

Winter 2016



Meet Your Candidates!



Photo courtesy John Ann Shearer



Photo courtesy Casey Gray

2016 TWS Annual Conference Review

2017 NCTWS Annual Meeting Preview

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President's Column

Jamie's Jabbering's

I owe Jeff Marcus a huge debt of gratitude for filling in for me as the Acting Chapter President during my most recent overseas military deployment. His leadership and the dedicated work of the Executive Board and many other Chapter members has led to a most successful year for the Chapter. Upon my return back to work with State Parks in early November, I quickly began to catch up on many of the events that had occurred during my absence. I was highly impressed with the variety of accomplishments of our Chapter, a few of which Jeff will touch on below in his column, Jeff's Jotting's.



Photo courtesy Susan Miller

In the most recent Executive Board meeting held at the Pitt County Cooperative Extension Office on December 5th, Jeff officially handed me “The Goat” and therefore the reins of this impressive professional organization. As Jeff assumes his “official” tenure as the Chapter President during our annual meeting in February, he and I will continue to work closely together to accomplish the business of the Chapter.

And for those that may be curious about where I was and what I did during this past year, I have promised Kelly a future article for the newsletter about what a wildlife biologist does when they are not a biologist but a commissioned Army officer serving overseas in a contingency operation.

Enough of my jabbering, now please continue reading all that follows and learn about the best TWS state chapter!

President's Column

Jeff's Jottings

First off, I would like to welcome back Jamie Sasser, and thank him for stepping up when his country called. Looking back, the past several months have been very busy and very productive for NCTWS. The highlight was the highly successful TWS conference in Raleigh. More than a third of our Chapter members helped make this conference one of the best attended, best funded, and best run conferences in recent memory. In this newsletter, you will read about those efforts which reflected very favorably on NC's wildlife conservation community.

I would also like to draw your attention to the many scholarship and grant award winners highlighted in this issue. Some Chapter members may not be fully aware of the many ways NCTWS supports the professional development of our membership. Thanks to the Chapter's fundraising efforts, we have established permanent endowments to annually help send an NC State wildlife student to the experiential wildlife summer camp at Hill Forest, and to help fund two Haywood Community College student's internships. Last year we helped support 3 middle school students to attend the Fur Fish and Game Rendezvous which teaches outdoor skills to youth, and this year we are funding 4 scholarships. NCTWS paid the registration for 4 chapter members to attend the national conference in Raleigh. Currently, the Board is exploring additional ways to expand our financial support for professional development of members.

As you read in this newsletter about those who have benefitted from NCTWS scholarships and grants, remember these opportunities came about because of your contributions to the annual raffle, silent auction, and other fundraising efforts.

2016 TWS Annual Conference

2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE – A CHAPTER OF SUCCESS!



In 2012, the North Carolina Chapter of The Wildlife Society, under the leadership of Chapter President Danny Ray, offered to host the 2016 TWS Annual Conference in North Carolina. The bid letter sent in February of that year described the stunning beauty and the rich biodiversity of North Carolina. But, it also included these words, *“The best part of North Carolina is the people and southern hospitality is alive and well. From the mountains to the coast, it is easy to find friendly and helpful faces. The same can be said about the NCTWS membership. From a handful of wildlife professionals in 1983, the Chapter has grown to over 300 members. The Chapter is active and*

involved in state and local wildlife issues and is poised and ready to act on national issues. In our 29 year history, North Carolina has never hosted a national TWS event and we are up to the challenge.” Never have truer words been written! The friendly and helpful faces from the mountains to the coast shone brightly and indeed met the challenge!

Shortly after the bid letter was submitted, TWS’s Kerrell McNeil and Darryl Walter came to visit our state and our Chapter members. It didn’t take them long to realize what a great opportunity it would be to have the conference in North Carolina. In the summer of 2014, I accepted the request from Katie Greenberg and Kendrick Weeks to serve as the Arrangements Committee Chair. We had our first visit from TWS COO Ed Thompson in August of 2014 and in short order a dream team of friendly and helpful faces was formed to serve as the Arrangements Committee. Kelly Douglass, Colleen Olfenbuttel, Danny Ray, Susan Miller, Lori Williams, Lara Pacifici, Todd Menke, and Josh Parris (pictured right) stepped up to form the Arrangements Committee, each with a sub-committee of their own. From the minute we were provided with our own copy of the “TWS Annual Conference Host Chapter Handbook,” we jumped in with both feet to do as much as we could for the



2016 TWS Annual Conference

TWS Annual Conference, October 15–19, 2016, in Raleigh. Over the next year and a half, over 60 Chapter members took a role in preparing for the 23rd Annual Conference. Some put in hundreds of hours, others just a few, but all served with joyful hearts and contributed to the success of the Conference.

The Conference attracted 1,867 registrants who were greeted by the towering Sir Walter Raleigh statue adorned in full wildlife regalia. Over the 5 day conference with nearly a dozen workshops, a daily keynote or plenary session, concurrent contributed paper sessions and symposia, panel discussions and over 100 contributed posters, there were far more educational opportunities than any one registrant could attend. The weather was warm and sunny and the Conference atmosphere was full of energy and intellect. Some of the most memorable events were the unique and amazing field trips where wildlifera experienced lemurs up close and personal, bird watched at Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve, explored behind the scenes at the Museum of Natural Sciences and delved into the cultural and natural history of the longleaf pine ecosystem at the Walthour Moss Foundation.



Photo courtesy Danny Ray



Photo courtesy Danny Ray

Conference attendees and TWS contributed \$2,818 to a North Carolina led sustainability project with NC GreenPower where funding is directed to the Solar Schools Pilot Program which aims to raise awareness and educate students about renewable energy. The Opening Night Student Professional Mixer was a highlight as was the closing night with bluegrass and barbecue. As if that wasn't enough, there was a nail biting quiz bowl, 86 exhibitors to visit, a North Carolina led laid-back jam session, inspiring speeches and awards, and many opportunities for local craft beers around Raleigh. Attendees came away temporarily exhausted, but genuinely renewed and totally inspired.

On behalf of the North Carolina Chapter, it was a pleasure to assist in hosting and planning for the 2016 TWS Annual Conference in Raleigh. I've thought a lot about why so many volunteers were willing to serve in this capacity and why they worked so hard and tirelessly for this Conference. Heck, I've asked myself the same questions. What I've realized is that the North Carolina Chapter

2016 TWS Annual Conference

members take deep pride in their Chapter, in their profession, and in their state. We work diligently because of a sincere love of the natural resources of this state. And, we share a comradery that is as strong of a bond as any friends can share. For many of us, TWS participation (and in particular this conference) has been one of our most valued wildlife experiences. In the Sunday keynote address Shane Mahoney concluded that “it’s only by virtue of love that wild animals have any hope.” Likewise, I contend that it is only by virtue of love that The Wildlife Society has any hope as well. To me, this love and passion translated into a Conference that was not generic, but rather personal, local, and unique. Our Chapter is genuinely grateful for the opportunity to have served and hosted our fellow wildlifers. And I personally am grateful for the dedicated service of my fellow professionals and friends.

Sincerely, John Ann Shearer



Photo courtesy Danny Ray



Photo courtesy Danny Ray

23rd Annual Conference Stats – Raleigh Makes TWS History!

- #3 in conference attendance** (Portland, OR takes the lead in 1995 and 2012)
- #2 in fundraising** (only \$15,000 behind the 2015 Winnipeg Conference)
- #1 in securing partnerships for TWS** (Chapter members help secure two partners for TWS - Bayer Bee Care and Caterpillar - which no host state has ever done before!)
- #1 in the number of exhibitors**
- #1 in the number of sponsors**
- #1 in the number of educational sessions provided (over 900!)**
- #1 in the number of Native American students traveling to the conference**



2016 TWS Annual Conference



TWS Contributes Generously to the NC Chapter!

We received great news from parent TWS in early December! Due to the Chapter's hard work over the last two years to promote, fundraise, organize, and host The Wildlife Society's 23rd Annual Conference in Raleigh, parent TWS contributed **\$10,000** to the NC Chapter!

Host chapters are provided a contribution after the annual conference of either \$4,500 or 10% of any proceeds, whichever is higher. This contribution helps offset any costs the state chapter may have incurred in hosting the conference in their state. However, unlike previous years, we received a bonus for being the first state chapter to not only have helped secure one year-round Partner for TWS, but two! We would like to thank [Bayer Bee Care](#) and [Caterpillar](#) for their support of The Wildlife Society Conference and of TWS. We would also like to recognize the NC Chapter members who assisted in this accomplishment: Scott Anderson (Caterpillar), John Ann Shearer (Bayer Bee Care), Graham Hanson (Bayer Bee Care), and Colleen Olfenbuttel (Caterpillar and Bayer Bee Care). This contribution will help with the long-term financial sustainability of our Chapter, as well as help us pursue new opportunities for members!

Sister Chapters – An Informal Social Event

We had a great turn out of about 50 people at our informal social with the SC Chapter of TWS at the Mash & Lauter on October 17, 2016, during the TWS Conference! South Carolina was represented by several chapter officers, students, and professionals, including their current President Lyne Askins.

We enjoyed meeting our southerly neighbors and getting to know one another over drinks and appetizers. In the future we hope to send representatives to each other's chapter meetings. Thank you to those who attended!



2016 TWS Annual Conference

NCTWS Sponsors Event, and Awards Four Travel Grants

Because of our Chapter's excellent fundraising efforts over the last 2 years – by the Finance Committee, the Program Committee, and Treasurer – and through a donation from the Southeast Deer Study Group, the NC Chapter of TWS was able to become an official sponsor of the 23rd Annual TWS Conference in Raleigh this year! Our Chapter donated \$5,000 to TWS to become a “silver sponsor” of the conference. That sponsorship level gave us the opportunity to sponsor a particular conference event, and gave us 3 free registrations to the conference, in addition to multiple advertisement opportunities.



The Executive Board decided that our Chapter would sponsor the featured student event “Opening the Door to Your Dream Career” that was held on October 19, 2016. Students received first-hand advice on how to build a killer resume, how to nail an interview, how to market themselves through social media, and more. Symposium presenters included: Dr. James D. Nichols, 2015 Aldo Leopold Award Recipient, Senior Scientist, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Dr. Larissa Bailey, Associate Professor of Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology, Colorado State University, Dr. Jason Cryan, Deputy Director and Chief of Research and Collections, North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, and Dr. Roland Kays, Research Associate Professor and Director, Biodiversity & Earth Observation Lab, Nature Research Center, North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences.

In addition, every year the Chapter provides \$500 to the current Chapter President to attend the annual conference. This year, however, our current President Jamie Sasser was on military leave and President-elect Jeff Marcus was able to get his registration covered by The Nature Conservancy. The Executive Board voted to take the 3 free registrations (from the sponsorship) and the 1 free registration for the President, and create a travel grant opportunity for 4 Chapter members to attend the TWS conference!

This year's travel grant winners are below. We hope you enjoy their stories and are as excited as we are to have provided them the opportunity to attend our parent society's conference!

2016 TWS Annual Conference



Holly Jones

I wanted to attend the TWS conference to learn more about current research being done in the field, to network with current and future professionals, to learn about organizations involved with wildlife, and to see what career, internship, research, volunteering, and education opportunities were available. This conference proved to be very beneficial to me, as all my goals were accomplished! I met a great deal of wonderful people who shared their knowledge of wildlife, careers, and advice with me. I also came as a Teaching Assistant for a group of undergraduate students at UNCW. I believe the students learned a great deal and gained from the conference as well. I genuinely enjoyed the conference and plan to attend future TWS conferences! I am also hoping to become more involved with TWS, now that I know more about some of the opportunities offered. Thank you for allowing me to attend!



Photo courtesy Holly Jones



Pictured left to right: Emma Trone, Gary Potts, Ken Williams, and Holly Jones.

2016 TWS Annual Conference



Alicia Davis

Thanks to a generous grant from the North Carolina Chapter of the Wildlife Society, I was incredibly fortunate to be able to attend this year's national TWS Conference here in Raleigh.

On Saturday, I attended the Data Management Fundamentals for Long-Term Wildlife Studies workshop. This was a very informative short course that informed me about the importance of creating a suitable strategy for data management during the planning stages of any long-term study, different ways and locations in which to share (and find) raw datasets and make them available for analysis by other researchers in different ways, and examples of various resources available, such as BISON (USGS), Figshare, and Metavist.



Photo courtesy Alicia Davis

Throughout the conference, I volunteered in the Speaker Preview Room and assisted presenters with uploading PowerPoint presentations and organizing files to make sure they would get to the right places at the right times. I was also able to attend a few talks each day on various topics including feral cat management, the effects of wetland construction on amphibian communities, black bear cub development, modeling PARCAs in the northeast, BearWise, effects of coyotes on deer populations, effects of nest box predator guards on reproductive success, ultra high resolution aerial remote sensing, individual identification of crocodiles, the “de-wilding” of wildlife, and the historical range of Mexican wolves. I was also able to attend the plenary on Tuesday morning and was especially privileged to hear Shane Mahoney speak about the importance of working to change the negative image of the hunter that has evolved in the media and on outdoor TV shows. The most illustrative quote from his message that stood out to me was that “Cecil’s roar will never be silenced.”

I especially enjoyed the networking event at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences because it has so many great exhibits that are ideal for sparking conversation with any wildlifer in the room. On other evenings, I also had a great time mingling with folks at the NCSU student-alumni mixer and chatting people up at the NCTWS dinner at one of my favorite restaurants—the Busy Bee. As a first-timer at this [or any] wildlife conference, I came away from this week feeling inspired, rejuvenated, and refocused. Thank you, NCTWS!!

2016 TWS Annual Conference



Casey Gray

I was fortunate to attend my first annual TWS conference this year thanks to a travel grant from the North Carolina Chapter of The Wildlife Society. While I had been an officer for the LSU chapter of TWS in undergrad, a member for some years, and more recently chair of the professional development committee for NCTWS, I was never able to make it to the conference. The meetings, presentations, and networking events proved to be a whirlwind, but were beneficial to my growth as a wildlife biologist.

I started out the week as a presenter for the “Animal Trapping Techniques for Researchers and Managers.” The highlight of this event was setting culvert traps and cable restraints in the median of downtown Raleigh! Throughout the week, I was able to attend many talks that were relevant to my current position as a Black Bear and Furbearer Technician with the NCWRC. I was particularly interested in the presentations given in the “Conservation and Ecology of Mammals,” “New Technology and Applications,” and “Mammal Habitat Selection” contributed papers sessions. As a representative of NCTWS, I volunteered as AV support in the symposium on “Large Predator Restoration and Management in North America.” This 2-day symposium covered current issues concerning large carnivores including red wolves

in North Carolina. As a member of the TWS Early Career Professional Working Group, I participated in the meeting held on Tuesday. Additionally, I was able to attend networking events at the NC Museum of Natural Science, the NC/SCTWS mixer, the UGA Warnell reception, and the Relaxing in Raleigh event.

Although I left the conference completely exhausted, I am now re-energized and ready to get back to work with new knowledge and professional connections. Thank you to NCTWS for allowing me to take part in such a great experience. I wouldn't have been able to attend without your help.



Otto and I checking out the vendor booths.

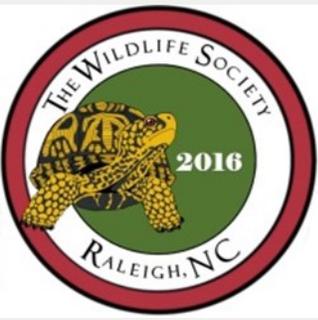
Photo courtesy Casey Gray



Demonstrating setting a cable restraint for bears at the Animal Trapping and Techniques for Researchers and Managers Workshop.

Photo courtesy Casey Gray

2016 TWS Annual Conference



Aaron Wagoner

I am a Biology student at UNC-Greensboro. I am from North Carolina and am an avid outdoorsman that has always had an interest in native wildlife. I have been doing undergraduate research in Dr. Kalcounis-Rueppell's Bat and Mouse Lab at UNCG. I help one of her graduate students, Sarah Schimpp, collect and analyze NABat acoustic data. While attending our weekly lab meeting, I heard the graduate students discussing The Wildlife Society Conference in Raleigh. I realized that the TWS meeting was just the place I needed to be considering I want to be working with wildlife for my career. Fortunately, I was provided with an opportunity to attend the meeting.

I went to the meeting along with one other member of my lab. To be honest, when I arrived I was overwhelmed and unsure where to start. But I managed to locate the Hunting, Trapping, and Conservation Working Group, where I listened to Shane Mahoney's inspiring talk about the future of hunting and how to educate and introduce people to the particular way of life that I love. During other events, I was exposed to current research on invasive species, and the work that is going into restoring large predators to previously occupied habitats.

I was able to meet a few of the friendly people who made the conference possible and graduate students from NC State University who spoke with me about careers in wildlife. This conference, and the people I met, only increased my interest in Wildlife Biology and I am very thankful for the opportunity that I had to attend.

Thank you to all who made it possible for me to attend: Dr. Kalcounis-Rueppell, Jason Winiarski, Lilly Matheson, Angela Larson, and Jeffrey Marcus.



Myself (top left) and members of the UNCG Bat and Mouse Lab at the TWS meeting looking for our Biology Department's sponsorship logo.

Photo courtesy Aaron Wagoner

Officer Elections

2017–2018 NCTWS Officer Elections

Cast your vote today! Voting for the 2017–2018 NCTWS officer elections is now open, and can be completed in one of three ways: 1) in-person at the annual meeting, 2) via an absentee ballot using snail mail, 2) or via an absentee ballot using our online survey.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots are only to be used by members who are unable to attend the annual meeting February 7–9, 2017 at the Eastern 4-H Center. Absentee ballots can be submitted in one of two ways, either online (via a Survey Monkey link that will be emailed to members immediately following the publication of this issue) or via snail mail. If you want to mail us your ballot, complete the ballot below and mail it to NCTWS at 5309 Eolian Ct, Raleigh, NC 27607. All absentee ballots must be postmarked by February 1, 2017.

Voting at the Annual Meeting

If you plan to attend the annual meeting, you do not need to complete an absentee ballot. Like last year, hard copy ballots will be distributed at the registration table to all NCTWS members attending the meeting, and attendees will be asked to complete them on-site. Ballots will be collected on-site February 7 and 8. Winners will be announced at the Annual Business Meeting on February 9.

Candidates

This year, we have 8 candidates running for 4 positions on the NCTWS Executive Board! Chris Deperno and Colleen Olfenbuttel have accepted a nomination for President-elect. Ken Knight and Brandon Sherrill have accepted a nomination for Treasurer. And Kacy Cook, Matthew Harrell, Sara Schweitzer, and Rachael Urbanek have accepted a nomination for the 2 At-large Board positions. Check out their bios below.

Officer Elections

2017–2018 NCTWS Officer Elections Ballot

President-elect (please vote for ONE)

_____ Chris Deperno

_____ Colleen Olfenbuttel

Treasurer (please vote for ONE)

_____ Ken Knight

_____ Brandon Sherrill

At-large Board (please vote for TWO)

_____ Kacy Cook

_____ Matthew Harrell

_____ Sara Schweitzer

_____ Rachael Urbanek

Signature: _____ **Printed Name:** _____

According to the Chapter bylaws, absentee ballots submitted prior to the scheduled time for counting ballots (i.e., the annual meeting) must be signed by the voting member. If your ballot is not signed, it will not be counted.

Mail ballots to NCTWS at 5309 Eolian Ct, Raleigh, NC 27607. All ballots must be postmarked by February 1, 2017.

Meet The Candidates



Chris Deperno

OFFICE: President-elect

PRESENT CAREER POSITION: Professor, NCSU

FORMER CAREER POSITIONS: Research Scientist/Farmland Deer Project Leader, MN DNR

EDUCATION: B.S. in Pre-graduate Biology from Central Michigan University in 1990, an M.S. in Biology from Purdue University in 1994, and a Ph.D. in Wildlife and Fisheries Management from South Dakota State University in 1998.

TWS ACTIVITIES:

I have been a member of The Wildlife Society since 1994. Since 2004, I have been a member of the Honorary Membership and Recognition Committee. I have been active with the Public Conservation Education and Extension Working Group, Wildlife Damage Management Working Group, and the Wildlife Disease Working Group, in abstract selection committees, and I have moderated numerous presentation sessions for multiple Wildlife Society Conferences. This past year, I was Co-chair of the Educational Program Committee for the 2016 Annual Meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina. I have been a member of the Central Mountains and Plains Section, the Southeastern Section, and the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society. For the Southeastern Section, I have been a member of the Wildlife Management Excellence Award Committee (since 2009) and have served as Chair since 2014. Since 2008, I have been a member of the Publication Awards Committee. From 2010–2012, I served as the Wildlife Assistant Editor and Wildlife Associate Editor for Proceedings of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Meet The Candidates

Christopher DePerno, continued

I have been active with the South Dakota Chapter, Minnesota Chapter, and the North Carolina Chapter of The Wildlife Society (NCTWS). I have been a member of the NCTWS since 2004. I have served as an At-large Executive Board Member (2007–2009), President-elect (2009–2010), President (2010–2011), Past-President (2011–2012), chaired the Nominations and Elections Committee (2009–2012), and currently serve as the Chair of the Awards Committee. Also, in 2012, I was honored by the NCTWS with the Chapter Award. I have been active with the South Dakota State University Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society and was the advisor for the Leopold Wildlife Club (the North Carolina State University student chapter of The Wildlife Society) from 2004–2009. Additionally, I have served as President of the Great Plains Natural Science Society and as Associate Editor of the *Prairie Naturalist*. Since 1994, I have been a reviewer for *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, *The Prairie Naturalist*, *Journal of Mammalogy*, *American Midland Naturalist*, *PLOS One*, and others. I have been a Certified Wildlife Biologist since 2002.

AFFILIATIONS:

I have been a member of the American Society of Mammalogists since 1994. Since 1997, I have been a member of the Great Plains Natural Science Society (GPNSS, publishes the *Prairie Naturalist*). I served as President elect from 2003–2004, President from 2004–2006, and past-president from 2007–2008. Within the GPNSS, I have served as chairperson of the arrangement, audit, and program committees. I have been involved with the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program and I was a member of the Science and Technical Advisory Committee. Additionally, I have been involved with the Jack H. Berryman Institute Scientific Advisory Panel, North Carolina Herpetological Society, North Carolina Prescribed Fire Council, Wildlife Disease Association, and the USDA-APHIS Beaver Management Assistant Program.

VIEWS:

As professionals, I believe it imperative that we are actively involved at all levels of The Wildlife Society including the national, regional, and state levels. I am running for President-elect of the North Carolina Chapter to serve and lend support for wildlife conservation in North Carolina. The Wildlife Society has played a vital role in my professional development and is essential for keeping wildlife professionals connected. I believe the recent leadership within NCTWS has done an excellent job of re-energizing committees and supporting and defending sound conservation policies. My goal as President-elect would be to build on the excellent work of others. I will work to promote proper use of wildlife and natural resources through science and education, to continue encouraging and supporting committee work and involvement, and to increase membership.

Meet The Candidates



Colleen Olfenbuttel

OFFICE: President-elect

PRESENT CAREER POSITION: NC Wildlife Resources Commission Black Bear and Furbearer Biologist (2007–present)

FORMER CAREER POSITIONS: Furbearer Project Leader, Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife (2005–2007); Co-leader on Cooperative Alleghany Bear Study, Virginia Tech (2001–2005), Co-leader for Center for Ursid Research, Virginia Tech (2000–2005); Wildlife Biologist, Institute for Wildlife Studies (1999), Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Recovery Project (1997–1998); Wildlife Technician, Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources (1998); Wildlife Technician, U.S. Geological Service (1997); Crew Leader, Hiawatha National Forest (1996); Biological Technician, National Biological Service (1995)

EDUCATION: B.S. Wildlife Biology, Ohio University (1996); M.S. Wildlife Management, Virginia Tech (2005)

TWS ACTIVITIES:

NCTWS Treasurer (2013–2017), TWS Hunting, Trapping, and Conservation Board Member

Meet The Candidates

Colleen Olfenbuttel, continued

(2015–2017), TWS-Wildlife Damage Management Working Group Treasurer/Secretary (2014–2016), TWS Fundraising Subcommittee Chair (2014–2016); TWS Arrangements Committee member (2014–2016), Chair of SETWS Fur Resources Committee (2015–present), TWS-National Chapter member since 1997, NCTWS and TWS-Southeast Section since 2007, TWS-North Central (2006–2007), TWS Certified Wildlife Biologist

AFFILIATIONS:

Chair of SEAFWA Furbearer Working Group, Former co-chair of SEAFWA Large Carnivore Working Group, Southeast representative for AFWA US Furbearer Technical Working Group, Eastern Black Bear Workshop Steering Committee, Organizing co-chair for Eastern Black Bear Workshop (2011 & 2013), Southern Appalachian Black Bear Study Group, North Carolina representative for AFWA Sustainable Use of Wildlife Committee, International Bear Association (2001–present)

VIEWS:

This year, it was decided that posing with a bear cub was a minimum qualification for this prestigious office. Glad to see both candidates qualify! But in all seriousness, it has been a privilege to serve the membership these past 4 years as NCTWS's Treasurer. When I was elected the NC Chapter Treasurer, my goals were to 1) help host an incredible 2016 TWS Conference in Raleigh and make our Chapter, and the state of North Carolina, shine, 2) maintain and, if possible, improve upon the financial status of our Chapter so that we could explore offering increased member benefits, 3) have the Chapter engaged in the pressing conservation issues of our times. I believe the NC Chapter, thanks to the Board members, Committee members, and Chapter members, has been successful in all of these goals, and as your President-elect, I would like to continue our good work. If elected, I would continue to have our Chapter engaged in conservation issues, as I feel that as a wildlife professional organization, it is our obligation to encourage the responsible stewardship of our wildlife resources. In addition, I feel TWS plays a valuable role in the development of wildlife students and professionals, and would like to pursue ways in which the NC Chapter can support professional development opportunities for all members. As a wildlife professional, it is easy to get pigeon-holed in a specific area (e.g., bears, furbearers), but the diversity of backgrounds and experiences of our NC Chapter members has helped make me a better biologist and, whether elected or not, I will always be thankful to the NC Chapter for the friendships I have made and the knowledge I have gained.

Meet The Candidates



Ken Knight

OFFICE: Treasurer

PRESENT CAREER POSITION: Supervising Wildlife Biologist, NCWRC

FORMER CAREER POSITIONS: District Wildlife Biologist, NCWRC; Endangered Species Biologist, WVDNR

EDUCATION: BS, Wildlife, NCSU; MS, Wildlife, WVU

TWS ACTIVITIES: Executive Board, Conservation Affairs Committee, Secretary (a long time ago)

AFFILIATIONS: TWS, NCTWS, LandTrust for Central NC, Friends of Morrow Mtn. State Park

VIEWS: I enjoy being an active member of NCTWS and participating in board meetings and annual meetings.

Meet The Candidates



Brandon Sherrill

OFFICE: Treasurer

PRESENT CAREER POSITION: Mammalogist, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

FORMER CAREER POSITIONS: Curator of the Naturalist Center, North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences; Regional Biologist, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources; Lead Research Technician, North Carolina State University

EDUCATION: M.S. - Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology, North Carolina State University (2010); B.S. - Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, North Carolina State University (2006)

TWS ACTIVITIES: International - member; Southeastern Section - member; NC Chapter - At-large board member; Leopold Wildlife Club - member (while a student at NCSU)

AFFILIATIONS: American Society of Mammalogists, Quality Deer Management Association, North Carolina Bat Working Group

Meet The Candidates

Brandon Sherrill, continued

VIEWS: For the past two years I have had the privilege to be elected as an At-Large Board member for the NCTWS Executive Board. I have certainly enjoyed serving the Chapter in this capacity and have appreciated the opportunity to represent our membership. I would like to remain an active member in the Chapter but I am interested in contributing in another role. I would like to be elected as Treasurer. I have been very impressed with the efforts of this Chapter to provide information on wildlife related issues to both our membership and our community and I would like to continue to support this work. I am pleased to be a member of a chapter that is so diligent in its efforts to promote sound wildlife management and conservation in our state. Additionally, I am grateful that our Chapter strives to provide our membership with outreach/educational, professional development, and networking opportunities. For these reasons, I would be honored to serve as Treasurer on the Executive Board.

Meet The Candidates



Kacy Cook

OFFICE: At-large Board

PRESENT CAREER POSITION: NC Wildlife Commission Land Conservation Biologist, Green Growth Toolbox Coordinator

FORMER CAREER POSITIONS: NC Wildlife Commission Piedmont Land Conservation Biologist, Technician for Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge and the US Forest Service, Technician for bat and anuran research in Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, Mexico

EDUCATION: B.S. Wildlife, Humboldt State University, M.S. Forestry and Natural Resources, Wildlife, University of Georgia

TWS ACTIVITIES: I have been a NCTWS Chapter member since 2006, acted for 2 years as the Chair of the Conservation Affairs Committee and helped as much as possible with Chapter efforts. I led the NCTWS Sustainability Project for the 2016 Wildlife Society Conference.

AFFILIATIONS: NC Wildlife Commission, The Wildlife Society, Society for Conservation Biology

Meet The Candidates

Kacy Cook, continued

IEWS: The NC Chapter and The Wildlife Society are a vital forum for students and professionals to share and improve wildlife science. TWS plays an important role in science-based policy making. I think NCTWS has a sphere of influence and expertise to promote wildlife conservation, education, and management in North Carolina as our state continues to grow. The dedication, knowledge, and connections that professionals and students affiliated with NCTWS have serves our state and its wildlife. I believe we should continue to strive to provide science-based information and policy recommendations to our community leaders and the public for the purpose of improving wildlife conservation, education, and management. I think we should provide resources to future wildlife biologists, connect research institution resources to wildlife agency needs, and that NCTWS should act as an arena for students and professionals to develop additional skills.

Meet The Candidates



Matthew Harrell

OFFICE: At-large Board

PRESENT CAREER POSITION: Natural Resources Coordinator for Mecklenburg County Natural Resources (Park and Recreation)

FORMER CAREER POSITIONS: Project Manager at Perry Management, Kinston, NC; Invasive Species Technician at Cumberland Island National Seashore.

EDUCATION: BA Environmental Studies, concentration Ecology. Minor Marine Science. UNC-CH 2007.

TWS ACTIVITIES: NCTWS Member

AFFILIATIONS: NC Prescribed Fire Council, Implementation Committee Chair (2016).

VIEWS: I'm ready and willing to serve as an At-large Board Member for NCTWS! I've been a member for several years without really taking an active role, and am ready to join in and help shoulder the load. My early years were spent in a rural corner of Nash County, where I became fascinated by wildlife and ecology. Now I find myself working in a county with over a million people. The relative lack of elbow room here has helped me appreciate the importance of social science and the apologetics of resource management. I believe that NCTWS offers a great vehicle for these things to combine with more traditional wildlife science, and I will happily serve on the Board.

Meet The Candidates



Sara Schweitzer

OFFICE: At-large Board

PRESENT CAREER POSITION: Wildlife Diversity Biologist

FORMER CAREER POSITIONS: Professor, Wildlife Ecology, University of Georgia; Graduate Research Assistant and Teaching Assistant, Oklahoma State University and Texas Tech University; Environmental Scientist, US Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District.

EDUCATION: Ph.D., Wildlife and Fisheries Ecology, Oklahoma State University; M.S., Wildlife Science, Texas Tech University; B.S., Biology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

TWS ACTIVITIES:

National / Parent TWS: Member since 1986; Elected Fellow; Associate Editor, *The Wildlife Society Bulletin*; Reviewer for manuscripts submitted to *Wildlife Monographs*; *Journal of Wildlife Management*; *Wildlife Society Bulletin*; Ethnic & Gender Diversity WG: Chair-Elect, Chair, Past Chair; Elected Board Member; Ad hoc Membership Committee: Member; Diversity Award Committee: prior Chair, now Member

Southeast Section TWS: Member; Past Secretary & Treasurer

Meet The Candidates

Sara Schweitzer, continued

North Carolina Chapter TWS: Member

Georgia Chapter TWS: President-Elect; President; Past-President; Board Member

University of Georgia Student Chapter: Prior Advisor

Oklahoma State University Student Chapter: Member; Chair, Conservation Symposium Committee

AFFILIATIONS:

The Waterbird Society (Elected member of Council); Association of Field Ornithologists; Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Bird Conservation Committee; Chair Partners in Flight/Shorebird/Waterbird Working Group); North American Bird Conservation Initiative; US Shorebird Conservation Partnership (Member of Council); Partners in Flight Conservation Partnership (Member of Steering Committee); Waterbird Council; IUCN Heron Specialist Group, Executive Committee Member; Atlantic Flyway Council, Nongame Technical Committee, Gull Management Plan co-author; Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative, Co-Chair, Habitat Working Group; Communications Working Group member, Member of Species Working Groups: American Oystercatcher, Eastern Black Rail, Piping Plover, Wood Stork; University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Adjunct Professor

VIEWS:

Although I am a member of, and affiliated with, numerous societies, working groups, councils, and committees, The Wildlife Society is my solid home base. All other groups could fit under The Wildlife Society umbrella, but have formed to take action on specific needs. I respect the professionalism of TWS and its ability to provide guidance on numerous topics that may be too sensitive for other organizations to comment on.

I have been involved with TWS at many levels—student chapters, state chapters, regional sections, and national. It is important for professionals to contribute actively at each level. I have been in North Carolina for 6 years now, and I have been kept busy with many affiliations. I am happy to become more involved with the North Carolina Chapter of TWS and contribute to actions and issues within the state. I believe my perspectives and insights gained from working in several states (before having the opportunity to return to my home state of North Carolina) and being affiliated with many groups will be helpful as a Board Member of the North Carolina Chapter of TWS. Thank you for this opportunity to run for this office.

Meet The Candidates



Rachael Urbanek

OFFICE: At-large Board

PRESENT CAREER POSITION: Assistant Professor of Environmental Science, UNC Wilmington

FORMER CAREER POSITIONS: Assistant Professor of Wildlife Science, Arkansas Tech University

EDUCATION: B.S. Wildlife and Fisheries Science, Forest Minor: Penn State University; Ph.D. Cooperative Wildlife Research Lab: Southern Illinois University Carbondale

TWS ACTIVITIES:

National: Subcommittee to review student travel grants (2016); Subcommittee to review and rank proposals for TWS Annual Conference (2014); Increasing Agency Membership Committee (2013-2015); Leadership Institute: Participant (2013), Alumni Mentor (2014); Mentor in Student-Professional Mixer at Annual Conference (2012-2016); Session Moderator at Annual Conference (2010)

North Carolina Chapter: Conservation Affairs Committee, Chair (2016-present)

Meet The Candidates

Rachael Urbanek, continued

Arkansas Chapter: Secretary/Treasurer (2013-2015)

Arkansas Tech University Student Chapter: Faculty Advisor (2014-2015)

AFFILIATIONS:

The Wildlife Society (2002–present); Arkansas Chapter TWS (2012–2015); Illinois Chapter TWS (2011–2015); North Carolina Chapter TWS (2015–present); North Central Section TWS (2011–present); Southeastern Section TWS (2012–present); Wildlife Damage Working Group TWS (2009–2014); Urban Wildlife Working Group TWS (2009–present); Penn State Student Chapter TWS (2002–2005)

VIEWS:

The Wildlife Society, at multiple levels of the organization, has been a part of my life for the past 15 years. As a professional in the field, I feel as if I owe TWS to give back to the Society for all of the years of mentorship, experiential opportunities, and encouragement I received from TWS members through my undergraduate and graduate years. I recently left my position as the Secretary and Treasurer of the Arkansas Chapter in 2015 when I moved to North Carolina and dove right into helping the NC Chapter within the first 2 months of my arrival. I currently have the pleasure of serving as the Chair of the Conservation Affairs Committee and I would like to become a member-at-large for NCTWS so that I continue helping the Chapter progress wildlife conservation and engaging students and the public in wildlife science and management.

NCTWS Annual Meeting

Page 1 of 2



NCTWS ANNUAL MEETING

“Wildlife Management in North Carolina: Then and Now”
Eastern 4-H Environmental Education Conference Center
100 N. Clover Way, Columbia, NC 27925
February 7th-9th, 2017

REGISTRATION FORM

(register by mail or on-line at: nctws.org/wordpress/annual_meeting)

Registration must be postmarked by **January 23rd, 2017** for early registration

Return To: Colleen Olfenbittel
NCTWS Treasurer
1293 Laurel Bluffs
Pittsboro, NC 27312

Name: _____ Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

The NCTWS Annual Meeting *will begin at 8:55 AM* on Wednesday, Feb. 8th with door prizes and our plenary session.

Registration table will be open the following hours:

- Feb. 7th (Tuesday) afternoon: 4:30-5:30 pm
- Feb. 8th (Wednesday): 7:00-8:45 am, during morning and afternoon breaks

Texas Plantation Game Land

NCWRC Field Trip

Tuesday, February 7th, 2017

1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Texas Plantation Game Land is a 1500-acre tract located in northeast Tyrrell County. Purchased by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission in 2015, Texas Plantation has undergone significant infrastructure improvements including road and parking area development and waterfowl impoundment maintenance. Field trip topics will include: current management, cooperative farming program in agricultural fields, hunting opportunities, management challenges, and long-term waterfowl habitat improvement plans.

Contact David Turner for more information: david.turner@ncwildlife.org
252-482-1808 (office)
252-802-0217 (mobile)

Please check box if you plan on attending the field trip.

(Please make sure your phone number and e-mail are listed on this page)

NCTWS Annual Meeting

Silent Auction Donation

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

Item(s): _____

Please mark which options you prefer and add the appropriate \$ amounts in the subtotal.

Overnight lodging includes: Registration, Meals, Lodging, Socials, Breaks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meals provided for 1-night stay (in order): dinner, breakfast and lunch • Meals provided for staying both nights: Tues. dinner, Wed. B/L/D, Thurs. B/L • If you plan on arriving Wed. morning and would like Wed. breakfast and/or Wed. lunch, please mark that in the Commuter meals and add to subtotal. 			
	Tuesday	Wednesday	subtotal
Executive Lodge (2 Queen beds) for 1 night & 3 meals (\$130/night per person) <i>Limited availability</i>			\$
Quad Lodge (4 Bunk beds) for 1 night & 3 meals (\$110/night per person)			\$
Cabin (bunk beds) for 1 night & 3 meals (\$90/night per person)			\$
Student Cabin Rate for 1 night & 3 meals (\$70/night per student)			\$
Meeting Commuter: Registration only (\$35 total)			\$
Late Registration after Jan. 23 rd (add \$10 to subtotal)			\$
Commuter meals (<i>Check all that apply</i>) (Breakfast=\$10.00, Lunch=\$12.00, Dinner=\$14.00)	Mon D	Tues B L D	Wed B L \$
Annual Dues (\$10)	\$		
Meeting Registration Total	\$		

****Make checks payable to NCTWS****

If paying for registration by credit card (nctws.org/wordpress/annual_meeting), please note that there will be a 2.2% plus \$0.30 transaction charge added to the registration amount.

Dietary Restrictions

Please indicate any dietary concerns here: _____

(Vegetarian, Vegan, Gluten-free, no peanuts, and other)

Note: If gluten-free, please add \$2.50 per meal to subtotal above.

Please Indicate Roommate choices:

Double occupancy (2 Queen beds) Executive Lodge rooms, specify roommate choice:

Quad occupancy (4 Bunk beds) Executive Lodge rooms, specify roommate choices:

Cabins (up to 24 per cabin), specify male or female: _____

NCTWS Annual Meeting

NCTWS Annual Meeting 2017 – Preliminary Agenda

Tuesday, February 7		
1:00-4:00		Field Trip to NCWRC Texas Plantation Game Land
4:30-5:30		REGISTRATION OPEN
6:00-7:00		Dinner
7:00-10:00		Social/Poster Session/Jam Session – Bring your Instruments!
Wednesday, February 8		
7:00-8:45		REGISTRATION OPEN
8:00-8:45		Breakfast
8:55-9:00		Door Prizes
9:00-9:15		Welcome
9:15-9:45		Plenary: A retrospective of Conservation Issues and Priorities in the 20 th Century
9:45-10:15		Plenary: Conservation Challenges we are facing in the 21 st Century
10:15-10:25		Break (registration open)
10:25-10:30		Door Prizes
10:30-11:30		Moderated Round Table #1: Agency policies and their effect on how we manage wildlife: past vs present
11:30-12:00		Student Presentations - TBD
12:00-12:45		Lunch
12:55-1:00		Door Prizes
1:00-2:00		Moderated Round Table #2: Managing Controversy and Public Opinion
2:00-2:10		Break (registration open)
2:10-2:15		Door Prizes
2:15-3:15		Student Presentations - TBD
3:15-3:25		Break (registration open)
3:25-3:30		Door Prizes
3:30-4:30		Student Presentations - TBD
4:30-4:40		Announcements
6:00-6:45		Dinner
7:00-10:00		Social/Auctions
Thursday February 9		
8:00-8:45		Breakfast
8:55-9:00		Door Prizes
9:00-10:15		Business Meeting
10:15-10:25		Break
10:25-10:30		Door Prizes
10:30-11:00		Moderated Round Table #3: Pathways to a Career in Wildlife Management
11:00-11:30		Mentoring the New Generation of Professionals – Lara Pacifici
11:30-11:45		Closing Remarks/Adjourn
12:00-12:45		Lunch

NCTWS Annual Meeting

COWCH Committee

The NCTWS COWCH Committee is now under new direction and is ready to begin a brand new chapter of “conserving our wildlife heritage.” The COWCH program is an effort to document and share the experiences of retirees and other experienced and seasoned people in field of wildlife management.

In the past year, new committee chairs Clint Brooks and John Henry Harrelson have conducted an interview with recent retiree Terry Sharpe. In the last year, the committee has purchased new video equipment that will ensure quality capturing of interviews for the sustainability of the program.

With new equipment and new ideas, the COWCH Committee is looking for possible interviewees. If **YOU** or **ANYONE YOU** know would like to be a part of a COWCH interview session, please contact Clint Brooks or John Henry Harrelson. At the annual meeting in February 2017, there will be a COWCH interview booth set up.



Clint Brooks- cbrooks@stanlycountync.gov

John Henry Harrelson- john.harrelson@newildlife.org

NCTWS Annual Meeting

Call for Student Posters

We invite students to submit a research poster to display at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Chapter of the Wildlife Society at the Eastern 4-H Center located in Columbia, North Carolina. The meeting will be held February 7–9, 2017. Posters provide an opportunity for authors to participate in one-on-one communication with attendees and is an excellent opportunity for professional interaction, growth, and development. Posters will be displayed in the evenings of February 7th and 8th. 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 February 9th, the 2017 Best Student Poster Award will be awarded. 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 **January 27, 2017** to Dr. Chris DePerno, chris_deperno@ncsu.edu, 919-513-7559.

2016 Award Winners:

Juvenile songbird survival, habitat selection, and movement: a Bachman's sparrow case study
 Alexander C. Fish¹, Christopher E. Moorman¹, Christopher S. DePerno¹ and Jessica M. Schillaci²
¹Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology Program, North Carolina State University
²Endangered Species Branch, Directorate of Public Works, Fort Bragg, North Carolina

Introduction

- Many songbird species have experienced recent population declines, including Bachman's sparrow, which is a species of concern throughout its range.
- Although most research has focused on adult survival and nest success as the drivers of these declines, less is known about the juvenile life stage.
- Seasonal productivity, including nest success and juvenile survival, are the most sensitive vital rates contributing to population change.
- Hence, juvenile survival deserves greater research emphasis, especially as it relates to habitat characteristics.

Methods

- We captured and marked juvenile and adult male sparrows during the breeding season (Figure 2).
- We tracked juveniles daily using radio telemetry and documented adult locations using spot mapping. Adult territories were delineated using minimum convex polygons.
- We measured vegetation structure in 0.04-ha plots centered at 5 locations/juvenile and at 10 locations/adult male. Male locations represented available habitat for fledging use.
- We compared vegetation structure at juvenile and adult male locations using generalized linear mixed effect models. We created 9 univariate models and ranked models using Akaike Information Criterion corrected for small sample size (AICc).

Objective

Determine survival, habitat selection, and movement of juvenile Bachman's sparrows during the fledging period (0-25 days post-fledging).

Study Area

Fort Bragg is 485 km² and represents one of the largest continuous tracts of restored longleaf pine ecosystems. Prescribed fire application maintains an open understory with dense herbaceous groundcover and low woody shrubs. This heterogeneous vegetation structure creates high quality habitat for Bachman's sparrow (Figure 1).

Preliminary Results

- We captured 21 juveniles (8 in 2014, 13 in 2015) and 63 adult male Bachman's sparrows (40 in 2014, 23 in 2015).
- Juvenile survival until independent of adult care was 0.24 (Figure 3).
- Greater than 50% of mortality events occurred within the first 4 days of leaving the nest, and predators included common raven(2), black rat (nest(1)), copperhead(1), and unidentified small mammal(2).
- Movement of juvenile Bachman's sparrows was restricted to the adult male territory (see video).
- Two habitat selection models were competitive, receiving 100% of the model weight. Juveniles selected greater shrub and forb structure than what was available in the male's territory (Figure 1).

Preliminary Conclusion

- Juvenile survival was lower than for other forest-dwelling songbird species, but comparable to published estimates for grassland birds.
- Juveniles selected habitats with greater woody shrub and forb structure, likely for the greater concealment from predators.
- Because juvenile movement is restricted by adult territory size, heterogeneous mixtures of grasses, forbs, and woody shrubs should be promoted on small spatial scales.

Acknowledgments

Alex Fish

The Status of the North American River Otter (*Lontra canadensis*) in NC
 Charles W. Sanders II¹, Christopher S. DePerno¹, & Colleen Olfenbittel^{1*}
¹Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology Program, North Carolina State University
²Sanitary and Research, Wildlife Management Division, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Historical Management

- Colonial records indicate abundant otter populations throughout North Carolina (NC).
- By the 1930s, Piedmont and Mountain populations were extirpated through harvest and decline in fish stocks caused by sedimentation from poor logging practices. Coastal populations remained stable during this time period.
- From 1988-1994, Great Smoky Mountains National Park released 137 otters (54 female, 83 male) at 19 locations.
- From 1989-1996, the NC Wildlife Resources Commission released 267 otters (107 female, 160 male) in 11 watersheds in the Mountain region (Figure 2). Piedmont populations recovered naturally.
- Currently, otters are harvested statewide with no bag limits during the regulated trapping season.
- Little has been known about actual population parameters within NC.

Objective

Determine fecundity and age structure of the otter harvest in North Carolina by gathering empirical data from trapper provided otter carcasses.

Study Area

North Carolina is highly diverse, but can be generalized with 3 physiographic regions: Coastal Plain, Piedmont, and Mountains. Also, there are 14 river basins throughout the state (Figure 1), with otters present in each.

Preliminary Results

- Over 5 seasons between November 2009 and February 2015 we collected 720 otter carcasses; 362 were from the Coastal Plain, 47 from the Mountains, and 293 from the Piedmont.
- Harvested otters averaged 2 1/2 years of age, with 75% being 3-5 years; the maximum age recorded was 12 1/2.
- Males comprised 63% of the harvest and females 37%.
- Approximately 85% of females displayed active corpora lutea, indicating reproductive activity. This includes 60% of specimens <1 year old.
- The average corpora lutea count was 1.896 (Figure 4).

Methods

- We collected otter carcasses from fur trappers, fur buyers, and damage control agents statewide during the regulated trapping seasons.
- We recaptured the carcasses and established ages via cementum annuli.
- We counted, measured, and preserved large fetuses (Figure 3a).
- We fixed female reproductive tracts in 10% formalin (Figure 3b), examined them for fetuses, sectioned ovaries, and counted corpora lutea (Figure 3c).
- We entered capture locations into ArcGIS which we used to classify otters by river basin.

Preliminary Conclusions

- Preliminary results indicate robust and healthy populations within all regions of North Carolina.
- The male:female ratio is balanced.
- The large number of young otters in the harvest indicates good recruitment.
- The average corpora lutea count of 1.9 suggests an average litter size of 1-2 pups.
- The high occurrence of corpora lutea in otters less than 2 years of age indicates that reproduction may be occurring earlier than the literature suggests.

Acknowledgments

Charles Sanders

Fur, Fish, and Game Camp

2016 FFG Camp Scholarships

This year, the NC Chapter of The Wildlife Society granted three \$250 scholarships to youth attending the Fur, Fish, and Game Rendezvous at the Millstone 4-H Camp in Ellerbe, NC. This camp is the premier summer camp experience for youth interested in the outdoors, wildlife, hunting, and fishing. Please help us congratulate the three scholarship winners: **Caroline Newlin** (age 15 from Saxapahaw), **Victoria Smith** (age 12 from Chapel Hill), and **Cody Hanson** (age 12 from Zebulon)!



Photo courtesy Deanna Noble



Photo courtesy Deanna Noble

Fur, Fish, and Game Camp

Dear NC Chapter of The Wildlife Society,

Thank you for the scholarship to help me pay for camp this year. I attended the Advanced Fur Fish and Game Rendezvous and had a great time! As my service project, I held a river clean-up at the Saxapahaw Island Park where we removed trash piles that had accumulated due to Hurricane Matthew. We saw evidence of the wildlife in Saxapahaw in the form of tracks, dens, and beaver dams. We originally scheduled our clean-up day for October 8th, but the hurricane caused us to change it to the 15th. This affected our turnout, but we still cleaned up the island nicely. This service project was a good way to get involved with the community and we used this as a kick-off for our Alamance County 4-H Environmental Science Club. Our club looks forward to helping out with future projects in our county.

Sincerely,
Caroline Newlin



Photo courtesy Deanna Noble



Photo courtesy Caroline Newlin

NCTWS Member Spotlight



Angie with a hispid cotton rat during dissertation research in Mississippi.

Photo courtesy Angela Larsen

Name: Angela Larsen

What you're called: Angie

Current Position: PhD Candidate in Dr. Matina Kalcounis-Rüppell's Bat and Mouse Lab at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro

How long have you been with this employer?
This is my 5th year.

Phone number and/or e-mail: angelallarsen@gmail.com

Education:

August 2012-current Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Major: **Environmental Health Science**

Minor: **Statistics**

August 2009-August 2012 M.S. Grand Valley State University

Major: **Biology**

Emphasis: **Natural Resources**

August 2007-May 2009 B.S. University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Major: **Biology**

Minor: **Conservation Biology**

NCTWS Member Spotlight

Where did you grow up? I grew up in Marinette, WI.

What other work experience do you have?

May–Aug 2007 & May–Aug 2008

Independent Contractor, WI Department of Natural Resources

Collected data including physical measurements of wood turtles found, GPS of confirmed and potential nesting sites, and descriptions and photographs of nesting sites.

April 2006–June 2006

Field Technician, WI Cooperative Fishery Research Unit

Used electro fishing and recorded measurements of lake sturgeon.

Why did you go into a wildlife career?

I always loved being outside, cleaning up litter from natural areas, and working with animals at shelters and a vet clinic. However, I began college only knowing I enjoyed math and science courses and not knowing how I could combine all of my interests. Luckily I had a wonderful biology professor (Dr. Wendel Johnson) who informed and encouraged me to apply for a field technician position working with lake sturgeon. I did apply and fortunately the M.S. student who hired me was willing to take a chance on someone who had zero field experience. As soon as I started working I realized I was passionate about the work and learned the steps I needed to take to become a wildlife professional.

Have you always been interested in wildlife?

Growing up in the country, I was always interested in wildlife—from catching frogs to identifying tracks in the snow. I just did not realize I could work with wildlife until my professor told me about the field technician opportunity. Being able to help protect and conserve wildlife is an amazing profession that I feel so lucky to be a part of.

Who has been an influence on you in your career? How and why?

My first biology professor certainly was a major influence on me, but my high school science and math teachers also showed me how interesting these subjects could be. From then I have had so many amazing mentors (including my undergraduate research advisors Dr. Karin Bodensteiner and Dr. Isabelle Girard, my M.S. co-advisors Dr. Paul Keenlance and Dr. Joseph

NCTWS Member Spotlight

Jacquot, and my current Ph.D. advisor Dr. Matina Kalcounis-Rüppell) and colleagues who all continue to encourage me as I work toward my goal of being a professor. My mentors are all incredible role models that provide me with excellent examples of what it means to succeed. Additionally, my family and friends have always supported my decisions, even though I have moved several times and do not spend nearly as much time with them as I wish I could. Fortunately they still encourage, love, and support me through it all!

What species or habitat do you know most about or work with the most?

I currently work with hispid cotton rats, but I truly enjoy working with all rodent species and particularly in their natural environments. During my undergraduate degree I had several opportunities to work with rats and grasshopper mice while doing behavioral studies in the lab. However, I was also introduced to live trapping for flying squirrels and mist netting for saw-whet owls. After having the chance to work with several different species, I learned how much I particularly enjoyed working with rodents but really preferred to work with them in their own environment. When I began my master's research in an area being restored to oak savanna, I learned more about live trapping rodents and really enjoyed being able to monitor several individuals at once. For my Ph.D. research I was able to combine my interest in behavior and working with rodents in managed pine plantations! I have especially enjoyed working in managed habitats so that I am able to provide management recommendations once my research is complete.

What do you see as the greatest challenge for wildlife professionals?

One of the greatest challenges seems to be getting the general public to truly value wildlife. Although wildlife professionals have all joined this field because they fully appreciate and understand the value, it can be a challenge to disseminate our passion and knowledge. However, I think engaging the public in community education programs and outreach are extremely powerful and effective tools to help us defeat this challenge.

What song, quote, or movie title sums up your life philosophy?

“It’s all good!” I live by this quote no matter what may be happening. It helps me remember the bigger picture in life rather than worrying about things that go wrong, especially those things I have no control over! Everyone who works with wildlife knows how weather, animals, and life does not always cooperate with our plans!

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS

Get Your Lifetime Membership Now!

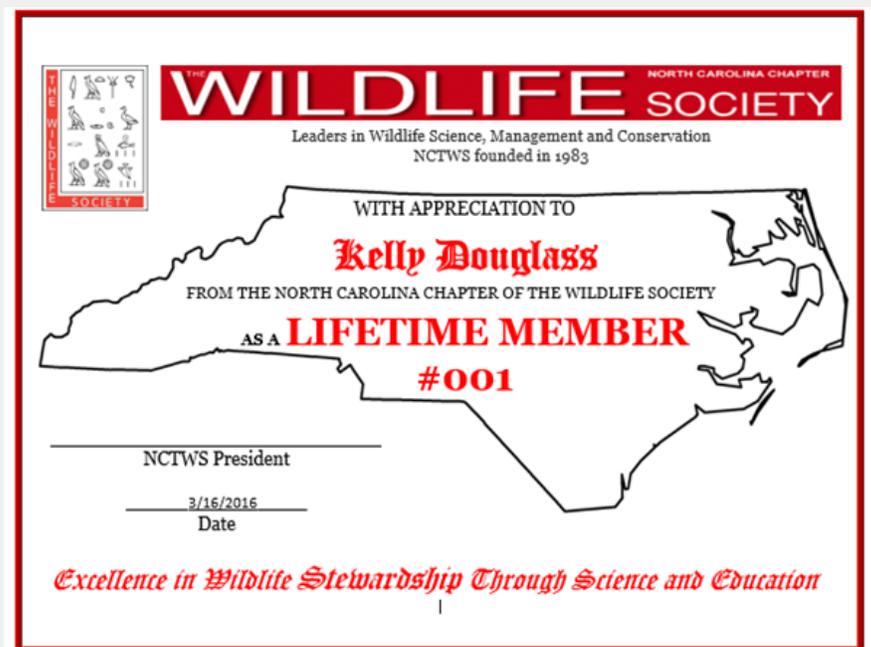
This year, for the first time ever, NCTWS members have had the opportunity to purchase a lifetime membership for \$200. We've already had 11 members take this opportunity!

Immediately following the 2017 NCTWS annual meeting, the price will increase to \$250. So bring your cash, check, or credit card to the annual meeting, or upgrade your membership online today!

Lifetime wildlifera will receive a certificate of appreciation with their membership, and will be noticed in future issues of the *NC Wildlifer* and at annual meetings. The proceeds of these membership sales will be used to fund the good work of our organization, and ensure our Chapter's financial sustainability into the future. So invest in your Chapter today!

New Lifetime Members:

- #001 – Kelly Douglass
- #002 – John Ann Shearer
- #003 – Colleen Olfenbuttel
- #004 – Ken Knight
- #005 – Susan Campbell
- #006 – Jeff Marcus
- #007 – Pete Campbell
- #008 – Brad Gunn
- #009 – Todd Menke
- #010 – Daron Barnes
- #011 – Pete Benjamin



NCTWS Gear

Shirts Now Available!

In October 2015, the NCTWS Executive Board set up an account with [Creative Caps](#) for members to purchase their own NCTWS shirts! A few of our members purchased shirts to wear to the 2015 & 2016 TWS Conferences, and got many compliments on their professional attire.



Creative Caps has an enormous selection of professional wear, however NCTWS members will only be able to purchase shirts at this time – polos, button down collared shirts, quick dry shirts, etc. And we've limited the color selection to either dark gray or black, so the logo stands out.

The Chapter has paid to have the account set up (for graphics), so members will only need to purchase the shirt at cost. Creative Caps will let you pick up your order in person (they are located in Benson, NC) or you can have it shipped to your house.

If you are interested in ordering a NCWTS shirt, please contact Eva Hall at eva@creativecaps.net. For those who are a bit lazy (like me), here are some of the shirt styles that have already been ordered:

- DG105W Devon & Jones Ladies' Dri-Fast Pique Polo
- S92CFX Russell Athletic Ladies' Team Game Day Polo
- K420 Port Authority Men's Pique Knit Polo
- D110 Devon & Jones Ladies' Pima Pique Long-sleeve Polo

Sizes are pretty true to fit. You will see several members wearing their NCTWS shirts at the annual meeting, so feel free to take a look and ask questions.

Buy yours today!

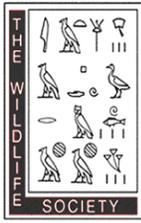
UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ [NCWRC Public Hearings](#) – Statewide (January 10–26, 2017) Click [here](#) to see the proposed regulations
 - ◆ [January 10](#) (District 4) – Bladen Community College, Auditorium, 7418 NC Hwy 41W, Dublin, NC 28332
 - ◆ [January 11](#) (District 5) – Southern Alamance High School, 631 Southern High School Rd, Graham, NC 27253
 - ◆ [January 12](#) (District 6) – Stanly County Agri-Civic Center, 26032-B Newt Rd, Albemarle, NC 28001
 - ◆ [January 17](#) (District 9) – Haywood Community College, Auditorium, 185 Freeland Dr, Clyde, NC
 - ◆ [January 18](#) (District 8) – Western Piedmont Community College, Leviton Auditorium, Moore Hall, 1001 Burkemont Ave, Morganton, NC 28655
 - ◆ [January 19](#) (District 7) – Elkin High School, 334 Elk Spur St, Elkin, NC 28621
 - ◆ [January 20](#) (District 1) – Chowan County Public Safety Center, 305 W. Freemason St, Edenton, NC 27932
 - ◆ [January 21](#) District 2) – Craven Community College, Orringer Auditorium, 800 College Ct, New Bern, NC 28562
 - ◆ [January 22](#) (District 3) – Nash Community College, Brown Auditorium, 522 N. Old Carriage Rd, Rocky Mount, NC 27804
- ◆ [NCTWS Annual Meeting](#) – Columbia, NC (February 7–9, 2017)
- ◆ [Southeastern Partners for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Annual Conference](#) – Little Rock, Arkansas (February 16–19, 2017)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ♦ [Annual Meeting for the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network and the Colloquium on the Conservation of Southeastern Mammals](#) – Asheville, NC (February 16–17, 2017)
- ♦ 11th Annual Wild Game Dinner – Haywood County Fairgrounds, Clyde, NC (February 24, 2017)
- ♦ [17th Wildlife Damage Management Conference](#) – Orange Beach, AL (February 26 – March 1, 2017)
- ♦ [Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting](#) – St. Louis, MO (February 27 – March 1, 2017)
- ♦ NC Waterbird Management Committee Meeting – Hammocks Beach State Park (March 2–3, 2017)
- ♦ [37th Annual Dixie Deer Classic](#) – Raleigh, NC (March 3–5, 2017)
- ♦ [82nd North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference](#) – Spokane, WA (March 4–11, 2017)
- ♦ 2017 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave, Mississippi State, MS (March 16-19, 2017)
- ♦ 6th Annual Wild Foods Supper, Cary VFW Post 7383, Cary, NC (March 25, 2017)
- ♦ [23rd Eastern Black Bear Workshop](#) – Bolivar, PA (April 24–27, 2017)
- ♦ [Citizen Science Association Conference](#) – Saint Paul, MN (May 17–20, 2017)
- ♦ [The Wildlife Society's 24th Annual Conference](#) – Albuquerque, NM (September 23–27, 2017)

UPCOMING EVENTS



11th Annual
Wild Game Dinner

Fundraiser Hosted by:
Haywood Community College Student Chapter of
The Wildlife Society

Please Join Us and Support the Student Chapter!

Friday, February 24th at 6:00 p.m.

Haywood County Fairgrounds

758 Crabtree Rd, Waynesville, NC 28785

Bring Your Favorite Wild Game Dish, Veggies or Dessert
(Bread and Drinks Provided)

- Requested Donation: \$10 per person (\$5 if you bring a dish)
Under 12 – FREE!
- Action Packed Drawings, Silent and Live Auctions
- Grand Prize: Lifetime Hunting/Fishing License
- Live Music!
 - Calling Competition (*Open to Everyone!*):
 - Game and Nongame – *bring your calls!*

*****Call (828) 627-4560 for more information**

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE 6TH ANNUAL WILD FOODS SUPPER

Saturday, March 25, 2017

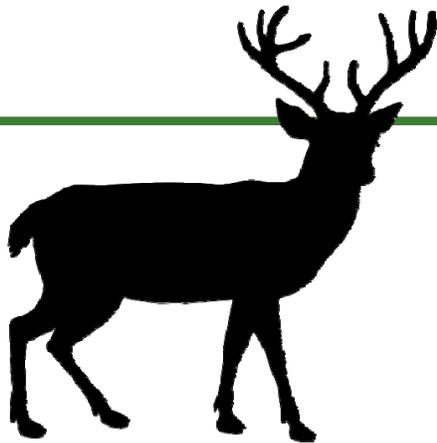
Doors open at 5:45 and food served at 6:30PM

Cary VFW Post 7383
522 Reedy Creek Rd,
Cary, NC 27513

Enjoy food, fun, and good company at this annual fundraising event for NC State University Fisheries and Wildlife students!

Festivities include:

- Potluck Style Dinner
- Wild Foods Cooking Contest (entries by 6PM)
 - Categories: Venison, Fish, Other Game, Fruits and Vegetables, Desserts
- Silent Auction
- Raffle to Win Lifetime Hunting or Fishing License, Yeti Cooler, and Trail Camera
- Live Band



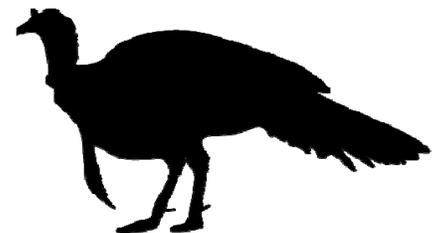
Suggested Donations

Adults - \$15

Adults with dish - \$10

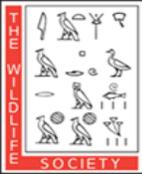
Students - \$10

Kids under 10 - Free



**LEOPOLD
WILDLIFE
CLUB**

For questions, concerns, or to receive more information please contact leopoldwildlifeclub@gmail.com



Chapter Vision Statement

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

Visit us online:
nctws.org



THE **WILDLIFE** NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER
SOCIETY

Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education