

The Wildlife Society

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION

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KATHERINE EDWARDS, EDITOR



PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

As you read these words I hope that each of you had a wonderful holiday and were able to spend quality time with family and friends in the out-of-doors pursuing whatever is your passion. As we embark into 2012, SE-TWS has a new slate of officers for the 2012-13 biennium, including Eric Pelren as President-elect, Mike Connor as Secretary/Treasurer, and me as President. Darren Miller continues in his role as our Southeastern Section Representative and Katie Edwards as our Newsletter Editor. Bill Giuliano is the new Associate Editor for Wildlife for the Proceedings of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA). I pledge to you that with your input and collaboration, your officers will do everything possible to make the next two years productive for the SE-TWS.

I am honored to begin my term as President of SE-TWS because I was elected to this position by members of the Section and thereby am privileged to have been entrusted with these duties, and because this is an opportunity to work with so many gifted individuals in the Southeast to further the cause of wildlife conservation.

When asked to run for President-elect in 2009, I wrote that "the southeast is blessed with some of the most diverse and spectacular wildlife and natural resources in our country. With that diversity also come conservation challenges, challenges related to inadequate funding for traditional and new programs; human population changes; changes in land use; changes in our environment and wildlife densities and distributions; and changes in human perceptions and appreciation for natural resources. Wildlife professionals can address these challenges, but only if working with bold vision over broad spatial and temporal scales. We must muster the energies and abilities of all wildlifers in the southeast to work collectively within our profession and collaboratively among professions to maintain resources and resource-based opportunities that have always been part of our heritage, and to expand our society's engagement in the natural world in new and innovative ways. TWS programs and activities

are some of the ways to achieve this goal."

So, how do we pursue this vision? Each of us does so by becoming engaged. Whether it is biological, sociological, economic, or political aspects of conservation that interest you most, identify your niche for effecting change and pursue those passions. Specifically, over the next year we will intensify efforts to work with the Southeastern Directors and Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society to improve and expand the Annual Conference of the SEAFWA and our SE-TWS Annual Meeting. We must evaluate ways to expand conservation by embracing our traditions while significantly expanding our scope. We currently have over 10 committees. If you are not on a committee, join one and become active. In order for TWS and SE-TWS to be leaders in impacting natural resource policies and be a strong voice for conservation, we need more members and members must be active. Join TWS at national, section, and chapter levels and get involved. Also, encourage your fellow wildlifers to become TWS members.

If you have ideas or are interested in being more involved, send me an e-mail at david.cobb@ncwildlife.org. To be successful, we need input from our members who are ready to "turn up the heat"!

David T. Cobb
Southeastern Section of TWS, President

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SOUTHEASTERN SECTION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Happy New Year to all you wildlifers!! I have been told all my life that as you get older, the years get shorter and I now see that this is quite true. The year 2011 has quickly passed, left to memories and reminiscence. I truly hope each of you find success in your 2012 endeavors and are able to find time to enjoy our natural resources.

This fall, among other TWS-related activities, I attended both the SE Section TWS annual meeting in Nashville, TN and the TWS Annual Conference in Hawaii. At the SE Section meeting, we were introduced to our new Section leadership. My congratulations to incoming President Dr. David Cobb, incoming Secretary/Treasurer Dr. Mike Conner, and Incoming President-Elect Dr. Eric Pelren. Steve Rockwood (Past-President) and I will remain on the Executive Board as well. I am a friend and colleague to each of our incoming officers and I know they will continue to move our Section forward. I will enjoy working with them for at least the next year.

The TWS annual conference was very well attended (over 1,400 attendees registered) and located in a fantastic venue. As always, TWS Council met for 2.5 days during the annual meeting, conducting the Society's business. With this year's Council meeting, we said goodbye to outgoing Past-President Dr. Bruce Leopold, welcomed Dr. Jon Haufler as incoming Vice President, and saw Dr. Paul Krausman accept the gavel as the newest TWS President. TWS Council works very hard on behalf of TWS membership and I look forward to working with the other members of Council, under President Krausman's leadership, in 2012. Also, many thanks to Dr. Leopold as he finishes an 8 year run representing the Southeastern Section of TWS on Council.

At the TWS Council meeting, we receive updates from TWS staff. I think that TWS staffers may be some of the most under-recognized members of TWS. These guys and gals are extremely dedicated and work diligently with oftentimes minimal resources to advance the goals and objectives of our Society. A case in point - TWS membership at the end of November was 10,613, another record for a third straight month. This

alone points to the efforts of TWS staff, assisted by a legion of TWS volunteers. Staff members are often the face of TWS to our partners and stakeholders and are absolutely critical to success of TWS. So, the next time you see a TWS staff member at a meeting or event or have had an opportunity to obtain a staff members' assistance in some issue, please be sure to take the time to say "Thank You." Trust me, it is very well deserved!

One area of continued concern is current subscription rates to The Wildlife Society Bulletin. As you may know, the Bulletin was recently re-started by TWS due to, in large part, a demand to do so from the membership. However, in spite of this impetuous for the re-launch of the Bulletin, subscriptions remain critically low with only 900 subscribers to date. Dr. Ballard (Bulletin Editor), the Bulletin AEs, and staff have done a great job on getting the Bulletin up and running. However, to remain viable, the Bulletin MUST increase the number of subscriptions. I want to encourage you to not only subscribe to the Bulletin but also to encourage other TWS members to get a subscription. I believe the Bulletin fulfills a very important niche as an outlet for information on applied wildlife management and it is important that the membership support this publication.

Finally, my usual soap box about positions statements. During the latter half of 2011, Council approved the following position statements: Shooting Preserves, Feral Horses, Feral Swine, Economic Growth, Feral Cats, Scientific Peer-Review, Endangered Species Act, and Animal Rights. If you, as a member, commented on one of these, thank you for your input. Regardless, realize these position statements are available to assist members and are a valuable resource.

As always, I need to hear from you, the membership of the SE Section TWS, to serve your needs. I hope to hear from you!

Submitted by Darren Miller
Southeastern Section Representative to TWS
Council

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STUDENT AWARDS COMMITTEE

I am pleased to announce the selection of the Southeastern Section TWS student presentation and poster award winners for 2011. Students presenting talks and posters at the 2011 Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference held in Nashville, TN, were scored by S.E. Section TWS judges on organization, delivery, visual aids, and content of their presentations. Vanessa Lane and Michael Jones are this year's recipients of the S.E. Section TWS best student presentation and poster awards, respectively for 2011. Vanessa was a student with University of Georgia, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources. Vanessa received her award for having the highest composite score for her presentation "*Breeding Bird Community Responses to Dormant- Versus Growing-season Prescribed Fire.*" Michael is a student with the Division of Forestry and Natural Resources, West Virginia University. Michael received his award for having the highest composite score for his poster "*Spatial Characteristics of Black Bears and Bear Hunters in Garrett County, Maryland.*" Not only did both students have the distinction of receiving this honor but each received a plaque and a cash award for their efforts. Congratulations to Vanessa and Michael on their excellent presentation and poster and receiving the S.E. Section TWS best student presentation and poster awards for 2011.

The S.E. Section of TWS also provides a plaque and a cash award to the student chapter of the year based on the chapters' involvement in activities that advance their members professional development and the goals of TWS. The winner this year is the University of Tennessee – Martin Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society for their activities in 2010-2011 academic year. Chapters are evaluated by independent judges on an overall application package including professionalism and involvement in research education, management, stewardship, and outreach to name a few categories. The University of Tennessee – Martin Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society has provided outstanding service to their members and the Southeastern Section of TWS. Their accomplishments included hosting National TWS staff to discuss certification, sponsoring 17 Chapter member's attendance at the 2010 SEAFWA meeting, helping to plant over 10,000 native trees for bottomland hardwood restoration, providing a position statement

on deer farming in Tennessee, and providing and participating in numerous outreach and education activities. We congratulate the University of Tennessee – Martin Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society on their achievement.

I also would like to take this opportunity to send out a reminder to the S.E. Section of TWS members in regard to TWS student awards at the upcoming 67th Annual SEAFWA Conference, to be held in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Eligibility for poster and presentation awards includes students who have graduated within one year prior to the meeting and are presenting on their research conducted as a student. If you have or know of student presenters in the wildlife sessions please encourage them to participate. In addition to being recognized for their presentation at SEAFWA, the winning student will also be presented an award (a plaque and \$100 for best poster and \$200 for best presentation). The Southeastern Section of TWS also provides a plaque and a \$1,000.00 cash award to the student chapter of the year based on the chapter's involvement in activities that advance their members professional development and the goals of TWS. Guidelines for the chapter award can be obtained from the S.E. Section President and must be turned in by June 30, 2012. Again it is an excellent accolade and provides some funding to further the activities of the winning chapter.

Lastly, it has been my pleasure to serve as the Committee Chair of the S.E. Section of The Wildlife Society's Student Awards Committee. Working with students and seeing firsthand the professionalism they display in their research and chosen career has been enjoyable and rewarding for me personally and professionally. There have been many developments and changes that have occurred since past president Dr. Jeanne Jones asked me to serve in 2005. I am happy to say that the Student Awards Committee is a very active committee and has been changed from an Ad-Hoc committee to full committee within the Southeastern Section TWS. I would also like to thank the many individuals who have volunteered to serve as judges and to our Newsletter Editor, Katie Edwards, who helped with awards and generally kept me straight on deadlines and needs.

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I will now be turning over the responsibilities of Committee Chair of the Student Awards Committee to the capable hands of Kristine Evans, with Mississippi State University. I have known Kristine for many years and I know she will do an outstanding job!

Submitted by: Brian Dorr, S.E. Section TWS Chair, Committee for Student Awards

DEER COMMITTEE

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will host the 2012 Southeast Deer Study Group (SEDSG) meeting February 26-29, 2012 at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort in Sandestin. This will be the 35th annual meeting of deer biologists, managers, researchers and enthusiasts. The theme for this year's meeting is: "Shifting Paradigms: Are Predators Changing the Dynamics of Managing Deer in the Southeast?" For more information, please visit <http://fltwc.org/SEDSG2012.php>.

C.W. WATSON AWARD COMMITTEE

NO NEWS REPORTED

MINORITIES IN NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

NO NEWS REPORTED

NONGAME AND ENDANGERED SPECIES COMMITTEE

NO NEWS REPORTED

WETLANDS WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

The Wetlands Wildlife Committee meeting convened on October 23, 2011 at the 65th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in Nashville, Tennessee. The meeting was chaired by Stephen V. Rockwood and Dr. Matthew Gray. Committee members in attendance included Scott Yaich (Ducks Unlimited), Brian Davis (MSU), Heath Hagy (UT), Rick Kaminski (MSU), Tom Moorman (Ducks Unlimited), Dean Smith (AFWA), Andi Cooper (Ducks Unlimited), and Lisa Potter (MDC). Scheduled discussion items included:

1) HR 2018, USACOE Guidance - Scott Yaich discussed how HR 2018 would reduce federal regulatory authority for wetlands by relinquishing regulation to the States. HR 2018 recently passed in the House. Current protection of wetlands under the CWA requires demonstration of a significant biological or hydrological nexus of isolated wetlands with navigable water. Scott emphasized the need for research that demonstrates significant nexuses, especially in geographically important areas for wetlands such as the Prairie Pothole Region or Playa Lake Region. Steve suggested that the newly formed TWS Wetlands Working Group might be able to organize a symposium at a major conference (e.g., Society for Wetland Scientists) on "significant nexus" that would discuss our current state of understanding. Steve also encouraged Scott to contact the SE-TWS/SEAFWA Wetlands Wildlife Committee if any letters of support are needed.

2) Farm Bill Update - Lisa Potter (Missouri Department of Conservation, Farm Bill Coordinator) indicated that at least a 10% cut will occur in 2012 with Farm Bill Conservation Programs. It is likely that several current programs (e.g., WHIP/EQIP) will be consolidated.

3) TWS Wetlands Working Group - Heath Hagy discussed 2011 activities for the newly formed TWS Wetlands Working Group. These included: (1) interim officers appointed, (2) Charter drafted, and (3) first newsletter written and distributed to members. Current membership is 84 (above the

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required 50 members for TWS Working Group status). Future activities include: (1) officer nominations and elections, (2) develop website with TWS, (3) additional newsletters and possibly blog, and (4) organize a workshop or symposium. Dean Smith (AFWA) offered to help with advertising future activities for the Working Group.

4) Operational Guidelines – Steve Rockwood. Steve and Matt drafted the operation guidelines for the SE-TWS/SEAFWA Wetlands Wildlife Committee, which the SEAFWA Directors requested for all committees. Steve received editorial comments from several committee members in September and incorporated edits. The current draft was distributed to members for additional comments with the request to send comments to Matt by noon on Monday, 24 October. No additional comments were received.

5) NAWMP Update – Greg Balkcom (GA DNR, not present) submitted a letter to Steve for the committee's consideration. The letter indicated there were concerns with the current draft on NAWMP Revision, lacking vision and guidance. Dean Smith (AFWA) sits on NAWMP Steering Committee, and mentioned that they received similar comments from other reviewers. The current

verbiage in the NAWMP Revision likely will not change much, but Dean drafted an outline for a supplemental document that will greater direction and vision.

6) Presentations –

Rick Kaminski discussed his collaborative research with the Migratory Bird Habitat Initiative (MBHI) in response to the 2010 Gulf Spill. The project, which was funded by NRCS, was directed at providing 500,000 acres of water on the landscape during migration to “short-stop” birds, and possibly reduce negative effects associated with use of wetlands impacted by the oil spill. Rick provided some initial results showing that this conservation practice was effective at attracting various species of waterbirds.

Brian Davis discussed the upcoming Ecology and Conservation North American Waterfowl Symposium, which will be held in Memphis in January 2013.

Submitted by: Steve Rockwood and Matthew Gray, Co-Chairs, Wetlands Wildlife Committee

ANNOUNCEMENT

A New Moist-soil Wetland Plant Guide Available

A new book is available to assist students, farmers, wetland scientists, and wetland professionals in identification of moist-soil and wetland plants present in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley and throughout the Southeastern United States. This resource, entitled *A Guide to Moist-soil Wetland Plants of the Mississippi Alluvial Valley*, includes more than 600 detailed color photographs of plants, images of seeds and tubers, and other helpful information to aid in plant identification to assist with management of habitat for wildlife, especially waterfowl. The book includes subsections of major plant groups occurring in managed moist-soil wetlands including Aquatics, Grasses, Broadleaves, Sedges and Rushes, Trees and Shrubs, Vines, and Agricultural Crops. This book was written and edited by wetland scientists and managers with special emphasis placed on plants found in NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program easements and other wetlands and old-field habitats. Proceeds from sales of this book support wetlands and waterfowl research conducted through the James C. Kennedy Endowed Chair in Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation at Mississippi State University. Books are available through the University Press of Mississippi (3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211; 1-800-737-7788) or other online retailers, such as Barnes and Noble or Amazon.

ALABAMA



Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF)

Ericha Nix, a Certified Wildlife Biologist® for WFF, was accepted for the 2011-2012 National Conservation Leadership Institute session and completed the first part of her residency in October. Each year professionals within the natural resource conservation community are nominated by their top administrators to compete for one of 36 fellowship spaces. This leadership program is one of the most far-reaching development initiatives ever undertaken within the natural resource conservation community; the National Conservation Leadership Institute is an intensive, world-class leadership development experience. Offered each year to a select group of individuals identified by their nominating organizations as “high potentials”, the Institute is referred to by many as natural resource conservation’s “war college”, filling the empty seats left by retiring baby boomers. The Institute is by no measure only a training program; it is a unique comprehensive learning experience designed to challenge assumptions, teach skills, facilitate networking, and strengthen confidence, preparing extraordinary leadership for the future. Ericha Nix is a Northern Virginia native that cultivated an appreciation for the outdoors from her father, an avid fisherman and outdoorsman and her mother who had a passion for birding and wildflowers. She pursued a Bachelor’s degree in Wildlife Management at Auburn University and graduated Magna Cum Laude in 2002. She has worked with WFF since 2002 and enthusiastically works within several programs that include private lands, the deer management program, youth dove hunts, hunter education and wildlife management areas within her district.

Staff Changes

Jud Easterwood has been promoted to Supervising Wildlife Biologist for District I with WFF. Easterwood previously served as Area Biologist on the Jackson County Waterfowl Management Areas and Refuges. His current duties will be overseeing wildlife activities in fourteen counties in NW AL.

Bennett Moseley retired from WFF after 20 years service. He started his career as the Area Wildlife Biologist on Kinterbush WMA in 1991. In 2005, he was promoted to Private Lands Biologist for SW Alabama in the Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Unit, where he served until retirement.

Ron Eakes retired from WFF after more than 27 years service. He started his career as Area Wildlife Biologist on Black Warrior WMA. In 2005, he was promoted to Supervising Wildlife Biologist for District I, where he served until retirement.

Indigo Snake Reintroduction Continues

Efforts to restore the Eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*) continue in 2011 with snake releases at Conecuh National Forest. In mid-May, 31 captive-reared indigo snakes were released at the national forest in Covington County. This adds to the seventeen released at the site in 2010. Twenty-one snakes in 2011 were implanted with radio transmitters so researchers can track their movements. Of these snakes, ten were “soft” released within forest enclosures and eleven were “hard” released outside enclosures. Additional snakes will be released in 2012. These efforts are aimed at restoring the indigo snake as a self-sustaining species upon Alabama’s landscape. Alabama Department of Conservation, Auburn University, The Orianne Society, USFS, Georgia Department of Natural Resources and Zoo Atlanta are all cooperators on this project.

White Nose Syndrome

This winter (2011-12) about 40 caves important to bats will be surveyed in Alabama for White Nose Syndrome (WNS). WNS is a rapidly spreading affliction among bats that is causing 95 percent mortality in some bat species at some sites. The name comes from the white, cotton-appearing fungal growth that most often appears around an infected bat’s nose, ears or wing membrane. Biologists are particularly concerned about the Indiana and gray bats – two endangered bat species found in Alabama. While WNS has not currently been found in Alabama (2011), it appears to be heading our way, and bat biologists are very concerned about its spread to Alabama bats. WNS is not known to affect humans.

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Barbour WMA Bird Monitoring

A bird monitoring was initiated at Barbour Wildlife Management Area this summer with the long term goal of quantifying changes in bird populations within the Longleaf Pine Restoration (LLPR) Initiative site. Spring point counts and fall bobwhite quail covey counts will be conducted annually on this site to assess the effects of the LLPR efforts on quail and songbird populations. Counts will also be conducted on other portions of the WMA to compare results in changes of bird assemblages in relation to various management schemes. Initial results from this year indicated 67 species present. Quail were heard at 50% of the fall covey counts sites.

US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Red-cockaded Woodpecker Recovery on a Private Quail Plantation in Alabama

On November 13-15, 2011, a tireless group of volunteer biologists gathered at Enon and Sehoy Plantations in southeast Alabama for yet another installment of the annual red-cockaded woodpecker artificial cavity provisioning event, affectionately referred to as the "Insert Blitz". Once again, the bulk of the crew was made up of dedicated and highly skilled USFS personnel, from the National Forests of Alabama. The 13-member crew also included staff from Enon and Sehoy Plantations, two private wildlife management consultants, and personnel from the USFWS, Alabama Ecological Services Field Office. The USFS crew made short work of installation of almost 3 dozen artificial cavities. These cavities will secure roosting and nesting cover for the resident population of RCWs, as well as provide opportunities for strategic population expansion. Attracting biologists to Enon and Sehoy is not difficult. In addition to the genuine southern hospitality extended by the owners, Enon and Sehoy hold unique biological wonders. These properties, located about midway between Tuskegee National Forest and Fort Benning, consist of over 27,000 contiguous acres of expertly-managed bobwhite quail habitat – which just happens to be some of the finest red-cockaded woodpecker habitat in the Southeast. The conservation ethic and vision of Campbell Lanier, III, Owner of Enon and Sehoy

Plantations is paramount to the success of an RCW recovery strategy that began almost 10 years ago. Since 2006, the population of RCWs on Enon and Sehoy has increased from a low of 3 active clusters to over 20 family groups today. This success has resulted from the hard work and dedication of many people over the past several years. Notably, the support of the National Forests of Alabama for their amazing efforts during the annual insert blitzes; the Department of Defense for their expert and unheralded contribution of more than 2 dozen juvenile RCWs for translocation to Enon and Sehoy; Mark Bailey of Conservation Southeast, Inc. for his consistent leadership in on-the-ground implementation of both population monitoring and habitat management; and many, many others. Funding for continuation of this project is provided by the WFF – Landowner Incentive Program.



Photo credit: USFWS, Steve Hillebrand

Alabama Beach Mouse Reintroduced at Gulf Shores State Park

The Alabama beach mouse (ABM) was federally listed as endangered in 1985, primarily due to the loss of coastal dune habitat from residential development and periodic hurricanes. This subspecies of old field mouse historically occurred along 29 miles of coastal dune habitats between Perdido Pass and the western tip of Fort Morgan Peninsula, including the Alabama Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores. In 2004 and 2005, Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina completely eliminated the Gulf State Park subpopulation of beach mice.

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In an effort to reestablish ABM to Gulf State Park and to improve this subspecies' chances of recovery, USFWS biologists at the Alabama Field Office and Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge teamed up with Alabama State Park personnel and volunteers to put a reintroduction plan into action. In March and April of 2010, twenty-two sub-adult mice (11 males and 11 females) were captured, tagged and transported to temporary release pens at Gulf State Park. In an effort to reflect as much genetic variability as possible, translocated mice were collected at Fort Morgan and the refuge's Perdue Unit, opposite ends of their extant range.

After their release, periodic follow-up surveys were conducted at GSP to monitor the plan's success. Small rodent tracks, believed to be ABM, were observed radiating from the immediate release sites and quickly spreading into adjacent coastal dune habitat. Within 8 months, ABM were occupying essentially all of the 2 miles of coastal dunes available at the state park south of State Highway 182. Monitoring surveys in November 2010 resulted in the first capture of an untagged pregnant ABM, confirming that translocated mice and their progeny had successfully reproduced and were being recruited into the local population. Additional surveys in November 2011 showed that ABM continued to persist in the park. If the reintroduction of ABM at Gulf State Park is successful, it will bring the known number of distinct ABM subpopulations to three, which would reduce the danger of extinction for this subspecies and satisfy one of the criteria for downlisting ABM to threatened status, a step toward removing it from the federal list.



Photo credit: USFWS

Alabama Natural Resource Council (ANRC)

Recently the ANRC teamed with the State Tree Farm Committee to sponsor forestry field days across the state. The events were well attended with nearly 500 landowners participating. Those in attendance heard experts speak on numerous subjects including longleaf pine, wildlife, tree stand safety and other topics of interest. In addition, many landowners were recognized for stewardship of their natural resources. Several landowners received stewardship, Tree Farm and TREASURE Forest certification. Outstanding county forestry planning committees were recognized for their efforts to promote proper resource management. In addition, two properties were recognized as Helene Mosley Award Winners. The Helene Mosley Award is presented to landowners who have demonstrated exceptional management of their natural resources and who have worked to promote the TREASURE Forest philosophy through educational events. These events would not have been possible without the cooperation of resource professionals, including many ACTWS members, from the numerous state and federal agencies that make up the ANRC and the valuable assistance from local forestry planning committees.

Alabama Bat Working Group

In February and March, members from the Alabama Bat Working Group participated in state-wide inventory of priority karst resources in response to white-nose syndrome (WNS). No sign of WNS was detected.

In October, the group held its 3rd annual mini Bat Blitz at the Little River Canyon National Preserve and Desoto State Park in the northeastern part of the state. Participants included members from Alabama A&M University, WFF, NPS, private sector, USFS, and USFWS. Special thank you to Mary Shew from the NPS for hosting the crew.

Submitted by: Jim Schrenkel
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ARKANSAS



NO NEWS REPORTED

FLORIDA



Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Fall Meeting Review

The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society's (FLTWS) Fall Business Meeting was held at the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Museum in St. Augustine on October 11-12, 2011. The first day consisted of the business meeting, which included discussing old and new business, hearing reports from the various committees, and watching a presentation from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service representative, Keenan Adams on the proposed Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. Planning for the Spring 2012 Conference and responding to calls for expert opinions were two topics discussed in detail. Following the meeting, all of the members enjoyed a delicious dinner catered by Mango Mangos poolside at the hotel.

On day two of the Fall Business Meeting, there were two free workshops offered to FLTWS members. FLTWS, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), the National Park Service (NPS) and Audubon offered a shorebird identification and monitoring workshop at the beautiful Fort Matanzas National Park (www.nps.gov/foma/index.htm). After NPS personnel provided a brief history of the park to the participants, Monique Borboen led the group in strolling down the beach looking for shorebirds. She has an extremely skilled eye for finding and identifying birds. She also gave instruction on information collection and presented FWC's new bird monitoring database to the participants in

attendance. The St. Augustine Alligator Farm also offered a personalized tour with the help of FWC Biologist, Patrick Delaney, to several participants.

This fall meeting was a great opportunity to network with other wildlife professionals from across the state. Over 20 members attended the workshops, and were able to learn from very knowledgeable subject matter experts. In addition to networking and learning opportunities, this was a great opportunity for the Chapter to discuss our ongoing business so that we can continuously improve as a chapter.

Spring Meeting

The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society and the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council will jointly hold the annual Spring Conference on April 16-19, 2012 at the Ocala Hilton. The theme for this joint conference is *Invasion of the Habitat Snatchers: Wildlife Invades!* Speakers and presentations will be integrated to illustrate the issues surrounding wildlife and their habitats and the impacts of invasive plants and animals on them. In addition to this overall theme, individual research and management projects will continue to be a focus during technical sessions. This conference will also provide an opportunity to earn continuing education credits for herbicide applicators and possibly other certifications. Managers, researchers, administrators, educators, students, and all natural resource professionals will benefit from the information exchange and networking opportunities available at this Spring Conference. Abstracts and sponsorships are currently being accepted. The deadline for submitting abstracts is March 1, 2012. Please see the FLTWS website at <http://www.fltws.org/STD2012SpringConference.php> for further abstract submittal instructions and conference information. For any further information, please contact Stefanie Nagid, FLTWS Program Committee Chair, at 352-393-8425 or Stefanie.nagid@fltws.org.



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Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will host the 2012 Southeast Deer Study Group (SEDSG) meeting February 26-29, 2012 at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort in Sandestin. This will be the 35th annual meeting of deer biologists, managers, researchers and enthusiasts. The theme for this year's meeting is: "Shifting Paradigms: Are Predators Changing the Dynamics of Managing Deer in the Southeast?" In recent years, there has been an increasing interest in the role predators play in regards to managing deer in the Southeast. The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society will be a sponsor and an active participant at the meeting.

General Regional Interest

Awareness is being raised about how birds could potentially be negatively impacted/die by becoming trapped in exposed/open pipes. Some pipes are fairly narrow in diameter such as the pvc poles we use quite regularly for research or other marking purposes in Refuges and other conservation areas. In particular, poles such as these are often used in wetland areas as markers, although we know that some wildlife actually use PVC poles for shelter, such as tree frogs throughout Florida. This phenomenon also occurred during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill with pelicans falling into larger pipes and their inability to exit. However, in this case, it would be smaller pipes potentially having the same negative impacts.

Consider passing on to your staff that when using open pipes/poles that they periodically be checked to see if we may be experiencing something similar and just don't know - especially if there are cavity nesting bird species in the vicinity and of the appropriate size that may attempt to use the poles. Or consider switching to using sealed or capped poles. Please pass this caution on to other programs, field personnel, or reviewers for projects that may use pipes such as these. Read more at <http://www.abc-birds.org/newsandreports/releases/111122.html>.

Harry Dutton Named the 2011 SEAFWA Biologist of the Year

Harry Dutton was named the 2011 Wildlife Biologist of the Year by the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in October at their annual conference in Nashville, Tennessee. Harry J. Dutton has worked for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission since 1990 and currently serves as Florida's Alligator Management Program (AMP) Coordinator. Harry has made significant contributions to alligator management on a state level, and these contributions are merely the outcomes of a dedicated career. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated an exceptional ability to tackle tough alligator management issues by applying the best scientific information; building consensus and support from colleagues; and effectively engaging the hunting public and other stakeholders. Through his leadership, the AMP stands as an outstanding example of integrating scientifically sound research and monitoring as a basis for management recommendations. His passion for alligator resources is matched by a strong sense of compassion and caring for the people around him. This combination of talents has fueled Harry's effectiveness in influencing and motivating the people to make a positive difference for alligator resources beyond what one person or career could hope to achieve. Congratulations, Harry!

Submitted by: Alan Alshouse
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Photo credit: USFWS, Steve Hillebrand

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GEORGIA



University of Georgia and Georgia Chapter of TWS

Dr. Ernest E. Provost, Professor Emeritus, received the first ever Crockford-Jenkins-Hayes Wildlife Conservation Award (2011) from the Georgia Chapter for significant contributions to wildlife conservation in Georgia and the southeastern U.S. Ernie was notified of the award, but unfortunately died in his sleep on November 25, 2011 before the Chapter could present him with the plaque and letter recognizing his achievements. He was an outstanding teacher and mentor to many wildlife and fisheries biologists during his more than 30-year career at The University of Georgia. Donations in his memory can be made to the "Ernest E. Provost Undergraduate Fish and Wildlife Scholarship," Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, The University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-2152.

Submitted by: J. Michael Meyers
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KENTUCKY



Kentucky Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Resources (KDFWR)

Department commissioner Dr. Jon Gassett has been selected as the new president of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) elected Captain Mike Fields, Kentucky state boating law administrator in the department's Division of Law Enforcement, as its president for the 2011-2012 year. Dr. Dana Baxley will be the program coordinator for the department's newly created Research Program. The Research Program will survey department personnel to compile a list of the most pressing research needs for KDFWR's Wildlife Division. These coordinated efforts will ultimately provide direction for the Research Program and for the agency as a whole. This year a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant enabled KDFWR to nearly triple the number of acres available for public dove hunting on private lands in its Cooperative Private Lands Dove Program. The KDFWR obtained a significant investment from the Archery Trade

Association (ATA) for the purpose of increasing recruitment and retention of hunters and shooters. KDFWR and ATA have worked together to cofund and launch in Kentucky the Explore Bowhunting Program, which introduces participants to the skill needed for hunting. In May 2012, KDFWR partnered with The Center for Conservation Biology (CCB) to attach two satellite transmitters to nestling bald eagles at Ballard WMA in western Kentucky. One year after leaving the nest, the female eagle has traveled through Illinois north to central Wisconsin. The male eagle also went north until he reached the Mississippi River near Burlington, Iowa; where he has been moving north along the Mississippi River and nearby Iowa River. In September, a KDFWR herpetologist documented the first specimen of the Plains Leopard Frog in Kentucky.



Photo credit: USFWS

University of Kentucky (UK)

Master's thesis projects recently completed, or currently in progress, under the supervision of Dr. John J. Cox include completed theses by Joseph Guthrie, "Modeling movement behavior and road crossing in the black bear of southcentral Florida" and Sean Murphy, "Status of a reintroduced black bear population in the big South Fork Area of Kentucky". Based on his thesis work, Sean won the Outstanding Student Poster Award at the recent annual meeting of TWS in Hawaii. Graduate projects currently underway include projects by: Thomas Maigret to investigate "Impacts of different silvicultural treatments on herpetofauna in a mixed-mesophytic forest in southeastern Kentucky"; Alejandra Betancourt to investigate "Parasite prevalence in eastern Kentucky elk as determined through abomasal parasite and fecal egg counts"; and Aaron Hildreth to investigate "Are body condition and select physiological parameters good indicators of survival in translocated elk?".

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Eastern Kentucky University (EKU)

Master's thesis projects recently completed include Lindsay Conley, "Bats species diversity in old-growth vs. second-growth forests in the Lilley Cornett Woods Appalachian Ecological Research Station, Letcher County, Kentucky" and Andy Newman, "Nocturnal habitat selection during spring migration by American woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) in Central Kentucky".

Submitted by: Chuck Elliott, Charles.Elliott@eku.edu

LOUISIANA

NO NEWS REPORTED



MARYLAND/DELAWARE

The Maryland-Delaware Chapter held its October Fall Meeting in the Maryland Blue Ridge at Greenbriar State Park. Jon Klimstra became our new chapter president as Frank Ammer assumed the office of past president. Seth M. Berry, Natural Resources Manager of the Indian Head Naval Support Facility, was recognized as the Wildlife Professional of the Year, and Allison Rogerson was recognized as Outstanding Chapter Member. Also in October, wildlife students at the University of Maryland in College Park established themselves as the TWS' newest student chapter. Our talks included presentations on the history, structure, and function of some governmental and NGO wildlife programs. The Maryland DNR Wildlife and Heritage Program, and the USFWS' Partners for Fish and Wildlife were explained by Glenn Therres and Brian Jennings, respectively. Jake McPherson presented the history and structure of Ducks Unlimited and Shannon Pederson reviewed the structure of TWS and discussed the Society's upcoming 75th anniversary. The Chapter is continuing its consideration of combining meetings with an assemblage of wildlife management workshops, perhaps in conjunction with neighboring chapters. The Chapter is also measuring responses to officially sanctioned spay-neuter-release programs owing to their detrimental effects on wildlife.

Submitted by: Art Abrams
Art.Abrams@ARS.USDA.GOV



Michael Ellis submitting the application for TWS Student Chapter approval to Shannon Pederson at TWS Headquarters.



Shannon Pederson presenting the approved charter for the University of Maryland Student Chapter of TWS to Student Chapter President Michael Ellis.



University of Maryland Student Chapter of TWS members with their approved charter.

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MISSISSIPPI



Meeting Announcement

Southeastern Prairies Symposium:
Remnants, Conservation, and Working Grasslands
May 14 – 17, 2012
Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks partnering with Mississippi State University and Wildlife Mississippi will co-host a symposium for natural resources professionals and scientists involved in the ecology, management, and restoration of southeastern prairie habitats.

The primary goal of this symposium is to synthesize effective approaches to prairie restoration and enhancement throughout the region by identifying broad-scale generalities in management practices and biota while recognizing differences at the specific ecosystem level. Three concurrent sessions focusing on management, the natural biota, as well as working grasslands will unite researchers, biologists, and managers from across the southern United States (AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX) and increase communication among state, federal, and non-governmental partners in prairie habitat management.

For more information, visit <http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/wildlife/prairie/>



Photo credit: USFWS/Dr. Thomas G. Barnes, University of Kentucky

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP)

Longleaf Grants

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently awarded a Competitive State Wildlife Grant to improve longleaf pine habitat to the state wildlife agencies of Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. The MDWFP will use the funding to conduct herbicide applications and apply prescribed fire on more than 3,000 acres on two WMAs in south Mississippi. The MDWFP, in cooperation with the Longleaf Alliance, was also awarded a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to improve longleaf pine habitat on private lands. The MDWFP utilized the funding to hire Tamara Campbell (M.S. Wildlife Ecology 2011, Mississippi State University) as a Longleaf Delivery Specialist to work with the USDA-NRCS to help deliver longleaf pine conservation programs.

The increase in capacity has also been critical to the success of “Fire on the Forty,” a new campaign to cost-share prescribed burning in focal areas on private lands. The program has already received applications for burning on more than 10,000 acres.

WMA Habitat Enhancements

The MDWFP has been increasing its management of wildlife habitat on agency-owned WMAs, especially on forested areas. Habitat surveys have been conducted on 42,000 acres. Data from the habitat surveys have been used to direct habitat management through timber harvests on these WMAs. A concerted effort has been made to increase the use of prescribed fire as a management tool for fire-adapted habitats on WMAs. A 50% increase in the number of acres burned was realized in 2011 with an objective of implementing prescribed fire on 50% of the acres suitable for burning, annually.

MDWFP Staff Changes

Ed Penny moved from his position as Waterfowl Program Leader to assume duties of Wildlife Bureau Director. Ron Seiss, previously Wildlife Bureau Director, moved to a position as Director of Conservation Programs for the agency. Chad Dacus became the Assistant Director of the Wildlife

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Bureau, leaving his previous position as Deer Program Leader. Randy Spencer accepted a new position as Grants Coordinator for the agency. He had previously served as Federal Aid Coordinator for the Wildlife Bureau as well as WMA Program Coordinator.

Jackie Fleeman, Scott Baker, and Jeff Mangrum assumed new roles as Statewide Coordinators within the Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Program. Jackie is in charge of WMA Administration. Scott is the WMA Habitat Coordinator. Jeff took on program-wide responsibilities for WMA Program Infrastructure. Roger Tankesly assumed duties of Assistant WMA Program Biologist for areas in southern portions of the state.

John Gruchy moved up to the position of Private Lands Program Leader. Chris McDonald moved from the Deer Program to a position as Youth Program Coordinator for the agency. Justin Thayer rejoined the agency as a Deer Program Biologist in southern Mississippi. James Callicutt (M.S. Wildlife Ecology 2010, Mississippi State University) joined MDWFP as a biologist in the Waterfowl Program.

Submitted by: Randy Spencer
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NORTH CAROLINA



NO NEWS REPORTED

OKLAHOMA



NO NEWS REPORTED

SOUTH CAROLINA



South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR)

On December 2, 2011, Brandon L. Sherrill assumed the duties of Region 2 Unit A Biologist based at the Florence Wildlife Office.

The Sandhills Longleaf Pine Conservation Partnership

The Sandhills Longleaf Pine Conservation Partnership (Partnership) is composed of Federal and state agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and private landowners who strive to establish, maintain, and improve the longleaf pine ecosystem in Chesterfield County and northwestern Darlington County, SC. This partnership supports a larger effort known as America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative, whose goal is to restore the longleaf pine ecosystem across its historic range in the Southeast. This past year the Partnership became better organized which led to numerous accomplishments. These include developing a brochure and web page (<http://www.chesterfield-swcd.com/longleaf.html>), and presenting posters at the Conserving the Future Wildlife Refuges and the Next Generation Conference in Madison, WI and the Longleaf Conservation Partnership Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. The Partnership worked with NRCS on the first and only Healthy Forest Reserve Program recipient in South Carolina. This property is within the Partnership's focus area, consists of mature longleaf pine, and has now been permanently protected. The Partnership also was awarded \$50,000 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for longleaf pine restoration and enhancement on private lands. This funding, leveraged with private landowner cost share, will result in the restoration of several hundred acres within the Partnership focus area. Finally, after a year-long planning effort, the Partnership held their first private landowner demonstration day. This demonstration day showcased longleaf pine restoration work on private lands and promoted the conservation of longleaf pine habitats within the focus area. The demonstration day and other Partnership activities have generated considerable interest in longleaf pine management and restoration on private lands. The Partnership has applied for additional funding for 2012 which, if awarded, will result in an additional 843 acres of longleaf pine restoration and enhancement.

Submitted by: Nicole Chadwick Hawkins
SC Chapter TWS
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TENNESSEE

Wildlife Student Conclave



The 2012 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave will be held at Fall Creek Falls State Park, Pikeville, TN from 15 – 17 March 2012. Conclave is hosted by the student chapter of The Wildlife Society and the Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries at the University of Tennessee. For more information, please visit <http://fwf.ag.utk.edu/conclave2012/>

VIRGINIA

State Chapter



After many fits and starts, we are pleased to report some progress on the A. Willis Robertson Library project. This collection of letters, memos, and other documents comes from the late 1920's-early 1930's when A. Willis Robertson was the chairman of the fledgling Virginia Game Commission. This collection came to the attention of the VATWS Chapter in the early 2000's and since that time, many members have been working to generate support for its preservation and dissemination to wider conservation audience. Recently the Radford University (RU) Student Chapter has taken on the responsibility for scanning all of the available documents into a digital format. These files will then be added to an existing database that was developed as a prototype to demonstrate the potential for the collection as a learning tool for all conservation practitioners. The prototype can be accessed online at <http://www.cmiweb.org/wrlibrary> and contains approximately 150 documents. The portion of the collection that the RU chapter is working on will bring the total number of documents to well over 5,000. Despite difficulties in securing external funding to support a larger, more comprehensive plan to include detailed information about each document, such as the recipient, the content keywords, and historical context to enrich the information the chapter is moving closer towards making this invaluable resource available for all to see. We will continue to identify and pursue opportunities for funding, but for now will work to take on this monumental task one page at a time. Thus far, support for developing the A. Willis Robertson library has come from the USFWS Law Division,

NWF, The Conservation Management Institute, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and VATWS.

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF)

Fieldwork for the Virginia Appalachian Coyote Study (VACS) began this past spring and will continue for three years in western Virginia. Coyotes (*Canis latrans*) are relative newcomers to the Virginia landscape, only becoming established in the state in the 1980s. The adaptability of coyotes makes effects on Virginia ecosystems difficult to predict based on coyote research from other regions. VACS seeks to better understand the ecological role of coyotes in western Virginia in order to improve management of coyotes and prey species, and to mitigate potential conflicts with humans. Specific study objectives include better understanding coyote ecology in the Central Appalachians by studying population density, survival and reproductive rates, diet, habitat use, movement patterns, competition with other predators, and responses to varying prey availability.

Over the next three years, researchers will track coyotes with satellite collars to observe habitat selection, movement patterns and estimate home range size. Fecal DNA samples will be collected to estimate density using spatially explicit capture-recapture models. Additionally, scat (feces) samples will be analyzed to estimate seasonal dietary patterns, which will be modeled relative to prey species abundance estimated using small mammal trapping, camera trapping, vegetation surveys, and distance sampling of white-tailed deer. Since May 2011, six coyotes have been captured and collared, initial prey abundances estimated, and more than 650 DNA samples and 450 scat samples collected.

The study is being conducted by Virginia Tech and the VDGIF, with a federal Wildlife Restoration Grant from the USFWS, and in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, USFS, and the Wildlife Services program of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. The principal investigator is Marcella J. Kelly, Associate Professor in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation at Virginia Tech. Fieldwork, scheduled to continue

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in Bath and Rockingham Counties through the spring of 2014, is being conducted by Virginia Tech graduate students Dana Morin and David Montague with the help of many student workers, volunteers, and experienced field technicians.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Eastern Virginia Rivers NWR Complex (Warsaw)

- The Eastern Virginia Rivers Complex has new leadership. Andy Hofmann joined the staff in December 2010 as the new Refuge Manager, and Rebekah Martin started in September 2011 as the new Deputy Refuge Manager. Andy has worked for USFWS for 12 years and was previously Deputy Manager at Refuges in Alabama, Tennessee, and Mississippi. Rebekah is a native to eastern Virginia and most recently was in Washington, D.C. where she spent the last two years working on the renewed vision plan for National Wildlife Refuges. The Eastern Virginia Rivers Complex includes Rappahannock River Valley NWR, James River NWR, Presquile NWR, and Plum Tree Island NWR. For more information contact Andy Hofmann (andy_hofmann@fws.gov).

Great Dismal Swamp NWR (Suffolk) - In light of climate change and the increased frequency and severity of recent wildfires, Dismal Swamp Refuge staff are working with partners to develop a comprehensive hydrological restoration and management plan. Partners include NC Dismal Swamp State Park, Virginia Ecological Services Field Office, The Nature Conservancy, USGS-VA Water Resources Center, VADGIF, NC Ecological Services Field Office, Pocosin Lakes NWR, and Christopher Newport University. The overall purpose is to establish and maintain habitats within Dismal Swamp that are more resilient to climate change and wildfires and contribute to the Climate Change Strategic Plan by sequestering carbon. We are looking for interested partners to support the effort. For more information contact Refuge Manager Chris Lowie (chris_lowie@fws.gov).

Virginia Field Office (Gloucester) - Lake Tecumseh is a shallow 261 acre lake located near the Atlantic Ocean in Virginia Beach, Virginia. For decades, fluctuating water levels in the lake as a result of wind-

driven tides, dumped over 2,000 tons of sediment annually into Back Bay. Over a five-year period, biologist Will Smith coordinated with hundreds of private landowners residing along affected canals, local politicians, and neighboring stakeholders to design and construct two weirs and a solar-powered boat portage, which were installed in early 2011. The boat portage facilitates continued recreational boating and fishing in the lake, and the weirs reduce flow velocities serving to settle sediment suspended in the lake before it is released to Back Bay. The weirs have prevented 90% of all discharge events. The reduction in sediment is contributing to the resurgence of submerged aquatic vegetation and improving habitat for fish and wildlife within Back Bay. For more information, contact Will Smith (willard_smith@fws.gov).

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

In the last six months, our Virginia quail team has been busy. Collectively, our five private lands wildlife biologists have made 791 site visits, written 374 management plans, conducted 207 outreach sessions, created 6,522 new habitat acres, and worked with individuals owning more than 103,052 acres of land. This year they allocated approximately \$240,600 in DGIF wildlife BMP money, which included 239 acres of field borders, 277 acres of idle crop lands and 398 acres of fescue conversion to warm season grasses. In addition, 3,023 acres of habitat were created or managed through the NRCS Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (over \$700,000), 42% of which occurred in our quail target counties.

All five private land wildlife biologists (PLWB) and two Quail Recovery Initiative (QRI) team leaders attended the National Bobwhite Technical Committee (NBTC) meeting in Tallahassee, Florida this past August. The NBTC is comprised of over 100 wildlife professionals from state and federal agencies, universities, and private organizations which provide leadership and technical guidance for the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI). The NBCI includes an easily updated plan, a massive Geographic Information Systems-based conservation planning tool, and a small staff team of specialists dedicated to range-wide, policy level efforts to bolster respective state step-down strategies.

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In addition to helping out with the subcommittees, the quail team attendees enjoyed presentations on quail management, songbird conservation, research, and even a review of the Western Quail Plan. Finally, four of the PLWBs were able to attend a tour of the Tall Timbers Research Station and a quail plantation close by. This area of the Red Hills has put an astounding amount of time, research, money and effort into quail management and the results are evident. It is encouraging to see how quail will respond if the habitat is provided for them.

Recently, we held the Virginia Quail Council Meeting in Radford and got the chance to tour the Radford Army Ammunitions Plant and observe first hand what they are doing to manage early successional habitat. Marc Puckett and I were able to film two episodes of "Virginia Farming" to be aired in the near future on Virginia PBS stations. Our outreach efforts are continuing and we are steadily generating more interest in restoring bobwhite quail habitat. We also completed our latest revision of the Virginia Plant Establishment Guide. This document includes many different technical notes that provide information on different planting concepts. More importantly, it includes an Excel spreadsheet with a plethora of different plant species, their recommended planting rates and dates, and unique characteristics of the plant (preferred soil types, blooming period, plant height, etc.). If you are interested in viewing this document, email me at galon.hall@va.usda.gov and I can send it to you electronically.

Universities

The Radford University Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society (RUTWS) has been busy this year! First, we participated in a bat netting demonstration in which students and the public learned about capturing and handling techniques and heard about current research. We also contributed to a trail and road clean-up at the Selu Conservancy (owned by Radford University), and later enjoyed a canoeing trip down the Little River. Recently we hosted two guest speakers: 1) Scott Klopfer, a VATWS past-president and current director of the Conservation Management Institute at Virginia Tech. He spoke about his work and helped recruit members for scanning a section of the Robertson papers into a database, and 2) Laci Coleman, a Virginia Tech graduate student working with VATWS

member Mark Ford. Laci discussed her work with the yellow bat in Georgia as well as her current projects.

In November, we enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour of the Mill Mountain Zoo and later will be coordinating a bake sale fundraiser (turkey style!). We will also assist managers at Claytor Lake State Park to rescue state-threatened Pistol Grip mussels when the lake is temporarily drawn down. More ideas and activities are to follow with the new year.

The Virginia Tech Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society (VTTWS) is excited to present new executive members this semester. New leadership presents different ideas, goals, and activities while still upholding the integrity of The Wildlife Society's mission. VTTWS meets twice a month and their meetings include an array of guest speakers with different professional levels and interests along with exciting and educational activities. VTTWS' latest project includes a camera trapping study in Smith Mountain Lake lead by Dr. Marcella Kelly, who is the chapter's supervisor. The last camera trapping activity took place Sunday, November 6th. VTTWS is also proud to announce that members Vance Nepomuceno, Chad Stachowiak, Kristen Booher, Stephen Perkins, and Lance Harvey placed second in the quiz bowl competition at the TWS meeting in Hawaii.

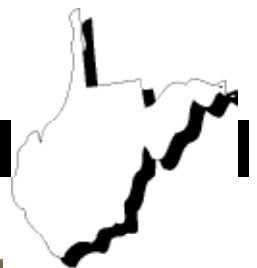
Submitted by: Meghan Stump
mstump@radford.edu

WEST VIRGINIA

NO NEWS REPORTED



Photo credit: USFWS



DUCKS UNLIMITED

Staff Changes

Jamie Rader joined DU's staff in November as a Regional Biologist for the South Atlantic. Jamie worked for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources for the past 4 years, most recently as the Statewide Waterfowl Coordinator, and brings a wealth of knowledge on wetland and waterfowl management to our staff. He already knows many of the state and federal partners that we work with so he'll be ready to jump into his new job. Jamie will be located in the Charleston Field Office and cover Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

NAWCA Update

NAWCA Project Site Visit

Karen Kreil (North Dakota Natural Resources Trust) serves as the North American Wetlands Conservation Council representative for North Dakota Game and Fish Department. Karen conducted project site visits for the recently submitted Ark-La-Miss IV and Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge III NAWCA proposals. She visited with DU Southern Region, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff to tour each grant tract. The tour included trips to Cache River NWR in Arkansas and Dewey Wills WMA in Louisiana for the Ark-La-Miss IV proposal and Howard Miller WMA, and Yazoo, Panther Swamp, Hillside and Morgan Brake NWRs in Mississippi for the Theodore Roosevelt III proposal. The tour went very well with tremendous help from USFWS partner Sabrina Chandler and MDWFP partner Ed Penny. Karen was quite impressed with our current work on these public areas as well as with the importance of the proposed work. Her site visit report, presented to the NAWCC at their October meeting, helped the Council determine their recommendations for funding.

Grants recommended for funding in December:
Ark-La-Miss IV
Theodore Roosevelt III (Mississippi)
White Lake Wetlands Enhancements Project (Louisiana)

South Mississippi Flyway Unit – AR, LA, MS, AL, TN, KY

Mississippi

Howard Miller WMA Enhancement Complete

DU and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks completed Phase II of improvements to Howard Miller Wildlife Management Area in November. This project included the installation of 31 water control structures, and complemented past and future conservation efforts on Howard Miller WMA. The entire WMA is open to public hunting through a draw hunt system, and it is one of the most popular public hunting areas in the Mississippi Delta. Combined with previous work on Howard Miller WMA, this work enhanced 2,400 acres for waterfowl and other wetland-dependent wildlife. Total project cost of work on Howard Miller to date is \$614,000, funded in part through a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant.

MDWFP Increases State Grant Commitment

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP) decided to increase their State Grant funding commitment to \$100,000 at their Commission meeting held in Jackson, Mississippi on October 18. Ducks Unlimited Director Curtis Hopkins was invited to give a summary report on last year's State Grant funding accomplishments. Hopkins discussed DU's long-standing partnership with MDWFP and the great accomplishments shared both in Mississippi and on the prairies. He highlighted some of the recently completed work in Mississippi, including habitat enhancements on Howard Miller, Twin Oaks and O'keefe Wildlife Management Areas and discussed last year's accomplishments in Saskatchewan through MDWFP's State Grant funding, including conserving and restoring nearly 4,000 acres and managing habitat on an additional 24,800 acres. Following the report, DU was awarded \$100,000 from MDWFP to continue our habitat work in the Prairies. This represents an increase over last year's State Grant commitment from Mississippi, clearly demonstrating their confidence in DU's ability to deliver conservation in Canada as well as MDWFP's appreciation for the payoff of the partnership to their constituents. DU is grateful for MDWFP's support of the AFWA State Grant program.

Arkansas

Cut-Off Creek WMA Restoration

Just in time for waterfowl season, DU and its partners completed a wetlands restoration project on the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) Cut-Off Creek Wildlife Management Area. In a proactive effort to improve management capabilities and to ensure the continued availability of public waterfowl hunting habitat on the Cut-Off Creek Wildlife Management Area in Drew County, DU designed and constructed a new water-control structure that replaced several older water-control structures in service since the early 1990s. "The new water-control structure and associated spillway provide the Region III Wildlife Management staff the ability to more efficiently manage more than 2,500 acres of bottomland hardwood forest habitat for waterfowl and waterfowl hunters," AGFC Regional Wildlife Management Supervisor Mark Hooks said. "DU and AGFC have a well-established partnership, and this project is just one more tangible result of our mutual long-term commitment to improving wetland habitat throughout Arkansas." Like all of our projects, the partners involved in the Cut-Off Creek restoration project made it possible. Partners on the project include DU, AGFC, War Eagle Boats, Wetlands America Trust, the North American Wetlands Conservation Council and numerous DU volunteers and supporters.

Cache River NWR Enhanced

DU is working on Cache River NWR to enhance 275 acres of agricultural wetlands. DU and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service partners will create impoundments on two cooperatively-farmed units of the Refuge near the Cache River by adding more than 100,000 linear feet of levee and installing 10 water control structures. This project will allow Refuge staff to control water delivery to unharvested crops, thus allowing wintering waterfowl and other birds to benefit from this high-energy food source. This work is supported in part by a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant.

Black Swamp WMA

Construction started in November to improve 23 acres of moist soil habitat on Rex Hancock Black Swamp WMA in Woodruff County. The area will be managed as a rest area for waterfowl. Project features include the installation of an electric re-lift pump and filling

barrow ditches to provide a dependable source of water and allow better production and management of moist soil vegetation. A North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant provided partial funding for the project, a cooperative effort between DU and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

Louisiana

DU Awarded \$550,000 by Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

In October, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority approved the St. Louis Canal project in Lafourche Parish. The project is the first freshwater introduction project initiated by the Southern Region team, and will direct freshwater into coastal marshes suffering from saltwater intrusion. The project will benefit an estimated 6,000 acres of coastal wetlands including a portion of the Pointe-aux-Chenes WMA. These funds will be available as matching funds for NAWCA grants to be proposed in the Mississippi River Coastal Wetlands Initiative Area of the Gulf Coast Joint Venture. Approximately 75 percent of coastal Louisiana's land loss has occurred in southeast Louisiana over the past 80 years. The St. Louis Canal project illustrates DU's potential to make significant progress towards restoring Louisiana's coastal wetlands through direct project delivery. Construction is anticipated in DU FY 2013.

Tennessee

Tennessee Commission Tours Canada

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) has contributed to waterfowl conservation on the Canadian Prairies since 1992. This partnership with DU recognizes the importance of Canadian waterfowl production to the Tennessee hunter. During the past 19 years, TWRA has contributed in excess of \$2.7 M to this effort, including their most recent 2011 contribution of \$40,000. The TWRA State Grant contributions provide the critical first dollar to leverage additional funding that drives Canadian waterfowl habitat conservation.

In just the past five years, Ducks Unlimited conserved, enhanced and restored 49,788 acres and influenced an additional 208,480 acres with the support of TWRA. In October, DU staff toured TWRA Commissioners Julie Schuster, Jim McMillin, Jim Bledsoe, Jeff Griggs and William Brown, along

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with TWRA Director Ed Carter across the Saskatchewan Prairies to show them exactly what TWRA's State Grant investments are doing for the ducks and the sportsmen that pursue them in Tennessee. The group was pleased with the visible results of their State Grant investments and DU's actions in protecting and improving breeding habitats vital to the waterfowl that wing their way to Tennessee.



From left to right: Commissioner Jeff McMillin, TWRA Director Ed Carter, Commissioner Jeff Griggs, Commissioner Julie Schuster, Commissioner William Brown and Commissioner Jim Bledsoe

Kentucky

Ballard County WMA

The Butler-Castor Upgrade project at Ballard Wildlife Management Area was completed in late October. DU replaced failing infrastructure to help Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources improve management capabilities on several impoundments of the Ballard WMA. Approximately 400 acres of moist-soil and flooded agricultural habitat was enhanced for waterfowl. Parts of the improved area are open to public hunting, and plans are in the works for more improvements to Ballard County and Boatwright WMAs in 2012.

South Atlantic Flyway Unit – FL, GA, SC, NC, VA

North Carolina

Mattamuskeet NWR

DU recently completed construction on the MI-10 project to enhance 467 acres of waterfowl habitat.

The project replaced an existing pump to better manage water levels in the impoundment for waterfowl, shorebirds and a host of other wildlife species. Partners included DU, USFWS and the North Carolina Attorney General's Office. Since 2007, DU, USFWS, North Carolina Attorney General's Office and the North American Wetlands Conservation Council have restored management capability to eight impoundments on Mattamuskeet NWR totaling 1,992 acres.

Neuse Game Land

DU recently submitted a proposal to the NC Attorney General's Office Environmental Enhancement Grant Program to restore 593 acres on the Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land in Wake County. The project includes restoring water management capabilities on existing managed wetlands by replacing water control structures, removing debris from existing canals and installing pump systems. Managed wetlands are critical to wildlife since over 50% of the natural wetlands in the state have been lost, and we continue to lose additional wetland habitat throughout the state. DU will partner with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission to develop and implement the restoration project on five managed wetlands – Beaver Dam Unit (76 acres), Little River Unit (70 acres), Flat River Unit (246 acres), Butner Depot Unit (72 acres) and Brickhouse Road Unit (129 acres). These wetlands are intensively managed to provide habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds and other wetland-dependent species.

South Carolina

Phase 3 Lowcountry Wetlands Initiative

DU and its partners are currently developing phase 3 of the Lowcountry Wetlands Initiative NAWCA project. We have successfully received \$2 million in NAWCA funds for the first two phases which was matched with over \$9.3 million in partner funds to conserve over 10,000 acres. Phase 3 will be submitted for consideration by the NAWCC in March 2012 with a conservation goal of nearly 5,500 acres.

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Florida

Lake Miccosukee Rededicated

DU and partners from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission recently gathered to install a new sign and rededicate a wetlands enhancement project at Lake Miccosukee in celebration of DU's 75th anniversary. Lake Miccosukee, a 6,312-acre Jefferson County lake west of Monticello, is managed by the FWC and the Northwest Florida Water Management District to maintain high-quality wetland habitat for waterfowl while also providing public hunting opportunities. A project replacing a non-functional water-control structure was completed in 1998 to enhance management capabilities in the area, and was chosen for special recognition leading up to DU's 75th-anniversary year due to its continued successful operation and importance to waterfowl in northern Florida.



Left to right – Ducks Unlimited District Chairman Jarret Lafferty, DU State Chairman Peggy Higgins, DU Sr. Vice President Monty Lewis, DU District Chairman Ted Nixon, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Waterfowl Program Leader Joe Benedict, and DU Regional Director Clint Murphy

FWC Increases State Grant Funding

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has committed an additional \$10,000 to their State Grant contribution, bringing their total to \$35,000 in FY12. Since 2003, the FWC has

contributed \$195,000 to the program. That contribution is combined with other state grants focused on habitat restoration in Manitoba's prairie pothole region then matched by DU, DU Canada, NAWCA and other entities, effectively leveraging Florida's contribution many times over. Over the past five years these contributions have helped DU conserve, enhance and restore 235,059 acres of prime breeding habitat and positively influence an additional 1.2 million acres. FWC's support continues to be a vital part of the AFWA State Grants Program.

Virginia

Expanded WMA - Virginia

DU is pursuing a unique opportunity to help the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries acquire an important tract of important waterfowl habitat on the Eastern Shore. The Level Ponds tract is a 688-acre property containing critical coastal wetlands and managed impoundments located in Accomack County. Once acquired, the tract will become part of the Saxis WMA and be opened to waterfowl hunting and other recreational pursuits.

South Central Flyway Unit – MO, KS, OK, TX, NM

Oklahoma

Sequoyah NWR

In December, DU and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service completed a project to improve 2,429 acres of moist soil managed wetlands on Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge in east-central Oklahoma. The Refuge lies at the confluence of the Arkansas and Canadian Rivers, where waterfowl gather by the thousands during their migration along the Central Flyway. Twenty-five water control structures were installed to improve habitat and water management capabilities. Hunting is allowed on Sequoyah NWR.

Submitted by Andi Cooper
acooper@ducks.org

NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

NO NEWS REPORTED

BUSINESS

**Minutes from the Fall Business Meeting
Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society
Tuesday, 25 October 2011
Sheraton Music City Hotel
Nashville, Tennessee**

I. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions – Steve Rockwood

The Fall Business Meeting was called to order at 3:00 P.M.

II. Approval of 2010 Business Meeting Minutes

Dr. Darren Miller made a motion that the 2010 Fall Business Meeting Minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Mike Mengak and passed unanimously.

III. Immediate Past President of The Wildlife Society – Bruce Leopold

Dr. Leopold informed the Section that TWS had achieved record membership of greater than 10,400 and was still growing. He discussed TWS's commitment to maintain a philosophical linkage to core values and not to deviate from those core values. Case in point, The Wildlife Professional's special issue on Hunting exemplifies this commitment, the response to this issue was good and the TWS was still getting requests.

The SETWS is TWS's largest Section, is well recognized by Council, does lots of good things, and was instrumental in TWS's commitment to maintaining core values, issues concerning certification, and TWS publications. He encouraged SETWS to be vigilant as members and as a Section. With regard to certification, SETWS should be aggressive in nominating deserving individuals for consideration for the Certification Review Board and to be active in assuring fairness and equity that all Sections have the ability to rotate on the Certification Review Board.

IV. SE Section Representative – Darren Miller

Dr. Miller thanked Dr. Leopold for his service with TWS. Dr. Miller reminded the Section that the TWS Annual Conference was rapidly approaching and encouraged member attendance. He discussed the importance of TWS adhering to its core values, highlighted several recent examples, and encouraged member involvement to ensure TWS holds to its core values. Dr. Miller highlighted the return of The Wildlife Society Bulletin. Current paid subscriptions are about 3,000, but this needs to increase to ensure this publication continues. He encouraged members to subscribe to this publication. Darren discussed the importance of commenting on TWS position statements and encouraged SETWS as a Section and as individual members to comment on draft position statements when they are made available. TWS position statements define TWS. The importance of this critical aspect of TWS cannot be exaggerated. He mentioned that the recent position statement on Animal Rights and Feral Cats generated significant interest and comments that range across a broad view of perspectives. All comments were considered by TWS. Dr. Miller informed the membership that next year represents TWS's 75th Anniversary and encouraged members to be involved in this celebration.

V. Reports

Secretary-Treasurer – John W. Bowers

Mr. Bowers presented a summary of the SETWS finances and indicated that Dr. Mike Mengak, Dr. Karl V. Miller, and Dr. Bob Warren audited the financial records on October 13, 2011, and all was in order.

The audit committee identified that the current account holder is not FDIC insured and felt that our account

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receives little service in return for the \$80 annual fee SETWS pays. The Committee recommended that SETWS investigate institutions that provide similar services (e.g., interest bearing checking) without or for a reduced annual fee and that is FDIC insured. Mr. Bowers reported that the EB adopted a motion that the office of Secretary-Treasurer investigate alternative accounts or institutions that provide interest bearing checking for minimal annual fees and that is FDIC insured.

Mr. Rockwood recognized Mr. Bowers for his service to SETWS as Secretary-Treasurer and presented him with a plaque for his service.

Associate Editor for Wildlife – Dr. Chris DePerno

A total of 17 manuscripts were submitted. Manuscripts were sent out to peer reviewers and reviewed by the Associate Editor. Eleven (11) manuscripts were accepted for an acceptance rate of 65%, which is consistent with previous years. Fourteen (14) oral presentations were accepted from 16 submitted abstracts bringing the total number of oral presentations to twenty-five (25). A total of six presentations are student presentations. A total of nine posters were submitted and eight were accepted for presentation.

Mr. Rockwood recognized Chris DePerno and William Giuliano for their service to SETWS and presented each with a plaque.

C. W. Watson Award – Mark Smith

A total of six nominations were received and the award recipient will be announced at the banquet. Dr. Smith expressed that nominators should focus on doing a better job presenting information for nominees.

Wetlands Wildlife Committee – Matt Gray

The committee met and 12 members were present. The committee discussed legislation that seeks to reduce the regulatory authority within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and could impact wetlands. Dr. Gray provided an update on Farm Bill issues relevant to wetlands. He also presented updates on the Wetlands Working Group and North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

Wildlife Management Excellence Award – Wib Owen (presented by Steve Rockwood)

Southeastern Bat Diversity Network is the recipient of the Wildlife Management Excellence Award

Publication Award, 2010 SEAFWA Proceedings – Mike Mengak

Winner was announced: Emily J. Saunders, Craig A. Miller, and Robert J. Warren. 2010. Communicating to Recruit the Best New Biologists: A Survey for SEAFWA.

Newsletter Editor/Webmaster – Katie Edwards

There were no format changes. The newsletter was sent electronically to all members on the SETWS list with dues paid. Paid members who have not been receiving the newsletter should contact Katie at setws_news@earthlink.net. On average, about 11 states have been reporting news for the newsletter. State representatives should contact Katie (setws_news@earthlink.net) if they are not receiving the requests for news. There is a standing request for more essays on wildlife issues in the Southeast. Also, members are requested to submit photographs/artwork to complement or supplement news items, research updates, and awards for the newsletter. Please provide captions for all submissions with ownership/copyright information so that appropriate credit may be given. The website is updated regularly with business announcements and special news items. Additionally, the newsletter is posted about one month after dissemination to paid members. Publication statistics for 2011: January (39 pages; 688 members); May (33 pages; 688 members); and September (34 pages; 688 members). Mr. Rockwood recognized Katie for her service to SETWS as and presented her with a plaque.

Student Award Committee – Brian Dorr

The student presentation award was given to Vanessa Lane (University of Georgia) for her presentation on “Breeding bird community response to dormant-versus growing season prescribed fire.”

The student poster presentation award was given to Michael Jones (West Virginia University, Morgantown) for his poster, “Spatial characteristics of black bears and bear hunters in Garrett County, Maryland.”

The Student Chapter of the Year award was presented to University of Tennessee-Martin Student Chapter.

VI. Old Business

Graduate School Accreditation – Stephen Rockwood

Mr. Rockwood briefly discussed SETWS’s Graduate School Accreditation Program. He reminded the membership that SETWS is the only Section with such program. The accreditation handbook is available on the Section website. Letters notifying universities of the accreditation program and process were sent out. Stephen F. Austin responded to the letter. Steve encouraged the incoming President, David Cobb, to follow-up with another letter.

Committee Restructuring – Miller & Bowers

The Ad Hoc Committee Restructuring Committee made the following recommendation: Keep all the active committees; Keep the nongame/endangered spp. committee (give them some time with specific charges; once those charges are met, consider disbanding the committee); dissolve the Animal Welfare Issues, Farm Wildlife and Forest Wildlife & Private Lands Committees; move to more of an ad-hoc committee structure to deal with issues as they emerge - these can be developed by the President with a specific charge and time frame; develop an ad-hoc Liaison Committee that will serve as a focal committee to receive information from the AFWA and SEAFWA committees and pass along relevant topics/information to the SE TWS Exec. Board. This may be a larger committee with each member assigned to “monitor” 2-3 of the SEAFWA/AFWA committees. The Executive Board adopted the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee Restructuring Committee and elevated the Ad Hoc Student Awards Committee to a standing committee.

Bylaws Revision – Rockwood

Bylaws revisions were published in the Newsletter provided to the paid members. These included revisions to Article V, Section 1, Clause C relating to term limits; Article V, Section 5 dealing with Vacancies; and Article X, Section 1 relating to amendments to bylaws.

Mr. John Bowers moved that the SETWS bylaws be amended as presented. The motion was seconded by Mike Mengak and approved by the membership.

VII. New Business

TWS Miscellaneous Items – Shannon Pederson

Ms. Pederson informed the membership of TWS’s Student Member Sponsorship Program where membership to TWS can be sponsored for students for \$35 per student. Letters discussing this program were sent out and is also available on the TWS website: <http://wildlife.org/sponsorstudents>. She also announced a new student chapter – University of Maryland, which was accepted by the SETWS Executive Board. The following are progressing through the student chapter development process: Delta State University (Cleveland, MS); Western Carolina University (NC); and Horry-Georgetown Technical College (Conway, SC). SETWS Student Conclave 2012 will be held at University of Tennessee – Knoxville. This year TWS is offering virtual attendance for its Annual Conference and details are available on the website. Next year’s conference is in Portland and this

BUSINESS

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conference coincides with TWS's 75th Anniversary. Shannon discussed TWS's effort and financial campaign to produce a commemorative video that will tell the story of TWS in honor of the 75th Anniversary. Contributions to this effort may be made through the TWS website. A new techniques manual and human dimensions is due out in March 2012. Ms. Pederson also discussed internship openings, scholarship opportunities for minorities, a forthcoming web site survey for redesign of the web site, accessing publications, and the need to increase subscriptions for the WSB to ensure it remains a viable publication.

SEAFWA Publications – Rockwood

Mr. Rockwood briefed the membership on issues relating to the SEAFWA Proceedings and Academia receiving full credit for papers published in the proceedings. He reported that the SEAFWA Planning Committee is receptive to ideas that can resolve this important issue. Discussion ensued.

Deer Farming (Breeding) and Exploitation of Public Trust Resources – Jim Miller

Mr. Miller gave a brief presentation on importance of monitoring efforts that place wildlife, a public trust resource, at risk through exploitation and other related activities. Recently, Mississippi and Tennessee have seen legislative efforts to establish deer breeding operations that provide for genetic manipulation of white-tailed deer through semen collection, artificial insemination of deer, and other activities to provide antlered bucks for high fenced shooting operations. He called on Chad Dacus to share the recent experiences in Mississippi and Greg Norman to share the recent experiences in Tennessee. Both speakers indicated that much of the interest for this industry were from outside their respective states. Both speakers stressed the importance of wildlife professionals to become involved, the critical need to educate policymakers, and the importance of good public relations.

Election Results – Bruce Leopold

Bruce Leopold presented the results of the election for President-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer. Of 687 eligible voters in SETWS, 14.8% (102) submitted ballots. Of those, only 93 ballots were valid (9 ballots had no check marks on the ballot).

Eric Pelren was elected as President-Elect and Mike Conner was elected as Secretary-Treasurer.

Other Topics/Items

Ray Iglay discussed the Wildlife Habitat Restoration Working Group and the opportunities for leadership within the working group, such as Secretary-Treasurer. He also appealed to the membership to submit material/information for the working group's newsletter. Interested individuals should contact Ray for more information or to submit information.

VIII. President's Closing Remarks – Stephen Rockwood

Stephen Rockwood expressed his appreciation to the membership for being able to serve the Section as President and encourage the membership to stay involved. He briefly highlighted the many issues on which SETWS has been successfully involved and the beneficial changes that have occurred over the past several years. Additionally, there is much to be done and some of these will fall to the incoming President, David Cobb!

IX. Incoming President's Comments – David Cobb

Mr. Rockwood read comments provided by David Cobb, who was unable to attend the meeting due to work-related scheduling conflicts. Dr. Cobb looks forward to serving the Section as incoming President, working closely with the new Executive Board, continuing the efforts that were on-going from the previous administration, and wants to know of any concerns or suggestions the membership may have.

The Fall Business Meeting of the SETWS adjourned at 4:43 P.M.

BUSINESS

FROM PAGE 25

Secretary/Treasurer Report for January 1, 2011 to October 22, 2011

Submitted by: John W. Bowers,
SE Section Secretary/Treasurer

Beginning Balance (01/01/11)	\$9,866.96
Deposits	\$6,326.00
Debits	\$(3,189.32)
Bank interest	\$4.67
Bank fees	\$(80.45)
Ending Balance (10/22/11)	\$12,927.86

DEPOSITS

Item	Amount	Date
TWS Reimbursement (dues rebates)	\$3,350.00	02/24/2011
TWS Reimbursement (dues rebates)	\$346.00	03/31/2011
TWS Reimbursement (dues rebates)	\$1,884.00	06/21/2011
TWS Reimbursement (due rebates)	\$746.00	09/21/2011
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$6,326.00	

DEBITS

Item	Amount	Date
Auburn Student Chptr (Conclave 2011)	\$1,000.00	03/06/2011
Newsletter and Awards Design	\$1,134.32	10/12/2011
UT Knox Student Chptr (Conclave 2012)	\$1,000.00	10/12/2011
Brandon's Inc. Award Plaque	\$55.00	10/21/2011
TOTAL DEBITS	\$3,189.32	

2012-13 Southeastern Section TWS Officers

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North Carolina Wildlife Resources
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Easement Database Is a Big Boost for Conservation Efforts

New resource provides a fresh and comprehensive view of private conservation easement lands

On October 10, 2011, the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities (the Endowment) announced the release of the National Conservation Easement Database (NCED), the first resource to offer detailed information on the nearly 18 million acres now protected by more than 80,000 easements across the United States. Until its development, land and natural resource practitioners and decision-makers lacked a single system for sharing, accessing, and managing nationwide information about conservation easements.

Conservation easements are voluntary legal agreements through which landowners, public agencies, and land trusts protect essential natural resources like drinking water, wildlife habitat, and land along lakes, rivers, and streams. By bringing together easement data that was previously scattered and incomplete, the database serves conservationists, planners, and policy-makers across the country.

“For the first time,” said Carlton Owen, President and CEO of the Endowment, “it will be possible to see the location, size, and purpose of conservation easements on a nationwide basis. By having all this information in a single place, the easement database will save organizations precious time and money, because each won’t have to create their own system.”

The National Conservation Easement Database (www.conservationeasement.us) provides government agencies, land trusts, and conservation professionals with new insights for strategic conservation efforts. Users can search for individual properties by date, property size, and other characteristics, or view a State Report for a quick summary of the area. Map-savvy practitioners can benefit further by choosing to download geographic datasets for advanced analysis. This wealth of information identifies those who have conserved nearby lands, reveals critical lands that are not yet protected, and presents new opportunities for collaboration. Such information is essential, for example, in effective planning of wildlife migration corridors or prioritizing critical lands and waters to protect.

Senator Max Baucus of Montana noted “the easement database is a great example of government and the private sector working together to save money, increase efficiency, and deliver better results.” Sen. Baucus is an ardent supporter of conservation easements, which help ranchers, farmers, and other private landowners to continue working the land and building strong communities.

Combining the easement database with data on America’s public lands reveals the most complete picture yet of protected areas across the country. “We’ve had to work for years without information on privately held easements,” said Jim Hubbard, Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry, U.S. Forest Service (USFS). “Creation of the easement database fills a critical gap of information that we need to make better ecological and financial decisions.”

The easement database balances public interests in land conservation and management with respect for the confidentiality and rights of private owners. The database currently has information on an estimated 60% of all easements, a percentage that will continue to grow.

SPECIAL INTEREST

FROM PAGE 27

Three federal agencies—the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the U. S. Forest Service—partnered with the Endowment in support of the easement database. Other key partners include The Nature Conservancy, the nation’s largest private lands conservancy, and the Land Trust Alliance, which represents the views and concerns of the nation’s 1,700 land trusts.

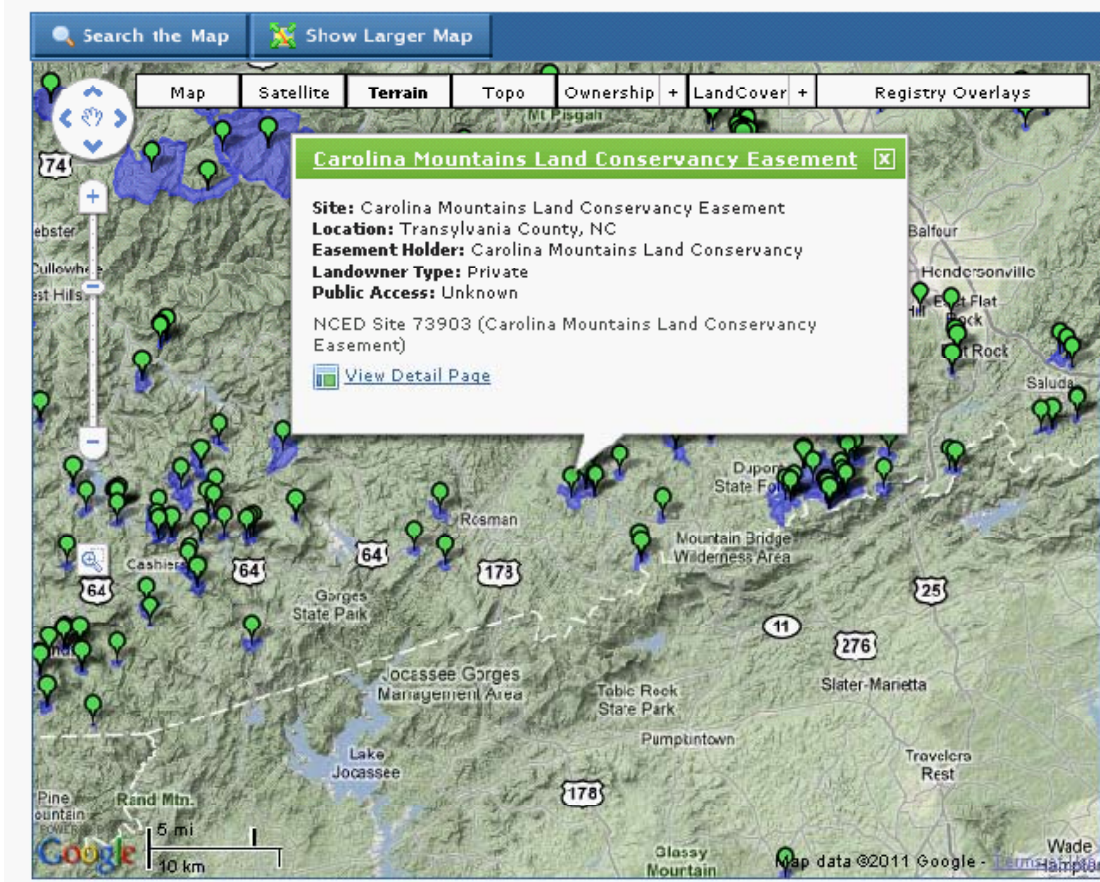
“We think creation of the National Conservation Easement Database will serve everyone’s interests and needs,” said Rand Wentworth, president of the Land Trust Alliance. “Hundreds of land trusts rely heavily on volunteers, and have limited access to technology and planning tools. The easement database, a state-of-the-art technology available for free online, offers a new dimension never before accessible to local conservationists and planners.”

To create, design and implement the easement database, the Endowment assembled five conservation organizations with extensive local and regional experience working with conservation easements and data systems: Conservation Biology Institute, Defenders of Wildlife, Ducks Unlimited, NatureServe, and The Trust for Public Land. These partners will continue to collaborate to maintain and update existing information.

Envisioned and funded by the Endowment, this important project received generous support from the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelly Foundation, the Knobloch Family Foundation, the Graham Foundation, and the U.S. Forest Service.

The National Conservation Easement Database is online at www.conservationeasement.us.

To learn more about the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities visit www.usendowment.org.



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Awards 2011

C.W. Watson (SEAFWA)

Dr. Jim Byford, UT-Martin

Wildlife Management Excellence

Southeastern Bat Diversity Network

SEAFWA Publication of the Year

Emily J. Saunders, Craig A. Miller, and Robert J. Warren. 2010. Communicating to Recruit the Best New Biologists: A Survey for SEAFWA.

Best Student Chapter

University of Tennessee - Martin

Best Student Presentation

Vanessa Lane, University of Georgia
Breeding bird community response to dormant-versus growing season prescribed fire.

Best Poster Presentation

Michael Jones, West Virginia University
Spatial characteristics of black bears and bear hunters in Garrett County, Maryland.

Wildlife Biologist of the Year

Harry Dutton

Caesar Kleberg Award for Excellence in Applied Wildlife Research

Dr. Karl Miller

TWS Fellows (National)

Robert Anthony, William M. Block, Henry (Rique) Campa III, David J. Case, W. Daniel Edge, Selma N. Glasscock, Bruce Leopold, Michael R. McEnroe

Aldo Leopold Memorial Award (National)

Dr. Kenneth P. Burnham

SEAFWA Awards



Darren Miller (SE Section Rep) and Outgoing President Steve Rockwood



Steve Rockwood and Outgoing Secretary/Treasurer John Bowers

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

FROM PAGE 29



Associate Editor, Chris DePerno (NC), and Emma Wilcox (FL) accepting on behalf of Bill Giuliano (FL)



Student Chapter of the Year, University of Tennessee - Martin

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

FROM PAGE 30



Harry Dutton, awarded SEAFWA Wildlife Biologist of the Year, also a TWS member.

NOMINATIONS

A Call for Nominations for Honorary Membership in and for the Special Recognition Service Award of The Wildlife Society

Honorary Membership in The Wildlife Society is intended to recognize continuous outstanding service in any area or areas of concern to the Society. Any practicing or retired wildlife professional who is a member of TWS and has made continuous valuable contributions to the wildlife profession over a long period of time is eligible for nomination.

The Special Recognition Service Award honors any person (doesn't have to be a member of TWS) or group that has made an outstanding contribution to the wildlife profession; the general areas of wildlife conservation, management, or science; or a specific area of endeavor, species, community, ecosystem, region, etc.

Nominations should specify the award sought and should include:

- Nominee's full name, present position, address, and phone number;
- Nominator's and endorser's names, addresses, and phone numbers;
- A clear and concise statement justifying the nomination, including the specific nature, time, and place of the nominee's outstanding service and accomplishments (address such criteria as difficulty, insight, scope, importance, acceptance, application, value, impact, and geographic scope of contributions);
- At least three signed statements of endorsement.

Please assist this year's committee by submitting materials via email to yanin@wildlife.org. This e-mail address is being protected from spam bots – you need JavaScript enabled to view it as a single PDF file by March 15, 2012.

NOMINATIONS

FROM PAGE 31

Nominations Open for TWS Fellows

Each year, The Wildlife Society accepts up to 2 nominations per Section to be considered for TWS Fellowship. The deadline for submissions is Feb. 1, 2012. We have many deserving individuals in the Section that should be considered for this distinction. Please go to http://joomla.wildlife.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=195&Itemid=251#fellows for more details/information. Contact Darren Miller (Darren.miller@weyerhaeuser.com), Southeastern Section Representative to TWS Council for more information.

TWS Fellows

2003

William Healy
Fred W. Kinard, Jr.
Stephen P. Havera
Todd K. Fuller
Gary C. White
Dale Hein

2004

John A. Bissonette
R. Terry Bowyer
Richard M. DeGraaf
Diana L. Hallett
Gerald D. Kobriger
Paul R. Krausman
Richard A. Lancia
Ray B. Owen, Jr.
Nova J. Silvy
Ollie Torgerson

2005

Warren B. Ballard
Peter T. Bromley
Len H. Carpenter
Scott R. Craven
Stephen DeStefano
John G. Kie
Ronald F. Labisky
Federick Lindzey
Frank R. Thompson III

2006

William E. Berg
James E. Cardoza
Thomas M. Franklin
Jonathon Jenks
John E. McDonald
John Schoen

2007

Gordon Batcheller
John W. Connelly
David C. Guynn, Jr.
Richard M. Kaminski
Jerry R. Longcore
Terry Messmer
Wayne R. Porath
Merlin Shoemith

2008

Michael R. Conover
Duane R. Diefenbach
William M. Giuliano
Jeanne C. Jones
Rollin D. Sparrowe

2009

Robert Brown
Winifred Kessler
John Organ
Gary Potts
Misty Lee Sumner
Robert J. Warren

2010

DeeCee A. Darrow
Daniel J. Decker
Thomas Decker
Steve Demarais
Marti Kie
William G. Minser
Bruce Thompson
Dan Svedarsky

2011

Robert Anthony
William M. Block
Henry Campa III
David J. Case
W. Daniel Edge
Selma N. Glasscock
Bruce Leopold
Michael R. McEnroe



MEETINGS OF INTEREST

FEBRUARY

2012 Southeast Partners in Flight Meeting

February 6–9, 2012

Clarion Hotel

Raleigh, NC

<http://sepif.org/content/view/73/1/>

36th Annual NWTF Convention and Sport Show

February 9–12, 2012

Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center

Nashville, TN

http://www.nwtf.org/special_events/convention.html

SEPARC 2012 Annual Meeting

February 16–20, 2012

Fall Creek Falls State Park

Pikeville, TN

<http://www.separc.org/meetings/registration>

2012 SBDN/Colloquium on Conservation of Mammals Meeting

February 23–24, 2012

Lake Tiak-O-Khata

Louisville, MS

<http://sbdn.org/>

2012 Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting

February 26–29, 2012

Sandestin, FL

<http://fltws.org/SEDSG2012.php>

MARCH

77th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference

March 12–17, 2012

Hilton Atlanta

Atlanta, Georgia

http://www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=348&Itemid=61

MARCH

2012 Southeastern Wildlife Student Conclave

March 15–17, 2012

Fall Creek Falls State Park

Pikeville, TN

<http://fwf.ag.utk.edu/conclave2012/>

MAY

75th DU Convention

May 30–June 3, 2012

Gaylord Resort & Convention Center

Nashville, TN

<http://www.ducks.org/events/National-Convention>

AUGUST

2012 Meeting of American Society of Ichthyologists & Herpetologists

World Congress of Herpetology

August 8–14, 2012

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

<http://wch2012vancouver.com/index.php>

National Bobwhite Technical Committee Meeting

Date TBA

Abilene, TX

OCTOBER

SEAFWA Conference

October 7–10, 2012

Hot Springs Convention Center

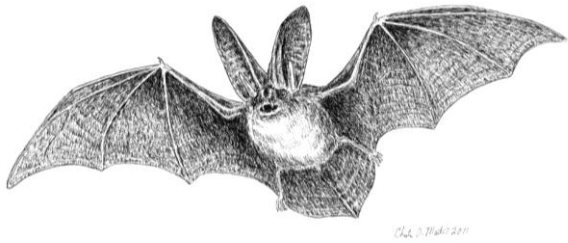
The Embassy Suites and the Austin Hotel

Hot Springs, Arkansas

The Wildlife Society Annual Conference 2012

October 13–17, 2012

Portland, Oregon



MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

And

FINAL CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

17th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network 22nd Colloquium on the Conservation of Mammals in the Southeastern United States

LOCATION: Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville, MS (<http://www.ltok.com/>)

MEETING DATE: February 23-25, 2012

Feb. 23 (1:00 – 5:40 pm)* – SBDN Annual Meeting

Feb. 23 (7:00 – 10:00 pm)* - Welcoming Social

Feb. 24 (8:00 am – 5:30 pm)* – Mammal Colloquium

Feb. 25 (7:30 am – 1:00 pm)* – Field Trip (lunch provided)

*Times are tentative and subject to change

SBDN PLENARY SESSION

Incorporating Bats into Regional Conservation Plans

REGISTRATION: Registration: \$50 for professionals; \$35 for students; \$15 for field trip; Registration ends **Feb. 3, 2012**

Late registration: \$85 for professionals; \$60 for students; cannot register for field trip after Feb. 3

Registration includes: dinner on Feb. 23; breakfast and lunch on Feb. 24; Welcoming Social; lots of time to visit with friends and colleagues in a relaxing surrounding.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION: Abstracts are due by **January 31, 2012.**

MORE INFORMATION (Lodging/Travel Options, Detailed Abstract submission guidelines, etc.), including registration form: <http://www.sbdn.org/>.

Local Contact: Darren Miller, darren.miller@weyerhaeuser.com

Meeting Announcement

Southeastern Prairies Symposium: Remnants, Conservation and Working Grasslands May 14 – 17, 2012 Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS

Prior to European settlement, the southeastern United States had several regions dominated by grasslands or prairie that supported a diverse and unique array of wildlife and native vegetation. Today, many of these prairie ecosystems are listed as critically imperiled by state wildlife action plans due to conversion to agriculture and non-native grasses, excessive grazing, and fire exclusion. Southeastern prairie habitats are important and unique land types that are receiving increased attention across the region. Over the past 10 years, increased funding for habitat restoration and enhancement has been provided by various conservation initiatives and grants, including the Landowner Incentive Program, State Wildlife Grants, and Partners for Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Although great accomplishments have been made through these programs, some funding opportunities unfortunately are being eliminated or are facing decreased appropriations, and efforts are needed to compile knowledge gained so to be better prepared for future opportunities.

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks partnered with Mississippi State University and Wildlife Mississippi will co-host a symposium for natural resources professionals and scientists involved in the ecology, management, and restoration of southeastern prairie habitats.

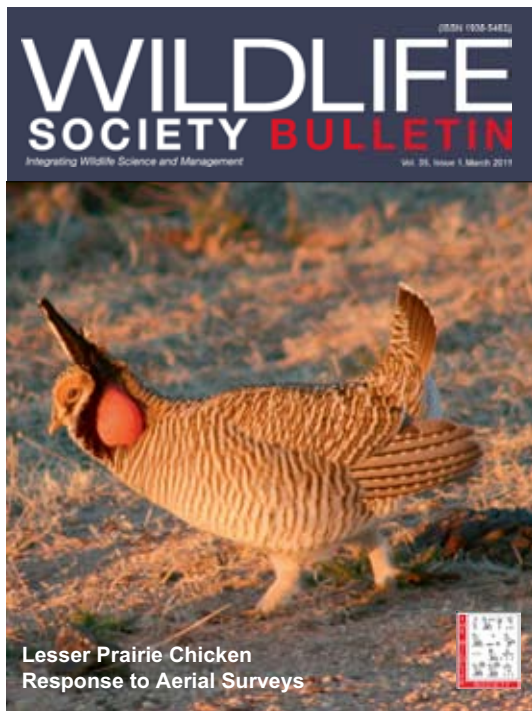
The primary goal of this symposium is to synthesize effective approaches to prairie restoration and enhancement throughout the region by identifying broad-scale generalities in management practices and biota while recognizing differences at the specific ecosystem level. Three concurrent sessions focusing on management, the natural biota, as well as working grasslands will unite researchers, biologists, and managers from across the southern United States (AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX) and increase communication among state, federal, and non-governmental partners in prairie habitat management.

Invited speakers will bring participants to common ground on the topics of prairie remnants, conservation, and working grasslands. Submitted papers by scientists and resource professionals will be presented to inform participants on prairie restoration and enhancement advances. An edited volume based on symposium presentations will be produced. Additionally, a technical manual focusing on effective regional prairie restoration techniques, lessons learned, and future needs may be produced. The symposium will conclude with a panel discussion on needs and approaches to guide future prairie restoration and enhancement efforts.

For more information, visit <http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/wildlife/prairie/>

WILDLIFE SOCIETY BULLETIN

Where wildlife research and practice meet.



The *Wildlife Society Bulletin* is an online, peer-reviewed journal that integrates wildlife science and management.



With a long history as a highly-respected print journal, the *Wildlife Society Bulletin* is now available as an online journal for wildlife managers and biologists who study and manage wildlife in the field. Its peer-reviewed papers reflect how wildlife science can be applied in practice—making WSB a valuable resource for state, federal, tribal, or private agencies and NGOs involved in wildlife management and conservation.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY for only \$35 a year.
wildlife.org/membership

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society Membership Application

New Renewal Change of Address

_____ Number of years (multiple year membership)

(please print)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

PHONE _____

For new memberships or renewals, please enclose a check for \$10.00 per year (students: \$6.00) payable to Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society with this application and send to:

Dr. L. Mike Conner, Secretary-Treasurer
Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society
Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center
3988 Jones Center Drive
Newton, GA 39870
mike.conner@jonesctr.org