



NC Wildlifer

MAY 2009 ♦ NC CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY ♦ VOLUME 25 NO. 1

JAMIE'S JOTTING

Keeping Our Outdoor Heritage Alive!, that is the theme for our 2010 annual meeting to be held February 10-11 at the 4-H Environmental Center in Columbia, NC and I think putting the focus on our rich and varied outdoor heritage for our meeting could not come at a better time!

Our past president, Mark Johns eloquently spoke of “change” in his message in the September 2008 newsletter. I would like to continue with his line of thought about change and how it relates to keeping our outdoor heritage alive. The first word in our theme, “keeping” should elude to the change that our society is undergoing. In the spring 2009 edition of *Forest History Today*, H. Ken Cordell wrote the article, “The Latest on Trends in Nature-based Outdoor Recreation”. This article interpreted the data from several surveys and reports as related to nature-based recreation. Cordell states that of the top seventeen activities, six involve viewing, photographing, identifying, visiting or otherwise observing elements of nature. He further states that big game hunting is the only hunting sport on the rise and there are some sources that contradict that trend. Many forms of fishing, small game hunting and migratory bird hunting all saw modest declines. Overall hunting activities are on the decline while observing and learning based activities are sharply rising. How will this change effect our profession?

I would like to quote Mr. Cordell as I close out this session with a statement that I believe is extremely poignant to our profession, “ the first implication is that professional communities should seek to connect public interest in nature into active support of and engagement in conservation of forests, grasslands and wetlands”. The annual meeting committee will put together a program that will highlight our traditional outdoor heritage as well as some of the newer and emerging nature-based outdoor recreation activities. Hopefully as wildlife professionals we will gain a better understanding of where we have come from and where we are headed and know we have a role in defining the future of wildlife conservation in North America.

- *Jamie*

2008-2009 Executive Board

| Position | Officer | Phone |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| President | Jamie Sasser | (919) 938-0115 |
| President-elect | Chris DePerno | (919) 513-7559 |
| Past President | Mark Johns | (919) 852-5124 |
| Secretary | Danny Ray | (336) 562-5066 |
| Treasurer | Jon Shaw | (704) 474-7202 |
| Board | Jennifer Archambault | (919) 306-5107 |
| Board | Kathryn Reis | (919) 469-4272 |
| SE Section Rep. | Nils Peterson | (919) 515-7588 |



2008-2009 Committees

| Committee | Chair | Phone |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Audit | Jon Heisterberg | (919) 786-4480 x 228 |
| Awards | Mike Baranski | (704) 637-4442 |
| Conservation Review | Kathryn Reis | (919) 469-4272 |
| COWCH | Bob Hazel | (919) 772-1393 |
| Education & Information | Beth Evans | (910) 396-2544 |
| Fund Raising | Pete Campbell Terry Sharpe | (910) 695-3323 (910) 652-6403 |
| Mentoring Program | Donna MacLennan | |
| Membership | Kate Golden Colter Chitwood | kegolden@ncsu.edu colter.chitwood@gmail.com |
| Newsletter | John Stanton | (252) 796-2400 |
| Nominations & Elections | Chris DePerno | (919) 513-7559 |
| Professional Development | Sue Cameron Sue Cameron | (910) 325-3602 (910) 325-3602 |
| Program (annual meeting) | Jamie Sasser | (919) 938-0115 |
| Webmaster | Susan Miller | (910) 695-3323 |
| Leopold Wildlife Club | Shannon Bowling | (919) 247-0083 |
| Haywood Community College | Chris Graves | (828) 627-4565 |





COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education and Information Committee

Chair: Beth Evans

Committee Mission: Inform members, other natural resource professionals and the public about wildlife conservation and chapter activities.

Current/Past Committee Members: Jamie Sasser, Laura Fogo, John Ann Shearer, Heidi Alderman. Justin McVery, Allen Basala, Phil Doerr, Mark Johns, Patty Matteson, Donna MacLennan, Susan Miller and Chris Moorman.

2009 Goals:

1. Create PDF copies of the NCTWS display poster and final brochure to upload onto the NCTWS website. Find out status of possible printing.
2. Review and finalize PowerPoint presentation on "Wildlife Biologists in Action". Upload to NCTWS website.
3. Create a common outline for all fact sheets than choose, draft and edit 5 - 1-2 page fact sheets to post on the NCTWS website.

John Ann found a Georgia web address <http://www.georgiawildlife.org/conservation.aspx> under GA animals and plants that has some simple fact sheets and if you are looking for some information on certain species of interest in NC. The NC Environthon at http://www.ncenvirothon.org/standard_animals_list_for_high_s.htm has some, not comprehensive but may have the species you're looking for.

4. Set up 2 meetings either at Weymouth Wood State Park or at the US Fish & Wildlife Service field office in Raleigh late August early Sept and in early December.

If you have any questions or would like to join as a member of the Information and Education committee, please contact me at either e-mail beth.evans@us.army.mil or evanz68@earthlink.net or leave a message at (910)-396-2544 ext 216.

-Beth

Conservation Review Committee

Chair: Kathryn Reis

CRC Goes Online

To promote open communication among CRC members, I have created an online website through WikiSpaces – <http://nctws-crc.wikispaces.com/>. Anyone within NCTWS can view the website, but only members of the committee can join the site to post information about a wildlife resource issue warranting committee discussion. The committee also will use the website to post drafts of letters of comment, fact sheets, white papers, and other committee analyses of a particular issue.

As discussed at the committee's 20 March meeting, CRC needs to do more than react to proposed policy changes by writing a letter for the NCTWS Executive Board's review and signature. The Conservation Review Committee, and NCTWS at large, needs to influence the development of wildlife resource policy within North Carolina. In pursuit of this end, the committee will create fact sheets or white papers about specific wildlife conservation issues, issues for which the State of North Carolina and its federal/non-governmental partners have not yet identified a solution. By sharing these fact sheets / white papers with all NCTWS members, it is CRC's hope that all NCTWS members will have the basic knowledge and understanding they need to communicate with others about possible solutions for each highlighted issue. One example is the production of wind-generated energy. Although wind turbines can provide North Carolinians with a renewable, clean source of energy, where and how should the wind turbines be constructed to minimize injury of death among migratory birds and bats? What sort of proposals currently exists for developing wind-generated energy in North Carolina?

Again, anyone can view <http://nctws-crc.wikispaces.com/> but only CRC members can edit the wikispace. If you wish to join the Conservation Review Committee, please contact me at kbreis@mac.com.

CRC Weighs in on Gubernatorial Proposals for Clean Water and Environmental Ed

Earlier this year Governor Perdue proposed to divert \$100 million from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) to the State's General Fund. This specific fund issues grants to non-profit organizations, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and state agencies to aid the protection and restoration of riparian habitat, waterways, and wetlands. Additionally the governor proposed to eliminate the Office of Environmental Education (OEE). CRC drafted a letter of comment for each issue. Below is a brief description of each letter, as signed by the NCTWS Executive Board.

- **Clean Water Management Trust Fund:** While thanking Gov. Perdue for her leadership in establishing CWMTF, we pointed out how a transfer of \$100 million from CWMTF to the General Fund compromises the public trust. We highlighted how the CWMTF administrators allocate the fund's monies in a transparent manner and maintain public accountability when reporting achievements in watershed protection and water quality enhancement. We also discussed how the diversion of CWMTF dollars to the General Fund would delay / halt water quality improvement project, which in turn may force the State to spend more taxpayer money in the future on water clean up projects instead of on water conservation projects. Lastly, we mentioned how an increase in degraded waterways would impact the local tourism, fisheries, agriculture, and forest product industries of North Carolina.
- **Office of Environmental Education:** NCTWS urged the leaders of the House Appropriations Committee to maintain OEE in its current form, rather than eliminate the office and distribute the 7 office positions among other existing programs. We explained that OEE plays a valuable role in (1) developing environmental education curricula for school-aged children, teens, and adults; (2) maintaining the environmental education library for the Department of Environment and natural Resources; (3) facilitating

networking and information sharing among environmental education centers; and (4) administering the State's environmental education certificate program. We concluded that if the General Assembly did support the governor's proposal for eliminating OEE, the cohesiveness of North Carolina's environmental education community would suffer.

General Assembly considering a "Right to Hunt" Amendment to State's Constitution

On 26 February 2009 State Senator David Hoyle introduced SB 329, a bill that seeks to amend Article 14, Section 6 of the State's Constitution, stating that hunting and fishing represent the State's "preferred means of managing and controlling wildlife". The complete language of Sen. Hoyle's proposed amendment reads as follows:

"The citizens of North Carolina have a right to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife, including the use of traditional means and methods, subject only to laws as enacted by the General Assembly, and rules and regulations adopted by an administrative agency to which authority has been delegated in accordance with law, to promote sound wildlife conservation and management. Public hunting and fishing shall be a preferred means of managing and controlling wildlife. Nothing herein shall be construed to modify any provision of common law or statutes relating to trespass or property rights."

NCTWS has not weighed in on this proposal. However, it may be in the Society's best interest to advocate the use of wording that identifies hunting and fishing as one form of wildlife management. Currently the bill is awaiting action in the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

Teaming With Wildlife Act Introduced into U.S. Congress

On 19 March 2009, Senator Tim Johnson of South Dakota introduced the Teaming with Wildlife Act (S 655). Five other senators are co-sponsoring the bill: Senators Amy Klubacher of Minnesota, Jeff Merkley of Oregon, Debbie Stabenow of Michigan, John Tester of Montana, and John Thune of South Dakota.

The purpose of S 655 is to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and create "assured and dedicated funding" for the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account. Congress established the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program, as well as the State Wildlife Grants Program, in 2001; however, Congress has not allocated any money to the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program. Both programs seek to improve the viability of nongame species, including their associated habitat, and prevent the listing of such species as threatened/endangered with extinction.

If Congress passes S 655, every year between 2011 and 2016, the U.S. Treasury would deposit \$350 million into the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account. Half of that total sum would originate from oil/gas drilling royalties on the outer continental shelf. The other \$175 million would originate from mining royalties that the U.S. government collects under the Minerals Leasing Act. According to projections made by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, that means the State of North Carolina would receive nearly \$8.1 million to continue its conservation and restoration activities for nongame fish and wildlife.

If you wish to show your support for S 655, visit http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm?State=NC to learn how you can reach Senators Richard Burr and Kay Hagan.

-Kathryn



North Carolina
Department of Environment and
Natural Resources

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
Dee Freeman, Secretary



North Carolina
Division of Forest Resources

Wib L. Owen, Director

May 7, 2009

Dear Fellow Wildlife/Resource Manager:

Attached is the nomination format for the 2009 Wildlife Management Excellence Award. Each year during our annual meeting, the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society (SETWS) presents the Wildlife Management Excellence Award to recognize excellence in wildlife management activities carried out within the member states of the Southeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Persons making nominations must be current members of the SETWS; however, nominees need not be members. Nominations may include either an individual or group and evaluation of nominees will be based upon a **single** significant achievement that has been accomplished in the field of wildlife management. Examples include, but are not limited to, recovery efforts for endangered species, development of a wildlife management area, successful efforts in preventing environmentally damaging projects, or environmental education efforts that result in significant changes in the way private lands are managed. Nominations should be submitted following the nomination format (attached) and will be reviewed by a five-member committee. The deadline for nominations is **1 August 2009**. The recipient will be presented with the Wildlife Management Excellence Award at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society.

Your participation is vital in the awards programs of the SETWS and is greatly appreciated. We are all aware of the multitude of deserving individuals and groups within our essential profession. As such, please take the time to nominate these deserving folks. Thank you for your time and dedication to wildlife conservation.

Sincerely,

Wib L. Owen, Chair

Wildlife Management Excellence Award Committee

Attachment

1616 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1616

Phone: 919-857-4801 \ FAX: 919-857-4802 \ Internet: www.dfr.state.nc.us

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY \ AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER - 50% RECYCLED / 10% POST CONSUMER PAPER

Wildlife Management Excellence Award Nomination Format

I. Date:

II. Nominee contact information:

“Name”
“Title and Agency”
“Address”
“Phone”
“Email”

III. Nominating contact information:

“Name”
“Title and Agency”
“Address”
“Phone”
“Email”

IV. Descriptive title of achievement:

V. Quantitative information on the achievement:

Please provide a short description of the nominee’s achievement in the following categories where applicable. The information may be attached on additional pages or inserted where appropriate as an electronic file.

- 1) Conservation and management benefits
 - a) Species influenced
 - b) Area (acreage) influenced
 - c) Regional impacts
 - d) Other
- 2) Educational benefits
 - a) Target audiences
 - b) Estimated size of audience reached
 - c) Other
- 3) Scientific contributions
 - a) Dissemination of information through reports, manuals, publications or other media
 - b) Influence on management policies
 - c) Other
- 4) Brief description of economic benefits

VI. Quantitative Information on the Achievement

VII. Narrative Description of the Achievement (1-page)

VIII. Letters of support (2-3)

Please submit nominee(s) by mail, fax, or e-mail to:

Wib L. Owen, Chair; Wildlife Management Excellence Award; North Carolina Division of Forest Resources; 1616 Mail Service Center; Raleigh, NC 27699-1616; Tel: (919)857-4844, Fax: (919) 857-4802; Email: wib.owen@ncdenr.gov



NCTWS Listserv

The NCTWS listserv was created so that members of the North Carolina State Chapter of The Wildlife Society could easily tap into the expertise of wildlife professional across the state.

In order to use the NCTWS listserv, you have to subscribe to the list. Please adhere to the following rules: You can subscribe to or leave the list at any time. Please do not post advertisements or chain emails (otherwise known as spam). Message content should be related to fish and wildlife management in North Carolina or general topics of conservation.

Note: List subscribers should avoid attaching files to their postings. Unsolicited attachments slow down message downloading, fill up disk space and can potentially transfer viruses. Simply post your announcement with the information pasted into the message, and include your email address or and internet site so interested people can get additional information.

To subscribe simply send an e-mail to: nctws_listserv-subscribe@nctws.org.

To post a message to the list send an e-mail to: nctws_listserv@nctws.org.

To be removed from the list, send an e-mail to: nctws_listserv-unsubscribe@nctws.org.

The chapter also has a distribution list that is intended to provide one-way communication from the executive board to the NCTWS membership and a webcalendar at <http://nctws.org/webcalendar>. If you wish to have your event posted on the events calendar, please send all relevant details to: webadmin@nctws.org.

-Susan
NCTWS Webmaster



All wildlife images by: Robert Savannah, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

NCTWS 2009 Annual Meeting Summary



The 2009 NCTWS Annual Meeting is in the books! We had a great turnout of 85 participants considering the economic climate and government budget situations. There were excellent presentations given on several topics that will be challenges in the future for wildlife managers and biologists including wind energy, conservation planning, design and partnerships, wood-based renewable energy, wildlife diseases, hunting on non-industrial private lands and the future of prescribed fire as a management tool. We had excellent attendance at the business meeting and good exchanges on several issues related to chapter business.

The social and silent auction was a big success and the chapter came out of the meeting in excellent financial standing. Special thanks to Susan Campbell, Pete Campbell and Terry Sharpe for all their outstanding fundraising efforts again this year. Also, a big thanks to Don Sheriff and all his folks from Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department crew for all their help with meeting set-up and the social. The Haw River State Park staff were excellent hosts again this year and we managed to dodge the snow but did get rain on day 2.

Planning is already underway by the current executive board for the 2010 annual meeting at the coast with a meeting theme related to our hunting heritage in North Carolina currently being discussed. Contact Jamie Sasser if you'd like to be on the planning committee!

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

Jamie Sasser, President
John Stanton, Newsletter Editor

CHAPTER VISION STATEMENT

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

The CHAPTER MISSION STATEMENT and CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

Can be viewed on the Chapter's website at:
<http://www.nctws.org>