



NC Wildlifer

JANUARY 2012 ♦ NC CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY ♦ VOLUME 27 NO. 1

Dan's Deliberations

It's a new year and I trust everyone had a restful holiday. I hope you were able to spend it with family, friends and at least a portion of it in the outdoors.

Along with the New Year comes the realization that our Chapter's 2011 work is quickly coming to a close. I have been honored to serve with an awesome Executive Board this past year and I'd like to thank each one of them for their service to the Chapter. Much has been accomplished and none of it would have been possible without the professionalism of these dedicated individuals. I would also like to thank the committees for their service and a special "Thank You" to the chairpersons who worked alongside the Board and led their committees in accomplishing their tasks. Thanks to John Stanton for working with me despite my anal ways and producing three very informative newsletters. And I haven't forgotten those people who submitted articles for the newsletters. Without them the newsletters would have been a mighty boring read! Overall, I just want to say "Thanks" to all who took part in NCTWS activities during 2011. It doesn't matter how large or small your part was, the Chapter is alive and well because of you!

It is now 2012 and though it's nice to look back and savor the accomplishments of the past year we should never spend too much time there. Susan Campbell will soon be your new president and a new Board will soon be busily taking on the duties of 2012. There is a lot to do this year but I suspect there always will be. I look forward to continuing my role on the Board in assistance to Susan and guidance to the new Board members. Now I want to encourage you to consider your role in the Chapter and find your niche of service. If you have read any of my newsletter articles or distribution list correspondences in 2011, you should know that getting members involved has been my primary goal. Several people have stepped up, resulting in new faces in committees and on the Board in 2012. Now it's your turn. There is still much need for new members in most of the committees and, quite honestly, it doesn't take much of your time. Check a committee out! That's the least you can do. There's no obligation.

If you are new to NCTWS, an easy way to start serving the Chapter is to attend the annual meeting and get to know more of the people and the Chapter's mission. This year's meeting theme is one that fits every person in the wildlife field whether you are a top supervisor, a university professor, a field biologist or a technician. The topics will focus on the "how to" and not the "results" of wildlife management. The hope is to enlighten the membership with techniques on "how to" get the job accomplished instead of focusing the spotlight on results. Results are great but they only come about after the "how to" has been implemented. If you are a technician, this meeting is definitely for you. In fact, some of the speakers are technicians speaking on projects they are involved with. Foresters and biologists will also be speaking on projects that technicians are heavily involved with. Annual meeting information and registration instructions are found in this newsletter and they will soon be sent out through the distribution list (the agenda is not included in the newsletter but it will be included in the distribution list mailing). Do your best to attend. You will be glad you did!

I like to think that wildlife professionals are a lucky few because we love our work. I take that philosophy a step further when I think of The Wildlife Society. Our service there is not rewarded with a paycheck or a retirement pension. Our reward is the satisfaction of knowing we are part of a movement greater than our individual selves. We are volunteers doing our part to protect the American way of life and the vast wild places that made this country great. All members are important to the Chapter whether they play an active role or not. Let us get to know YOU better this year. Come to a Board meeting, write a newsletter article, and attend the annual meeting. The more involved you are, the better your Chapter can serve you!

Danny

2011 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Position	Officer	E-mail address
President	Daniel Ray	daniel.ray@ncwildlife.org
President-elect	Susan Campbell	susan@ncaves.com
Past President	Chris DePerno	chris.deperno@ncsu.edu
Secretary	Jennifer Archambault	jmarcham@ncsu.edu
Treasurer	Jonathan Shaw	jonathan.shaw@ncwildlife.org
Board	Susan Miller	susan_miller@fws.gov
Board	Lori Williams	lori.williams@ncwildlife.org
SE Section Representative	Nils Peterson	nils_peterson@ncsu.edu
Ad Hoc Representatives		
Leopold Wildlife Club (NCSU)	Rachel Conley	reconle2@ncsu.edu
Haywood Community College	Andrew Isenhower	atisenhower@mail.haywood.edu

2011 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Committee	Chair	E-mail address
Audit	Jon Heisterberg	jon.f.heisterberg@aphis.usda.gov
Awards	John Ann Shearer	JohnAnn_Shearer@fws.gov
Conservation Review	Kacy Cook	kacy.cook@ncwildlife.org
COWCH	Jon Heisterberg	jon.f.heisterberg@aphis.usda.gov
Education and Information	Kendrick Weeks	kendrick.weeks@ncwildlife.org
Fund Raising	Pete Campbell	pete_campbell@fws.gov
Membership	Colter Chitwood	mcchitwo@ncsu.edu
Mentoring	Donna MacLennon	donnamac130@hotmail.com
Newsletter	John Stanton	john_stanton@fws.gov
Nominations and Elections	Chris DePerno	chris_deperno@ncsu.edu
Professional Development	Sue Cameron	susan_cameron@fws.gov
Program	Gary Marshall	g_marsha@bellsouth.net
Webmaster	Susan Miller	susan_miller@fws.gov

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit Committee Update

Committee Chair: Jon Heisterberg

No new information to report since the September 2011 newsletter.

Awards Committee Update

Committee Chair: John Ann Shearer

Award nominations in all categories have been received for 2011. We appreciate the good response. The committee will be reviewing these in the next few weeks.

Conservation Review Committee Update

Committee Chair: Kacy Cook

The CRC is looking for a new Chair as you know and we are working toward providing a NCTWS position statement on Trap Neuter and Release that matches the national TWS position, for the purpose of providing a resource to citizens who are trying to influence their local governments on the topic.

COWCH Committee Update

Committee Chair: Jon Heisterberg

No new information to report since the September 2011 newsletter.

Fundraiser Committee Update

Committee Chair: Pete Campbell

The committee is currently working with the student chapters to obtain items for the annual meeting auction and to bolster efforts in the sale of raffle adventures. The goal is to build teamwork and friendly rivalry among the students as their chapters compete for bragging rights in the auction's success.

Information and Education Committee Update

Committee Chair: Kendrick Weeks

Efforts continue on creating a list of online resources about wildlife conservation for general public that can be posted on the NCTWS website.

For information about the Information and Education Committee or to become a member of the committee, please contact Kendrick Weeks at kendrick.weeks@ncwildlife.org .

Membership Committee Update

Committee Chair: Colter Chitwood

The Membership Committee is looking for new energetic members to generate ideas to increase membership. Those interested in volunteering should email Colter (colter_chitwood@ncsu.edu) for information.

The committee plans to work with other NCTWS committees on the membership front, and the committee is always open to new ideas from the Chapter on ways to improve member recruitment.

Mentoring Committee Update

Committee Chair: Donna MacLennan

No new information to report since the September 2011 newsletter.

Newsletter Committee Update

Committee Chair: John Stanton

The committee produced three newsletters in 2011. We are always looking for better ways to serve the Chapter through the newsletter. If you have comments or suggestions about how the newsletter can be improved, please contact John Stanton at john_stanton@fws.gov .

Nominations and Elections Committee Update

Committee Chair: Chris DePerno

Nominations for the open 2012 Executive Board positions have been closed. The committee received one nomination for president-elect, two for secretary, and three for At-large Board member. Please do your part by voting for your favorite candidate in the upcoming election. The election ballot is posted in this newsletter and it will be sent to the membership via distribution list too.

Professional Development Committee Update

Committee Chair: Sue Cameron



A number of professional development opportunities were offered to the NCTWS membership this fall. Jamie Sasser hosted a Bird Banding Refresher course at Howell Woods Environmental Learning Center on October 5th, which was attended by 1 member. We banded 11 birds, including 2 northern cardinals, 2 ovenbirds, 1 wood thrush, 1 Acadian flycatcher, 1 hooded warbler, 1 magnolia warbler, 1 tufted titmouse, 1 gray-cheeked thrush, and 1 gray catbird. The membership was also invited to participate in a songbird and plant identification workshop at Hemlock Bluffs, hosted by Mark Johns, on October 28th. That workshop was attended by 3 members. We saw a beautiful male black-throated blue warbler hanging around the learning center, and learned over 70 different plant species found at Hemlock Bluffs!

Seventeen additional opportunities were posted to the listserv, including 5 workshops, 7 seminars or webinars, 4 conferences, and 1 volunteer opportunity to help collect native grass and wildflower seeds in the Sandhills. Workshops included a Reptile ID Workshop at Cool Springs, a workshop on Mechanical Fuels Reduction Treatment Effects on Fire Behavior, Fuel Loads, and Forest Ecology, a Frog Call/CASP Workshop hosted by the NCWRC, and 2 Pollinator Conservation Planning Short Courses hosted by the Xerces Society, NRCS, and Cooperative Extension. Seminars included the NCSU Barkalow Lecture by Dr. Zeb Hogan on giant fish ecology, a USFS Climate Change Tree and Bird Atlas webinar, a seminar on chimney swifts (Birds in the Chimney: Our curious relationship with swifts) held at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences, and 4 webinars hosted by the Southern Fire Exchange (Using the Southern Fire Exchange Resource Center, Using Smoke Prediction Models for Prescribed Burning Planning, Prescribed Fire and the Public: Myths and Realities, and Interagency Fuel Treatment Decision Support System). Notices for upcoming conferences include the NCPARC annual meeting on March 20, 2012, the SEPIF annual meeting February 6-9, 2012, the Wildlife Expo February 9-11, 2012, and the VATWS annual meeting February 7-8, 2012.



Please check the NCTWS website and emails for opportunities coming up this winter and remember that workshops can be used towards NC Environmental Education certification.

The current members of the Professional Development Committee are Mark Johns, Kelly Douglass, and Sue Cameron. We always need more help so please contact Sue Cameron (susan_cameron@fws.gov; 828-258-3939 x224) if you are interested in serving.

Program Committee Update

Committee Chair: Gary Marshall

The program committee has been actively working with the executive board to finalize the Annual Meeting plans for 2012. This year's meeting will be held at Haw River State Park on Feb 28th-March 1st. This year's meeting entitled "Leopold's Back to the Basics" will include a Keynote address by Dr. Lancia and many intriguing talks on wildlife management utilizing the 5 basic tools: ax, plow, match, cow, and gun. Field trips will offer a chance for a local wildlife experience. There will be two socials this year incorporating a quiz bowl, poster sessions, fun auction, and jam sessions. Set in beautiful Haw River State Park, there will also be recreational opportunities, so bring your hiking boots, fishing equipment, gym shoes, basketball, golf discs, and yoga mat along. Full registration includes all the sessions, both socials, 6 meals, and a room. Look for the informational flyer, registration form, and agenda on www.nctws.org. We look forward to seeing you there! How about bringing someone new this year?

Website Committee Update

Committee Chair: Susan Miller

The Website Committee has been busy working with the executive board to provide online membership renewal and annual meeting registration and payment options. NCTWS now has a paypal account so we can accept credit card payments. You don't have to have your own paypal account in order to pay NCTWS through paypal.

Annual chapter dues are now due for 2012 NCTWS membership. Membership renewal is available online by visiting: www.nctws.org/membership.html. You still have the option to pay by mail with a check or pay your chapter dues along with your national dues to The Wildlife Society. If you pay online, you will receive a receipt by e-mail within a few days.

With the 2012 NCTWS Annual Meeting just around the corner, we have also put together an online meeting registration form to facilitate registration. Again, you can choose this method and pay with a credit card through paypal or print out a registration form and send a check by mail. Annual meeting registration is available at: www.nctws.org/annual_meeting.html.

Don't forget to follow the Chapter on Facebook (www.facebook.com/nctws) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/nctws)

CHAPTER NEWS

Haywood Community College Student Chapter Update

No report.

NCSU Leopold Wildlife Club Update

Submitted by Rachel Conley

This year, the North Carolina State University Leopold Wildlife Club has grown in membership and has been involved in numerous activities in the field and the classroom. The club is pushing 80 registered members and looks to gain even more members in the future. The club meets bimonthly on Monday evenings and has hosted a variety of guest speakers including, Frank Newell, a lifelong wildlife rehabilitator, Beth Gunn, a NC Wildlife Resource Commission (NCWRC) educator, and Josh Biesecker, an NCSU alumnus and USDA District Wildlife Biologist.

The club participated in a NCWRC sponsored wildlife practical and received detailed information about the Study Abroad opportunities sponsored by the NCSU Fisheries, Wildlife, & Conservation Biology Program. In September, the club hosted a snaring workshop at the Schenck Memorial Forest led by Joey Van Dyke. Also, the club participated in National Hunting & Fishing Day at Lake Raleigh Woods, the 8th annual Bass Lake Park Day in Holly Springs, North Carolina, and in the annual Howell Woodstock at the Howell Woods Environmental Learning Center. At the peak of fall migration in October, the club led a morning bird walk at Schenck Forest where the bird list topped 60 species. Additionally, the group spotted a Tennessee warbler, which was a new addition to the Schenck's comprehensive species list. Leopold Wildlife Club members participated in a bat survey at Turnipseed Preserve and continued the Adopt-a-Highway service on Penny Road. Leopold club members traveled to Kiawah Island, South Carolina for a weekend kayaking excursion in November and accumulated a 75+ species bird list including black skimmer and American oystercatcher.

The club has a fundraiser planned for February 4th, 2012. The fundraiser will be the first annual Leopold Wild Foods Supper. Also, the club is planning a 5K trail run as another fundraiser in preparation for the hosting of The Wildlife Society's 2013 Southeastern Conclave. Finally, the club will participate in the annual Dixie Deer Classic in the spring.

The club is looking forward to participating in The Wildlife Society's 2012 Southeastern Conclave at University of Tennessee-Knoxville in mid-March, where the team hopes to perform well. The club is currently selling bat boxes and wood duck boxes for \$50 each. They make great holiday gifts for friends and family.

You can donate to the club, purchase boxes, inquire about attending meetings, or request the club be present at your event by contacting Rachel Conley at reconle2@ [ncsu.edu](mailto:reconle2@ncsu.edu).

A Hummer of a Winter!

Submitted by Susan Campbell



Generally folks do not think about hummingbirds being birds of winter, but here in North Carolina that is not the case. Coastally we always have ruby-throats during the colder months, birds that breed further north. But inland, we do have at least a few hummers that overwinter too. But this year, they seem to be all over. I have been getting multiple reports a week since late October. Most turn out to be rufous hummingbirds, a western species that breeds from northern California up into Canada and even as far as southwestern Alaska.

These are tough little birds that can endure cold and snow with little trouble. No doubt a feeder or winter blooming perennial of some sort is a help to young of the year, especially during bitter cold or icy conditions. But it is not unusual to hear about an individual seen well away from a feeder or a rufous that suddenly turns up at a feeder in late winter.

The winters of 2009 and 2010 were very quiet however. It was not surprising since we had heard that several western hummingbird species including rufous had not had productive breeding seasons. 2011 has been very different, thankfully. Some two dozen counties have or have had rufous hummingbirds so far this winter. The tricky part is confirming that these little birds are rufous and not their close cousin the slightly smaller Allen's Hummingbird. The two are virtually identical at a distance- unless they happen to be adult males, which is rare. Although we would not expect Allen's since it is not very migratory and spends the summer along the immediate west coast, we have had the species here in the past. The first was a young male at a feeder in Manteo back in 2003. And this winter an adult male showed up at Riverbend County Park in Catawba County. This is the park where my colleague Dwayne Martin just happens to work. He dutifully caught and banded this second state record. Quite a stunner to document here in the East! And should he return next year, we will know precisely who he is.



Dwayne and I have our work cut out for us in January with so many birds to investigate. We will have to be quick about it since some of these birds will begin migration early next month. They have a long way to go to get back to the breeding grounds!



Returning westerners are not as rare as one might think. In fact, we have an adult male Anna's who I failed to trap last year in New Bern. But he showed up again in early November and so I zipped right over and fitted him with jewelry. This is the first Anna's to make its way back to a wintering site this far east. Rufous hummingbirds have

been known to return year after year although not all birds return to the same site. We know this specifically from recaptures of banded birds. Here in North Carolina we have had rufous originally

banded in Tennessee, Louisiana, and South Carolina show up. And we have had others move around the state from year to year. Why some do this and others use the same site year after year is still a mystery. But one thing we know for sure is that they are here and they can survive through the winter with no trouble even in our mountains.

If you hear of a hummingbird visiting a feeder any place around our state between November and March, please let me know. The information can be emailed (susan@ncaves.com) or phoned in (910-949-3207). I keep records of all reports whether the birds are banded or not.

NCTWS Facebook & Twitter



The NC Chapter of the Wildlife Society has joined the social media world and now has a facebook page and twitter account. If you use these applications be sure to “like” us on facebook or follow us on twitter for timely information related to wildlife from around the state of North Carolina and beyond.

Social media tools such as facebook and twitter will help the NCTWS reach a larger audience. To link to the NCTWS facebook and/or twitter accounts, visit our website at www.nctws.org and look for links there.

Susan Miller



LEOPOLD WILDLIFE CLUB HOLDS WILD FOODS SUPPER FUNDRAISER

The North Carolina State University Leopold Wildlife Club is having a wild food supper/fundraiser on February 4, 2012 from 5-9 p.m. The supper/fundraiser will be held at the VFW Post 7383, 522 Reedy Creek Road, Cary, NC 27513. All proceeds will benefit the Leopold Wildlife Club and support member attendance at The Wildlife Society Southeastern Conclave at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville in March. Suggested donations are \$15/person and \$10/student.

The supper will include an assortment of wild game, fish, and produce. There will be a best dish contest, silent auction, and door prizes. Please contact Rachel Conley (reconle2@ncsu.edu) or Charles Sanders (cwsander@ncsu.edu) with any questions. Thank you, we look forward to seeing you on February 4, 2012.

NCWRC Wildlife Diversity Program Summer-Fall Highlights

Submitted by Chris Kelly

Acoustic surveys documented Carolina northern flying squirrel at new high and low elevation extremes that were previously unsurveyed: 6,190 ft in Fraser fir forest at Roan Mountain and 3,680 ft in northern hardwood forest in the Unicoi Mountains recovery area. This new low elevation record breaks the previous low elevation record (4,070 ft - also in the Unicois, February 2011) from a nest box just 1 mile from the acoustic survey site. The new high elevation record represents the highest location sampled and confirmed. However, suitable habitat extends above this elevation.



Mark Ford

Chris and Corinne Diggins sort through acoustic equipment trying to figure out how to haul it down the trail



Chris Kelly

Paired Pettersson and Anabat recorders below nest box at Beech Creek Bog

Red spruce restoration: Once again, NCWRC is partnering with the non-profit Southern Highlands Reserve to grow red spruce from seed for high elevation habitat restoration. Cones were collected from two massifs having a good fall cone crop: Roan Mountain and Unaka Mountain. Seedlings were planted at Pond Mountain Game Land.

Spruce seedlings growing at Southern Highlands Reserve

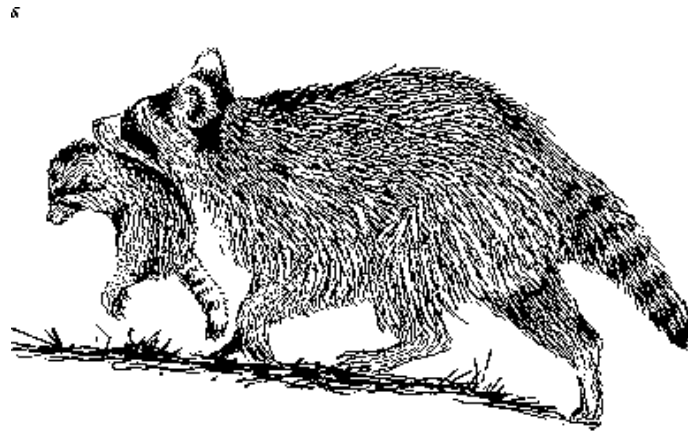


John Turner

NC Wildlife Federation's *Mountain Wild!* chapter hosted a volunteer event to build nest boxes for Mountain Wildlife Diversity's northern flying squirrel monitoring project, assembling 81 new nest boxes in three hours.



Increasing interest in golden-winged warbler conservation led to a meeting in November of partners from four Southeastern states to strategize monitoring, habitat management, and implementation of the forthcoming golden-winged warbler rangewide Conservation Plan.



Annual chapter dues are now due for 2012 NCTWS membership!

Use this opportunity to check out our new Paypal account. It's fast and easy! No more hassle of filling out paper forms or licking stamps! Online renewal is available at: www.nctws.org/membership.html. You will receive a receipt by e-mail within a few days. Of course, if you like using stamps, you still have the option to pay by mail with a check. For those who like the option of paying chapter dues along with their national dues to The Wildlife Society, that option is still available too. Renew today!

WINTER BIRDING DELIGHT!

Submitted by Jennifer Archambault

Between 14 December 2011 and 5 January 2012, birders across the North and South American continents, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Islands participated in the 112th annual Christmas Bird Count. This event, sponsored by the National Audubon Society, is the oldest-known, and possibly the largest, citizen science project around. Known as the CBC, the event is organized by dedicated count compilers, who assign participants a route within a 15-mile diameter "Count Circle". The count in each circle is completed in a calendar day, and all counts worldwide are conducted during the count window. Every bird heard or seen all day is counted, resulting in a species total and total number of individuals at the end of the day.

Though participants range in experience from beginners to wildlife professionals, count compilers ensure that newbies are paired with experienced birders. Thus, the CBC is able to provide reliable, long-term data on bird population trends. The effort by some 60,000 volunteers in more than 2,000 count circles accomplishes tasks that no one research or management project could do alone. Over the years, the effort of volunteers has helped to document the recovery of the bald eagle, the rapid expansion of the Eurasian collared dove, and the decline of many common birds, including the northern bobwhite, the field sparrow, and even the common grackle.

Last year, North Carolinians participated in 49 Count Circles from Highlands Plateau in the mountains to Cape Hatteras on the Outer Banks. Our citizens logged nearly 1.4 million birds from 223 species! I've had the opportunity to participate in the Southern Pines Count Circle the last couple years. The Southern Pines CBC, led by compiler (and NCTWS President-Elect) Susan Campbell was held for the 39th time on 18 December 2011. We saw 95 species and had a record 35 participants! Highlights reported by Campbell included a merlin (*Falco columbarius*), a species rarely spotted in this count circle; an orange-crowned warbler (*Vermivora celata*), further inland than typically expected; 8 common snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*), often too elusive to detect; loads of waterfowl on our many ponds and lakes; and, of course, seeing old friends and new faces at the chili luncheon and countdown. It was a wonderful way to spend a winter day outdoors and among friends and wildlife.

As a biologist, participating in the CBC is a great way to brush up on professional development, whether you're just beginning a career as a student or are a seasoned veteran. If you missed out on this season's CBC, don't fret – The Great Backyard Bird Count is coming up, February 17-20. A joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Audubon, The Great Backyard Bird Count is another clever way to hone your skills and get children involved in learning about wildlife.

To learn more about the CBC and the Great Backyard Bird Count, or to explore the results of these citizen science projects from previous years, visit them at <http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count> and <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>. Who says the field season ends with the falling leaves?!



A merlin (*Falco columbarius*) sits atop a power pole on a chilly, yet deceptively sunny December morning during the Southern Pines Christmas Bird Count. (Photo credit: Jeff Beane)



Members Jennifer Archambault (left) and Gabriela Gonzalez-Garrison (right) counting a raft of more than 80 hooded mergansers and other waterfowl (out of frame) on a pond near Vass, NC, during the Southern Pines Christmas Bird Count. (Photo Credit: Bill Mullin)

Haywood Students Volunteer for Deer Harvest Check Stations

Submitted by Joshua Randolph



My name is Josh Randolph from the Fish and Wildlife Management program at Haywood Community College. I am currently in my last semester at Haywood and I am the student representative for our student chapter of The Wildlife Society. This past fall, I had the privilege to coordinate and schedule students to work with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission at deer harvest check stations in the western region of the state. Fifteen students shared the workload at check stations in McDowell, Catawba, Gaston, Cleveland, and Rutherford counties.

This was my second year at working a deer check station and it was just as exciting as the one I worked last year. The station was located at a meat processor in McDowell County. Kip Hollifield, the area's WRC Management Biologist, and the Marion wildlife management crew oversaw our work and taught us lots about collecting deer data. We weighed each deer and recorded information on the county of kill and whether the harvest occurred on private land or game lands. We also measured the inside spread and main beam diameter of each buck's antlers.



Removing the lower jaw with a jawbone extracting tool was definitely the highlight of each student's experience. We aged each deer by examining the teeth of the lower jawbone either after we extracted it or by shining a flashlight into the deer's mouth. Special attention was given to the aging process and we learned several field tricks that we just can't learn in the classroom.



The other four deer check stations were run by WRC biologists Brad Howard, Danny Ray, Johnny Riley, Dean Simon, the Morganton wildlife management crew, and the Burnsville wildlife management crew. Every student worked hard for a 10-hour day but each one said they had an absolute blast getting to participate. The biologists tell us we are a big help at the check stations and they want us to keep coming back each year. I don't think they'll have any arguments from us on that! Thanks WRC!

NCTWS MEMBER PROFILE



in Yadkin County

What you're called? *Folks call me Huff, Michael, or Mr. Huffman when they are in trouble.*

Current position and employer and location: *I work for the NCWRC as a Wildlife/Fisheries Technician II on the Sandhills Game Land.*

How long have you been with this employer? *3.5 years. I worked two six month positions as a temporary for Butner Wildlife Depot and two six month positions on the Sandhills Wildlife Depot burn crew before being hired on permanently at the Sandhills Wildlife Depot. I have been on permanently for a year and a half now.*

Phone number and/or email: *910-281-3917, michael.huffman @ncwildlife.org*

Education: *AS in Fish and Wildlife Management from Haywood Comm. College*

Where did you grow up? *Eastbend, North Carolina*

What other work experience do you have? *I worked on a dairy farm as a teenager until I went to college. I also worked at an Auto parts Store and did construction with my father growing up. I worked on Big Cottonwood WMA in Idaho for 6 months.*

Why did you go into a wildlife career? *I have hunted and fished all my life and really enjoyed the outdoors and I really love the farming way of life. Wildlife management allows me to make a living and incorporate most of my passion at the same time. I enjoy manipulating the landscape through prescribed burning and farming.*

Have you always been interested in wildlife? *Yes, the love for the outdoors was passed to me by my father.*

What has been the highlight of your wildlife career so far? *I really enjoyed the six month stint doing wildlife management in Idaho. The scenic country and wildlife out there really intrigued me. I had the opportunity to work with some really knowledgeable and enthusiastic biologists. I was exposed to some really neat wildlife management techniques and survey methods. Banding white pelicans was pretty cool despite the regurgitation.*

Who has been an influence on you in your career? *I have had the opportunity to work and be around some really knowledgeable technicians and biologists in the NCWRC and they have greatly influenced me. Also reading a lot of the Journals of Wildlife Management have guided and assisted me in management decisions that I have made.*

What would your fellow biologists be surprised to learn about you? *I have started a fledgling goat farm in Ellerbe, NC.*

What are your hobbies? *I enjoy hunting and fishing and a frosty barley pop or two with friends. I have a great chocolate lab Stonewall that I really enjoy training and duck hunting with.*

What was your most thrilling hunting or fishing experience? *When I was 13 I was fortunate enough to kill my first Whitetail deer with archery equipment. I have killed a lot of deer since then; but, that was a great experience as a youngster.*

NCTWS MEMBER PROFILE



What you're called? *That's a loaded question...always depends on who you ask. Aunt Nana (to my niece and nephews), D,but most often Deanna.*

Current position and employer and location: *Forest Stewardship Biologist- NCWRC, Kinston*

How long have you been with this employer? *10 years*

Phone number and/or email: *252-522-3440 deanna.noble@ncwildlife.org*

Education: *B.S. Fisheries & Wildlife Science, North Carolina State University*

Where did you grow up? *Kinston, NC*

What other work experience do you have? *I first started out with the WRC working as a prescribed burn technician on the Sandhills Game Land crew. After the burn season ended I was fortunate enough to acquire full time position there as a Wildlife Technician. After five years I was promoted to Forest Stewardship Biologist for the coastal region and I was able to move back home.*

Why did you go into a wildlife career? *I have grown up in a family that has worked in forestry (dad, uncles, & brother) and I have always had an interest in the environment but wanted to do something a little different. By choosing a career in wildlife management I get to incorporate my forestry background with my love for wildlife and hunting.*

Have you always been interested in wildlife? *I have been interested in wildlife as far back as I can remember. We spent a lot of time outdoors when I was young and I learned to appreciate nature. I can also remember my dad and I watching Marty Stouffer's Wild America and the Southern Sportsman with Franc White.*

Who has been an influence on you in your career? *Of course my Dad and brother have greatly influenced me. I have also been influenced by supervisors and co-workers who have been*

encouraging to me and have demonstrated a great work ethic and how to find personal satisfaction from your job.

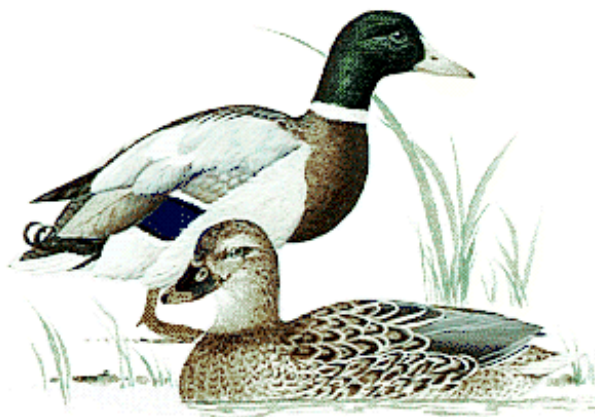
What do you see as the greatest challenge for wildlife professionals? *There are several challenges we are facing now. We are losing hunters, our constituents are changing, and people are losing that connection with the environment. Education is also becoming more technology based and there is less of an environmental influence.*

What would your fellow biologists be surprised to learn about you? *If I told you then it wouldn't be a surprise anymore.*

What are your hobbies? *Anything outdoors! I love to hunt & fish, nature photography, kayaking, hiking, working out, and playing golf.*

What was your most thrilling hunting or fishing experience? *I have had quite a few. A couple of more recent experiences have been calling in a turkey for my dad on a Lantern Acres Game Land permit hunt in 2009 which was his first one. I was more excited than if I had shot the bird myself! Also, last January I was fortunate enough to get drawn for a duck hunt at Lake Mattamuskeet. The first day didn't prove to be very productive but the second day was awesome! It was an overcast day and around 25°. We saw lots of birds including: redheads, canvasbacks, pintails, bluebills, widgeon, green-winged teal, and tundra swans. Towards the end of our hunt it was snowing and absolutely breathtaking. With about twenty minutes left in the hunt my buddy asked if I was ready to leave and I said NO! I wanted to enjoy every minute of that hunt. We ended up with widgeon, green-winged teal, and canvasback. It turned out that the hunt was only half the adventure. By the time we left the lake it was snowing so hard you couldn't even see the road. I just tried to keep it between the ditches. A hunt I will never forget!*

What advice would you give someone just starting out in wildlife? *Continue to pursue educational opportunities and volunteer to gain as much experience as you can.*



The 2012 NCTWS Annual Meeting is just around the corner!

- **Did you know that you can register for the meeting online?**
- **Check it out at the Annual Meeting link on our website!**
- **Go to www.nctws.org/annual_meeting.html TODAY!!**
 - **It's fast and easy!**



North Carolina Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Annual Meeting

Haw River State Park
Browns Summit, NC

Feb 28-March 1, 2012

Aldo Leopold's "Back to the Basics"



Ax



Plow



Match



Cow



Gun



This year's meeting will enlighten, refresh, inform, and entertain you as you learn from and interact with fellow wildlife professionals from across the state. If you're a member of NCTWS or haven't joined yet, please sign up for an experience you won't soon forget!

Registration information and agenda
at www.nctws.org



NCTWS

Get back to the basics as we explore the ways we can apply Leopold's tools to manage the diverse habitats across the state of North Carolina.

This year's meeting features:

- Keynote address by Dr. Richard Lancia
- Field Trip to Caswell Gamelands
- "Boots on the Ground" Presentations
- Two Socials
- Plenty of networking time
- Basketball & Disc Golf available
- Fishing (if the lake's not frozen)

Providing annual meetings with great programs is only possible through the continued participation and support of our members. We look forward to your attendance and valuable contributions at the 2012 meeting!



NCTWS ANNUAL MEETING
Leopold's "Back to the Basics"
February 28 – March 1, 2012
Haw River State Park, Browns Summit, NC

REGISTRATION FORM

Registration must be postmarked by 1 February 2012

Make checks payable to NCTWS and return to:

Jonathan Shaw, NCTWS Treasurer, 44392 Dennis Road, Albemarle, NC 28001

Name: _____ Affiliation: _____
 Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Registration Table Opens at 12:00 noon on Tuesday. The meeting will begin at 1:00 pm.
 Please mark which options you prefer and add the appropriate \$ amount at the end.

Caswell Gamelands Field Trip Feb 28, 8am-11am – 1st 15 participants only:
Contact: chris.baranski@ncwildlife.org to register

Registration			
(Includes Registration, Room, Socials, Breaks and Meals)	Tuesday (✓)	Wednesday (✓)	Subtotal
Cabin (\$85/day)			\$
Motel-Double (\$105/day)			\$
Motel-Single (\$135/day)			\$
Commuters Only: Registration (\$20)			\$
Commuters Only: Meals (\$11 per meal; ✓ Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)	Tuesday D	Wednesday B L D	Thursday B L
Annual Dues (\$10)			\$
Late Registration – after February 1st (\$10)			\$
TOTAL			\$

- ✓
 Vegetarian Meals
 Double occupancy rooms, specify roommate choice _____
 Cabins – (4 per room), specify roommate choice _____
 Please note: Cabin users must provide their own linens or bring a sleeping bag, etc.

Make checks payable to NCTWS. Receipts will be available.

I will bring a silent auction item to the meeting Yes _____ No _____

Item(s) _____ Value _____

2012 NCTWS ANNUAL MEETING CALL FOR STUDENT POSTERS

We invite students to submit a research poster to display at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Chapter of the Wildlife Society at Haw River State Park located in Browns Summit, North Carolina. The conference will be held 28 February – 1 March 2012. Posters provide an opportunity for authors to participate in one-on-one communication with attendees and are an excellent opportunity for professional interaction, growth, and development.

Posters will be displayed in the evenings of 28 and 29 February. Each poster/presenter will be judged based on clarity and content and how well the presenter explains the project and answers questions. During the business meeting on 1 March 2012, a **2012 Best Student Poster Award** will be awarded to the best student poster.

Also, we would like presenters to attend the complete meeting including the talks, social, and business meeting.

If you are interested in presenting a poster, please send an abstract by 15 February 2012 to Dr. Chris DePerno, chris_deperno@ncsu.edu, 919-513-7559.



2012 NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY BALLOT

President-elect (Please vote for 1)

_____ Kendrick Weeks

Secretary (Please vote for 1)

_____ Lori Williams

_____ Kelly Douglass

NCTWS At-Large Board Member (Please vote for 2)

_____ Jeff Marcus

_____ James W. Dodson, Jr. (Jimmy)

_____ Gary Marshall

Email your completed ballot to Jonathan Shaw at: jonathan.shaw@ncwildlife.org

Or mail it to Jon at: Jonathan Shaw
 NCTWS Treasurer
 44392 Dennis Rd
 Albemarle, NC 28001

Or bring it to the registration desk at the annual meeting.

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES AND VIEWS STATEMENTS

Kendrick Weeks

OFFICE: President-Elect

PRESENT CAREER POSITION: Mountain Wildlife Diversity Supervisor, NCWRC

FORMER CAREER POSITIONS: Wildlife Diversity Biologist, NCWRC; Wildlife Diversity Technician, NCWRC; Project Scientist, EcoScience Corp.; Wildlife Biologist I, USFS; Wildlife Research Technician, NCSU

EDUCATION: B.S. Biology, Appalachian State University; M.S. Zoology, North Carolina State University

TWS ACTIVITIES: TWS Biodiversity Working Group, NCTWS Education and Information Committee Chair

AFFILIATIONS: N.C. Herpetological Society, N.C. Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, TWS, N.C. Partners in Flight

VIEWS: We must be engaged in order to affect change. Just membership in a professional society brings certain benefits, but being an active participant in its mission brings many more rewards to oneself and the profession. Please get involved to express your views and ideas in one of the NCTWS committees or on the national level and vote for me as president elect of the North Carolina Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Kelly Douglass

OFFICE: Secretary

PRESENT CAREER POSITION: Forest Stewardship Biologist, NC Wildlife Resources Commission

FORMER CAREER POSITIONS: Captive Cervid Biologist, NC Wildlife Resources Commission; Environmental Educator, NC Museum of Natural Sciences; Wildlife Management Intern, NC Wildlife Resources Commission; Research Technician, NC State University

EDUCATION: M.S. Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology, NC State University (2011); B.S. Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, NC State University (2002)

TWS ACTIVITIES: TWS member since 2002 (national, southeast section, and state chapter); Leadership Institute Class of 2008; current member of the Biological Diversity Working Group, the Wildlife & Habitat Restoration Working Group, and the Wildlife Diseases Working Group; former member of the Professional Development Committee (national level)

AFFILIATIONS: NC Prescribed Fire Council; Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (national, southeast section, and triangle chapter); Society for Conservation Biology (national and triangle chapter); Environmental Educators of North Carolina; former member of the Ecological Society of America and Ducks Unlimited

VIEWS: Ever since I began my career as a wildlife biologist, I have felt an obligation to support professional societies that advocate the sound stewardship of wildlife resources. I believe it's important to be an active member in professional societies, to contribute what you can to fulfill the purpose of the society, and seek out ways to improve the support it provides to its members. The NCTWS keeps professionals connected to the current events in wildlife conservation in our state. It gives its members the opportunity to expand their knowledge of wildlife research and management and to share their work with others. And more importantly,

it provides them the chance to network and collaborate with other professionals, foster new relationships, and even create friendships along the way. Just being a member is a great way to support our society. And even though I have been a member of NCTWS for 8 years, I feel compelled to do more. I would like to play a more active role in the society, and better serve the Chapter and its members through a position on the Executive Board as Secretary.

Lori A. Williams

OFFICE: Secretary

PRESENT CAREER POSITION: Mountain Wildlife Diversity Biologist, NC Wildlife Resources Commission (2003-present)

FORMER CAREER POSITIONS: Biological Assistant, VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries; Graduate Research Assistant, Virginia Tech; GIS Technician, Conservation Management Institute, Virginia Tech

EDUCATION: BS English, Appalachian State University; BS Wildlife Science, Virginia Tech; MS Fisheries and Wildlife, Virginia Tech

TWS ACTIVITIES: Member (national, state); former Professional Development Chair; former Mentor; TWS Leadership Institute Class of 2006, Anchorage, AK; former Virginia Tech student chapter member; led Professional Development workshops on salamander I.D. and herp field techniques

AFFILIATIONS: NC Herpetological Society Executive Council (Secretary, 2006-present; Grants Committee, 2010-present); Project Bog Turtle; NC Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (NCPARC); NCPARC Research, Inventory, Monitoring, and Management Working Group; Southeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation; NC Wildlife Federation; Mountain WILD Executive Board (Advisor, 2009-present); Environmental Conservation Organization; Society for the Study of Reptiles and Amphibians; Mills River Partnership Technical Advisory Board (2011-present); Virginia Herpetological Society

VIEWS: My views from one year ago have not changed. I decided to run for an At-Large Board position at that time because I felt I was not doing my part to further the goals and objectives of NCTWS and to represent the profession in general, a profession that I am extremely proud of, one that I do not take for granted, and one that reflects my passion and my life's calling. Serving on the Board in 2011 was a valuable experience and one that taught me more about the inner workings of our Chapter. The At-Large position provided an opportunity to actively participate in Board processes and Chapter planning; it also gave me a new appreciation for all the time and effort individual people spend to support NCTWS, and in turn, our profession. Now that I have a year of experience on the Board, I would like to further my involvement by serving as Secretary. I have over six years of similar experience under my belt as Secretary on the NC Herpetological Society's Executive Council. From that role I've enhanced many valuable skills such as the importance of timely, clear communication and being able to coalesce many voices into a concise message. I've also learned that communication is a two-way street, and that being a good listener is essential for performing the duties of Secretary well (not to mention being a fast typist!). I feel our Chapter really gained some momentum in 2011 in terms of a renewed energy and commitment to serving its membership through our various Committees, recruiting potential members through new education and outreach efforts, and weighing in on key issues that affect our natural resources in North Carolina and beyond. I would like to continue to be a part of the integral work of the NCTWS Board. Thank you for your consideration.

Jeff Marcus

OFFICE: NCTWS At-Large Board Member

PRESENT CAREER POSITION: Piedmont Wildlife Diversity Biologist- NC Wildlife Resources Commission

FORMER CAREER POSITIONS: CURE Surveys Biologist- NC Wildlife Resources Commission
Coordinator- Tern and Plover Conservation Partnership, NE
Field Biologist- The Nature Conservancy, TX

EDUCATION: University of Rochester, BA in Psychology
NC State University, MS in Fisheries and Wildlife Science

TWS ACTIVITIES: Member since 1995; NCTWS chapter president in 2004; involvement in Fund Raising and COWCH committees; NCTWS mentor

AFFILIATIONS: TWS, Wilson Ornithological Society, Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, Central Park NC

VIEWS: I have been an active member TWS for all of my professional life. I believe that TWS plays a vital role in professional development, advocacy, and facilitating communication and coordination among wildlife professionals. I have a particular interest in enhancing NCTWS' mentor and student scholarship programs, and I hope you will entrust me with the opportunity to serve on the NCTWS board.

James W. Dodson, Jr. (Jimmy), NCBRF #1647, CWB®

OFFICE: NCTWS At-Large Board Member

PRESENT CAREER POSITION: I have been the Assistant Piedmont Forests Manager for the NCSU College of Natural Resources since 2001 with duties as the staff biologist and silvicultural & land management forester. I also teach various portions for both of the undergraduate summer programs in the fisheries & wildlife and the forestry curriculums.

FORMER CAREER POSITIONS:

EDUCATION: B.S. in Fisheries & Wildlife Sciences, 2001 & B.S. in Forest Management, 2001 – North Carolina State University

TWS ACTIVITIES: I have been a professional member since 2001 and a Certified Wildlife Biologist since 2008, but have not held any chapter or national positions to date. As an undergraduate, I was involved with the TWS Leopold Club on campus and an active member in Conclave with participation in many events.

AFFILIATIONS: NC Board of Registered Foresters #1647; USGS Master Banding permit holder; IBP MAPS Banding station operator; QDMA Deer Steward Level 2; NC Certified Prescribed Burn Boss; Carolina Bird Club – Life member; North American Bluebird Society – Life member & past board member; NC Partners in Flight; NC Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation; NC Prescribed Fire Council; NC Forest Service Fire Environment Working Group

VIEWS: I am enthusiastic about an opportunity to give back and learn by helping the North Carolina chapter of our professional society. I admonish students on campus to be involved in the Leopold TWS club and the state chapter because of the opportunities presented to further develop what they learn in the classroom and build their field experience. My mentors were highly involved and made the same recommendations to me, and as the students will be many of our future colleagues and must continue to carry the torch laid by our predecessors.

North Carolina has faced many challenges associated with managing wildlife on the changing landscape. As the human population continues to grow, municipal areas expand, resources face challenges, and financial questions arise, TWS must continue to be a strong professional voice that provides thorough assessment and recommendations. Both locally and nationally, the society has had a positive impact and I look forward to the opportunity to help continue this work.

Gary Marshall

OFFICE: NCTWS At-Large Board Member

PRESENT CAREER POSITION: Natural Resources Specialist II, Mecklenburg County Park & Rec

FORMER CAREER POSITIONS: Team Leader, Eco-Horizons, Inc.; Natural Resources Aid, Iowa DNR

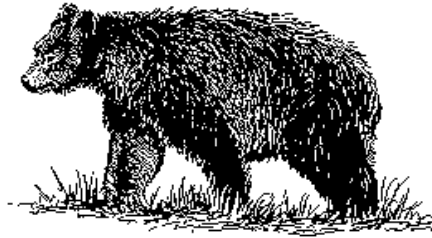
EDUCATION: BS Fisheries & Wildlife Biology, Iowa State University

TWS ACTIVITIES: Current Program Committee Chair, Past President, active since 1994

AFFILIATIONS: NC Exotic Pest Plant Council

VIEWS: An organization can benefit from having members and a board with a wide variety of experiences. Often we can save time and energy if we draw from experience. At the same time, we must recognize the value in adapting to current conditions and trying new solutions or applying them in a unique way to achieve desired results.





CHAPTER VISION STATEMENT

To guide and promote the conservation and management of wildlife resources throughout North Carolina.



Can be viewed on the Chapter's website at:

<http://www.nctws.org>



We encourage all of you to submit future articles for consideration for publishing in our Chapter's newsletter. Remember, it's your newsletter!

*Danny Ray, President
John Stanton, Newsletter Editor*