



NC Wildlifer: The Feral Report

NOVEMBER 2006 ◇ NC Chapter of the Wildlife Society ◇ VOL. 22 No. 4

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As many of you know, I had the incredible opportunity, thanks to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the North Carolina Chapter of The Wildlife Society (NCTWS), to attend the 13th Annual Wildlife Society Conference in Anchorage, Alaska this fall. My fellow wildlifers, we are indeed part of a bigger thing and what an exciting thing it is! From the kickoff reception with native Alaskan dancers through the workshops, plenary session, field trips, poster sessions, and many themed paper presentations, right through to the closing banquet, I was impressed by the intellect and passion of today's wildlife biologists. I've taken it for granted here in North Carolina, but to see it repeated 50 fold is inspirational.

Two nationally renowned scientists, Mark Serreze and Brad Griffith led the plenary session on climate change zeroing in on the visible evidence and implications in Alaska. The arctic amplification effect has led to extreme coastal erosion and warming of the permafrost. That in turn has led to a substantial decrease in isolated wetlands causing a large-scale ecosystem change with mind boggling implications to wildlife. A Yup'ik Eskimo Elder, Caleb Pungowiyi, spoke about the effects of climate change on the culture of his people. He likened his fear of climate change to the anxiety he felt during the Cold War when he knew Russian nuclear missiles were aimed toward Alaska. Later, a themed session on oil focused on economic analysis, rather than just wildlife impacts. To grapple with these challenges, The Wildlife Society (TWS) has a working group focused on Peak Oil issues and promoting a "Steady State Economy."

At the TWS member's meeting and leader's lunch, there were talks by Bob Brown, from North Carolina State University (NCSU) as outgoing president, John Organ, the new president, Michael Hutchins, Director, and some of the other TWS Staff. More than the specifics, what I gleaned from their addresses was TWS's positive momentum. The organization is moving forward and has a very impressive list of accomplishments and goals. One of the biggest undertakings is the development of a national strategic plan that has been the focus for the past year. Another exciting initiative is the new Wildlife

Professional Magazine which will come out four times a year beginning next February or March. It is intended to capture a broad audience with interesting easy reading and links to supporting literature. Policy and partnership activities in TWS are vast and include comments to congress on the proposed federal budget, Teaming With Wildlife Coalition, Cooperative Alliance for Refuge



Photo taken at Eagle River, Alaska.

Assistance (CARE), USGS Coalition, comments on park management, drilling, and the Outlying Landing Field. Under the leadership of Laura Bies, TWS is beginning to provide what is called "Friends of the Court Briefs" on cases such as private ownership of wildlife which is being challenged in Texas. This type of information is meant to show

no side on the issue, but rather provide facts – scientific or historical – to help the courts make their decisions. The TWS Leadership Institute has also launched its first year with 10 young professionals, including our own Lori Williams. Please read about her unique experience in this newsletter.

On this trip I saw breath-taking landscapes along with harlequin ducks, sea otters, sea lions, beluga whales, and Dall's porpoises. I ran in the first TWS 5K Run Wild along the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail. I hiked seven miles through a spruce fir forest to an incredible gorge in the Chugach State Park and another nine miles through the Eagle River Valley to a glacial pond where I plopped down and ate my fill of blueberries. I was heart-warmed by a fellow USFWS biologist inviting me into her home just on the recommendation of a mutual friend. The trip gave me a broader view, which I think we all need for refocusing. I have come back inspired and refreshed, glad that I have had the opportunity to serve TWS and to be involved with the wildlife professionals in our chapter.

– John Ann

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	Email address
President	John Ann Shearer	919-856-4520, ext. 17	JohnAnn_Shearer@fws.gov
President-elect	Don Seriff	704-432-1391	Donald.Seriff@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov
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@bellsouth.net
Board	Susan Campbell	910-949-3207	susan@ncaves.com
Board	Jeff Hall	252-633-7698, ext. 4017	jeffhall@coolsprings.org
SE Section Rep	Chris Moorman	919-515-5578	chris_moorman@ncsu.edu
<i>Ad Hoc Representatives</i>			
Leopold Wildlife Club (NCSU)	Gabe Karns		grkarns@unity.ncsu.edu
Haywood Community College	vacant		

2006-2007 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Committee	Chair	Phone	Email address
Audit	John Heisterberg	919-786-4480, ext. 228	Jon.F.Heisterberg@aphis.usda.gov
Awards	Dave Dudek	828-627-4564	ddudek@haywood.edu
Conservation Review	Mike Begier	252-466-9320	mike.Begier@aphis.usda.gov
	Salinda Daley	919-604-5183	salinda.daley@earthlink.net
COWCH	Bob Hazel	919-722-1393	Hazel386@juno.com
Education and Information	Laura Fogo	910-695-3323	Laura_Fogo@fws.gov
	Jamie Sasser	919-938-0115	sasserj@johnstoncc.edu
Fund Raising	Pete Campbell	910-695-3323	Pete_Campbell@fws.gov
	Terry Sharpe	910-281-5903	sharpe_terry@alltel.net
Mentoring Program	Brady Beck	910-281-3917	brady_beck@alltel.net
Membership	Jeff Marcus	910-281-4388	jfmarcus@alltel.net
Newsletter	Lisa Beckstrom	704-523-4726	lbeckst@carolina.rr.com
Nominations and Elections	Don Seriff	704-432-1391	Donald.Seriff@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov
Professional Development	Mark Johns	919-852-5124	johnsme@mindspring.com
Program (annual meeting)	Chris Deperno	919-513-7559	chris_deperno@ncsu.edu
Russian Exchange	Carl Betsill	252-235-3016	betsill@coastalnet.com
Webmaster	Mike Carraway	828-646-9913	carrawmb@brinet.com

NEWS FROM OUR CHAPTER COMMITTEES

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

By Laura Fogo

The Education and Information committee met on August 21, 2006 to further refine the committee's strategic plan. Committee members developed a poster to display at the Environmental Educators of

North Carolina 16th annual conference held at Ft. Bragg from November 2-5. Beth Evans presented the "Wildlife Biologist's In Action" poster at the conference.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

By Mark Johns

The committee had a record year for professional development training workshops for natural resource professionals. There were 12 field training workshops scheduled that totaled 54 contact hours (covering every physiographic region of the state from the mountains to the coast) attended by 84 participants. Included were workshops covering landbird ID, plant ID, shorebird ID, bird banding, and reptile and amphibian ID. Workshops were

held during every season of the year. Next year's workshops for field training are expected for bird and plant ID, shorebird ID, bird banding during summer and fall, reptile and amphibian ID for the mountains and coast and butterfly and dragonfly ID. If you have ideas for field training for natural resource professionals with a potential workshop leader in mind, contact Mark Johns at: johnsme@mindspring.com.

MENTOR PROGRAM

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: brady_beck@alltel.net.

NCTWS Next Board Meeting

All are welcomed to attend the next meeting of the NCTWS Board of Directors where chapter business is discussed and committee reports are presented. The next meeting will be in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Conference Room in Raleigh on Wednesday, December 13 from 10:00 to 2:00. Please e-mail JohnAnn_Shearer@fws.gov closer to the date for details if you plan to come. Minutes from the last Board meeting are available on the NCTWS web site: <http://www.main.nc.us/nctws/>

CONSERVATION REVIEW

By **Salinda Daley and Mike Begier**

Regional Land Conservation Partnerships

The Conservation Review Committee (CRC) crafted letters of introduction to the following regional land conservation partnerships, to seek collaboration and information exchange concerning mutual interest issues and to offer NCTWS as a resource related to wildlife goals/values/objectives:

- Sandhills Conservation Partnership
- Onslow Bight Conservation Forum
- Uwharrie Conservation Partnership
- Yakdin-PeeDee Lakes Project
- Mitchell River Coalition
- Cape Fear Arch
- Upper Tar Collaboration

The letter requests that these groups submit a paragraph back to NCTWS about their efforts and about opportunities for collaboration on wildlife-related issues. This information will be shared with the NCTWS membership in upcoming newsletters and may serve to promote membership interest in the local partnerships.

Teaming with Wildlife

The Teaming With Wildlife (TWW) Steering Committee, which contains national TWS representation, is reinvigorating the original state coalitions, in conjunction with the implementation of the state Wildlife Action Plans. The efforts of TWW, as well as the reinvigorated state coalitions, are resulting in a very strong renewed national push for permanent state wildlife funding. Visit

www.teaming.com for current information on the initiative. One thing that each of us in NCTWS can do to promote TWW in North Carolina is encourage groups that have not yet signed on to the coalition to do so.

Support for Forest Management

After review and discussion by the CRC and the Chapter Board, a letter was sent to the US Forest Service in support of their proposed forest management plan for 231 acres of the Grandfather Ranger District of the Pisgah National Forest (Globe Area) which includes a timber harvest to create quality early successional habitat, replanting of native grasses, and eradication of non-native invasive plants. The CRC plans to develop general policies for the Chapter addressing the importance of early successional habitat, forest management on public lands, and invasive plants.

Bird Conservation Meeting Announcement

NC Partners in Flight Spring Meeting
March 27, 2007
Blue Jay Point County Park, Wake County
9:30am - 4:30pm
Contact: Mark Johns, johnsme@mindspring.com

2006 STUDENT CHAPTER ADVISOR OF THE YEAR AWARD



Dr. Phil Doerr received the "2006 Student Chapter Advisor of the Year" award at TWS's annual meeting in Anchorage, Alaska September 2006.

This award is presented to only one individual annually to recognize excellence in advising student chapters. This award is highly regarded by TWS as it recognizes the important commitment to the professional development of students. The nomination for this honor was initiated and organized by Gabe Karns and Liz Jones.

Photo provided by Dr. Chris DePerno

NCTWS AWARDS PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS

By Dave Dudek

Nominations are being sought for the NCTWS Chapter, Wildlife Conservation, and Student Awards. These annual awards will be presented at the 2007 NCTWS Annual Meeting. Please take time to review the following guidelines for chapter recognition. All chapter members are encouraged to nominate worthy candidates. A previously unselected nominee may be resubmitted.

Members are asked to complete a nomination form and forward to the Awards Committee chair at first opportunity. **Nominations will be accepted through February 16, 2007.** Award Program guidelines and nomination forms are also available on our chapter website: <http://main.nc.us/nctws/>

Please forward nominations to: Dave Dudek, NCTWS Awards Committee Chair, Haywood Community College, Division of Natural Resources, 185 Freedlander Drive, Clyde, NC 28786 or ddudek@haywood.edu.

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 certificate or plaque and a letter of commendation signed by the Chapter President. Presentation to the recipient is typically made at the annual meeting of the Chapter.

TERRY SHARPE TO RETIRE

Terry Sharpe is preparing to Run For The Border – The Field Border That Is! On December 1, 2006, Terry Sharpe will be retiring after a distinguished career with the NCWRC. Terry has long been an active supporter of and participant in TWS. He was instrumental in creating the Susan Sharpe Memorial Fur Fish and Game Scholarship to help train and inspire the next generation of wildlife enthusiasts. In lieu of the traditional retirement gift, Terry has

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AWARD

This award is presented to individuals or groups within North Carolina 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 certificate or plaque presented to the recipient or organization at a time and location that is meaningful to the recipient and to the Chapter in terms of future interaction with others who work for the betterment of wildlife conservation.

STUDENT AWARD

The Ken Wilson Memorial Award is presented annually to a student or students, nominated by faculty members of the various 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, up to \$500, along with a certificate or plaque and a letter of commendation signed by the Chapter President.

requested donations to the Susan Sharpe fund. Donations can be made out to NCTWS with “Sharpe Fund” in the memo field and sent to PO Box 37742, Raleigh, NC 27627.



2007 NCTWS ANNUAL MEETING

By Chris DePerno

The Chapter's annual meeting will be held at Camp Kanuga Conference Center just outside of Hendersonville, NC on March 15-16, 2007. The theme will be "Fire on the Mountain" with all presentations during the first afternoon related to the use of prescribed fire to conserve habitats in western North Carolina. The morning session on March 16th will include contributed presentations on a variety of topics and the Chapter business meeting. A pre-conference tour/workshop on the morning of March 15th will visit the Fire and Fire Surrogate Study site and Table Mountain and pitch pine restoration burn sites on Green River Game Land located near Kanuga.

The Chapter is seeking submissions for contributed presentations during the morning of the second day of its 2007 Annual Meeting at Camp Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, NC. Presentations will last 20 minutes, including time for questions. Presentations can be on any topic related to wildlife ecology and management. Deadline for submission is February 1, 2007. Submissions should include a title, author's names and contacts, and an abstract not exceeding 200 words. Submissions should be sent to: Chris DePerno, 919-513-7559, chris.deperno@ncsu.edu.

Please Plan to Attend the
1st Annual Meeting of the



Wednesday, December 6, 2006
Asheboro, NC
NC Zoological Park
8:30 am – 4:45pm

The NCPFC is a collaborative effort of many agencies and individuals that recognize the important role of fire in North Carolina's landscape. This meeting will bring a wide variety of prescribed fire supporters together to learn and share ideas pertaining to the use of prescribed fire in our state. The council is actively inviting anyone who has interest to attend so that everyone can have a voice in shaping the goals of this new organization. CFE Credits will be available.

Participants: -Agency Personnel -Consulting Foresters
 -Contract Burners -Landowners
 -All Other Interested Public

For more information and a detailed schedule,
access the NCPFC website at
www.ncprescribedfirecouncil.org

Pre-Registration required by December 1st
Mail to: NCPFC c/o Ms. Jean Pittman
CB 8003, Raleigh NC 27695-8003
Phone: 919-515-5638

FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE SEMINARS FOR 2006-2007

A Partnership of NCSU's Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences Program and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC)

Location: Centennial Campus Center for Wildlife Education, Auditorium, 1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, 27606

Refreshments and Networking from 3:30-4:00 pm
Presentations from 4:00-5:00 pm

November 8, 2006 – "The Future of Hunting in Texas: Lessons for North Carolina"

Dr. Brown is the president of TWS and the new dean of the College of Natural Resources at NCSU. He moved to North Carolina from Texas in August 2006. In his presentation, Dr. Brown will discuss the changing demographics of Texas hunters, reasons for declining hunting license sales, and the fund-raising and strategic plan developed to protect the future of hunting in the state.

February 14, 2007 – "Thirty Years of Red Cockaded Woodpecker Management in North Carolina"

The presenter will be Dr. Phil Doerr, Professor of Forestry and Zoology in the Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences Program at NCSU.

March 14, 2007 – "The NCWRC's Land Acquisition Program for Wildlife Conservation"

Wib Owen, section manager for the Wildlife Management Division, will discuss the Commission's Land Acquisition Program, how lands are identified for purchase and how they are managed. He will explain how the land acquisition program fits with the Commission's overall goals for wildlife conservation.

April 11, 2007 – "Saving the World One Native Plant at a Time"

The spread of invasive, exotic plants poses a serious threat to native wildlife in North Carolina.

Dr. Chris Moorman, Associate Professor at NCSU, will discuss his collaborations with others to develop an outreach program, including presentations, extension pamphlets, a demonstration garden, and a web site, to encourage the use of native plants in urban landscaping. Afterwards, he will lead a short tour of the native plant landscape surrounding the WRC building.

For directions or parking information, contact:
Marti Kane, Program Coordinator
Centennial Campus Center for Wildlife Education
(919) 707-0203 or email marti.kane@ncwildlife.org

Zoology Seminars for 2006 - 2007

The Zoology Seminars are at 4:00 p.m. on Thursdays in 101 David Clark Labs at North Carolina State University, unless otherwise indicated, with refreshments served at 3:45.

November 16, 2006 - Jill Deppe, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, "Stopover ecology of Nearctic-Neotropical migrant land birds in the Yucatan Peninsula"

November 30, 2006 - Nicole Thurgate, NCSU, "The Ecology of the Endangered Dusky Gopher Frog (*Rana sevosa*) and a common Congener, the Southern Leopard Frog (*Rana sphenocéphala*)"

December 7, 2006 - Dr. Ryan Heise Aquatic Nongame Coordinator, NCWRC, "The Migratory Patterns of Gulf Sturgeon within the Pascagoula River Drainage, Mississippi, and Potential Influences on its Behavior"

January 11, 2007 - Elizabeth Losos, Duke University, Topic: To Be Determined.

January 18, 2007 - Alexa McKerrow, NCSU, Southeastern Gap Analysis: Mapping, Modeling and Applications for Conservation

THOUGHTS FROM ANCHORAGE ON THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY'S FIRST ANNUAL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

By Lori Williams

Last spring I had the privilege of being one of ten wildlife professionals chosen to participate in TWS's First Annual Leadership Institute. The Leadership Institute was created to prepare early-career wildlife professionals to be leaders, not only in TWS but also in our individual careers. The eight women and two men who composed our group represented state and federal agencies from all over the country. Throughout the spring and summer we completed various reading and writing assignments, held group discussions with our colleagues, and corresponded via e-mail with the other Institute participants. The course culminated with a trip in September to Anchorage, Alaska, for the 2006 TWS Annual Conference. At the conference, we observed a day and a half of TWS Council meetings, participated in student mentoring workshops and activities, and had group discussions with members of TWS Council and Staff.

As part of the application process, we each had to write an essay on our views of leadership (e.g., What is leadership? What qualities do good leaders possess?, etc.) As one of our final assignments in Anchorage, we were asked to discuss with the group and TWS Council and Staff what we had learned from the experience and how (or if) our view of leadership had changed. For most of us, myself included, our views of leadership had changed dramatically. Some of us experienced epiphanies or other watershed moments throughout the process that honed our views and perspectives about what good leadership looks like and what qualities individuals possess who are good leaders.

One particularly enlightening aspect I learned from the assignments is the importance of empowering others to become leaders and what exactly that entails. In this regard the leadership torch is passed from person to person and as a result, real change and real impact in our profession is possible.

For me, one assignment in particular hit home over all the others. In the process of reviewing a draft of a new book on leadership in the wildlife profession, we were asked to answer questions on each chapter. Many of these questions required us

to delve far into our past experiences and feelings to get at the crux of who we are as people today. I found this exercise particularly raw and rather visceral, and it made me think more than anything of how each of our past or present hurts and triumphs, virtues and vices, talents and shortcomings have shaped who we are as individuals and thus who we can be as future leaders.

The act of completing

some of these assignments was like holding a mirror up to myself, illuminating all of my flaws as well as desirable qualities that help define me as an individual, both personally and professionally. In that process, I learned what personal traits I have that could help or hinder me in my career and my progress toward becoming a leader in the wildlife profession. As a result of this knowledge, I began the journey toward growth and change.

Besides the assignments, one of the most rewarding experiences with the Institute was the opportunity to network and talk with TWS Council and Staff. Observing TWS leaders like Dr. Michael Hutchins (TWS Executive Director), Dr. John Organ (TWS President), and Dr. Robert Brown (TWS Past-President), in Council meetings and in our Institute group discussions taught me a lot about leadership and professionalism in action. To say TWS Council and Staff were role models in this regard is an understatement.

The chance to interact one-on-one with these folks was an incredible experience and one that any TWS member can have. I was surprised that no other TWS member at the conference chose to observe



Back row from left to right: Students from the TWS Leadership Institute: Katie Moriarty (California), Silka Kempema (South Dakota), Bridgette Flanders-Wanner (South Dakota), Mike Larson (Minnesota) and Erin Patrick (Oklahoma). Front row from center to right: Jordona Kirby (Kentucky), Raquel Wertsbaugh (Colorado), Lori Williams (North Carolina), Emily Munter (Nebraska). Not pictured: Sheldon Owens (South Carolina).

Council meetings, which are always open to the membership. I would encourage TWS members who attend the annual conference to take advantage of this open-door policy and observe the inner workings of the Council. My eyes were truly opened to the work that TWS does for wildlife, ranging from issuing position statements to politicians in Washington, D.C., to conducting technical reviews on hot-button issues. Members who take the time to observe these Council meetings will see first-hand our wildlife leadership in action and our national TWS chapter at work--for us, for wildlife, for all the reasons why we chose to dedicate ourselves to this profession in the first place.

Finally, as the alumni of the first Leadership Institute, my cohorts and I get the chance to

evaluate the course, offer suggestions for improvement, and discuss all the positive aspects of the experience. TWS will in turn track our progress over the years as wildlife professionals and invite us to participate in future mentoring and leadership activities at subsequent annual conferences.

Besides encouraging our NCTWS members to attend the annual conference and observe Council meetings (think of the networking opportunities if nothing else!), I would also like to urge early-career professionals to apply for future TWS Leadership Institutes. The chance to grow and learn as an individual as well as a wildlife professional and future leader is a worthwhile and valuable experience and one that I know will stay with me.

CONSERVATION HEROES!

Each year the North Carolina Wildlife Federation presents prestigious Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards, an effort to honor individuals, governmental bodies, organizations, and others who have exhibited an unwavering commitment to conservation in North Carolina. These are the highest natural resource honors given in the state. By recognizing, publicizing, and honoring these conservation leaders – young and old, professional and volunteer – the North Carolina Wildlife Federation hopes to inspire all North Carolinians to

take a more active role in protecting the natural resources of our state.

The nomination period for the 2006 Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards is open through December 18, 2006. These awards are presented each year at a gala banquet. Award recipients receive a handsome statuette and certificate. Nomination forms for the many categories of awards are available at www.ncwfw.org.

WANTED

Clear digital photographs of 2 mega pixels or higher of professionals across our state caught in the act of:

- Monitoring and researching wildlife populations,
- Educating children, the general public and special interest groups,
- Surveying for wildlife populations,
- Enforcing of wildlife laws and regulations,
- Administering agencies, and
- Managing of habitats to include maintaining, restoring, and utilizing.

Special Requests: Waterfowl banding, shorebird protection, bear research, picture of a person carving/painting birds and pictures of game species (alive) i.e. deer, turkey, quail, bear

On each photo, as a title, please place your name/subject name and send on CD to:

Laura M. Fogo
Sandhills RCW Recovery Sub Office
P.O. Box 119
Southern Pines, NC 28388

The photographs will be used for posters, display boards and on the NCTWS web site to educate and promote our profession.

NCTWS CREATES TWO NEW STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUNDS

By Pete Campbell

The NCTWS Executive Board is pleased to announce that our state chapter has entered into two new partnerships establishing two new student scholarship endowment funds, at NCSU and Haywood Community College (HCC). On October 11, 2006 President John Ann Shearer signed two Memorandums of Agreement with the NC Forestry Foundation, Inc. and the Haywood Community College Foundation, Inc.

The agreement between the NCTWS and the NC Forestry Foundation, Inc. creates an endowment that will provide an annual NCTWS Fisheries and Wildlife Summer Camp Scholarship for one or more undergraduate students attending the Fisheries and Wildlife Summer Camp at Hill Forest. The intent of this endowment is to support undergraduate student(s) enrolled in the Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences Program at NCSU who are required to attend summer camp.



Jennifer Viets Catalano of the NCSU Forestry Foundation (right) presents Chapter President John Ann Shearer with a plaque commemorating the NCTWS Fisheries and Wildlife Summer Camp Scholarship established by the NCTWS. A matching plaque will be hung in the College of Natural Resources at NCSU.

The NCTWS agreement with the HCC Foundation, Inc. establishes a similar endowment that will provide an annual NCTWS Wildlife Internship Scholarship for one or more undergraduate students participating in the wildlife internship experience at HCC.

A minimum principal of \$15,000 is needed in each endowment fund to pay for one student scholarship



at each school because the interest income, and not the principal, from these endowments will be used to fund the annual scholarships. To be eligible for either scholarship, a student(s) must be actively engaged in a student chapter of the NCTWS and participate in NCTWS activities.

NCTWS Board and Committee Chairs watch the signing of agreements with NCSU and Haywood Community College to establish a Foundation Scholarship from NCTWS. Pictured left to right are: Brady Beck, Don Seriff, Susan Campbell, Danny Ray, John Ann Shearer, Jeff Hall, Mark Johns, Chris Moorman, Jeff Marcus, and Pete Campbell.

Until we achieve a \$15,000 principal in endowment fund, the Chapter will continue to provide an annual scholarship to one student from each of the NC student chapters. For information on how you can make a donation to either endowment fund, please contact Pete Campbell at pete_campbell@fws.gov.

NCTWS MEMBER PROFILES

In each newsletter a couple of our nearly 200 chapter members are featured so that we can get to know each other better, gain a greater appreciate for each other, and work together more effectively on our common wildlife mission.

Melody Scott



Current Position and Employer and location: Office Manager, Environmental Defense (a national nonprofit environmental organization), Raleigh, NC

How long have you been with this employer? Almost 17 years

Phone number and/or e-mail: 919-881-2911; msscott@environmentaldefense.org

Education: B.A. Economics, NCSU, B.A. Business Management, NCSU

What other work experience do you have? I worked for 15 years in banking, going from an executive assistant to an assistant VP and manager of the bankcard division. But, after 15 years I realized that I needed to do something that I thought would make a difference. Since my background was not in wildlife biology, I went for the next best thing.

Why did you go into a wildlife career? While I do not have a wildlife career, it is a passionate interest. With the help of TWS members such as Mark Johns and Chris Moorman, I have had the opportunity to get in the field and learn much about the native flora and fauna of North Carolina. I'm a TWS member because I believe strongly that we need to have intelligent, caring people who do get the educational background necessary to make wildlife their profession.

Have you always been interested in wildlife? Yes, I was lucky to have grown up at a time when even north Raleigh had "real" woods and streams and that I had the freedom to roam those woods after school. I also give my older brothers (I was the youngest and only girl) credit for my learning that I didn't need to fear critters. My brothers would try

to scare me, but I was so busy making sure that I didn't show any fear that I really didn't feel any fear. Eventually, I realized that I loved all these creatures. Some of my favorite critters are, what many would consider, the less charismatic ones!

What has been the highlight of your wildlife career so far? While I don't have a wildlife career, I do serve on the board for Wake Audubon Society (WAS). One of the things I respect about WAS is that we care about all wildlife (and native flora), not just birds. I'm most happy getting out in the field with an expert and learning, but I have also learned that I can lead walks. While I don't have extensive knowledge I would like to have, I can involve others on the walk in sharing their areas of expertise with the group.

What species or habitat do you know most about or work with the most? Through WAS we have been developing a "piedmont prairie" at one of Raleigh's parks (Anderson Point Park). This has given me the opportunity to learn more about the grasses and wildflowers we have lost to development and about some of the species that depend on this type of habitat, such as the American woodcock and the Eastern meadowlark.

Where is the most interesting place you have traveled? I've been fortunate in having taken a number of very interesting trips, but I guess the most "different" place I've been to is the Galapagos. I fell completely in love with the marine iguanas. And, while we were there, both red-footed (NCSU) and blue-footed (UNC) boobies were hanging around. I, of course, was partial to the red-footed boobies! I also was lucky enough to snorkel-and-swim with sea lions and schools of fish.

What song, quote, or movie title sums up your life philosophy? I live a very hectic life (as I'm sure we all do). But, given that, perhaps an appropriate song would be "Tomorrow" from "Annie;" after all, tomorrow is just a day away, and I'm SURE I'll have more time then . . .

Marek Smith



Current Position and Employer and location:
Natural Resources Coordinator,
Mecklenburg County Division of Natural Resources, Charlotte, NC

How long have you been with this employer: 9 years

Phone number and/or email: 704-432-1389, marek.smith@mecklenburgcountync.gov

Education: B.S. in Biology from Virginia Tech, M.S. in Biology from UNC-Charlotte

Where did you grow up: Lynchburg, VA (30 minutes from "Warbler Road" and the Blue Ridge Mountains, 90 minutes from HokieLand)

What other work experience do you have? I was previously an Environmental Education Specialist and Environmental Education Supervisor for my current employer, worked as a field biologist for several consulting firms, worked part-time at two small nature centers in Virginia, and for my first job out of college, tested soil and water samples for an environmental engineering firm.

Have you always been interested in wildlife and why did you go into a wildlife career? I grew up in the outdoors, as most of our generation did. Catching crayfish and climbing trees after school. Hunting and fishing with my father on the weekends. That exposure to nature grew into a special interest for birds and birding. My first ornithology class at Tech sealed the deal.

What species or habitat do you know most about or work with the most? Cavity-nesting birds have always been my love, and my master's thesis was on barn owls. Barn owls don't nest in Mecklenburg County anymore, so unfortunately I don't get to work with them much. Our management efforts here focus mostly on grassland, prairie, and other early successional habitat restoration, so I hold out hope that one day they will return. I also have the

opportunity to work with some of the world's rarest plants, such as Schwenitz's sunflower. I'd love to further explore the plant-animal interactions of this species such as insect pollinators, seed dispersal mechanisms, and its reliance on soil disturbance caused by large herbivores such as bison.

What was your most embarrassing experience in the field? Tossing my cookies after a rocky flight in a small Cessna surveying for Bald Eagles along the Yadkin-Pee Dee River system. Despite a tendency for motion sickness, that was the first time I had been sick after logging over 200 hours through 2 ½ years of flights. It was supposed to get better the more you fly, not worse.

What do you see as the greatest challenge for wildlife professionals? Continuing to recruit young people to the field. With children spending less time in the outdoors than ever before (and thus developing those special bonds with nature) and colleges eliminating field biology programs from their curriculum, where will the future wildlife biologists and resource managers come from?

What advice would you give someone just starting out in wildlife? Take advantage of every opportunity. There are so many seasonal jobs, internships, and volunteer opportunities available today. I wish sources such as the Ornithological Newsletter had been around 20 years ago. I envy our college-age youth today who can gain so many relevant experiences on their summer breaks or can spend their immediate years post-graduation traveling the country and trying different seasonal jobs.

Where is the most interesting place you have traveled? The inside passage of Alaska. Whales, orcas, 20 new life birds, brown bears, seemingly endless wilderness, temperate rainforest, breathtaking views at every turn – what more could you ask for?

What are your hobbies? Birding, backpacking, canoeing, gardening – many of the same things I enjoyed as a child. My father and I don't get to do much fishing and birding together anymore, so now we just compete to see who will grow the first ripe tomato of the season. This year, I won the honors ☺

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

North Carolina Chapter
P.O. Box 37742
Raleigh, NC 27627