

The Wildlife Society North Carolina Chapter

Newsletter

Vol. 21, No. 3
September 2005

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN or Chris' Caterwauling

It might surprise some of you, but I think about things quite often. I think about the world around me. I ask, "What's happening? Why is it happening? How does it affect wildlife and other natural resources? What can we do about it?" Usually, I'm thinking about human population growth and urbanization. There's no doubt in my mind that issues related to these factors will demand the majority of our profession's resources for the foreseeable future. Urbanization permanently eliminates habitat, limits management flexibility, fragments remaining habitats, etc. At the The Wildlife Society's (TWS) 2004 annual meeting in Calgary, Alberta, Nova Silvy (Past-president of TWS and Texas A&M professor of wildlife sciences) challenged the Society to address human population growth as a serious threat to natural resource conservation. He acknowledged that it was a contentious issue, but wondered how people could continue to turn their heads. I agreed wholeheartedly.

Like some of you, I entered the wildlife profession because I didn't think that I'd like working with people. Working with animals sounded much better - they don't judge, aren't hypocritical, and seldom argue. Like most of you, I now spend the majority of my day working with people, especially those from the ever-increasing urban areas of North Carolina. These folks often don't understand the important conservation issues and generally don't support management. They hate timber harvests, are afraid of fire, and love their free-ranging cats. They like the word *preservation* (unless it interferes with their current or future home site) and don't know the meaning of *conservation*. They are afraid of frogs, lizards, snakes, foxes, and just about every other critter in the woods. I worry about their kids, most of which spend their time indoors in front of a computer or the television or at the ball field.

Despite my youthful misgivings about working with people, I like my current job and I like working with people. I've found that once properly educated, people generally make good decisions. Urbanites that have been properly educated about wildlife and wildlife conservation tend to be less afraid and more tolerant of animals; they often even support management. Educating millions of people, however, is a big task that will require the efforts and cooperation of many professionals. Wildlife professionals must overcome any desire to avoid contact with the general public; in fact, we must seek opportunities to speak and act publicly (e.g., youth education programs, outreach workshops, media releases). Finally, we must continue to ask pertinent questions related to urbanization - How can we work to better educate urbanites (see Urban Wildlife Pilot Project in this newsletter)? How does urbanization affect wildlife across the state and what can the wildlife profession do about it? What can NCTWS do about it? How can we work through the North Carolina Chapter of The Wildlife Society (NCTWS) to do something about it?

-Chris Moorman

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:
www.main.nc.us/nctws

2005-2006 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Position	Officer	Phone	E-mail address
President	Chris Moorman	919-515-5578	chris_moorman@ncsu.edu
President-elect	John Ann Shearer	919-856-4520	JohnAnn_Shearer@fws.gov
Past President	Jeff Marcus	910-281-4388	jmarcus@ac.net
Secretary	Pat Farrell	828-293-5231	pjf@dnet.net
Treasurer	Shelley Good	919-722-4229	shelley.good@seymourjohnson.af.mil
Board	Jamie Sasser	919-938-0115	sasserj@johnstoncc.edu
Board	Brady Beck	910-281-3917	kbbeck@ac.net
SE Section Rep	Chris Moorman	919-515-5578	chris_moorman@ncsu.edu
<i>Ad Hoc Representatives</i>			
Leopold Wildlife Club (NCSU)	Stephanie Zolkowski	919-389-4372	sbzolkow@unity.ncsu.edu
Haywood Community College	Nichole Jones	828-506-6688	Njonesy209@aol.com

2005-2006 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Committee	Chair	Phone	E-mail address
Nominating & Elections	John Ann Shearer	919-856-4520	JohnAnn_Shearer@fws.gov
Membership	Doug Howell	252-482-7787	doug.howell@mchsi.com
Program	Mike Begier	252-466-4964	begiermj@usmc.mil
	Shelley Good	919-722-4229	shelley.good@seymourjohnson.af.mil
Conservation Review	Mike Begier	252-466-4964	begiermj@usmc.mil
	Salinda Daley	252-726-5177	salinda.daley@ncwildlife.org
Education and Information	Laura Fogo	704-694-5334	Laura_Fogo@fws.gov
Audit	Chris Moorman	919-515-5578	chris_moorman@ncsu.edu
Awards	Dave Dudek	828-627-4564	ddudek@trieste.haywood.cc.nc.us
Newsletter	Lisa Beckstrom	704-523-4726	lbeckstrom@smeinc.com
Professional Development	Mark Johns	919-852-5124	johnsme@mindspring.com
Russian Exchange	Carl Betsill	252-235-3016	betsill@coastalnet.com
COWCH	Bob Hazel	919-515-3963	hazel386@juno.com
Webmaster	Mike Carraway	828-646-9913	carrawmb@brinet.com

Wildlife Society News

NCTWS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Detailed minutes from past board meetings are prepared by NCTWS Chapter Secretary Pat Farrell and are posted on the Chapter web page. To read the minutes, go to: www.main.nc.us/nctws and click on the Chapter Business link.

2005 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

November 9, 2005 Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, Goldsboro, NC

NCTWS Board meetings are scheduled several times each year. The meeting times are 11:00AM to 2:00PM. All members are encouraged and invited to attend each board meeting. The last meeting this year is November 9, 2005. Contact NCTWS Treasurer at shelley.good@seymourjohnson.af.mil or at **919-722-4229**, for specific locations, directions and details about this meeting.

2006 NCTWS ANNUAL MEETING

The 2006 NCTWS Annual Meeting will be held February 23-24 at Fort Fisher State Recreation Area near Wilmington. Please hold these dates on your calendar now.

2006 NCTWS ELECTION

Please consider your talents as well as your dedication to NCTWS as you decide how to serve in the coming year. There are many opportunities to serve, and the success of the Chapter is reflective of the dedication and service of its members.

You may want to make the commitment to serve on NCTWS Board for 2006. The voting Board consists of a President, President-elect, Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two at-large Board Members. The Board meets four times annually to discuss and act upon the business of the Chapter. Budgetary decisions, recommendations from committees, and planning of the annual meeting are common business items at Board meetings. In 2006, the open Board positions are Secretary (2-year term), President-elect, and two at-large Board Members (1-year term). Board members must be a member of the National Chapter of TWS.

Committee chairs are valuable to NCTWS and are active participants on the Board. Committee chairs are voluntary rather than elected positions, and service ranges from a single year to many consecutive years. Most activities of the Chapter occur through committees, and committee chairs report to the Board four times each year. Please consider serving on a committee in the upcoming year. If you would like to serve on a committee or run for office, contact John Ann Shearer at 919-856-4520 ext. 17 or JohnAnn_Shearer@fws.gov.

FUND RAISING UPDATE



NCTWS raffled off three outdoor expeditions at the 2005 annual meeting. The winner of the fishing trip, Kenny Frick, along with North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) Sandhills Depot biologists noodled up a big flathead. Evin Stanford, who won the turkey trip, did not get a bird but probably had a good time anyway. The Chapter hopes to offer a similar series of raffles at the 2006 annual meeting. If you have suggestions or can offer raffle prizes, please contact Pete Campbell (Pete_Campbell@fws.gov).

- Terry Sharpe

MEMBER ACTIVITIES

David K. Woodward, a Wildlife Research Biologist in the North Carolina State University (NCSU) Zoology Department, along with **R. Peyton Hale**, an undergraduate student summer intern in the Wildlife/Zoology curriculum at NCSU, have been busy this summer radio-tracking 12 northern pine snakes and 5 southern hognose snakes in the Sandhills area. This is the second year that a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) and US Army/Ft. Bragg Endangered Species Branch funded a study to Woodward, N. Haddad (Zoology), and P. Doerr (Natural Resources-Forestry) to determine the life-history and home range variables for these two "special-concern" reptile species in North Carolina. Technical and logistical support has also been received from the NCWRC Sandhills Depot. Data on movements, feeding strategies, nesting activities, habitat use, human impacts, and many other ecological interactions are being documented to help in the description of the natural history and future conservation needs of these interesting reptiles and their importance in the Sandhills ecosystem.

Steve Everhart joined the NCWRC, Division of Inland Fisheries, Habitat Conservation Program – Technical Guidance Section on June 1, 2005. Steve filled the Southeastern Permit Coordinator position vacated by Bennett Wynne, new Anadromous Fish Biologist.

Tom Henson retired after 31 years working for the NCWRC. Tom, who began his career in wildlife law enforcement, became most well known for his work as the coordinator of NCWRC's Faunal Diversity (non-game) program. Tom helped to pioneer non-game projects such as the sea turtle volunteer monitoring program and the hacking of bald eagles to initiate eagle restoration. Tom help shepherd the program through a reorganization and a dramatic expansion under the State Wildlife Grant program. In 2004, Tom was awarded the NCTWS's Conservation Award for his lifetime contributions to wildlife conservation. Tom will be retiring to a farm in his native state of Tennessee where he will be closer to his children and grandchildren.

CONSERVATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Navy OLF

The US Navy (USN) published a notice of intent that a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement will be conducted concerning the location of the Outlying Landing Field (OLF) facility. More data concerning the location of the OLF will be collected, etc.

NCTWS board action – No action now other than continued monitoring.

Land for Tomorrow (LFT) Initiative

Background materials on LFT were forwarded to the Board on July 5. The LFT coalition seeks increased funding (\$200 million over five years) for land conservation and historic preservation in NC, managed through the existing Trust Funds (e.g., Clean Water Management Trust Fund, Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, Natural Heritage Trust Fund, etc.). Most likely, this would take the form of a bond referendum.

NCTWS board action – Chapter President sent LFT initiative a signed support letter with language encouraging management of “conserved” land.

Teaming with Wildlife (TWW)

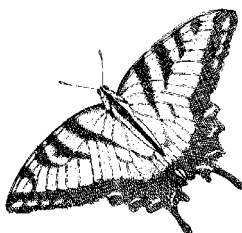
The TWW Steering Committee (which contains national TWS representation), is looking to reinvigorate the original state coalitions, in conjunction with the implementation of the state Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies and a renewed national push for permanent state wildlife funding. Visit www.teaming.com for current information on the initiative. TWW is seeking support for \$72 million in funding for the State Wildlife Grants Program.

NCTWS board action – Chapter President sent a signed letter of support to the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

- Mike Begier and Salinda Daley

LEOPOLD WILDLIFE CLUB

This spring, the Leopold Wildlife Club (LWC) participated in the Southeastern Regional Conclave Competition in Gainesville, FL. The students received 2nd place Overall and 2nd place in the Quiz Bowl. Jimmy Dodson and Lee Davis placed 1st in Orienteering. In 2006, the competition will be held at Tennessee Tech, where LWC hopes to continue its run of success. At its Dixie Deer Classic booth, LWC raffled off a Lifetime Sportsman License and wild boar hunt at Howell Woods. The club also continued monitoring the Wood Duck/Screech Owl nests at Yates Mill Pond in Raleigh. Students from the club helped with the planting of perennials at the Turner House on campus, and continued to visit local elementary schools and teach classes about wildlife. Club members participated in Harris Lake's Earth Day Celebration by talking to the public about snakes. In the spring, a few club members planted a butterfly garden in the Research Triangle Park as part of the NC Wildlife Federation's Wildlife and Industry Together (WAIT) program.



- Stephanie Zolkowski, Chapter President

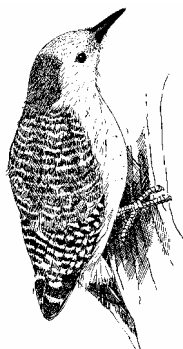
USDA WILDLIFE SERVICES

North Carolina has been put on the fast track for the Oral Rabies Vaccine (ORV) program. Enhanced surveillance in western North Carolina has shown that the Appalachian ridge, once assumed to be a natural barrier to the westward expansion of the raccoon rabies variant, is being breached through the Nolichucky and French Broad River basins. The 35-mile wide ORV barrier, now extending from Lake Erie south through eastern Tennessee, is being extended up the French Broad and Nolichucky river basins. The aerial application of the vaccines will begin on August 9th. Wildlife Services personnel will be involved in extensive follow up sampling in the area following the bait drop. For more information on the ORV program see <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/rabies/index.html>.

NC PARTNERS IN FLIGHT

NC Partners in Flight Fall Meeting: October 19, 2005, Goose Creek State Park, near Washington, NC. For information: Mark Johns, johnsme@mindspring.com.

NORTH CAROLINA BIRDING TRAIL



The North Carolina Birding Trail (NCBT) is accepting site nominations for the coastal component of the trail that includes all counties east of and including I-95. The trail is initially being developed for the coastal component with plans to continue westward into the piedmont and mountains. The mission of the trail is to conserve and enhance North Carolina's bird habitat by promoting sustainable bird watching activities, economic opportunities, and conservation education. The NCBT steering committee is working to build partnerships to establish this drivable trail to link birdwatchers with birding sites, businesses, and other community attractions. Additional information about the NCBT is on the website at: www.ncbirdingtrail.org.

URBAN WILDLIFE PILOT PROJECT

Over the past two decades, North Carolina has been one of the most rapidly growing states in the nation with the bulk of the population increase occurring in and around Piedmont urban centers (US Census Bureau 2002). The NCWRC, with the help of State Wildlife Grant funds, initiated the Urban Wildlife Pilot Project in 2003 to promote open space conservation in the Triangle Region (Raleigh/Durham/Chapel Hill) through land use planning and land protection. In January 2005, an Urban Wildlife Biologist was hired to oversee the Program. After reviewing existing Land Use / Open Space Plans and ordinances, several needs have been assessed that if implemented would (1) help improve cooperation among county/town governments and conservation-minded entities, (2) help to conserve wildlife habitats within urban areas, (3) improve water quality downstream of the Triangle Region, (4) minimize fragmentation of landscapes outside of urban areas, and (5) increase awareness and appreciation of conservation issues among urban people in the Triangle Region. The premise of the Program is a proactive approach to mitigating impacts on the environment by having the Urban Wildlife Biologist act as a liaison to planners and developers. Development is steered away from sensitive wildlife habitats while infill is encouraged as well as compact communities with their

associated connected open spaces. Fee-simple purchases of critical habitats and the use of permanent conservation easements are protection measures that are the most highly encouraged.

The Program recognizes that contact with nature positively affects the quality of life of the citizens in the Triangle Region and therefore seeks to help local municipalities more easily provide that contact. Additionally, the Program also helps the NCWRC better understand and provide for the needs of its non-traditional constituents such as birdwatchers, wildlife watchers, and those that simply enjoy a walk in the woods.

For more information on this project, contact Anna Huckabee Smith, NCWRC at huckabee_anna@yahoo.com or 919-810-5118.

CAPTIVE CERVID PROGRAM UPDATE

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal disease of the central nervous system and is classified as a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE). Other TSE's are mad cow disease and scrapie in sheep. There have been no cases of CWD in North Carolina and the closest documented case comes from both free ranging and captive deer in New York.

The NCWRC requires people who have captive cervids (e.g., deer, elk, caribou) to have a license. In May 2002, emergency rules were enacted to prevent the transmission of CWD into or throughout North Carolina. These rules were designed to:

- Suspend cervid importation and intrastate transportation,
- Prohibit issuance of new captivity licenses for cervids,
- Increase fence height requirements,
- Require double tagging of all captive cervids,
- Conduct semiannual inspection of facilities,
- Prohibit pen expansion,
- Require records on cervid acquisition and disposition,
- Require CWD testing for cervids six months of age or older that die within a captive facility,
- Create a captive cervid inventory database to track all interstate and intrastate movements of live cervids, should they resume,
- Establish provisions for rule violations or positive CWD results, and
- Expand public outreach and education.



Since the emergency rules were passed, the number of captive cervid facilities in the state has declined. In 2002, North Carolina had 190 captive cervid facilities: 85 licensed and 105 unlicensed. The unlicensed facilities were given the opportunity to obtain a captivity license if they held cervids in captivity since May 2002 and complied with all captive cervid rules. There are currently 89 facilities in North Carolina that hold approximately 1,273 cervids in captivity.

North Carolina's CWD surveillance in free-ranging white-tailed deer was initiated in 1999. The 2002 and 2004 collections were based on priority areas, typically captive cervid facilities, which were areas

identified by highest risk for transporting CWD-positive cervids into the state. The 2003 surveillance was a more statistically-based, statewide approach based on relative deer population at the management zone level and then on relative amount of available habitat at the county level. As of August 3, 2005, 603 captive cervids and 1,807 free-ranging deer have been tested for CWD. The disease has not been detected in any of the samples.

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN

North Carolina is the first state in the nation to have its Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy approved by the USFWS. The Strategy will be called the NC Wildlife Action Plan as it is introduced to the public. The Action Plan was required by Congress in order to receive non-game funding through the State Wildlife Grants program. North Carolina's Wildlife Action Plan identifies priority species and habitats in need of conservation attention, and provides a detailed description of the research, survey, monitoring, and conservation action priorities for each of the habitats and river basins in the state. The document also addresses state-wide issues such as urbanization, private lands management, land conservation strategies, and wildlife education. North Carolina's plan has been lauded by the USFWS, Defenders of Wildlife, and others for its thoroughness and comprehensive approach to strategic planning. The Wildlife Action Plan was developed with the input of a wide variety of stakeholders from many organizations, and it is hoped that the plan will provide a coordinating and rallying point for conservation efforts across the state. The Wildlife Action Plan can be viewed at http://www.ncwildlife.org/fs_index_07_conservation.htm, then click on "Wildlife Action Plan" and then "Outline."

UWHARRIE CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

A new partnership is being formed in the central Piedmont to coordinate and leverage the efforts of all conservation organizations working in the region. The Uwharrie region, which has been identified as a high priority for conservation attention by several planning efforts, includes the lower Yadkin and south Yadkin Rivers, the greater Uwharries, and the Pee Dee River into northern South Carolina. Participating groups include the USFWS, The Nature Conservancy, NC Zoological Park, Natural Heritage Program, NCWRC, Ecosystem Enhancement Program, Plant Conservation Program, US Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Environmental Defense, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Uwharrie Trail Club, the Yadkin-Pee Dee Lakes Project, the Piedmont Land Conservancy and the Land Trust for Central North Carolina.

Other stakeholders will be involved in various projects. The goal of this emerging partnership will be to facilitate communication and cooperation among conservation groups. The Partnership will produce a list and map of priority species and habitats and will seek to initiate and support joint projects related to land acquisition, private lands management, and land use planning. For more information about this initiative or to get involved, contact Gin Wall, 336-879-7000 x7400, gin.wall@ncmail.net.

Are you currently only a member of the North Carolina Chapter of The Wildlife Society?

If your answer is yes:

Consider adding your membership to the Southeast Section level, or even better; join both the Southeast Section and the National levels.

Why join?

The Wildlife Society is the only collective voice for wildlife concerns at the national level. It is the only means for input of our interests on national policy matters.

THINK ABOUT IT. *To join visit:* www.wildlife.org

NCTWS DUES RENEWAL

NCTWS dues cover one calendar year (January-December). To check if you have paid for 2005 dues, go to <http://www.main.nc.us/nctws/>. Please renew your membership for 2005 by sending \$5 made out to NCTWS to Shelley Good, P.O. Box 37742, Raleigh, NC 27627. Members who wish to make an additional donation along with their dues renewal to help fund the student scholarships are encouraged to do so.

If you have any questions concerning your membership dues, please contact treasurer Shelley Good at shelley.good@seymourjohnson.af.mil.

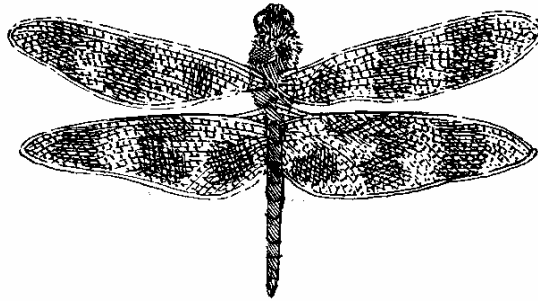


Newsletter Submissions

In the next issue, members will notice some layout and design changes to the newsletter. Your feedback on these changes would be greatly appreciated. Also, If you have anything that you would like to submit for publication in the January 2006 newsletter (e.g., committee reports, personnel changes, workshops, meetings, special projects), please send them to me at either lbeckstrom@smeinc.com or mail to Lisa Beckstrom at S&ME, Inc., 9751 Southern Pine Boulevard, Charlotte, NC 28273.

The deadline for newsletter submissions is November 25, 2005.

Don't forget to visit
Our chapter webpage at: <http://www.main.nc.us/nctws>
also visit
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY web page at: www.wildlife.org



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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