechnology  
2505 E. J. Chapman Dr.  
Knoxville, TN 37996  
(865) 974-7981  
[lmuller@utk.edu](mailto:lmuller@utk.edu)

### Secretary-Treasurer

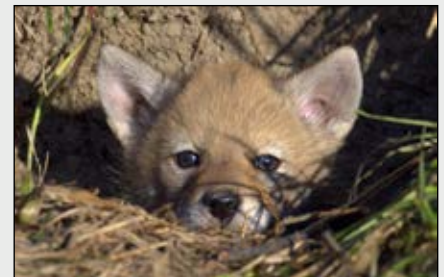
**Dr. Vanessa R. Lane, CWB®**

Associate Professor of Wildlife Ecology and Management  
School of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College  
2802 Moore Highway, ABAC 8  
Tifton, GA, USA 31793  
(229) 391-4811  
[vlane@abac.edu](mailto:vlane@abac.edu)

### Immediate Past-President

**Kelly Douglass, CWB®**

Wildlife Disease Biologist  
Raleigh, NC 27617



"Coyote Pup" by Chris Pawluk, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.

# NOMINATIONS

## Wildlife Management Excellence Award

Each year during its annual meeting, the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society (SETWS) may present the Wildlife Management Excellence Award to recognize excellence in wildlife management activities carried out within the member states of the SETWS.

Persons making nominations must be current members of the SETWS; however, nominees need not be members. Nominations may include either an individual or group and evaluation of nominees will be based upon a single management achievement, not a “lifetime service” that has been accomplished in the field of wildlife management.

Examples of management achievements worthy of the award include (but definitely are not limited to) activities such as an exceptional break-through in bringing back an endangered species, the rapid (over a few years) development of a management area due to an individual or group effort, a major effort in stopping a particularly environmentally damaging project or an extension education effort that results in substantial and measurable change in private landowner acreage set aside for wildlife use.

Nominations should be submitted following the nomination format found on the SETWS website (<https://wildlife.org/se-section/about/awards/wildlife-management-excellence-award/>) and will be reviewed by a five-member committee. The committee is seeking nominations of individuals or groups who have performed “above and beyond” in their nominated category with good quantitative data to support the nomination.

The deadline for nominations is **August 1, 2025** and nominations should be emailed directly to the Chair of the WMEA Committee, **Travis DeVault** ([travis.devault@uga.edu](mailto:travis.devault@uga.edu)). The recipient will be presented with the Wildlife Management Excellence Award at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society. Your participation is vital to the awards programs of the SETWS and is greatly appreciated. We all are aware of the multitude of deserving individuals and groups within our essential profession. As such, please take the time to nominate these deserving professionals.

## C.W. Watson Award Nomination

The [Clarence W. Watson Award](#) is the most prestigious award given by SEAFWA and is presented to the career individual who, in the opinion of the C.W. Watson Award Committee, has made the greatest contribution to wildlife or fish conservation during the previous year or years. Nominees may be from the areas of fish and wildlife conservation including: research, administration, law enforcement, information and education, wildlife management, fish management. Nominees may be teachers, educators, 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 C.W. Watson Award may be given for accomplishing a single item or a series of different nonrelated items. The C.W. Watson Award is given to a nominee who has contributed the most to any of the appropriate areas of fish and wildlife conservation. Emphasis is on the **contribution**, not tenure. [Visit here](#) for upcoming information on the nomination format and deadline.

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## APPLY FOR NATIVE STUDENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

[Eligible candidates have until August 1 to apply](#)

The Native Student Professional Development Program provides Indigenous students with the opportunity to attend [The Wildlife Society's Annual Conference](#), one of the largest gatherings of wildlife professionals in North America. Now in its 18th year, the program is organized by the [Native Peoples' Wildlife Management Working Group \(NPWMWG\)](#) of The Wildlife Society and supported by TWS, the [U.S. Forest Service](#), the [Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) and the [Edmonton Heritage Council](#).

Participants in the 2025 program will receive a travel grant to attend The Wildlife Society's Annual Conference in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, from Oct. 5-9, 2025. Candidates must be members of a Native American, First Nations or Indigenous tribe or identify as Native Alaskan or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and they must currently be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program in a relevant academic discipline.

Components of this year's program include complimentary conference registration, specialized workshops, conference mentorship, one-year TWS & NPWMWG membership, wildlife career panel discussion, networking events and engagement with TWS leadership. The deadline to apply for this year's program is August 1. Visit [wildlife.org/npwmwg/professional-development-program](https://wildlife.org/npwmwg/professional-development-program) for information on how to apply, eligibility and more program details.

### TWS GIVEBACK PROGRAM



Are you a student & want to receive a GiveBack membership?  
OR  
Have you not yet donated your GiveBack membership and want to help out a student?

Donate



Request



### TWS Conservation Affairs Network

The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network supports communication, collaboration, and coordination on policy engagement across our organization and participating chapters, sections, and working groups. The June 2025 Newsletter includes information on several coalition efforts targeting congressional leaders, TWS policy tools and resources, and engagement opportunities.

Read the CAN June 2025 Newsletter [here](#).



# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## **CARIBBEAN COASTS: PARTNERING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO CONSERVE TROPICAL COASTAL WILDLIFE**

Hosted By: [Latin American and Caribbean Working Group](#)

Date: June 27, 1:00 pm

Join The Wildlife Society's Latin American & Caribbean Working Group and Coastal and Marine Wildlife Working Group for a webinar exploring how conservationists in the Caribbean collaborate with local communities and diverse cultures to protect coastal wildlife and their habitats. For more information and to register, please visit [here](#).

## **THANK YOU FOR CLUSTERING: REDUCING THE COST OF WILDLIFE DISEASE SCIENCE**

Hosted By: [Biometrics Working Group](#)

Date: July 14, 1:00 pm

An interdisciplinary team of wildlife professionals and statisticians recently discovered that we can leverage correlation in disease among free-ranging wildlife to dramatically reduce the sample sizes needed to study disease prevalence at the population scale. We programmed a Shiny app to compute sample sizes given the unique clustering tendencies any wildlife species of interest: <https://cwhl2.shinyapps.io/SimpleSampleSizeApp/>. We demonstrate the app using several wildlife/disease systems in North America, but valid applications are endless! For more information and to register, please visit [here](#).

## **ANIMATING THE CARBON CYCLE**

Hosted By: [Habitat Restoration Working Group](#)

Date: August 28, 2:00 pm

The webinar will present the latest scientific insights about how animal species restoration and conservation can contribute to nature-based climate solutions via their under-appreciated functional roles in protecting and enhancing carbon capture and storage across a broad range of global ecosystems. Bio: **Os Schmitz**, is the Oastler Professor of Population and Community Ecology at the Yale School of the Environment. His work aims to make sense of nature's complexity arising from the interdependencies and eco-evolutionary interactions among the diversity of carnivore, herbivore, plant and decomposer species within ecosystems. His research resolves the rules-of life that explain how interdependencies vary in time and space, and what they mean for ecosystem nutrient cycling, carbon storage, and resiliency to global change. His work informs environmental ethics and stewardship to enhance animal conservation to sustain ecosystems, their functions, and services they provide to humankind. At Yale, he teaches courses on the role of humans in nature and how humans can coexist harmoniously with nature. He currently provides scientific support to the Global Rewilding Alliance's effort link animal conservation to carbon uptake and storage in ecosystems—called Animating the Carbon Cycle. For more information and to register, please visit [here](#).



# MEETINGS OF INTEREST

## JULY 2025

### Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

July 9-13, 2025  
St. Paul, MN  
<https://burkclients.com/JMIH/meetings/2025/site/index.html>

## AUGUST 2025

### Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting

August 10-15, 2025  
Baltimore, MD  
<https://esa.org/baltimore2025/>

## SEPTEMBER 2025

### 115th AFWA Annual Meeting

September 21-24, 2025  
Tucson, AZ  
<http://www.afwaannualmeeting.org>

## OCTOBER 2025

### The Wildlife Society 32nd Annual Conference

October 5-9, 2025  
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  
<https://twconference.org/>

### 79th SEAFWA Conference

October 26-29, 2025  
Biloxi, MS  
<http://www.seafwa.org/conference/2025>

## JANUARY 2026

### SEPARC 2026 Annual Meeting

January 30 - February 1, 2026  
Black Mountain, NC  
<https://www.separc.org/2026-meeting>

## FEBRUARY 2026

### 49th Annual SEDSG Meeting

February 22-24, 2026  
Roanoke, VA  
<https://www.sedsg.msstate.edu/>

## MARCH 2026

### 91st North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference

March 29 - April 3, 2026  
Columbus, OH  
<https://wildlifemanagement.institute/conference/>



"Pileated Woodpecker" by Shenandoah National Park, Public Domain.