



NC Wildlifer: The Feral Report

MAY 2006 ♦ NC CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY ♦ VOL. 22 NO. 2

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



The strength of most organizations is in its membership. This is certainly the case with the North Carolina Chapter of The Wildlife Society (NCTWS). NCTWS is comprised of talented wildlife professionals and we all have that in common. However, among this commonality is a great diversity of experience, interest, and expertise. Of our 204 members who receive the newsletter, there are at least 29 organizations represented.

As within each of our agencies or organizations, we still have plenty of room to improve our diversity and I challenge each of you to seek a broader base of members. I once heard a Refuge Manager say that if you present an idea to your staff at a staff meeting and all heads nod in agreement, you don't have a diverse staff.

Not long ago I read an obituary in the paper about a member of my church who had died. I knew the member because I had seen him Sunday after Sunday sitting on the pew and we always spoke to one another. But, what I discovered when I read the obituary was that I didn't really know him at all. In a few brief paragraphs I learned that he was a retired professor from North Carolina State University (NCSU) and an avid collector of antique cars. It struck me at the time that it was a shame I had to wait until he died to know more about him.

The Conserving Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage (COWCH) program interviews NCTWS members that have seen so much of the history of wildlife management in our state and creates an official record of their observations and experiences. But, there are young members of NCTWS who also have skills and experiences that would be of interest to our members.

This past year when I had the privilege to help form the slate of candidates for the 2006 NCTWS officers, I was taken back and greatly impressed with the credentials and varied experiences of our nominees. You too recently had the opportunity to read the bios of the nominees.

I think that if we knew each other better, our organization and we as individuals would benefit in many ways. Knowing one another better, we could do so much more. It would be easier to communicate and work together. We would know better where to turn for resources and ideas on specific topics. Our students and new professionals may be inspired, or better yet, get ideas of who to go to for guidance as their careers develop. Often we know of professionals that we admire throughout their careers, but never really get to know them personally. More than anything, knowing someone gives a much greater opportunity for mutual respect.

In light of all this, I have decided to profile a couple NCTWS members in each newsletter this year. It is my hope that those of you asked will gladly share a bit about yourselves and that those of you reading the profiles will use them as a spring board for discussions and interactions that ultimately lead to getting to know one another better and getting the work of our organization completed better and more enjoyably.

Enjoy the two featured biologists in this newsletter. Feel free to make suggestions for others among us you would like to see featured or topics you would like addressed.

I look forward to serving as your President and to getting to know you better. Thank you for this opportunity.

-Sincerely, John Ann Shearer

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

2006-2007 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Position	Officer	Phone	E-mail address
President	John Ann Shearer	919-856-4520	JohnAnn_Shearer@fws.gov
President-elect	Don Seriff	704-432-1391	serifdw@co.mecklenburg.nc.us
Past President	Chris Moorman	919-515-5578	Chris_moorman@ncsu.edu
Secretary	Danny Ray	336-562-5066	danielray@earthlink.net
Treasurer	Joe Folta	919-269-2767	foltaje@earthlink.net
Board	Susan Campbell	910-949-3207	susan@ncaves.com
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SE Section Rep	Chris Moorman	919-515-5578	chris_moorman@ncsu.edu
Ad Hoc Representatives			
Leopold Wildlife Club (NCSU)	Gabe Karnes		gkarns@ncsu.edu
Haywood Community College	Shane Billings		bass8er@yahoo.com

2006-2007 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Committee	Chair	Phone	E-mail address
Nominating & Elections	Don Seriff	704-432-1391	serifdw@co.mecklenburg.nc.us
Membership	Jeff Marcus	910-281-3917	jmarcus@ac.net
Program	Chris Deperno	919-513-7559	chris_deperno@ncsu.edu
Conservation Review	Mike Begier Salinda Daley	252-466-4964 252-726-5177	begiermj@usmc.mil salinda.daley@ncwildlife.org
Education and Information	Laura Fogo Jamie Sasser	910-695-3323 919-938-0115	Laura_Fogo@fws.gov sasserj@johnstoncc.edu
Audit	John Heisterberg	919-786-4480	Jon.F.Heisterberg@aphis.usda.gov
Awards	Dave Dudek	828-627-4564	ddudek@trieste.haywood.cc.nc.us
Newsletter	Lisa Beckstrom	704-523-4726	lbeckst@carolina.rr.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

2006 ANNUAL MEETING – A SUCCESS!

By Elizabeth J. Evans

As a wildlife biologist from the Sandhills region of NC, I wondered when I was asked to write an article on the February 23-24 NCTWS meeting at Fort Fisher, NC, why me? I do not exactly have what you call beachfront property where I work (lots of sand but no ocean), but then I realized, I did participate in every activity so here I go....

This year's meeting theme was "Stewardship of Our Coastal Resources." Once again, why would I go and on my own time? 1.) Who can resist the beach?, 2.) It happens to be one of the cheapest training opportunities that exists, and 3.) You never know who you could meet and it provides beneficial contacts and information that could be useful in your present job.

FIELD TRIP - Early Thursday morning, 22 professionals attended the Continuing Education Workshop on Management of South Atlantic Coastal Wetlands for Waterfowl and Other Wildlife led by Kenny Williams and Colin Smith, Regional



Photo: courtesy of Kimberly McCargo.

Biologists from Ducks Unlimited. They provided a great tour of two large plantations located on the west side of the Cape Fear River. These old rice plantations cover several thousand acres, some of which are protected by conservation easements. The first plantation we visited was Old Town. The morning started out raining, but stopped during our tour. We were able to see a small depression pond that 200-300 ducks took to flight from as we tried to get closer, a saltwater impoundment, and a corn field that could be flooded with help from the surrounding topography. Lesson: use the existing topography, hydrology, and vegetation to your advantage in creating suitable habitat. The next stop, Orton Plantation was a lesson in bringing old rice impoundments created in the 1800's back to life with the help of new water control structures.

The structures can be used to create freshwater or salt water impoundments depending on the objectives of the landowner. Fire and mowing were also shown as part of the management tools used to improve these coastal areas for waterfowl.

PRESENTATIONS – Starting Thursday afternoon and into Friday morning professional presentations were given regarding Coastal Resources. Sixty-five professionals



Orton Rice Plantation. Photo: courtesy of Kimberly McCargo.

attended the meeting. The topics ranged from erosion of our beaches, changing of sea turtle nesting habitat, deer and predation management in our coastal areas, developing partnerships for research, funding and protection of lands, use of greenways for wildlife, and conservation heritage. Some of the concepts I came away with from the presentations included:

- 1.) Think outside the box on projects, wildlife find ways of surprising you with their flexibility (i.e. look for beach nesting birds on top of roofs),
- 2.) Look outside federal or state agencies for partnerships, funding, and assistance. Ways were discussed in the presentations on Partnership-coastal collaboration and gaining private support,
- 3.) Involve the communities in which you are working – The Painted Bunting monitoring program and deer management program were excellent working examples of how citizens become your strongest supporters, and
- 4.) A little education can go a long way- predator control and challenges in protecting beach nesting birds brought this concept into sharp focus.

The presentations then closed with the business meeting with reports from all committee members and John Ann Shearer becoming Chapter president with Chris Moorman stepping down.

SOCIAL EVENT - The evening started off with a NC favorite, a Pig Pickin'. Every year there is an auction after dinner to help raise funds for the student chapter scholarship fund. Before we even arrived, there were 3 hunting trips lead by fellow members (1 deer, 1 fish, and 1 turkey) and a canoe raffle in progress. Respectively, they brought in \$971 and \$740 net profit. This year there was a "silent auction" which brought in a total of \$1,035. Approximately \$1,250 will go to student scholarships. If you have never attended a meeting, this is the part you NEED to attend. It is truly amazing the amount of items contributed for the cause - everything from the traditional white elephant items to books, feeders, clothes, gift cards and handmade items like pictures with old pine frames, bird calls, and a pine needle basket.

The auction usually starts out a bit slow but picks up speed as beverages



Photo: courtesy of Kimberly McCargo.

become consumed and wallets seem to open. Rivalries for certain objects become fierce and blood is almost drawn with pencils before the call for the final bid. Definably not an event to miss!

So the next time there is a meeting whether in the mountains, piedmont, or the coastal region, plan to attend, it's a big state and with shrinking resources, it is a great opportunity to develop partnerships, gain some knowledge to take home, and have some fun in the process!

LORI WILLIAMS SELECTED FOR TWS WILDLIFE INSTITUTE

The Wildlife Society (TWS) has established a Leadership Institute to address the coming shortage of leaders in the wildlife profession; over 75% of the leaders in the wildlife profession will retire in the next decade. The mission of the Leadership Institute is to cultivate the next generation of promising individuals to lead TWS and the wildlife profession into the future. The pilot program is funded by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and matching funds from TWS' endowment fund.

"Three out of four of today's state and federal agency leaders will retire within the next decade," says Dr. Michael Hutchins, TWS Executive Director/CEO. "We need young, savvy professionals ready to step into the big shoes that current leaders will leave behind. The institute is designed to enhance leadership knowledge and skills – and groom leaders to help resolve the many conservation and management challenges that lie ahead. As the wildlife profession's leading membership association, TWS has a responsibility to prepare its members to meet this urgent need."

Ten early-career professionals have been selected to participate in TWS' groundbreaking Leadership Institute. Among those ten are Lori Williams a Wildlife Biologist with the Faunal Diversity Program of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC). Lori has a Master's degree from Virginia Tech and is working primarily on herp surveys in the mountains. In an enthusiastic response Lori said, "Many thanks! I'll work hard and will do my best to represent our state and our chapter well." ***Congratulations to Lori!***

In collaboration with the USGS National Wildlife Health Center, the Virginia Chapter of TWS is hosting a two-day workshop on identification, biology, and management of wildlife diseases in the Mid-Atlantic Region. The workshop is being held at the Holiday Lake 4-H Education Center in Appomattox, Virginia on September 7-8. Registration materials and the agenda can be found at the Chapter's webpage (<http://fwie.fw.vt.edu/vatws/meetings.htm>).

REGISTER EARLY, SPACE IS LIMITED

NEWS FROM OUR CHAPTER COMMITTEES

COWCH UPDATE

By Jon Heisterberg and Bob Hazel

Since 2002, 17 retired wildlife professionals have been interviewed for the Conserving our Wildlife Conservation Heritage (COWCH) program. Grady Barnes was interviewed recently and other interviews are planned for the future. Five DVDs are made from each interview and distributed to

the interviewee, NCTWS collection, NCSU library, Haywood Community College (HCC) library, and TWS Washington office library. The COWCH Committee recently received additional funds for equipment upgrades and travel expenses.

EDUCATION & INFORMATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Laura Fogo and Jamie Sasser

Please join the Education and Information Committee on Monday, June 19 at 10:00 am in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) conference room (551-B Pylon Drive, Raleigh) for a strategic planning meeting. The committee will brainstorm

and develop ideas for a comprehensive plan to meet the education and information needs of NCTWS now and into the future. RSVP to Laura Fogo (Laura.Fogo@fws.gov) and Jamie Sasser (sasserj@johnstoncc.edu).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Mark Johns

The Professional Development Committee continues to provide a variety of training opportunities for members and other natural resource professionals and educators year-round. Several bird and plant identification workshops were offered again this winter and spring and workshops on reptiles and amphibians, shorebirds and bird banding are coming later this year. The committee hopes to

meet later in 2006 to plan for the coming year, so watch for that meeting announcement. If you have ideas (and especially thoughts on who we could ask to do the training) about potential training opportunities you'd like the committee to consider, send them to committee chair Mark Johns at: johnsme@mindspring.com.

MENTOR PROGRAM UPDATE

By Brady Beck

The NCTWS mentor program serves as a developmental tool for students in Fisheries and Wildlife as well as new wildlife professionals. This program allows students and new professionals to coordinate with experienced professionals working in the field of fisheries or wildlife and gain insight into careers and pathways that may be in their future. Mentors can offer career advice and real-

world work experiences and students can offer assistance with projects. The program is designed to be flexible and provide a match for both parties so that the mentorship can be convenient for scheduling and traveling. To be a part of this interactive career-training, please check the NCTWS web page or contact Brady Beck, NCTWS Mentor Program liaison at: kbbeck@ac.net.

CONSERVATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

By Salinda Daley and Mike Begier

NCTWS voices opposition to sale of National Forest land – The NCTWS Board approved comments to the USDA Forest Service on March 30 to voice opposition to the sale of forest lands to fund the Secure Rural Schools Act. The comments are posted on the NCTWS website, under Chapter Business.

NCTWS signs on to NC Prescribed Fire Council – NCTWS Executive Board voted to become a member of the North Carolina Prescribed Fire Council. The mission of the Council is to foster cooperation among all parties in NC with an interest or stake in prescribed fire for the purpose of optimizing burning opportunities for the benefit of natural ecosystems and wildlife and to reduce the risk of damage from wildfires. This will be accomplished by encouraging the exchange of information, techniques and experiences among practitioners of prescribed fire in North Carolina and by promoting public understanding of the regional importance and benefits of prescribed fire. If you'd like to learn more about the Council or be included on its mailing list, please contact Chris Moorman at chris_moorman@ncsu.edu.

How do you feel about Sunday hunting? - In 2005, the NCWRC was asked by the Governor and the Legislature to research public opinion about Sunday hunting in NC. This year they are contracting with professional survey researchers to conduct public meetings, focus groups, and rigorous statewide public surveys and hunter surveys to determine key considerations and opinions on the issue. The Commission has a web portal that you can use to voice your opinion about Sunday hunting: www.ncwildlife.org/, under Features. As background information, consider reviewing the 1996 NCTWS ad-hoc committee report on Sunday hunting, which is available on our website (<http://main.nc.us/nctws/business.html>).

NEXT NCTWS BOARD MEETING

All members are welcomed to attend the Chapter Board meetings and learn more about Chapter business! The next meeting will be in Greensboro at the Guilford County NRCS Office, 3309 Burlington Road on Thursday, July 27 from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. Please let Danny Ray know if you plan to attend (danielray@earthlink.net).

This report is a nice overview of the biological, social, economic, and legal issues concerning Sunday hunting.

Teaming with Wildlife (TWW) - The North Carolina TWW Coalition, which has NCTWS representation, is being reinvigorated in conjunction with the implementation of the state Wildlife Action Plans and a renewed national push for permanent state wildlife funding. To learn more about the North Carolina TWW Coalition, see the documents posted on the chapter website (under Chapter Business). To view the NC Wildlife Action Plan, go to www.ncwildlife.org/fs_index_07_conservation.

A call for your participation! – The Conservation Review Committee is here to serve the Chapter members by researching and reporting on current conservation issues affecting our state and educating the membership about those issues. If there is a particular wildlife conservation issue that you would like to see the Committee tackle, let us know. And if you would like to get involved in current conservation issues in North Carolina through participation in the Conservation Review Committee, please contact Mike Begier (mike.begier@aphis.usda.gov) or Salinda Daley (salinda.daley@earthlink.net).

NCTWS FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE UPDATE

By **Pete Campbell and Terry Sharpe**

The fundraising committee held a very successful silent auction and two raffles in conjunction with the 2006 annual meeting. The committee appreciates everyone's efforts in securing or donating all the high quality items for the silent auction which netted a record \$1,035. Special thanks goes out to Salinda Daley for coordinating the silent auction. Our very first canoe raffle, which was won by Chapter member Heidi Alderman, raised an additional \$740. Money from the canoe auction and half the money from the silent auction funded two student chapter scholarships. A member of the Leopold Wildlife Club received money to attend the NCSU Wildlife Summer Camp and a member of the HCC chapter received funds to pay for an internship. The hunting and fishing

raffles raised \$971 in ticket sales. Thanks to Terry Sharpe and Jeff Marcus for taking the lead on the hunting and fishing raffle and a special thanks to all the members who took the time to sell tickets before and after the annual meeting.

The Chapter's new Susan Sharpe Memorial Scholarship Fund was created to support the annual Fur Fish and Game Rendezvous at Millstone 4-H Camp. The goal is to raise \$10,000 so that the interest will fund a camper each year. Currently the fund balance is \$925 so we have a ways to go to meet our goal. **Checks can be made out to NCTWS with "Susan Sharpe endowment" written in the memo field and sent to NCTWS, P.O. Box 37742, Raleigh, NC 27627.**

NC WILDLIFER: THE FERAL REPORT

By **Chris Moorman**

During and after the 2006 NCTWS Annual Meeting, members nominated around 28 names for the Chapter newsletter. These names then were voted on by the membership (42 votes). Steve Everhart's nomination, "NC Wildlifer," won easily. The Chapter Executive Board, however, had hoped for a more creative name (no knock against Steve's creativity or the creativity of the voting members of

the Chapter), so it was decided to combine Steve's nomination with the second place vote getter ("The Feral Report" submitted by Anthony Snider). ***Hence, the official newsletter name - "NC Wildlifer: The Feral Report."*** ***Both Steve and Anthony will receive a MASTER WILDLIFER hat as promised by Chris Moorman.***

INITIAL PLANS FOR 2007 ANNUAL MEETING

By **Chris Moorman**

Chris's Deperno and Moorman have teamed with Dean Simon to plan the 2007 NCTWS Annual Meeting for the western region of the state. The theme will be Fire on the Mountain and will be held during a two-day period in mid-March. Tentative plans include a pre-conference field workshop on using prescribed fire to restore xeric pine

communities, a first day session on fire in western NC (e.g., air quality, silviculture, wildlife habitat, plant ecology), and a second day session with contributed presentations by students and Chapter members. Look for more details in upcoming newsletters.

HAYWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE WILDLIFE CLUB

HCCC's student chapter of TWS attended the 2006 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave at Tennessee Tech University March 9-12. Twenty students and Fish and Wildlife Management Technology instructors Dave Dudek, Rick Lindsay, and Shannon Rabby traveled to Falls Creek Falls State Park in Tennessee for the event. Our students prepared for Conclave by taking on additional studies and honing their skills in fish and wildlife identification, management techniques, ecology, and equipment operation. HCC is proud to be the only two-year school that attends Conclave.

The Tennessee Tech University student chapter of TWS did a fantastic job hosting this year's Conclave. Students enjoyed the scenic location, the great food and entertainment, the informative field trips and the well-prepared, challenging competitions. Hats off to TTU!

The HCC Wildlife Club did exceptionally well at this year's Conclave, bringing home 12 awards including third place overall! The overall award was achieved due to a strong showing by our students in all of the events during Conclave. The most exciting result occurred in the Quiz Bowl tournament. HCC students Jason Davis, Shane Billings, Jonathan Bumgarner and Sam Koch did an outstanding job in this challenging double-elimination academic tournament, defeating six university teams before losing to the University of Georgia in the championship match. During the tournament, HCC

defeated teams from Mississippi State, Frostburg State, Murray State, Oklahoma State, Arkansas State and our in-state rival North Carolina State University. HCC Fish and Wildlife Management instructor Shannon Rabby was proud of the team's strong showing. "The competition at Quiz Bowl was fierce, and our students did an outstanding job despite the fact that they were often competing against universities with graduate students on their teams. To finish second in this event is further proof that our Fish and Wildlife Management Technology program is one of the best anywhere."

HCC Wildlife Club members recently completed a CPR certification course and received valuable training at a NC CATCH workshop held on campus. The club elected a strong slate of new officers, and club members are currently making plans for the coming year. Upcoming events include NC CATCH clinics at both the Mountain Echoes Festival at HCC and the Trout Festival in Waynesville, a drawing for a competition bow, and formal adoption of Richland Creek in Haywood County as part of the Adopt-a-Stream program. One major effort underway involves planning and fundraising for the 2006 TWS national conference in Anchorage, Alaska. The club hopes to bring a contingent of students to this event in September and plans to compete in the national Quiz Bowl during that time.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

One of the Chapter President's Goals for 2006 is to build up and activate our committees. While our committees have been successful in the past, they have often operated with a chair and a co-chair or just a chair and very few if any, committee members. The committee chairs have been challenged to review and refresh their committees' missions, set a strategy for the future, invite and encourage participation, and have committee meetings. Chapter members are now challenged and invited to select their committee of interest and get involved! ***See page 2 for the committee chairs and their contact information.***

2005-2006 NCTWS AWARDS PROGRAM

By Dave Dudek

Nominations for the NCTWS Awards Program were solicited from the membership through the chapter newsletter and chapter website; program guidelines for award categories and a nomination form were provided. This past year nominations were also solicited via membership email. A total of seven nominations were submitted by five nominators. Thanks to Awards Program Committee members Joffrey Brooks and Mike Carraway for their service, as well as, to Chapter Newsletter Editor Lisa Beckstrom.

The following presentations were made at the Fort Fisher Air Force Recreation Area during the annual NCTWS Business Meeting held on February 25, 2006.

STUDENT AWARDS

The Ken Wilson Memorial Award is presented annually to a student or students, nominated by faculty members of the two schools within the State having wildlife programs and/or by Chapter members, and selected by the Awards Committee. Awards are presented for academics, contributions to research, work projects that contribute to State wildlife conservation efforts, and other accomplishments that the Chapter deems worthy of recognition. The award is cash support along with a framed certificate and copy of A Sand County Almanac.

NCSU Recipient: Elizabeth Jones
Nomination submitted by: Phil Doerr



Dr. Chris Moorman and NCSU Student Award recipient **Liz Jones**.
Photo: courtesy of NCSU Fisheries and Wildlife Programs April 2006 Newsletter.

Elizabeth Jones joined the undergraduate program in Zoology and Environmental Science just over four years ago. Since then this young woman has matured as a scholar and contributor to the university community. She is a remarkably active member of the Leopold Wildlife Club (TWS Student Chapter). Liz is also

an outstanding classroom student, being on the Dean's List every semester and maintaining a GPA of 4.0. In class she is a delightful student who asks thoughtful, probing questions.

Liz quickly jumped into wildlife club activities and offered to work fundraisers and educational activities. Her "can do" attitude is infectious and makes everyone else believe the job can be done. She is the kind of student that will take charge and get the ball rolling! At the 2005 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave she was a spark plug who ignited enthusiasm for every competition and contributed mightily as a Quiz Bowl team member.

Liz has a reputation among her peers for her energetic pursuit of excellence and accomplishment. Because she leads primarily by example and the contagious power of enthusiasm her peers are always ready to help see a project to successful completion.

In addition to serving as Club Treasurer and College of Natural Resources Council Secretary, Leopold Wildlife Club members elected her as Education Committee Chair for two years running. Liz schedules and teaches a large number of public school programs about wildlife, and helps other students learn how to conduct such programs. Liz absolutely loves teaching outdoor lore and natural history to young people and teaches NC Museum of Natural Sciences classes to youngsters. She is an expert in taxonomy and has solid field knowledge of a wide array of animals and plants, terrestrial and aquatic.

Liz is possessed of a remarkable and unquenchable passion for wildlife work. Her dedication, motivation and work ethic is amazing. Nothing will discourage this determined and talented young woman. Currently pursuing an MS in wildlife, Liz Jones is a wonderful example of what our future wildlife scholars and leaders should be!

HCC Recipient: Shane Billings
Nomination submitted by: Dave Dudek

Shane Billings is currently enrolled in the Fish & Wildlife Management Technology program at HCC. Shane entered the program in the fall of 2004 and will earn an A.A.S. degree graduating with honors



Dr. Chris Moorman and HCC Award recipient **Shane Billings**. Photo: courtesy of NCSU Fisheries and Wildlife Programs April 2006 Newsletter.

in the spring of this year. He has proven to be an exemplary student earning Dean's List honors for each semester to date with an Overall G.P.A. of 4.0. Due to this academic excellence, Shane received invitation for Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society induction. To his credit, Shane has

managed to excel in his studies as a married, full-time student, even while maintaining full-time employment. Shane has consistently exhibited a strong work ethic, which will serve him well in future endeavors.

Not only exhibiting excellence in his academic pursuits, Shane has demonstrated service above self in extra-curricular activities. He has exhibited willingness and capacity to assume leadership responsibilities. He was elected as Vice President of the HCC Student Chapter, TWS in 2004; more recently, he has stepped up willingly to fill a vacated chapter presidency. Shane is a well-respected, energetic organizer who inspires active involvement in chapter activities. He leads by example having personally secured significant donations toward chapter funds needed to defray travel costs to the annual Southeastern Wildlife Conclave. Shane will serve as a prominent member of the HCC conclave team, as he did last year.

Shane also manages to devote considerable time toward volunteer service. He has provided leadership and assistance to a Take a Kid Fishing program, local stream clean up efforts, and fieldwork with natural resource management agencies. He has attended and received workshop certifications in Project Wild, Aquatic Wild, NC

CATCH and All Taxa BioInventory; Shane is pursuing NC Environmental Education certification. This spring, Shane will be volunteering internship service as creel clerk for the Great Smokey Mountain National Park.

Shane exhibits the devotion and initiative suited to a wildlifer with promising career potential. Our chapter recognition and his continued TWS involvement will help him realize this potential.

NCTWS CHAPTER AWARD

This award is presented to a chapter member for individual effort and contributions to wildlife conservation. Service to the Society and Chapter is strongly considered, along with professional achievement. The award is a custom designed plaque.

Recipient: Pete Campbell



Dr. Chris Moorman and NCTWS Award recipient **Pete Campbell**. Photo: courtesy of NCSU Fisheries and Wildlife Programs April 2006 Newsletter.

Pete has been an active member of NCTWS for most of his career. He recently served as chapter President back in 2002 and he led a very

active and productive presidency. After his term as president was complete, he did not just fade away from NCTWS to focus on his extremely full work responsibilities. He continued to push for several initiatives to come to fruition, including the student mentor program and funding scholarships to send a NCSU student to wildlife summer camp and to sponsor a Haywood student's wildlife internship. Last year Pete played a big role in the planning of the first-ever joint annual meeting with NCTWS and the NC Fisheries Society. He has been very active in fund raising over the past two years, securing big-ticket item donations from local and national businesses for the raffle and auction.

Pete personifies the ideals of TWS, reaching across agency and regional boundaries to promote partnerships and cooperation. He is a worthy recipient of the NCTWS Chapter Award.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AWARD

This award is presented to individuals or groups within NC who deserve recognition for achievement in wildlife conservation, education, research or related endeavors. There is no requirement for Society or Chapter membership. The recognition is for accomplishments widely recognized and publicized. The award is a custom designed plaque.

Recipient: Brian McMerty

Brian McMerty is recognized for his demonstration, leadership, and implementation of wildlife habitat management and land conservation on the 2300+ acre Pleasant Oaks Plantation in Brunswick County. This family owned property along the Cape Fear River is protected by conservation easement to the NC Coastal Land Trust.

Most impressive are the land management decisions that Brian has made and the actions he has taken to restore longleaf pine habitat. As recently as the mid 1990's much of the longleaf habitat was fire suppressed, dense, and heavily encroached with oak. He oversaw thinning operations of existing longleaf and in 2000-2001 planted 140 acres of longleaf pine in areas where loblolly pines were harvested. Brian also initiated herbicide treatment of oaks. Most importantly, he instituted a rotational prescribed burning program convincing the NC Forest Service to conduct growing season burns on 100 acres in 2004-2005. Brian has become so engaged in the successful wildlife management of the property that he started marking timber for future thinning and overseeing forest management without the aid of a consulting forester.

Brian continues to plan plantings of native warm season grasses and herbaceous wild flowers on openings and edges near longleaf pine stands to benefit bobwhite, other birds, and small mammals. He also works to control invasive aquatic species in the 70-acre freshwater lake where ospreys nest and eagles forage. He has long-term plans to restore historic rice fields to moist soil marsh impoundments for the benefit of waterfowl and shorebirds.

Even though Brian's educational and professional background is unrelated to wildlife, he has exemplified the ultimate in dedication and responsibility for wildlife resources and habitat on his family property.

Call for 2007 Award Nominations

Please consider your fellow members and other wildlife professionals who have demonstrated outstanding service this year to come. An excellent opportunity to recognize your peers is to nominate them for a NCTWS award. These are highly prized awards that call attention to individuals who have gone beyond the norm. Our chapter's awards program depends on your involvement in order to publicly recognize and thank outstanding students and professionals for selfless contributions to the wildlife profession.

Access Awards Program guidelines and nomination form on our chapter website: <http://main.nc.us/nctws/business.html>
Award nominations will be accepted from now until January 31, 2007.

NCTWS MEMBER PROFILES

Name: **Susan Ladd Miller**

What you're called: Susan

Current Position and Employer and location: Biologist with USFWS located in NC Sandhills Sub-office in Southern Pines, NC. I work primarily with the NC Sandhills Safe Harbor Program and red-cockaded woodpecker recovery.

How long have you been with this employer? 6 years

Phone number and/or e-mail: (910) 695-3323; susan_miller@fws.gov

Education: Zoology degree from University of Washington

Where did you grow up? Mostly in Northern Virginia but my father was a search and rescue pilot for most of his 20 years in the U.S. Coast Guard so I have lived in Port Angeles, WA; The Phillipines, Redwood City, CA; Kodiak, AK; Fairfax, VA; Seattle, WA; Redmond, WA; Fayetteville, NC; and I currently live in West End, NC. Most of my extended family is in Oregon, Florida and Connecticut so I have visited those states many times over the years.

What other work experience do you have? A veterinary technician, volunteer park ranger/naturalist, and most recently as a biological science technician at Fort Bragg's endangered species branch where I worked for over six years.

Why did you go into a wildlife career? I have always loved animals so I was attracted to any kind of job where I could work with animals. It's especially gratifying to have to opportunity to work with an endangered species.

What has been the highlight of your wildlife career so far? Meeting so many wonderful landowners in the community where I live. People really care about our natural resources and are glad to learn that they can make a difference.

What species or habitat do you know most about or work with the most? I have worked with the red-

cockaded woodpecker (RCW) for 13 years so obviously this is the species that I know quite well. I had the great fortune of working for Jackie Britcher at Fort Bragg for over six years and learned a great deal about RCWs and the NC Sandhills ecosystem from her.

What do you think is the greatest misunderstanding that the public has about wildlife? That we can save all the endangered and threatened wildlife "somewhere else". Most folks don't realize that doing something in their own backyard can make a difference. I enjoy my current job because I have the opportunity to work with private landowners and show them that they can make a difference.



What are your hobbies? I have been involved in dog training since 1995. I have two Labrador retrievers named Murphy and Cinder. Murphy is almost 14 so he is officially retired but he has several obedience titles including AKC's "Companion Dog Excellent" title. Cinder recently tested and qualified as a canine good citizen and therapy dog. I plan to start doing therapy work with her in my community and will be participating in a new program starting next school year in the Moore county schools called CARE (Canine Assisted Reading Education). The idea is to bring a therapy dog into the classroom to encourage (K-2) students to read.

Is there anything else about yourself that you would like to share? My job with USFWS is very rewarding but I'm most proud of my family which includes a wonderful husband, two beautiful daughters and of course my two labs.

Name: **Pete Bromley**

What you're called: Some of my former undergraduate wildlife students called me "The Brominator" or "Bromasaurus."

Current Position and Employer and location: Professor Emeritus, NCSU (this title, plus 75 cents nets one cup of coffee at McDonalds annually)

How long have you been with this employer? January 31, 2003

Phone number and/or e-mail: pbromley@sprintmail.com

Education: B.S. (Conservation & Vertebrate Zoology), Cornell University, 1964; M.A. (Zoology), University of Montana, 1967; Doctor of Philosophy (Biology – Mammalogy & Ethology), University of Calgary, 1977

Where did you grow up? Upstate New York, attended a one-room school starting at four, but was forced to go to a most unpleasant centralized school system near Albany when Dad became Assistant Chief of Inland Fisheries for the NYS Conservation Department in 1947.

What other work experience do you have? Officer, Field Artillery, US Army, 1967 – 69. Natural Resources Coordinator, Temporary Commission to Study the Catskills, NY State Legislature, 1973 - 75; Wildlife Extension Specialist and Assistant/Associate Professor, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Science, Virginia Tech, 1977 – 90; Wildlife Extension Specialist, Department Extension Leader, Associate/Full Professor, Department of Zoology, NCSU, 1990 – 2000; Coordinator, Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences Program, NCSU, 2001 – 2003.

Why did you go into a wildlife career? I followed my father's footsteps, not realizing it. Dad was the first Regional Wildlife Biologist for the NYS Conservation Department in the Catskills and southern Hudson River Valley, as well as a fisheries biologist and an environmental educator. His fascination with wildlife diversity and the relationship of wildlife to society, as well as his passion for hunting, fishing and the outdoor life in general stimulated my imagination. I went to college to become a chemistry teacher, but

chemistry kicked my butt. However, when I took courses in Vertebrate Natural History, I found my niche. My early fascination with wildlife diversity still drives my interests.

What has been your most fulfilling experience with TWS? Throughout my career I have enjoyed and benefited from professional friendships, beginning



as a student leader of the Cornell Conservation Club (the forerunner of the current student chapter of TWS) in 1963. The Faculty

Advisor, Dr. Harlan Brumsted and I are still in frequent contact.

What species or habitat do you know most about or work with the most? From 1965 to 1990, I explored the behavior and ecology of pronghorn antelope. Parts of over 5 years were spent in the field, and part of the rest of the time reading, analyzing and writing about the species and how it is adapted to the Great Plains ecosystem. From 1990 until retirement, I explored the relationships between bobwhite quail and agriculture in NC and VA with many fine professionals and students.

What has been your most surprising discovery in your job? Solving the riddle of why pronghorn bucks cast their horn sheaths while driving home through a dazzling snow storm one night on NYS 28 in the Catskill Mountains from a routine speech in a smoke-filled rod and gun club meeting house. (1978. Z. Saugetierkunde 43:26-35.)

What do you think is the greatest misunderstanding that the public has about wildlife? That wildlife is a free good, its use requiring no investment other than personal outdoor equipment. Whether purchasers of binoculars, Goretex or hunting paraphernalia, a great majority of people are clueless about the history, politics, science, and management of natural resources. No matter how much we professionals know and do, the need for public education and involvement will remain a primary responsibility and challenge.

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



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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