

## Summer 2017



Photo courtesy NCSU

### 2017 Wildlife Conclave



Photo courtesy Dr. Bob Brown



Photo courtesy Kelly Douglass

**Wildlife Hero Awards**

**#OptOutside!  
Green Swamp**

# In this issue...

Jeff's Jottings .....	3	Turkey Gobblings .....	26
Wildlife Hero Awards.....	4	Wildlife Conclave .....	29
A Day in the Dirt.....	9	Call for Nominations .....	33
Loggerhead Shrikes .....	11	#OptOutside!.....	34
Managing Wildlife Hazards.....	15	Member Spotlights.....	41
Dam Demolition Day.....	19	NCTWS Announcements .....	48
WCWC History .....	21	Upcoming Events.....	49

## Your NCTWS Executive Board

Position	Officer Name	Phone	Email
President	Jeff Marcus	910-585-0521	jmarcus@tnc.org
President Elect	Colleen Olfenbuttel	540-239-6457	colfenbu@vt.edu
Past President	Jamie Sasser	919-751-2792	jamie.sasser@ncparks.gov
Secretary	Sue Cameron	973-945-0062	sueelicameron@gmail.com
Treasurer	Brandon Sherrill	919-707-0338	brandonl.sherrill@gmail.com
At-Large Board Member	Kacy Cook	910-638-4887	kacycook@gmail.com
At-Large Board Member	Sara Schweitzer	252-639-8435	shschweitz@gmail.com
SE Section Rep	Deanna Noble	252-522-3440	deanna.noble@ncwildlife.org

Editors: Kelly Douglass and Andrea Shipley

Design: Andrea Shipley

Copy Editing: Steven Ball

# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

## Jeff's Jottings

What will your legacy be when you leave the wildlife profession?

For several years, I was involved in NCTWS' Celebrating Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage (COWCH) committee, helping to interview retirees to preserve and share their stories and experiences. As these retirees looked back on their careers, many reflected that one of their most rewarding accomplishments was how they inspired and supported the generation that came after them.

One easy way to pass along your knowledge and experience is through NCTWS' Mentoring Program. In this program, students are paired with professionals who share their interests and become a resource for career advice, networking, and practical experience. Recently, this program was expanded to include shorter duration lunch-and-learn events where professionals break bread with students, as well as one-time field research and management opportunities. If you are a professional, I would encourage you to welcome students to join you for a day at work.



Field activities are always a hit - deer check stations, bird banding, checking pit fall traps, or planting a dove field all provide great hands-on experience. Allowing students to join you for visits with landowners, partnership meetings, and other similar activities can be equally important in building skills and giving a more comprehensive picture of what wildlife biologists do.

For many students, it can be difficult to find the time for activities not directly related to classes and clubs. It is worth noting that your chances of landing a job after graduation are determined more by your practical skills, your experience, and who you know than by your grades. Our Mentoring Program is ably led by Dr. Lara Pacifici (see the article on Lara in the May/June 2017 issue of *The Wildlife Professional*) with efforts in western North Carolina guided by Danny Ray. If you are interested in participating or have an upcoming work activity that would be appropriate to include student participation, please send that info to [lara\\_pacifici@ncsu.edu](mailto:lara_pacifici@ncsu.edu), and build on your legacy.

Jeff Marcus

# 2017 HERO AWARDS

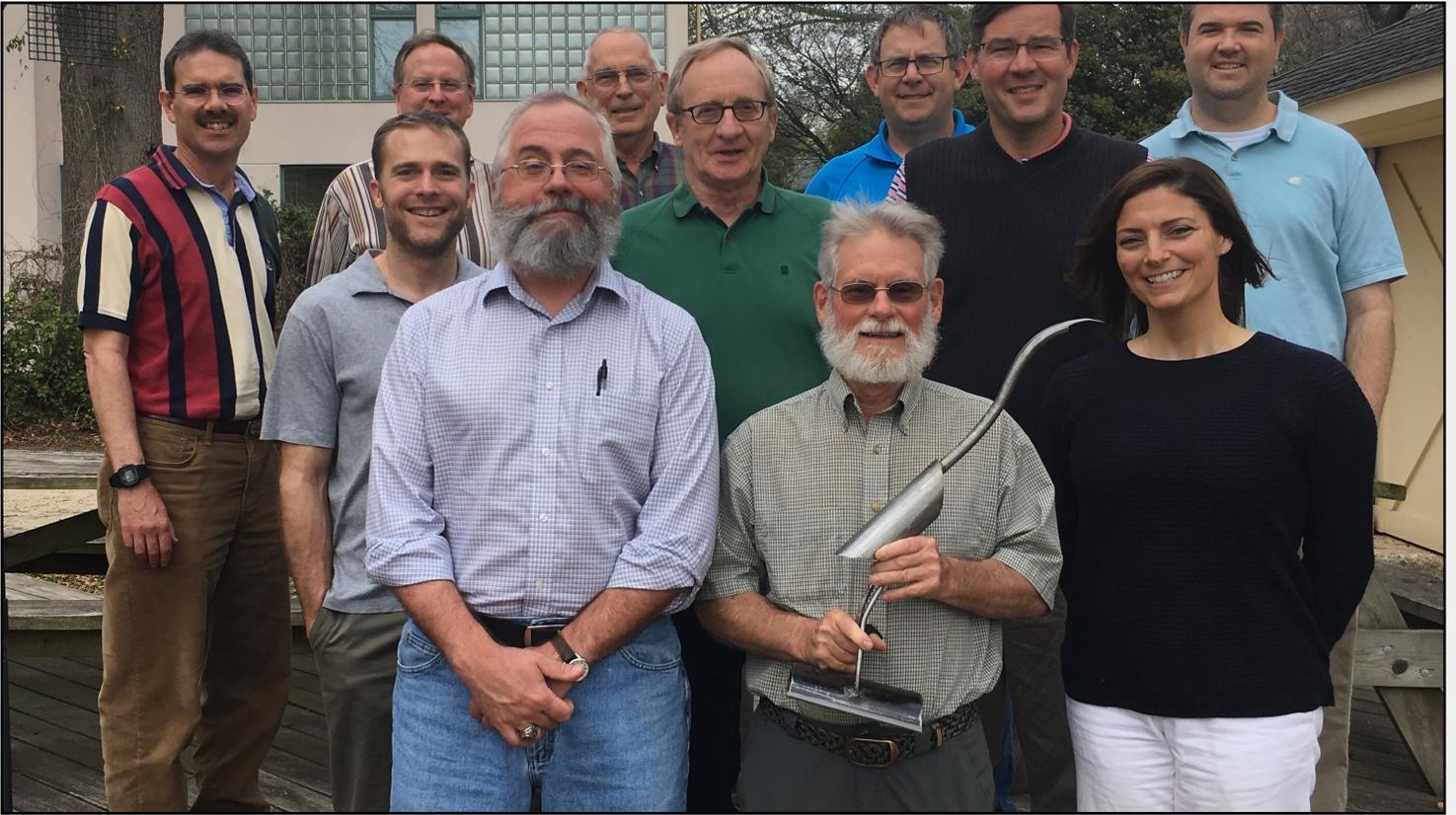


Photo courtesy David Cobb

## **Dr. Phil Doerr**

Beginning in the 1970s, Dr. Doerr became an engaged member of the Wildlife Biology faculty in the Zoology Department at North Carolina State University. During his career, Dr. Doerr was professor, mentor, friend, and colleague to countless students and professionals in North Carolina, and nationally and internationally. He was a scientist (biological and social), politician, and economist throughout his career.

As a teacher, he held students to the highest of standards while giving them the tools and opportunities to excel and develop into passionate and motivated wildlife professionals. As a researcher, he spearheaded ground-breaking work on alligators, red-cockaded woodpeckers, white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, and other species important to our ecological integrity.

# 2017 HERO AWARDS

In addition to his university-based research, teaching, and outreach, he was a driving force for decades in activities of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation. He continues that broad engagement through mentorship in the Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow program.

Dr. Doerr inspired others in ways that resulted in development of passionate wildlife biologists by simple virtue of their association with him. The state of our natural resources in North Carolina and benefits to citizens of NC are significantly enhanced by the life and career of Phil Doerr. It is for these reasons and others that I award him this HERO Award. (Awarded by Dr. David Cobb)

## **Dr. Gene Hester**

For his life-long dedication to wildlife and influence on the species, their habitat, and the public. And for being a role model for us all!

(Awarded by Dr. Bob Brown on behalf of The Wildlife Society and the North Carolina Wildlife Federation)

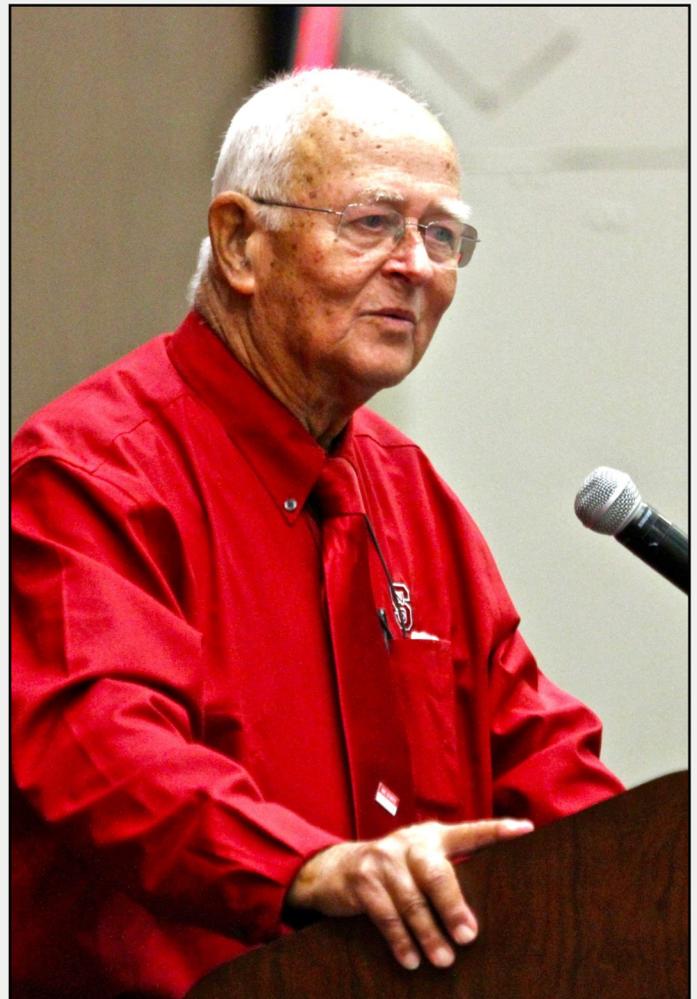


Photo courtesy Dr. Bob Brown

# 2017 HERO AWARDS

## Dr. Pete Bromley

Pete Bromley is a Wildlife Hero because of his innovative approach to solving wildlife management problems and especially because of his steadfast support for his graduate students.

Twenty years ago, I was not a traditional grad school applicant. I had a Psychology degree and limited wildlife experience, had grown up in the suburbs in MA, and was applying to work with farmers in eastern North Carolina. Pete was able to overlook my limited experience, see my potential, and took a chance on me. He provided direction and support throughout my grad school experience. A pop-in to his office to ask a quick question often resulted in a 45 minute discussion on the history and philosophy of wildlife management.

His research addressed real-world problems and sought out practical solutions, often involving non-traditional stakeholders. Pete brought out the best in many students throughout his long career as a professor, and for that reason he is a Wildlife Hero. (Awarded by Jeff Marcus)



Photo courtesy Jeff Marcus

# 2017 HERO AWARDS

## Dr. Mike Vaughan



For his dedication and mentorship to his students, his ground-breaking research on black bears in the southeast (30+ years!), and his contributions to The Wildlife Society.

(Awarded by Colleen Olfenbuttel on behalf of The Wildlife Society and Virginia Tech)

Photo courtesy Colleen Olfenbuttel

## Dr. Jay Carter

For his relentless dedication and willingness to share his extensive knowledge regarding the management and conservation of flora and fauna endemic to the piney woods habitats of eastern North Carolina and the southeastern US. And, he would dig the sculpture.

(Awarded by Jan Goodson)



Photo courtesy John Hammond

# 2017 HERO AWARDS

## Terry Sharpe

Terry Sharpe is a Renaissance biologist. He is an avid hunter, fisherman, trapper, birdwatcher, botanist, and wild foods enthusiast. You will have to search long and hard to find a better all-around naturalist. But what makes him a Wildlife Hero is his ability to effectively apply that knowledge to solve wildlife challenges, and to bring together disparate people to rally around a cause. Anyone who works on quail for much of their career has got to be an optimist and an innovator. Two decades ago, Terry recognized that the approach many wildlife agencies was taking for quail just wasn't working and he helped to come up with a new approach. The most impactful part of this new approach was to integrate game and non-game interests, something that was rare at the time within the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. Terry helped usher in a new era of collaboration with a more holistic approach to wildlife management. Terry was my first supervisor with NCWRC and has been a great mentor and friend. His continuing contributions to the profession make Terry a Wildlife Hero.

(Awarded by Jeff Marcus)

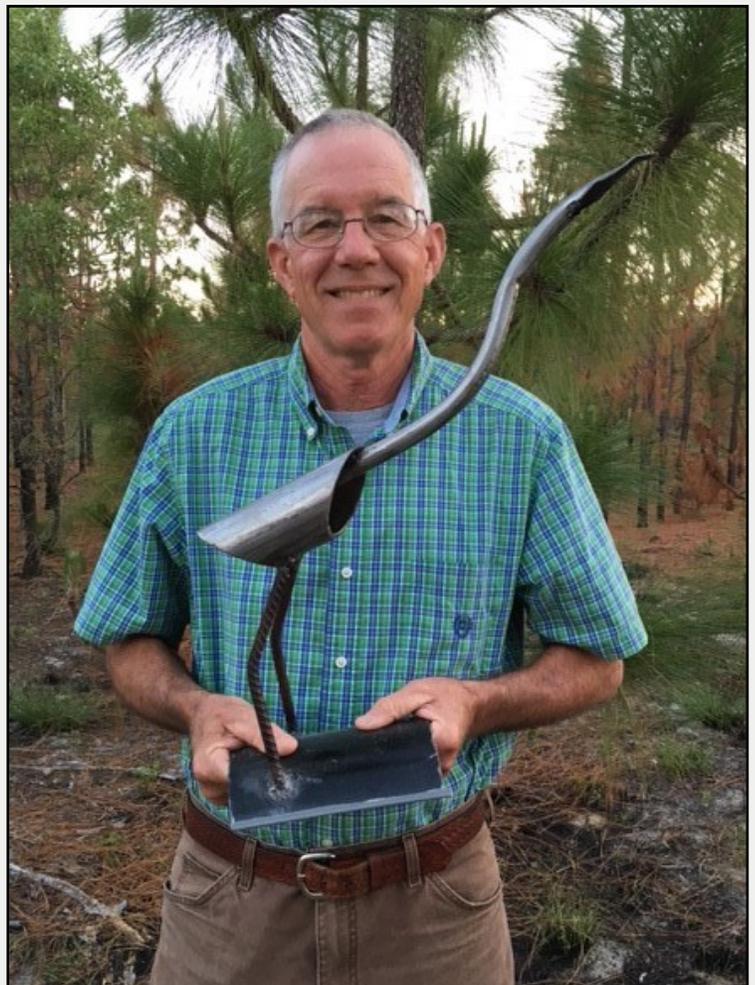


Photo courtesy Terry Sharpe

# A Day in the Dirt

## NCTWS Partners with Caterpillar for a Unique Professional Development Experience

By Casey Gray

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, twelve student members and four professional members of NCTWS hit the dirt with employees from Caterpillar's Customer and Training Center in Clayton, NC. After a safety briefing and learning about the company's many products and technological innovations, members were taken on a tour of the manufacturing facilities that produce small wheel loaders and serve as a product distribution center for backhoe loaders. There they learned about the inner workings of a large-scale production line and some of Caterpillar's environmental initiatives, such as energy efficiency projects in their operations, new product designs that are more fuel efficient than predecessors, and supporting customers on the job site to be more efficient. To learn more about Caterpillar's continued focus on sustainability, visit <http://reports.caterpillar.com/sr/> to view their 2016 Sustainability report.



Photo courtesy Casey Gray

# A Day in the Dirt

After the tour, it was time to get dirty! Students and professionals were given one-on-one instruction on how to operate some of Caterpillar's heavy machinery. Students moved mulch through an off-road course with a compact track loader (skid steer), spread gravel with a small-wheel loader, and practiced precision movements, including a game of bowling, with a mini hydraulic excavator.

Although fun and games were had, this event provided an opportunity to gain valuable experience operating heavy machinery. Heavy machinery experience is often required or preferred when applying for land and habitat management jobs. For future and veteran wildlife professionals alike, these skills not only improve a resume, but increase knowledge about different aspects of the wildlife profession.

Our sincerest thanks extend to the staff at Caterpillar. Their enthusiasm for the work they do, their products, and hosting a professional development event for NCTWS made this an incredible experience.



Photo courtesy Casey Gray

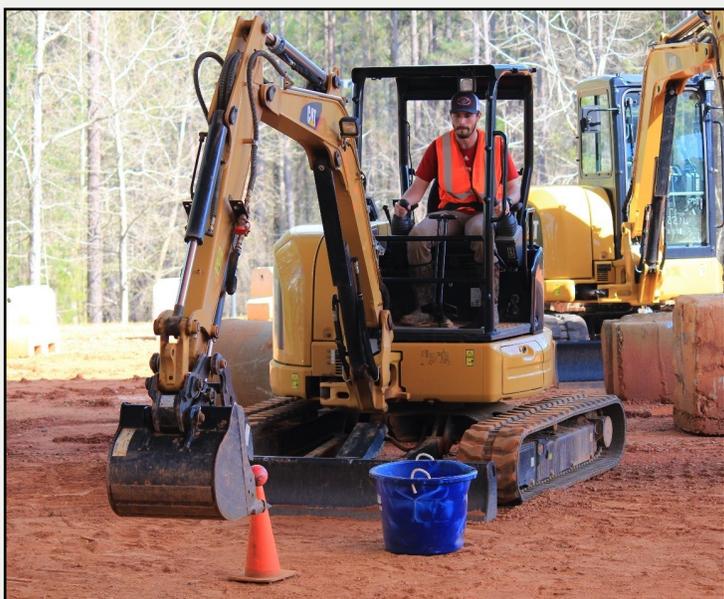


Photo courtesy Casey Gray



Photo courtesy Kelly Douglass



# LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE

THE BIRD WITH ATTITUDE...AND A DECLINING POPULATION

BY JOHN P. CARPENTER | NC WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

About a year ago, I was heading east on NC 903 through Halifax County when a loggerhead shrike darted across the two-lane highway in front of my truck and into a shrub. I had witnessed this behavior several times before, but the notable difference now was that it carried a formidably-sized object in its bill. Knowing of the shrike's tendency to openly display its prey in caches (also known as a larder), I quickly pulled over to search for the gruesome shrine. The two feathered victims I eventually found, one a head with no body and the other a body with no head, were impaled on individual stout thorns. In addition to food storage, this brutal massacre served several other purposes. It was a status symbol,

definitive proof of a capable provider. If fully stocked, a prospective mate would find it attractive, possibly irresistible. It also provides a way to more easily dismember the meal, a unique solution in the absence of sharp talons. We often find



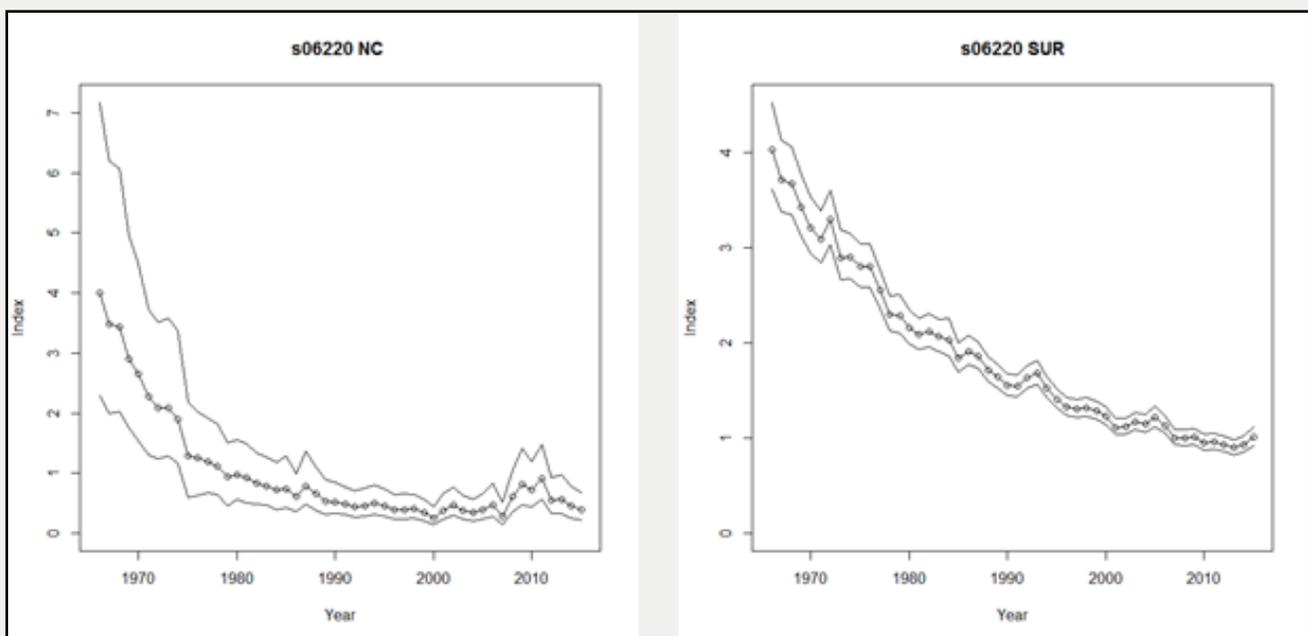
*A shrike's cache, or larder. Fresh kill on the left, and an older but more barbaric-mounting of a skull on the right. Photo courtesy John Carpenter.*

succinct ways to describe what we find fascinating about certain species. Swallow-tailed kites are graceful, painted buntings tropical. As I examined this particular shrike from afar through my binoculars – its jet-black mask, slick gray plumage, and jagged, hooked bill – I could only think of one way to describe it: this bird had *attitude*.

# LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE

Despite this fierce demeanor, loggerhead shrikes have experienced a 79% range-wide population decline since 1966, which happens to be the 7<sup>th</sup> largest for a North American landbird. These estimates are based entirely on the US Geological Survey's Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data, a road-based protocol that is well-suited for a conspicuous species such as the shrike that loves to hunt from nearby fences and powerlines.

In North Carolina, we are fortunate enough to host shrikes year-round. However, because the BBS is only conducted in the summertime, there was still very limited information about their status in NC during the winter. In response, the NCWRC set out in February 2016 to survey a large portion of the Coastal Plain to help provide us with a better estimate of their distribution in this area during the non-breeding season.



*Survey-wide (left) and North Carolina (right) trend results of loggerhead shrikes from Breeding Bird Survey data, 1966-2012. Provided by John Carpenter.*

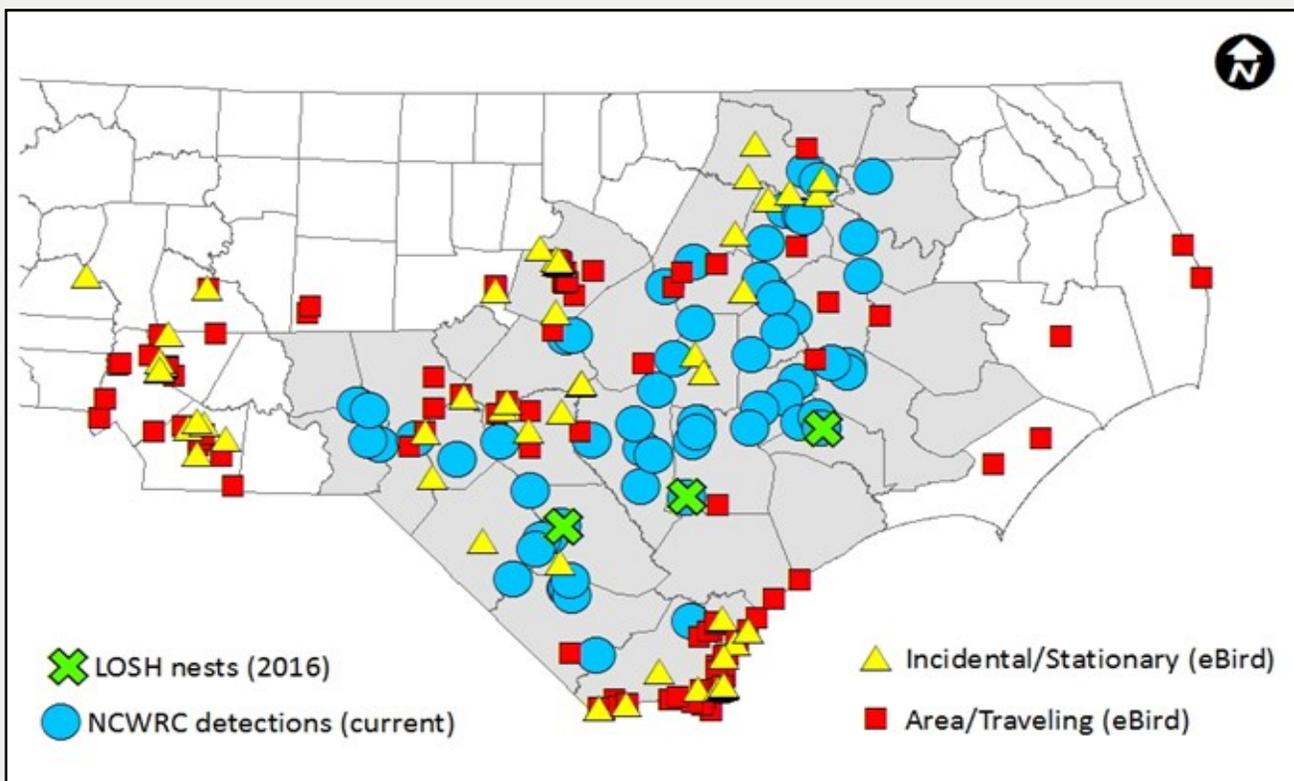
To accomplish our goal, we distributed 91, 10-mile routes throughout 35 counties and drove each at 20 mph while scanning the landscape for shrikes. We surveyed each route once, but also selected half randomly, stratified across the region, and repeated those an additional two times. For every encounter with a shrike, even those we found driving between

# LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE

survey routes, we recorded its location, distance to the bird, type of perch used, dominant habitat type, and presence of barbed wire or house w/in 50 m.

We detected a total of 69 individual shrikes representing 61 territories, and observed birds most often on utility lines surrounded primarily by residential lawns and row crops. An occupancy analysis indicated that the amount of open habitat negatively impacted our ability to detect shrikes; an indication that it may be too difficult to effectively search such large areas while moving at 20 mph. On the other hand, time of day did not influence their detectability, which is welcome news as we can get more surveys done in a single day, at least during the winter.

Although we knew shrikes could occur in many of the areas we searched, comprehensive data was not available to help model their distribution during the non-breeding season. Our next step will be to use this new information to do exactly that.



*Locations of shrikes, and three nests, found during surveys conducted from February-March, 2016 in the Coastal Plain (shaded counties only). All available eBird records, through 2013, are layered on top. Provided by John Carpenter.*

# LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE

In early 2013, I became aware of the Loggerhead Shrike Working Group, a collaborative project composed primarily of state wildlife agencies with a goal of coordinating research efforts to learn more about shrikes throughout their eastern North American range. The group's primary objectives are to quantify genetics of and connectivity among shrike populations within the breeding and wintering range in the continental United States and quantify movements and habitat across its entire annual life cycle. The NCWRC has made inroads with the Working Group and is committed to continued participation in achieving these goals.

Loggerhead shrikes expanded into the eastern U.S. through human-caused land cover changes during the nineteenth century, and thus, were probably never common in this part of the country to begin with. Some even contend that they are, historically speaking, doing quite well in the south. In my opinion, this underscores the importance of North Carolina's role in this species' future, especially given its ranking as a Species of Continental Concern in the 2016 Partner's in Flight Landbird Conservation Plan. Despite our current research efforts and future aspirations, most of the habitat shrikes rely on – rural farmland and residential lawns – occurs on private property. We must make even greater strides to change the attitudes of these landowners, who likely are unaware of the unique position they are in, and provide them with the necessary tools and knowledge to make decisions that lead to a worthwhile contribution to the shrike's recovery.



# Managing Wildlife Hazards

## **USDA-WS Managing Wildlife Hazards Through Multiple Approaches to Protect Aviation Passengers and Property**

**By Steven A. Ball**

Last August, I received my 10-year pin for working with USDA Wildlife Services. I thought I would share with you a little of what I've learned along the way and why it is so important.

First of all, my job as an airport wildlife specialist is to keep aircrew, passengers, and aircraft safe. A mishap causing a crash must be avoided. In our business we have to be active, vigilant, and respond quickly to encroaching wildlife, or a "hazard" in this context. Anyone doing airport wildlife strike prevention is familiar with the acronym BASH, which stands for Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard. Many people with wildlife or biology degrees work hard to enhance plant communities in order to attract wildlife and to enhance wildlife populations. Airports have a unique challenge: being a wildlife attractant can bring aircraft on a collision course with nature. Guided by established Bird Watch conditions, we use a two-way radio, a good truck, and binoculars as we implement a variety of wildlife control methods.

A primary goal of airport wildlife biologists is to *diminish* the attractiveness and diversity of plant communities and water features on our airport. We take what we learned from our wildlife education and turn the processes inside out to make the airport area the least attractive as possible by making recommendations on landscape and building projects. We can advise on landscape construction, brush cutting, building designs, seeding or other food attractants, or the placement of storm water ponds where they might do the most good. Habitat management provides the foundation to ease wildlife strike risks at airports.

Pyrotechnics are a primary method to disperse wildlife that is crossing an airfield, landing somewhere on it, or reluctant to leave it because of a food source. Hungry animals may find something they like, such as vegetation going to seed or an insect hatch, which keeps them coming

# Managing Wildlife Hazards



Photo courtesy USDA Wildlife Services District Supervisor, Aaron Bowden

back for more. Mowing a field popular with geese or deer and hazing the animals with pyrotechnics (loud noises such as whistles or bangs) is usually enough to scatter the hazard. Dispersal of wildlife remains critical to managing wildlife at airports.

Occasionally, I have had to use firearms to remove wildlife either due to its immediate threat to aviation or as reinforcement. Pyrotechnics or other forms of hazing begin to lose their effectiveness on wildlife at times. A well-placed shot coupled with pyrotechnics afterwards is an effective way to re-educate a flock and keep it off an airfield – at least for a while.

Trapping presents a useful control method too. Pigeons can be captured in live traps in hangars and removed. Raptors can be captured and relocated to other areas. Dam-building beavers can be removed and their beaver pond drained before a heron, cormorant, or egret can be struck by a jet.

Wildlife strike reporting is essential for airport managers and biologists because a problem can't be fixed until it's understood. Strike reporting reveals current issues and trends. This lets us determine if a different method, such as herbicide application or changing the grass cutting height,

# Managing Wildlife Hazards

is needed to lower the attractiveness of the airport to a troublesome species. We work with the Smithsonian Institution's Feather Identification Lab to ensure that any wildlife sample collected from aircraft or runway areas is examined by the experts to properly determine what species was struck. Although strike reporting nationally is increasing, the reports of *damaging* strikes at airports are decreasing, due in part to the work of airports and their biologists.

Education is a very useful tool too. Visits to maintenance hangars, pilot and aircrew offices, and airfield operating areas is key to keeping others in the loop for reporting wildlife strikes or spotting wildlife hazards.



Photo courtesy James Capps



Photo courtesy Aaron Bowden

I am just one of more than 400 USDA wildlifers doing this job at hundreds of airports and airbases across the country. I believe I am actually doing the work I was meant to do. In the 1960s, I lived in a small New Jersey town. In fact, at the time, it was rural in parts. Back then we could bike ride for miles into the countryside around town and I often found myself atop a split rail fence at the county airport, watching single-engine aircraft take off and land on the grassy airstrip. I had no interest in flying, but rather, an enjoyment of all things “aviation.” Watching a pilot walk around his plane and climb into the cockpit; seeing the piston-driven engine crank into life, the

# Managing Wildlife Hazards

plane turn and taxi out; feeling the blast of prop wash as it taxied away: this was a wonderful feeling. As I got older, I would find a spot on the edge of a farm field where a crop duster would pass right over me before spraying the field ahead of him. To hear the aircraft rumble and sometimes get a wave from the pilot was just the best. This was coupled with my profound interest in wildlife, especially birds of prey.

Fast-forward to 2006. I retired from a 26-year career in the United States Air Force working on the B-52 Stratofortress and the F-4 Phantom and began a second career. I had enjoyed working on USAF aircraft and still enjoyed all things “aviation.” Now I couple that with my interest in wildlife, which increased from just raptors to all living things. And so these days, work finds me near military aircraft at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point as a wildlife specialist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It's like it was in the 1960s for me. Keeping an eye on the sky for air traffic and wildlife too. When I first started here, I felt as though I would have done this work for free. The nice thing is, after 10 years I still feel that way. It's a dream job.



*This photo in particular demonstrates the need for our work; notice the scale and proximity between the geese and the jet. Photo courtesy Aaron Bowden.*

# DAM DEMOLITION DAY

By Rachael Urbanek



Photo courtesy Rachael Urbanek

On May 8, 2017, 3 graduate students and 2 faculty members from the Department of Environmental Studies at University of North Carolina Wilmington joined USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services employees for an exposition of a beaver dam demolition. Dr. Rachael Urbanek, Assistant Professor, and Dr. Jeff Hill, Chair and Professor, accompanied students Holly Jones, Amanda Fox, and Mellissa

Dionesotes to a private timber company property in Kelly, North Carolina. There, they met with Butch Adams, District Supervisor, and Marcus Mustin of the US Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services.

The field trip began with an introduction to the history of beaver populations in North Carolina and general ecology of the effects of beaver dams on the environment. Due to a decline in the number of beaver trappers over the past 2 decades, beaver populations have been expanding throughout the state. A pair of beavers produce 2-4 offspring per year, on average, and live in extended-family colonies. As the colonies grow, beavers disperse farther down the stream channel creating more dams to support food production for the colony.



Photo courtesy Rachael Urbanek

# DAM DEMOLITION DAY

Of course, the most exciting part of the day was demolishing a beaver dam! The field site had 5 beaver dams blocking a stream channel that spanned multiple timber properties. Marcus Mustin explained how and where he trapped and removed 5 beavers the week prior on the properties. He explained that beavers will use the same route over a dam and was able to show the group where 1 beaver habitually crossed and where he trapped it with a Conibear 330.



Photo courtesy Rachael Urbaneck

On this day, Mustin and Adams were only blowing 1 of the dams for the demonstration and would return later in the week for the remaining dams which required a kayak to access. The wildlife specialists walked the group through the procedure to set-up the explosion of the beaver dam. They discussed how to properly handle the explosives when mixing them, how much explosive to use, and safety



Photo courtesy Rachael Urbaneck

procedures during detonation. The explosion was a success!

# Wake County Wildlife Club

## **A Partial History of the Wake County Wildlife Club, Inc.**

**By Jim Hudson and Allen C. Basala**

The Wake County Wildlife Club, Inc. was chartered in 1966. In the early years, the Wake County Wildlife Club Inc. (WCWC) was known for its interest and enjoyment of hunting and fishing. Members included outstanding hunters and anglers with many receiving Boone & Crockett certifications, Safari Club International, and B.A.S.S. awards for their trophies and achievements.

WCWC members in those early years like Fred Barkalow, Larry Windt, Charlie Shaw, Graye Shaw, Rex Gary Schmidt, and others were especially interested in wildlife conservation and education. Some went on to be officers of the NC Wildlife Federation including 6 who served as president as well as others who served as NCWF District Directors and Chairs of National Wildlife Week and National Hunting and Fishing Day.

Those above and other WCWCers received NC Governor's conservation awards as well as special recognition from the National Wildlife Federation, National Rifle Association, National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), North Carolina Trapper's Association, NC Chapter of The Wildlife Society, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Sportsman's Alliance, Safari Club International, and other conservation-oriented organizations.

For many years, the WCWC's wildlife conservation and education efforts were focused on the North Carolina Wildlife Exhibition and Awards Show. That show was the platform for introducing many in the public to wildlife and the North Carolina Wildlife Federation's print of the year and scholarship programs.

In 1981, the Dixie Deer Classic was born. Today, the Dixie Deer Classic is a run by a committee of the Wake County Wildlife Club. The DDC commands the attention of about three dozen members, including chairmen of different elements of the show as well show director and co-director. These folks, along with other club members, family members, and many volunteers make sure the DDC runs smoothly.

Today, the WCWC still includes members who enjoy hunting, fishing, teaching others, telling and listening to stories, as well as wildlife conservation and education activities.

# Wake County Wildlife Club



*NC Wildlife Art Exhibition & Award Show circa 1980. From left to right: Denny Dardinelle (printing/publishing professional), Dr. Phil Doerr (Professor Emeritus, NC State University), Graye Shaw (former Chemistry Lab Director at NCSU and wife of Charlie Shaw, NC Conservation Hall of Fame 1988 and former President of the NC Wildlife Federation, G. Michael G. Smith (engineer, avid hunter, and wildlife artist), and Stuart Critcher (retired NC Wildlife Resources Commission). Photo courtesy Allen Basala.*

Here is a look at some of the past 50 years.

- NC Wildlife Art Exhibition and Award show—some of the art appearing on the NC Wildlife Resources Commission's (NCWRC) Wildlife Calendars came from artists exhibiting at the show in the 1969-1983
  - \* WCWC's National Hunting & Fishing Day Program
  - \* WCWCers served as state chairmen working to get as many as 76 of NC's 100 county commissions to declare National Hunting & Fishing Day in their counties
  - \* For some years, a WCWCer helped draft the NC Governor's proclamations
- The WCWC's National Hunting & Fishing Day awards program provided an opportunity for the WCWC to recognize the NC Chapter of NWTF, Triangle Land Conservancy, Triangle Fly Fishers, NCWRC staff and projects, and others
  - \* WCWC co-sponsored National Hunting & Fishing Day events in Raleigh specializing in learning by doing tree stand safety demonstrations, as well as presenting Wildlife in NC magazine and Lifetime License awards to participants

# Wake County Wildlife Club



*Advanced Fur, Fish, 'n' Game campers return from a crow hunt, the first for many led by biologists John Henry Harrelson (far left) and John Isehour (far right) with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission and master instructor Ed Richardson (middle back), WCWC District Hunter Education Instructor of the Year. Photo courtesy Allen Basala.*

Here is a look at some of the past 50 years. (cont'd)

- Provided scholarships for up to 36 youths per year to attend the Fur, Fish, 'n' Game Rendezvous (FFGR), a week-long outdoor learning experience—there are now three overnight outdoor camps for young boys and girls in North Carolina
  - \* Beginning FFGR camp at Millstone 4-H Camp
  - \* Advanced FFGR camp at Millstone 4-H Camp
  - \* Camp Canvasback at the Eastern 4-H Center
- Assisting at District and State Hunter Education Tournaments
- NCWRC's CATCH (Caring for Aquatics Through Conservation Habitats) clinics—teaching children how to fish and emphasizing conservation habits, outdoor ethics, and an appreciation for and importance of aquatic environments
- Youth dove hunts

# Wake County Wildlife Club

Here is a look at some of the past 50 years. (cont'd)

- Putting on wildlife programs in primary and secondary schools
- Mentoring wounded warriors on wild turkey hunts and others on their first deer and duck hunts
- NC State Fair and the NCWRC's Air Pellet Rifle Range—WCWCers served as volunteer hunter education instructors at the NC State Fair in Raleigh
- Dixie Deer Classic, the granddaddy of deer shows in the Southeast
  - \* Nationally known outdoor personalities have headlined the show for the past 37 years—even a former US President took a quiet stroll through the show
  - \* Many conservation nongovernmental organizations, the NCWRC, those receiving the more than 400,000 servings of venison (via WCWC grant to NC Hunters for the Hungry), as well as scholarship and campership recipients have benefited directly and indirectly as a result of this family outdoor show at the NC State Fairgrounds
- NCWRC's Becoming an Outdoor Woman (BOW) program has introduced many women to the outdoors. The WCWC has always been supportive of the program with camperships, lifetime licenses, bluebird boxes, and other prizes at the DDC for attendees of the BOW seminars. In 2014, the WCWC had their own BOW event called Beyond BOW Shooting Sports. According to NCWRC, it's a keeper. The club now sponsors and provides instructors for two BOW events featuring instruction in archery, shotgun, and rifle.



*Beyond BOW Shooting Sports event, 2014 and 2015 . Photo courtesy Allen Basala.*

# Wake County Wildlife Club

Here is a look at some of the past 50 years. (cont'd)

- NCWRC State Hunter Education team tournament co-hosted at the WCWC's Conservation & Education Center
- Club members taught basic and instructor Hunter Education certification, International Bowhunters Education Program Course, NC Trapper's Association, and rifle courses at our Conservation and Education Center and other locations

The Wake County Wildlife Club's history is still being written. The first 50 years were just a beginning. The current and future members of the Wake County Wildlife Club are stepping up to the plate and will make their own marks on NC's wildlife conservation and education landscape. Our best to each and every one of them.



*WCWC instructors and students (including parents and their children) posing for a photo after passing the NCWRC's hunter education course in the 1980s. Today, the hunter education team includes about 25 members of which 5 are master instructors. Some of those have district awards while another is in the International Hunter Education Association Hall of Fame. Over 8,000 students have earned their hunter education certification from the WCWC hunter education instructors. Photo courtesy Allen Basala.*

# Recording Turkey Gobbles

## New technology helps understand turkey behavior and better manage the spring hunting season

By Chris Kreh (NCWRC Upland Game Bird Biologist) and  
Allison Medford (NCWRC Wildlife Diversity Biologist)

Wild turkeys are beloved by hunters and non-hunters alike and there is no question we all love to hear them gobble. They are an infinitely valuable public trust resource in North Carolina. In recent years, more than 60,000 hunters pursue turkeys each spring and annually harvest more than 15,000 birds. The NC Wildlife Resources Commission's (NCWRC) management emphasizes spring gobbler hunting, which allows the population to grow in numbers and distribution, and seeks to satisfy turkey hunters to the extent possible. Good turkey management requires a thorough understanding of their reproductive ecology and a key factor is knowing when and why turkeys gobble.

There are two peaks in gobbling during the spring. The first occurs when the males first begin to attract hens. The second occurs after hens are bred and are unavailable to the toms because they are incubating eggs. The second peak in gobbling identifies the time when toms can be safely taken from the population without impacting the reproductive process and is, therefore, the ideal time for a spring turkey season. Understanding and correctly identifying the pattern in gobbling activity is, therefore, crucial to good turkey management.



*Acoustic recorders have two external microphones, are completely programmable, and were mounted on trees. Internal batteries kept them operational through the entire spring.*

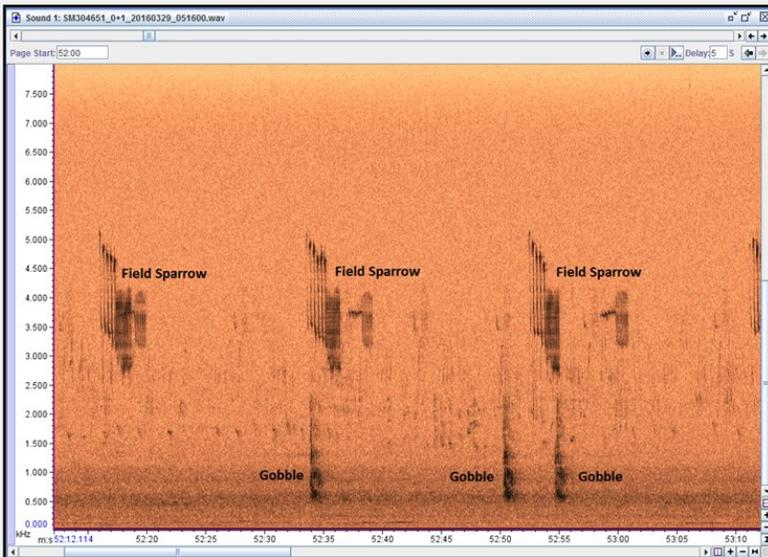
Photo courtesy Chris Kreh

# Recording Turkey Gobbles

The restoration of North Carolina's wild turkeys was a tremendous success story, taking place over more than 5 decades and involving the trapping and transferring of more than 6,000 wild turkeys. In the past, manpower and funding limited the amount of gobbling information that could be collected. Today, we are fortunate that new technologies allow us the opportunity to better understand the pattern of gobbling activity and identify the second peak of gobbling across North Carolina. We made tremendous progress in this regard during the spring of 2016.

Financial support was graciously provided by the North Carolina State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. Their support, combined with

Pittman-Robertson funds, allowed us to purchase and deploy 50 acoustic recorders. In many ways, acoustic recorders are very similar to trail cameras. They are attached to a tree, remain there the entire season, and collect data without animals reacting to a person's presence. The chief difference is that they record a digital sound file rather than taking a picture. You might say they "listen" instead of "look." We can review the files they record and identify the sounds of turkeys, songbirds, or any other animal that makes a recognizable call.



*This spectrogram picture shows approximately 1 minute of recording time and allows bird calls to be quickly and easily identified. Text has been added to show field sparrow songs at approximately 4 kHz, while turkey gobbles are evident lower in the frequency band at 1 kHz.*

For our turkey project, we had to consider several things in deciding where to deploy the recorders. Most importantly, we want to get a true picture of gobbling activity. We did not want the picture to be influenced by hunting pressure so we deployed the recorders on State Parks and other private properties that had no hunting. Turkeys were present on all the properties and, in most cases, they were very abundant.

# Recording Turkey Gobbles

In total, we identified 15,535 gobbles in 2016, the first year of our project! Our best individual recorder, located on New River State Park in Ashe County, detected 1,862 gobbles. A few of the recorders were placed on properties where turkeys were present, but not very abundant. Not surprisingly, these units recorded very few gobbles. On average, recorders detected 310 gobbles each.

We have been very encouraged by our results in the first year of this project. We detected gobbling activity nearly every day through the spring and found the equipment/software to be very efficient for this type of research. In 2017, we spread our recorders across all nine of our wildlife districts. We expect that over the next few years our efforts will give a complete picture of gobbling activity across the entire state. This will allow us to ensure that we open our spring hunting season at the ideal time to maximize hunter satisfaction and turkey reproduction. Once we know the gobbling activity patterns, we would also like to study the effects of weather and hunting pressure on gobbling activity. A detailed report, including charts of the gobbling patterns, can be found at <http://www.ncwildlife.org/Learning/Species/Birds/Wild-Turkey>.



*This acoustic recorder (contained inside a locked security box) is deployed and operational on New River State Park in Ashe County. Note the snow on the ground when this unit was deployed in February. This unit detected 988 gobbles in the spring of 2016. Photo courtesy Chris Kreh.*

# 2017 Wildlife Conclave

## North Carolina Shines at Conclave!

This year, the Mississippi State University Student Chapter of TWS hosted the Southeastern Student Wildlife Conclave on March 16-19, 2017. All three of our student chapters here in North Carolina attended, and all three brought home awards!

The scoring for conclave is broken down as follows:

- Team Competition (30%)
- Quiz Bowl (25%)
- Art (15%) - landscape photography, digitally enhanced photography, non-manipulated photography, trail-cam photography, free-form, painting, drawing, poetry, field photography, wildlife calling
- Physical (15%) - archery, shotgun, riflery, obstacle course, canoeing, fly casting
- Intellectual Competitions (15%) - radio-telemetry, dendrology, orienteering, lab practical, essay

Our student chapters represented North Carolina very well, so please congratulate them next time you see them, and read on to find out about their experiences!



# 2017 Wildlife Conclave

## Haywood Community College

The Haywood Community College (HCC) Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society finished fourth place overall at the 2017 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave, competing against 24 other schools. HCC finished just behind the University of Georgia, NC State University, and the University of Tennessee, beating both undergraduate and graduate students from four-year schools and beating the only other two-year school.

In the past seven years, HCC has placed in the top five spots six times. The annual conclave provides college students with valuable hands-on training in wildlife management and conservation, as well as networking amongst students, faculty and wildlife professionals. Activities include a range of team field competitions, quiz bowl, art and photography contests, guest speakers, and opportunities for professional development.

The 19 students from HCC placed second overall in intellectual competitions (essay, poetry, radiotelemetry, dendrology, orienteering, field photography, and lab practical), third overall in physical competitions (rifle, shotgun, archery, obstacle course, flycasting, and canoeing) and fourth overall in art competitions (drawing, painting, freeform, trail camera, digital photography, landscape photography, and turkey, cervid, waterfowl, and miscellaneous calling). HCC finished fourth in the team field competition and ninth in quiz bowl.



*Pictured are HCC students and instructors who attended the 2017 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave: front row-Matt Bostick; second row-Amber Bumgardner, Morgan Davis, and Lead Instructor Shannon Rabby; third row-Cody Patton, Justin Kerr, Johnathan Carreto, Garrett Dail, Blake Ledbetter, Dylan Rogers, and Candice Moreau; back row-Instructor Wally Woods, Cody Bolick, Dylan Poplin, Dillon Wood, Dalton Boone, Alex Mense, Luke Swaringen, Hunter Williams, Dawson Pia, and Trevor Walker. Photo courtesy of HCC.*

# 2017 Wildlife Conclave

## Western Carolina University

After a seven-hour car ride, the Western Carolina University Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society arrived at registration on the first day of conclave. Because we only had 8 members competing this year, we did not get to compete in all of the events. However, we did compete in non-manipulated, landscape, trail-camera, and manipulated photography as well as shotgun, rifle, dendrology, obstacle course, field photography, and team field.

Field Trips. Our members greatly enjoyed the conclave field trips this year. We attended an amphibian assisted-fertilization trip, deer necropsy, deer management facility, waterfowl trapping trip, and turkey hunting how-to trip.

Awards. Since our team was so small, we did not win any large awards, but our student chapter definitely gained crucial team building experience as well as personal growth. Additionally, the ability to network and meet people from different places across the Southeast was irreplaceable. Even though we did not win overall, some of our members excelled in their competitions. We received fourth place in non-manipulated photography, twelfth place in trail-camera photography, and eighth place in landscape photography. We also received fourteenth place in shotgun and twelfth place in rifle.



Photo courtesy WCU TWS Student Chapter

# 2017 Wildlife Conclave

## North Carolina State University

The 2017 Southeast Wildlife Conclave was a very successful event for NC State University (NCSU). Nineteen NCSU students spent the weekend competing in quiz bowl, team field, and individual competitions with other universities from across the Southeast.

Quiz bowl was a very close competition this year with many schools battling for the win down to the last few seconds of the match. NCSU finished in the top 6 schools for quiz bowl this year, with Georgia State finishing first, and we finished 3rd in team field with the course covering most of campus and taking 2.5 hours to complete. The 26 stations ranged from bird wing identification to equipment operation and wilderness first aid.

Overall, individual competitions were very successful for NCSU students. Mark Turner won 1st place in turkey calling, Ryan Beeson won 3rd place in waterfowl calling, and April Boggs took 1st place in riflery. NCSU also swept the art categories to take gold in landscape photography (Lucas Bobay), un-altered photography (Lucas Bobay), and drawing (Elizabeth Frasch). Two silver medals were also awarded to NCSU for trail camera photography (Moriah Boggess) and painting (Madi McDaniel).

This year's conclave was the most successful in recent NCSU history as we finished in 2nd place overall! This ranking accumulates the points from quiz bowl, team field, and all individual competitions to rank the total scores of each university. These accomplishments are a team effort from students and faculty through classes, club activities, and personal practice. Good job team!



Photo courtesy NCSU TWS Student Chapter

# Call for Nominations

## NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY RECOGNITION AWARDS FOR 2018

### SOLICITATION FOR NOMINEES

The NCTWS recognizes and honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of wildlife conservation in the broadest sense. Each year at the annual meeting, several awards are presented to deserving individuals. Nominations for awards to be presented at the annual meeting must be received by the Awards Committee Chairman ***no later than December 1, 2017***. All chapter members are encouraged to consider and nominate deserving candidates for these awards. Previously unselected nominees can be re-submitted. Nominations are kept active for two years after the year in which a nomination is made. The only way to recognize individuals is to nominate them.



*Charles Sanders, 2017 Best Student Poster Winner. Photo courtesy Chris Deperno.*

Contact Dr. Chris DePerno, Committee Chair (NCSU, Turner House, Box 7646, Raleigh, NC 27695, 919-513-7559, [chris\\_deperno@ncsu.edu](mailto:chris_deperno@ncsu.edu)) if you have questions, need additional information, or to submit a nomination. Consult the Chapter website (<http://www.nctws.org>) for general information about previous award winners, award descriptions, and nomination forms.

# #OptOutside

## The Green Swamp

By Kelly Douglass

*"We find ourselves on the entrance of a vast plain which extends west sixty or seventy miles ... This plain is mostly a forest of the great long-leaved pine, the earth covered with grass, interspersed with an infinite variety of herbaceous plants, and embellished with extensive savannas, always green, sparkling with ponds of water ... "* (William Bartram, 1791, *Travels Through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida...*)

For the Green Swamp Preserve, that description, although not to the extent Bartram explored in the 1770s, could be accurate even today. Located in Brunswick County, and encompassing over 17,400 acres, the Green Swamp is owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy with the primary purpose of restoring the native longleaf pine ecosystem.

The Green Swamp is not like a typical blackwater swamp of which most people think. It a flat land of longleaf



The trail. Photo courtesy Kelly Douglass.

# #OptOutside

pine savannah islands, scattered in amongst a vast sea of pocosins – an Eastern Algonquian word meaning "swamp on a hill." Covering about 85% of the Swamp, the pocosins grow from a thick layer of organic soil material, made of peat, sand, and charcoal, that is waterlogged most of the year, acidic, and nutrient poor. But because of the available water, they create an almost impenetrable thicket of evergreen shrubs including gallberry, swamp cyrilla, and sweetbay magnolia.



The transition zone between longleaf pine savannah and pocosin. Photo courtesy Kelly Douglass.

The longleaf pine savannahs, however, are very easy to maneuver with their short understory and tall, stately pines that are spaciouly situated to provide just enough of a forested canopy without obstructing your view for hundreds of yards. The understory appears, at first glance, to be somewhat of a monoculture of wiregrass or ferns. But, what a deception! At closer inspection, the understory is

# #OptOutside

literally covered in hundreds of species of low growing grasses, ferns, forbs, and flowers, with so much diversity that it rivals a tropical rainforest. In fact, over 50 species per square meter have been documented in the Green Swamp, giving this area perhaps the highest microscale plant species richness in North America. Carnivorous plants and orchids litter the forest floor, making this swamp one of the best locations for wildflower hikes on the East Coast. At least 14 species of insectivorous plants and 18 species of orchids, not to mention dozens of other wildflowers, have been found in the Green Swamp.

The American alligator, eastern fox squirrel, Henslow's sparrow, black bear, Bachman's sparrow, pine woods treefrog, and Hessel's hairstreak butterfly are just a few of the animals that call the Green Swamp home.



The trail. Photo courtesy Kelly Douglass.



Venus flytrap. Photo courtesy Kelly Douglass.

# #OptOutside

The hike through Green Swamp is flat and easy, and just over a mile in length (one way). The trail starts at the parking area off Hwy 211, about 6 miles north of Supply, NC. Near the parking lot is an informational kiosk, marking the trailhead, which passes by a large borrow pit. The path is very well defined, especially for the first quarter-mile or so, but once you walk through the pine savannah and cross the first boardwalk (through a pocosin) all bets are off. Social trails abound, leading in all directions, so it wouldn't take much for a directionally challenged person to get lost if they didn't keep the main trail in view. The main trail is easy to follow and well blazed with red diamonds so just be sure to not lose sight of those markers if you go exploring. This ecosystem is quite fragile, though, and plants are easily damaged, so off-trail exploring is discouraged. Many of the rare plants, including Venus flytraps, are located alongside the main trail just after the first boardwalk so you need not explore very far.

For flowering species, there appears to be three peak blooming periods in the Swamp: late April through the end of May, late August through early September, and late October through early November. The first period is likely the most diverse, and is cooler, less humid, and less buggy. The second period is also quite impressive with many species of colorful orchids in full bloom, but it is much less tolerable for visitors because of the heat, humidity, and biting insects. The last period doesn't seem to have as much flower variety but the species in bloom are quite spectacular and/or rare (e.g., Carolina grass of Parnassus).



Yellow pitcher plant. Photo courtesy Kelly Douglass.

# #OptOutside



Top left to bottom right: copper-top pitcher plant, purple pitcher plant, pink sundew, oblong-leaved sundew. Photo courtesy Kelly Douglass.

# #OptOutside



Top left to bottom right: bay blue-flag, rosebud orchid, pale grass-pink orchid, ladies'-tresses orchid. Photo courtesy Kelly Douglass.

# #OptOutside

The Green Swamp is open year-round to visitors, from sunrise to sunset. Dogs are permitted on the trail, but must be leashed. Camping is not allowed, nor is overnight parking. Portions of the Swamp are open to hunting through the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission's Game Lands Program.

The Swamp is very buggy, especially from late May through first frost, so come prepared. Also, waterproof boots and drinking water are must-haves here to **#OptOutside!**



View from the trail. Photo courtesy Kelly Douglass.

# NCTWS Member Spotlight



*Banding doves during my internship with the NCWRC in 2015. Photo courtesy Kaitlin Proctor.*

**Name:** Kaitlin Proctor

**What you're called:** Katie

**Current Position:** Natural Resources Assistant, Mecklenburg Parks and Recreation (Natural Resources Division), Huntersville

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

**Phone number and/or e-mail:** (336) 239-2511 or [kaitlin.proctor@mecklenburgcountync.gov](mailto:kaitlin.proctor@mecklenburgcountync.gov) or [katiep.2011@yahoo.com](mailto:katiep.2011@yahoo.com)

## **Education:**

Aug 2011-May 2013	Associates in Science, Davidson County Community College
Jan 2014-Dec 2015	B.S. in Ecology, Appalachian State University

**Where did you grow up?** I grew up in Thomasville, but I also spent quite a bit of time at my grandparent's house in Mount Gilead.

## **What other work experience do you have?**

Jan-Mar 2017	Independent contracting work with NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) doing boundary
Jan 2016	Volunteered with Morrow Mountain for the deer translocation study

# *NCTWS Member Spotlight*

February 2016	Volunteered at Cataloochee Valley
June-Aug 2015	Interned with NCWRC (Ken Knight & Rupert Medford)
July 2011	Volunteered with NCWRC
May-Aug 2010	Volunteered at Morrow Mountain

**Why did you go into a wildlife career?** I have always loved being outside and interacting with nature. The majority of my childhood was spent learning how to connect with and respect nature. All that time spent outdoors as a child really sculpted who I am today and it made me realize the passion I have for conserving wildlife and our natural world.

**Have you always been interested in wildlife?** Yes, I have. I originally wanted to be a veterinarian, but after a 3-month-long internship in high school, I decided that wasn't the career for me. It was then that I decided to try and make a career out of what I enjoyed most, flora and fauna. The classes I took for my Ecology degree and all the volunteer/internship work really solidified that I made the correct decision.

**What has been the highlight of your wildlife career so far?** Although I have only been in the wildlife career for a short time, my highlight thus far has been completing the requirements necessary to become a North Carolina Certified Burner. I completed all the classes, attended the school, and on February 14<sup>th</sup> successfully completed my prescribed burn.

**Who has been an influence on you in your career? How and why?** You would always find my grandfather, known as Uwharrie Bob, outdoors, whether it was looking for a wildflower, observing wildlife, or simply sitting down in a spot just to be one with nature. From the time I was born, he carried me with him on all of his adventures. He taught me from a very young age to respect and love nature. From him, I learned the value in conserving our plants and animals and it quickly became my passion.

# *NCTWS Member Spotlight*

**What do you think is the greatest misunderstanding that the public has about wildlife?** I think the greatest misunderstanding the public has is how important wildlife actually is to our planet. Many people aren't even sure what "wildlife" is because they were never introduced to the outdoors as a child. The result is a generation that lacks the knowledge to educate their children about wildlife. The technology revolution has caused many people to spend more time in front of some type of electronic device and less time outside. It becomes increasingly difficult to educate people on the importance of wildlife when they seldom experience the outdoors. Due to this, they are apathetic about conservation. This will be a big challenge affecting our environment today and for years to come.

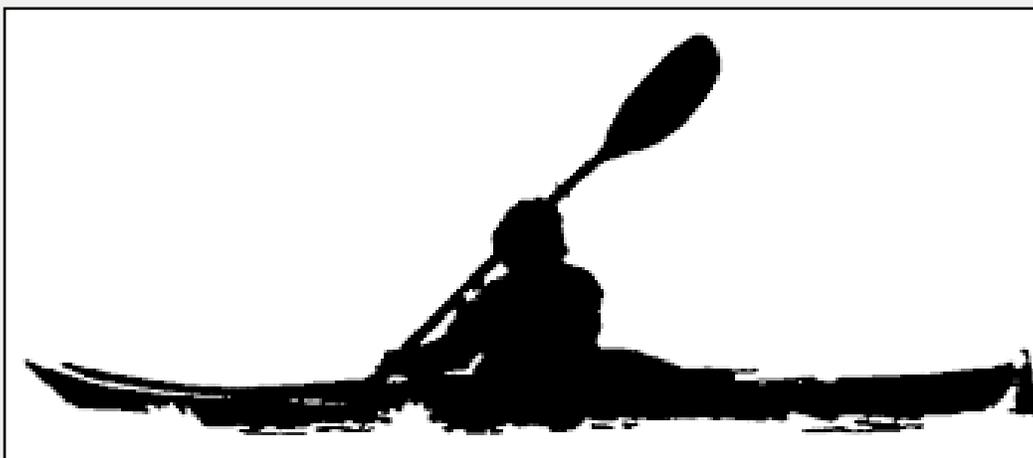
## **What are your hobbies?**

My favorite hobby is hunting. I love to hunt all kinds and sizes of animals (squirrels, turkey, deer, dove, and rabbit). I also enjoy hiking, camping, and kayaking!

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

"The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

-Lao Tzu



# NCTWS Member Spotlight



Photo courtesy James Capps

**Name:** James Capps

**What you're called:** Jimmy

**Current Position:** Staff Wildlife Biologist-  
USDA-APHIS, North Carolina Wildlife  
Services, Raleigh, NC

**How long have you been with this employer?** I have been with NC WS since 2015, started with the USDA WS in California in 2008.

**Phone number and/or e-mail:** (919) 210-9428 work cell  
[james.e.capps@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:james.e.capps@aphis.usda.gov)

## **Education:**

1999-2003, B.S. Environmental Studies-Biological Sciences, Florida State University

**Where did you grow up?** Tallahassee, Florida

**What other work experience do you have?** I started my career in wildlife biology at Tall Timbers Research Station in Tallahassee, Florida. I was an intern in their Forestry and Gamebird departments while I was in school (2002-2003). After I graduated, I worked as technician and senior technician in the Gamebird Lab at Tall Timbers (2005-2008).

# *NCTWS Member Spotlight*

**Why did you go into a wildlife career?** I was lucky enough to come from a family full of avid outdoorsmen. Growing up, if I was not in school or playing sports, I was outside. A career path that allowed me to be in the field working with wildlife was a perfect fit and suited me much better than the cubicle farm.

**Have you always been interested in wildlife?** Yes, ever since I can remember I have been fascinated with wildlife. My father is very passionate about bird hunting in all of its forms and that passion rubbed off on me as a youngster. It took me a little while to figure out that I wanted to make wildlife my livelihood—I originally went into to my undergraduate career thinking I wanted to be an accountant, but an internship at an accounting firm made it abundantly clear that would not be an optimal profession for me. Then I switched to pre-med and decided that the medical setting was not where I wanted to be either after a lengthy hospital stay for a snow skiing injury in Wyoming (I could not wait to get out of the hospital). Thankfully, the pre-med track at FSU had a lot of cross over to biology prerequisites.

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

There have been two major influences on my career. My grandfather began taking me hunting and fishing at a very young age, I would go and spend weeks with him in central Florida during my summer breaks. During those visits, I learned to observe and appreciate nature. My grandfather grew up in the Great Depression and he bestowed upon me as a child the importance of working hard and staying focused.

Dr. Bill Palmer, CEO/Director of Research-Tall Timbers Research Station-Dr. Palmer is an excellent scientist, communicator and partnership builder. Professionally speaking, he is rock solid, in addition to being a great research scientist. I really admire his administrative and organizational skills. I have looked up to and admired Dr. Palmer since I first started working for him. He is dedicated wildlife professional.

# *NCTWS Member Spotlight*

**Have you ever worked outside the wildlife profession? What did you do?** I did work for about 18 months in a fly-fishing shop and as a part-time guide in Truckee, CA right after I finished school.

**What has been the highlight of your wildlife career so far?**

Conducting helicopter surveys for buffalo and mule deer on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. Capturing, banding, and relocating multiple species of raptors for CA WS-T&E protection and airport BASH programs for the US Navy. Working with chukars and island foxes on San Nicolas Island, CA.

**What species or habitat do you know most about or work with the most?** Northern bobwhite quail in the Redhills Region of northern Florida and southern Georgia. Raptors, shorebirds, and waterfowl of southern California.

**What was your most embarrassing experience in the field?**

Learning how to live trap small mammals at Tall Timbers. I let go my first 5 cotton rats in a row while trying to work them up. Wild cotton rats are very disagreeable and uncooperative, especially when you are putting metal bands in their ears.

**What advice would you give someone just starting out in wildlife?**

Get as much experience as you can under your belt and on your resume (volunteer, find mentors, help with outreach efforts, and assist colleagues with their projects). Write as often as you can—I have found that effectively communicating your ideas through writing is a very valuable part of professional biologist's skillset and takes a while to really get good at it; you don't necessarily get a lot of real world writing experience in school. Take

# *NCTWS Member Spotlight*

them—help with revisions and editing. If possible, get some involvement and be familiar with the following: threatened and endangered species, NEPA procedures, ArcMap software, habitat projects, budgeting, and funding processes. Be flexible and open to new opportunities; try to say yes way more than you say no.

## **What are your hobbies?**

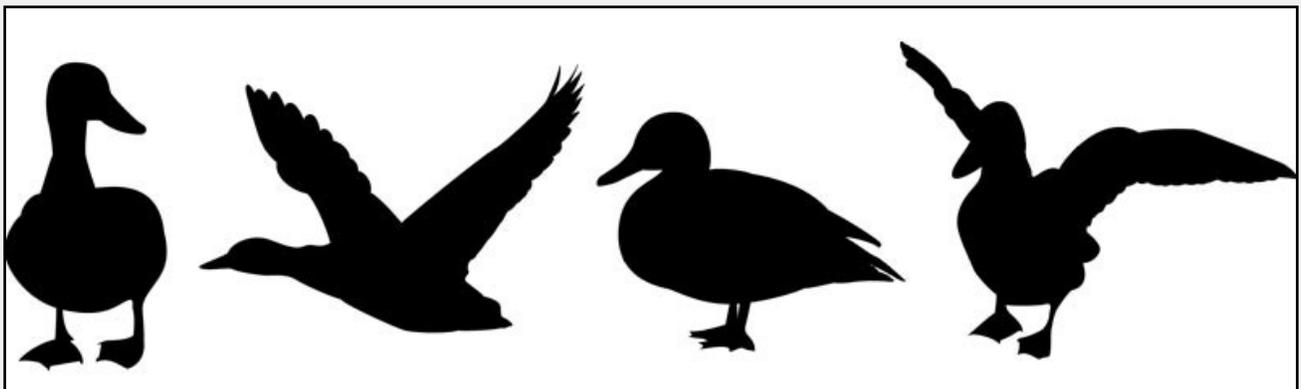
Bird hunting, fly-fishing, bird watching, gardening, hiking, fly-tying, cooking, archery.

## **Where is the most interesting place you have traveled?**

Kauai, Hawaii, Costa Rica, will be going to SW Asia later this year (Afghanistan) for work later this summer.

## **What was your most thrilling hunting or fishing experience?**

My father and I were able to get and fill antelope tags in a good unit in NE Wyoming a few years back. After the antelope hunt, we were able to fly-fish several blue ribbon rivers and do some hunting for Hungarian partridge. An incredible time for both of us—I think about it often.



# NCTWS Announcements

## Newly Certified Biologists!

Please join us in congratulating the following TWS members from North Carolina (some of whom are also NCTWS members) for obtaining their certification through The Wildlife Society in 2016!

**Rachael Urbanek, CWB<sup>®</sup>**

**Jonathan Garrow, AWB<sup>®</sup>**

**Luke Groff, AWB<sup>®</sup>**

**Graham Hanson, AWB<sup>®</sup>**

**Jordan Nanney, AWB<sup>®</sup>**

**Ryan Southard, AWB<sup>®</sup>**

If you are not certified, you should consider applying if you meet the minimum requirements. TWS is the ONLY organization to provide peer-reviewed certifications for wildlife biologists. Check out the TWS certification website for more information: <http://wildlife.org/learn/professional-development-certification/certification-programs/>.

**Did you know you can check your membership status on-line, including when your member expires in 3 easy steps?**

**Go to [nctws.org](http://nctws.org) and click “Members”**

**Sign in with the password**

**Then click “NCTWS Members Directory”**

**Did you forget the password? It gives you access to the directory and much more! E-mail Colleen Olfenbuttel to get the password: [colfenbu@vt.edu](mailto:colfenbu@vt.edu)!**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ [37<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival for the Eno](#) – Durham, NC (July 1 and 4, 2017)
- ◆ [International Congress for Conservation Biology](#) – Cartagena, Columbia (July 23-27, 2017)
- ◆ [8th National Quail Symposium](#) – Knoxville, TN (July 26-28, 2017)
- ◆ [Ecological Society of America](#) – Portland, OR (August 6-11, 2017)
- ◆ [NC Prescribed Fire Council Annual Meeting](#) – Asheville, NC (September 6-7, 2017)
- ◆ [Forest Ecology and Management Training Course](#) – NCTC, Sheperdstown, WV (September 18-22, 2017)
- ◆ [The Wildlife Society's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference](#) – Albuquerque, NM (September 23-27, 2017)
- ◆ [Longleaf Academy: Understory Restoration 201](#) – Southern Pines, NC (September 26-28, 2017)
- ◆ [NC Trappers Association Annual Convention](#) – Lawndale, NC (September 28-30, 2017)
- ◆ [Environmental Educators of NC Annual Conference](#) – Fuquay-Varina, NC (September 29 – October 1, 2017)
- ◆ [4<sup>th</sup> Biennial Shortleaf Pine Conference](#) – Galloway, NJ (October 3-5, 2017)

THE **WILDLIFE** NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER  
**SOCIETY**

Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education

# UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ [SEAFWA Conference](#) – Louisville, KY (October 29 – November 1, 2017)
- ◆ [Society of American Foresters National Convention](#) – Albuquerque, NM (November 15-19, 2017)
- ◆ [NCTWS Annual Meeting](#) – Browns Summit, NC (February 2018; date TBA)

**Come join us for a NCTWS Executive Board Meeting in 2017!**  
All members are welcome to attend in person or via Skype.  
Our meetings usually run from 10am – 2pm, and are scheduled for the following dates:

**July 11, 2017**

**October 11, 2017**

**December 5, 2017**

Contact Jeff Marcus at [jmarcus@tnc.org](mailto:jmarcus@tnc.org) or (910) 585-0521 for meeting details (location, agenda, Skype invitation, etc.).

THE **WILDLIFE** NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER  
**SOCIETY**

Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education



## Chapter Vision Statement

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

**Do you have a research or management project you think your fellow NCTWS members would enjoy hearing about? Do you have an idea for a new item in the newsletter? Or perhaps you would like to submit an article for publication? If so, please let us know!**

**Feel free to email Kelly Douglass at [kedougla1@gmail.com](mailto:kedougla1@gmail.com), or the NCTWS at [admin@nctws.org](mailto:admin@nctws.org).**

**Thank you for reading!**

**Andrea Shipley & Kelly Douglass**

**NCTWS Newsletter Co-editors**

Visit us online:

[nctws.org](http://nctws.org)



THE **WILDLIFE** NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER  
**SOCIETY**

Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education