

NCTWS ANNUAL MEETING
Blue Ridge Assembly
Black Mountain, North Carolina
March 8, 2001

President Jon Heisterberg called the Annual Meeting to order at 1:40 PM. Secretary Steve Brown read the minutes from last year's Annual Meeting held March 22, 2000 at the Trinity Center, Pine Knoll Shores, North Carolina. Dave Dudek motioned to accept the minutes. Pete Bromley seconded. Minutes were accepted as read.

Chris McGrath presented the Treasurer's report. Money Market account \$3,540.12; Money Market Russian \$7,500.92; Share Account \$35.11. Checking account has \$325 in Living With Wildlife; \$10, 895.13 in SE Quail Study Group; and \$5,059.66 in the general account for an overall total of \$27,356.23 in Chapter funds. Motion made by Pete Bromley to accept the Treasurer's report, with a second by Mark Johns. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

President Heisterberg thanked Dave Dudek and Gordon Warburton for the Annual Meeting program; thanked Haywood Community College students for their support on setup and breaks; and thanked Dave's wife for baking cookies for everyone.

President Heisterberg handed out an update of annual accomplishments. Jon highlighted accepting Chapter of the Year Award in Nashville last year. Honored to accept on behalf of the Chapter. Thanked membership, Board and Committee Chairs for making the award recognition possible. The accomplishment was attributed to setting goals. Jon indicated we meet 80% of the Chapter goals for this past year (56 items).

Chapter members were provided a final draft copy of Mission and Vision Statement for the NC Chapter. President Heisterberg read both mission and vision. Motion to formally accept the Chapter Mission and Vision Statement was made by Pete Bromley and seconded by Dave Dudek. Motion carried.

President-Elect Gary Marshall outlined the joint meeting with SCTWS planned for this summer. Gary was accompanied by Mack Baughman, President-Elect of the SC Chapter. The joint meeting will be held at the Ann Spring Close Greenway, Fort Mill SC, on July 24 and 25th. Use of the site will require a \$150 clean up fee. Hotels are being arranged on either side of the state line so state employees will not be considered to be on "out of state" travel. Paul Johns, Treasurer of SCTWS has offered to cook a low country boil on the first night of the joint meeting. The proposed agenda calls for a half-day meeting the first afternoon, social and low country boil that evening, re-convene the next morning

for an additional half-day meeting. SCTWS has a committee already set up to make arrangements. Agenda and details will be posted on the SCTWS website.

President Heisterberg called for and received the following Committee reports:

Audit Committee Report was provided by Mike Carraway. All Chapter financial records are in order.

Conservation Review Committee Report was presented by Mike Begier. Mark Johns, Carl Betsill and Shelley Gray were members of the Committee. Chris Moorman was co-chair. The Committee reviewed Governor Hunt's Million-Acre Initiative, tracked and provided comments on the Conservation and Re-investment Act (CARA); made calls and wrote letters to Congressional interests; forwarded bluebird boxes to Senators Helms and Edwards; and got thank you letters in return. The Committee provided comments on acquisition and management of the Needmore tract; assisted in arrangements for an April workshop at Cherry Point, and investigated membership in the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Alliance. The Committee formed a subcommittee to review the Farm Bill and is currently reviewing the USF&W management plan for refuges in the eastern part of North Carolina. The Committee proposed draft language for chapter positions on native, exotic, invasive and open space issues. Chris Moorman continues to have the lead on developing those positions. The Committee reviewed information on the reintroduction of elk into Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Reintroduction of a CARA bill in Congress continues to be tracked. Randy Wilson is the Chapter's point of contact on incoming information on CARA. Mike Begier and Chris Moorman will be staying on as co-chairs of the Committee for the next year.

Dave Dudek provided a report for the Program Committee. Gordon Warburton co-chaired the committee and was responsible for the Annual Meeting program, while Dave was responsible for making all the facility arrangements. Annual meeting attendance was 95, with 56 staying overnight. Early results would indicate that the fun auction raised \$600.

The Education and Information Committee Report was provided by President Heisterberg on behalf of Anne Hice with details provided by Shelley Gray. The Dixie Deer Classic booth and arrangements were organized by Randy Wilson. The Committee was active in Living with Wildlife at Crossnore, Russian Exchange program and had an article printed in the Back Porch section of Wildlife in North Carolina. The Committee arranged for the Chapter to sponsor another scholarship during the Fur, Fish and Game program. Shelley Gray distributed the draft Chapter brochure and asked for input. Dave Dudek will take care of printing through Haywood Community College.

Carl Betsill provided a report for the Professional Development Committee and identified their 5 charges for the past year. Among them was tracking

certifications awarded by TWS. Carl read the list of recent certifications and extended congratulations to each. The Committee had also arranged CEU credits for all NCTWS meetings and workshops to help meet profession certification requirements. The Committee had helped organize a student mixer at the South Eastern, and had invited all student chapters to the annual meeting.

Carl Betsill also provided the Membership Committee Report. An updated roster was provided to the membership and is available electronically. Members were reminded to pay their annual dues.

Gary Marshall advised that Don Seriff would be the new Newsletter Editor. News items can be forwarded to him at serifdw@mecklenberg.nc.us. Don will acquire newsletter format, schedule and other pertinent information from Bethany Olmstead.

The Wildlife Damage Control Committee Report was provided by Pete Bromley. The Committee developed a tri-fold brochure about Wildlife Damage Control. Agent Certification Program was held last year, and will happen again next week for 60 folks. The planned training session for techniques of dealing with wildlife problems didn't get held this year. Agents may develop an association and have a joint meeting with the existing pest control association.

The Russian Exchange Committee Report was presented by Carl Betsill. Chapter members have traveled to Russian twice this past year, in June and January. The winter trip concentrated on outdoor education. The Russian trips to the US have had positive impacts on outreach efforts and staff within Smolensk Lakelands National Park. The Chapter received a \$5,000 grant from the Camp Yount Foundation to support the exchange program. The park's Fisheries Biologist/Park Ranger Vladimir (Vlad) Khokhriakov and his interpreter Ioulia (Julia) Galkina; English Instructor with Moscow Pedagogical Institute will visit North Carolina April 17 through May 1. There will be a social on Apr 21st for the Russians. All Chapter members are invited. The Committee plans to work on details of a Globe project to export to the park. Anne Hice will work on details this summer when she returns to the park. Globe is a partnership data collection project that promotes data from students and volunteers being used by scientists around the world.

Mike Begier provided the Wildlife Management on Military Lands Committee Report for Bill Rogers, Natural Resource Manager at Cherry Point. The proposed agenda for the next annual meeting will have a session on military lands management and will likely be held in proximity to Fort Bragg. Mike suggested chapter members should promote NCTWS to military biologists. The Committee has arranged an April 11 meeting on wildlife interactions on airport lands at Cherry Point. The agenda will cover wetland mitigation, alteration of structures to reduce wildlife hazards, among other topics, and will be worth 5-6 CEUs. Contact Mike or Bill for details and hotel information.

Dave Woodward provided the student chapter report for NCSU. The NCSU Leopold Wildlife Club has a new president and 25-30 participants this semester. Students raffled off a shotgun at the Dixie Deer classic booth provided by Wake County Wildlife Club. They've been active in outreach and have guest speakers at their meetings. They've installed woodduck boxes on Yates Mill Pond, cooked a pig on the brickyard at NCSU, and sold barbecue sandwiches to raise funds for club activities.

Jason Burke provided the student chapter report for Haywood Community College. Students have held firewood and T-shirt sales to raise funds to support travel to activities. They participated in the SE Conclave and took first place last year; traveled to the South Eastern to participate in the quiz bowl, and managed the art show; manned check stations with SC DNR; assisted NPS with trout shocking, and participated in RCW surveys in the sandhills with NCWRC. Will be traveling to Oklahoma State to defend their conclave title.

Dave Woodward provided a report on the Barkalow Lecture. The presentation will be on Life in the Treetops by Margaret Lowman. It will be a two-day event and is discussed in a flyer handed out by Dave.

Annual Chapter Awards were presented by Dennis Stewart. Pete Bromley was recognized for receiving the NC Wildlife Federation Conservation Award and his induction into the Virginia Wild Turkey Federation Hall of Fame. The Chapter's Wildlife Conservation Award was presented to Mark Johns for his work as the State's Partners In Flight Coordinator, and for his dedication and persistence in providing training for chapter members and natural resource professionals across the state. The Chapter Member Award will be going to Randy Wilson, and will be presented at a Non-Game Advisory Committee meeting in the future. The Ken Wilson Memorial Award was presented to two students. Andrew Amiker from NCSU and Jason Burke from Haywood Community College were both presented hard bound copies of A Sand County Almanac with a personal inscription and checks for \$250.

The Nominations and Elections Committee report was provided by Gary Marshall. A total of 56 ballots were cast by Chapter members. New Executive Board members are John Ann Shearer and Dave Woodward; Treasurer is Dave Dudek; President-Elect is Pete Campbell; and Gary Marshall will be the incoming President.

Chapter participation in the Dixie Deer Classic was discussed. Scott Osborne, Terry Myers and others manned the exhibit. Event sponsors indicate that 18,000 people attended the event and many stopped by the Chapter exhibit and asked questions. Brochures such as Careers in Wildlife Conservation were on hand early on, but were exhausted. Carl Betsill suggested that the Chapter acquire additional supplies of the brochure. There were suggestions for improving the draft Chapter brochure and using it at the event.

At the conclusion of Old Business, outgoing President Jon Heisterberg passed "The Goat" to incoming President Gary Marshall. Jon expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve the chapter, and urged Gary to continue the trend and build upon accomplishments of past leadership.

President Marshall opened the session on New Business. Jon Heisterberg suggested the Chapter spend some of its accumulated funds on worthwhile projects. Mike Begier suggested stipends for students to work with agencies to get experience. Dennis Stewart suggested an endowment fund for student scholarships. Pete Campbell suggested money to support Wildlife Summer Camp for students at NCSU. Gordon Warburton suggested international outreach through the Russian Exchange program, and suggested support for Caribbean monitoring of neotropical migrant birds. Dave Woodward suggested additional workshops at NCSU this September or October.

President Marshall announced that there would be a short Executive Board meeting immediately following the Annual Meeting. A motion by Gordon Warburton to adjourn was seconded and carried. The Annual Meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Steve Brown
Secretary