

# NC Wildlifer: The Feral Report

JANUARY 2007 ♦ NC CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY ♦ VOL. 23 NO. 1

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Fire On The Mountain! What an excellent theme for the North Carolina Chapter of The Wildlife Society (NCTWS) 2007 Annual Meeting to be held at Camp Kanuga, near Hendersonville on March 15 and 16, 2007. I hope that you will make your plans now to attend. As wildlife professionals, we are well aware of the value of fire in managing habitats for wildlife. Now, more than ever we are confronted with barriers to prescribed burning that we will have to face strategically for the benefit of the species that we are charged to manage. The annual meeting will kick off with a pre-conference workshop demonstrating the use of fire on a couple sites in the mountains. The meeting itself will include presentations on the need for increasing burning in the mountains, the value of fire in particular natural communities, and strategies for educating the public on the values of prescribed fire.

Traditionally, the funds that keep NCTWS running are raised this time of year and culminate around the annual meeting. You will find an opportunity to renew your membership in this newsletter. Membership dues are the main source of our functional budget. There will also be raffles and a silent auction. The proceeds will go to North Carolina State University (NCSU) and Haywood Community College (HCC) awards and scholarships and to the Susan Sharpe Fur, Fish, and Game scholarship. I encourage you to explore the

ways that NCTWS raises its operating budget and decide how you might contribute.

One highlight of our annual business meeting on the second day of the annual meeting is the Awards presentations. It is a great honor for Chapter members to recognize those among them who effect a change on the landscape. Look for the article in the newsletter on the types of awards and take time to consider those you have worked with who are deserving of recognition.

Also in this newsletter you will find a slate of candidates for office for NCTWS in 2007. I ask that you study their credentials and cast your vote. The officers will steer NCTWS, but they alone do not run the Chapter. It takes every member participating on the Chapter committees to make a difference. I hope that you will consider how you might contribute your time to NCTWS this year and join or lead a committee.

One of the main reasons people tell me that they value membership in NCTWS is the networking and interaction opportunities. We learn from and enjoy the comradeship of our fellow wildlifers. The annual meeting is a great time to do just that. I look forward to seeing you there!

*– 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:

<http://www.nctws.org>

### 2006-2007 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Position	Officer	Phone	Email address
President	John Ann Shearer	919-856-4520, ext. 17	<a href="mailto:JohnAnn_Shearer@fws.gov">JohnAnn_Shearer@fws.gov</a>
President-elect	Don Seriff	704-432-1391	<a href="mailto:Donald.Seriff@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov">Donald.Seriff@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov</a>
Past President	Chris Moorman	919-515-5578	<a href="mailto:chris_moorman@ncsu.edu">chris_moorman@ncsu.edu</a>
Secretary	Danny Ray	336-562-5066	<a href="mailto:danielray@earthlink.net">danielray@earthlink.net</a>
Treasurer	Joe Folta	919-269-2767	<a href="mailto:foltaje@bellsouth.net">foltaje@bellsouth.net</a>
Board	Susan Campbell	910-949-3207	<a href="mailto:susan@ncaves.com">susan@ncaves.com</a>
Board	Jeff Hall	252-633-7698, ext. 4017	<a href="mailto:jeff.g.hall@earthlink.net">jeff.g.hall@earthlink.net</a>
SE Section Rep	Chris Moorman	919-515-5578	<a href="mailto:chris_moorman@ncsu.edu">chris_moorman@ncsu.edu</a>
<b><i>Ad Hoc Representatives</i></b>			
Leopold Wildlife Club (NCSU)	Gabe Karns		<a href="mailto:grkarns@unity.ncsu.edu">grkarns@unity.ncsu.edu</a>
Haywood Community College	Kasey Strganac		

### 2006-2007 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

## CHAPTER OFFICER NOMINATIONS

Please review the following officer candidate nomination information and then **complete and return the enclosed ballot for the 2007 term**. Thanks for participating in this important process. The election of officers is an important step to ensure the future success of the chapter and its initiatives. **Please note: Ballots can also be submitted at the Annual Meeting on March 15, 2007 or via mail by February 15, 2007. You can also elect to vote for a write-in candidate.**

### Mark Johns is the only candidate for President-Elect

**NAME:** Mark Johns

**OFFICE:** President-Elect

**PRESENT CAREER POSITION:** Partners in Flight Biologist, NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC)

**FORMER CAREER POSITIONS:** Chief Naturalist, Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve

**EDUCATION:** B.S. Fisheries and Wildlife Science, NCSU; M.L.S. Zoology, NCSU

**TWS ACTIVITIES:** First became a member of The Wildlife Society (TWS) in the late 1980's while at NCSU. Currently Chair of the NCTWS Professional Development Committee and member of the Education and Outreach Committee. Past Chair of the NCTWS Conservation Review Committee and also served as Secretary and At-Large Executive Board member of the NCTWS chapter. Recognized as a *Certified Wildlife Biologist* in 2000 by TWS.

**AFFILIATIONS:** Member of TWS at state, regional and national levels. Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, Wilson Ornithological Society,

Carolina Bird Club, Wake Audubon, NC Herpetological Society, Carolina Butterfly Society, and Southern Appalachian Botanical Society.

**VIEWS:** If given the opportunity as President-Elect, I look forward in the coming years to helping the board and membership build on the outstanding work carried out recently by the NCTWS Executive Board. The membership of the state chapter and our board is becoming more diverse and this needs to continue, and the board needs to continue to provide varied professional development opportunities for natural resource professionals. We need to continue to increase and improve upon our chapter communication methods and build progressive partnerships to further chapter goals and objectives, while also remaining fiscally responsible as a chapter. The voice of your chapter needs to be heard via the board throughout the state and region relating to important wildlife management and conservation issues and initiatives in the coming years.

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### Joe Folta is the only candidate for Treasurer

**NAME:** Joe Folta

**OFFICE:** Treasurer

**PRESENT CAREER POSITION:** District 3 Wildlife Biologist (NCWRC)

**FORMER CAREER POSITIONS:**

- Forest Stewardship Biologist (NCWRC)
- Wildlife Technician (NCWRC)
- Biological Science (Wildlife) Technician (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service [USFWS])
- Park Ranger (PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources)
- Wildlife Technician (PA Game Commission)

**EDUCATION:**

- Current: PhD student In Fisheries & Wildlife Science (NCSU)
- 1997: MS degree in Wildlife & Fisheries Science (University of Tennessee)

- 1992: BS degree in Environmental & Forest Biology – Wildlife Concentration (SUNY-CESF)
- 1990: AS degree in Biology (Finger Lakes Community College)
- 1988: AAS degree in Natural Resources Conservation (Finger Lakes Community College)

**TWS ACTIVITIES:**

- Currently serving as the NCTWS Treasurer
- Member of the National TWS Chapter
- Certified Wildlife Biologist

**AFFILIATIONS:**

- International Association for Bear Research & Management

**VIEWS:** The challenges that we face as wildlife professionals continue to grow and become more complex. As professionals we need to meet these challenges head-on. We should take an active role

and make our collective voice heard regarding management of our natural resources. We must not stop fighting those long battles (e.g., OLF).

Sound science must serve as the basis of our decision-making process to maintain our credibility. Although, wildlife management can be somewhat of an art, we must not lose sight of the science. We should investigate new techniques for research and management. I had a professor that made a statement to our class many years ago regarding credibility and it has always stayed with me. He said, that when all comes down to a dispute between two opposing views, "the one with the

most information and the most credibility wins the argument." It should be a primary focus of TWS to strive to gain as much information as possible and strive to maintain our high level of credibility.

We should strive to educate as many as we can. The public can be our best ally or our worst enemy as we face the challenges ahead. We need to educate the public and gain their support. We need to educate ourselves. We should not stop expanding our own knowledge and be willing and able to share that knowledge with other professionals. After all, we are a team striving for the same goal – a better environment.

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**Christopher DePerno, Lori Williams, Jeff Hall, and Salinda Daley**  
**are candidates for Executive Board (At-Large)**

**NAME:** Christopher S. DePerno  
**OFFICE:** Executive Board (At-Large)  
**PRESENT CAREER POSITION:** Assistant Professor, NCSU  
**FORMER CAREER POSITIONS:** Research Scientist/Farmland Deer Project Leader, MN DNR  
**EDUCATION:** B.S. in Pre-graduate Biology from Central Michigan University in 1990, an M.S. in Biology from Purdue University in 1994, and a Ph.D. in Wildlife and Fisheries Management from South Dakota State University in 1998.  
**TWS ACTIVITIES:** I have been a member of TWS since 1994. Since 2004, I have been a member of the Honorary Membership and Recognition Committee. I have been active with the Public Conservation Education and Extension Working Group and Wildlife Damage Management Working Group. I have been a member of the Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) of TWS and was actively involved with the program committee for the CMPS 2003 annual meeting. Also, I was a member of the North Central Section of TWS. Currently, I am a member of the Southeastern Section of TWS. I have been a member of the Minnesota Chapter of TWS and active with the Farmland Committee. Since 1994, I have been active with the South Dakota Chapter of TWS. I was chairperson of the Membership Committee for three years and chairperson of the Best Paper Awards Ad-hoc Committee. Currently, I am a member of the NCTWS and I am assisting with the 2007 annual meeting program. I have been active with the South Dakota State University Student Chapter of TWS. Currently, I am the advisor for the Leopold Wildlife Club, the NCSU

student chapter of TWS. Since 1994, I have been a reviewer for The Journal of Wildlife Management. I have been a Certified Wildlife Biologist since 2002.  
**AFFILIATIONS:** I have been a member of the American Society of Mammalogists since 1994. Since 1997, I have been a member of the Great Plains Natural Science Society ([GPNSS], publishes the Prairie Naturalist). I served as President elect from 2003-2004, President from 2004-2006, and am currently serving as past-president. With the GPNSS, I have served as chairperson of the arrangement, audit, and program committees. I am involved with the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program and I am a member of the Science and Technical Advisory Committee. Additionally, I am a member of the Jack H. Berryman Institute Scientific Advisory Panel.  
**VIEWS:** As professionals, I believe it imperative that we be active at all levels of TWS including the national, regional, and state levels. I am running for Executive Board Member of the North Carolina Chapter to become involved and lend support for increasing awareness and appreciation of wildlife and wildlife values in North Carolina. My goal is to promote proper use of wildlife and natural resources through science and education. Throughout my career, my experience has taught me the value of laboratory research, the publication process, and the value of research and publishing to the scientific community and the public. I have observed the use of credible science to implementing sound environmental positions. The development, support, and use of credible science will be of even greater importance in the future.

**NAME:** Lori A. Williams  
**OFFICE:** Executive Board (At-Large)  
**PRESENT CAREER POSITION:** Mountain Wildlife Diversity Biologist, NCWRC  
**FORMER CAREER POSITIONS:** Biological Assistant, VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries; Graduate Research Assistant, Virginia Tech; GIS Technician, Conservation Management Institute, Virginia Tech  
**EDUCATION:** BS English, Appalachian State University (1993); BS Wildlife Science, Virginia Tech (2000); MS Fisheries and Wildlife, Virginia Tech (2004)  
**TWS ACTIVITIES:** TWS member (national, regional, state); member of Biological Diversity working group; TWS Leadership Institute Class of 2006, Anchorage, AK; former member of Virginia Tech student chapter; led TWS workshop on salamander I.D. and field techniques; currently serving as a TWS mentor  
**AFFILIATIONS:** NC Herpetological Society (currently Secretary); Project Bog Turtle; NC Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (NCPARC); NCPARC Research, Inventory, Monitoring, and Management (RIMM) Working Group; Society for Conservation Biology  
**VIEWS:** A former professor of mine at Virginia Tech instilled in me the idea that wildlife management is both an art and a science. After three years in the profession, I have seen and experienced this concept first-hand. I believe that we can never underestimate good science in the pursuit of conservation. To do "good science" also means that we, as professional biologists, maintain our scientific credibility at all times so we can be effective agents of conservation and science-based management. One of the biggest personal

challenges I often face is walking the fine line between remaining value-neutral and being an advocate for conservation, the whole reason why I changed careers to follow my heart in the first place.

The "art" side of our profession, I believe, starts with a savvy for dealing with people. As we have all come to realize, the nuts and bolts of our profession is often managing people and their activities and not necessarily working with animals themselves. Finding creative ways to relate to private landowners and the general public will play an increasingly critical role in the future as our state's population continues to grow and land use patterns continue to change. Along with this idea comes the importance of forging partnerships with other agencies, NGOs, volunteer groups, citizen scientists, and academia to accomplish management and conservation objectives. This artistic side of our profession also prompts the need to be creative and seek new tools we can use to meet our goals, whether these tools are outreach and education, land acquisition and conservation easements, landowner agreements, or adaptive management principles, for example.

Finally, I believe there ought to be a sustainable balance between the needs of wildlife and people, between habitat conservation and how people use the land, between population growth, consumption, and conservation of our natural resources—how to find this balance is another question. This is the seminal challenge of our careers and one that will continue to motivate me personally to be the best wildlife biologist I can be now and in the future.

**NAME:** Jeff Hall  
**OFFICE:** Executive Board (At-Large)  
**PRESENT CAREER POSITION:** Coastal Region Herpetologist, NCWRC  
**FORMER CAREER POSITIONS:** Environmental Coordinator, Weyerhaeuser's Cool Springs Environmental Education Center; Field Manager, Department of Defense Legacy Amphibian Project; Environmental Educator, Imagination Station; Assistant Director of Environmental Daycamp, Betsy-Jeff Penn 4-H Center; Field Technician, NCSU; Naturalist Intern, Nags Head Woods.  
**EDUCATION:** M.S. in Biology from East Carolina University, B.S. from Wake Forest University

**TWS ACTIVITIES:** Have led mini-workshops on reptiles and amphibians, assisted with several mini-workshops on birds and plants, presented at NCTWS 2003 annual meeting.

**AFFILIATIONS:** NC Herpetological Society, NC Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, NC Partners in Flight, Environmental Educators of NC, NC Association of Environmental Education Centers, Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, and The Herpetologists' League

**VIEWS:** I am committed to quality wildlife biology and research and am a strong advocate for environmental education and responsible resource management.

**NAME:** Salinda Daley  
**OFFICE:** Executive Board (At-Large)  
**PRESENT CAREER POSITION:** Birding Trail Coordinator, NCWRC  
**FORMER CAREER POSITIONS:** Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator, NCWRC  
**EDUCATION:** B.S. in Wildlife Biology, University of Rhode Island, 1998; M.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife, NCSU, 2002  
**TWS ACTIVITIES:** Member of TWS since 1995; Active in URI Student Chapter, 1995-1998; Co-chair of NCTWS Conservation Review Committee since 2005  
**AFFILIATIONS:** Associate Wildlife Biologist, TWS  
**VIEW:** Becoming involved in NCTWS over the past few years has been a very rewarding experience for me. I count myself lucky to say that, truthfully, I really enjoy the day-to-day work that my job involves. NCTWS has simply added an additional layer of impact and meaningfulness to

my career. In a very direct sense, my involvement in NCTWS gives me satisfaction that I'm making a difference for wildlife in North Carolina and that I'm contributing to efforts beyond my immediate work circle. I view NCTWS as an avenue for combining the best expertise in the state into a single voice, and as a legitimate sounding board to express views and opinions that matter about wildlife. My work on the Conservation Review Committee has brought me face-to-face with issues and topics that I would never have been involved in with my current position. NCTWS is my primary source for continuous learning, professional development, and networking. I'd like to extend my participation in NCTWS in the coming year by running for the At-large Board position so that, beyond my continued efforts on the Conservation Review Committee, I can have a voice in the future for NCTWS and its members.

## NEWS FROM OUR CHAPTER COMMITTEES

### EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

By Laura Fogo and Jamie Sasser

The Education and Information Committee met on August 21 to continue the development of a strategic plan including a mission, goals, and tasks. The committee will be meeting again in Raleigh on January 29. Agenda items will include an events

calendar, media contact list, chapter brochure, fact sheet, poster display for the annual meeting, and nominations for a new chair. Contact Laura Fogo for details on the meeting at [Laura.Fogo@fws.gov](mailto:Laura.Fogo@fws.gov).

### MENTOR PROGRAM

By Brady Beck

There are currently 12 students signed up for the Mentor program, 11 of whom are matched with a professional. The committee will poll both the professionals and the students before the annual meeting to get feedback on the program.

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](mailto:brady_beck@alltel.net).

### CONSERVING OUR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION HERITAGE

By Bob Hazel and Jon Heisterburg

In November 2006 Bob Hazel, Ted Dossett (retired NCWRC Conservation and Education), Carl Betsill, and Jon Heisterburg met to identify COWCH-related

equipment to purchase and set up interview schedules. Interviews will resume after the new year.

## **CONSERVATION REVIEW**

**By Salinda Daley and Mike Begier**

### **Committee Guidelines**

The Conservation Review Committee (CRC) has recently drafted guidelines that will allow the committee to better determine if/when it is appropriate to pursue a letter of support (or objection) versus a position or policy statement. These guidelines should make the work of the committee more efficient and effective and should benefit the long-term cohesion and momentum of the committee. After final comments and discussion by the Board, these guidelines will be approved and implemented.

### **CRC Binder**

A binder documenting all of the work of the CRC is currently being developed. The binder will function as a tool to keep organized records of the work of the committee, and it will also be useful to new committee chairs when leadership shifts occur. A few of the important components of the binder will include:

- Organization by-laws
- National TWS position statements
- Official comments submitted by the NCTWS Board
- Current initiative/partnership information (e.g., Teaming With Wildlife, Land for Tomorrow)

### **Position Statements**

Early in 2007, the CRC will be calling together a committee to assist in the development of an NCTWS position statement regarding forest management practices. This position statement will build from the national TWS position statement entitled *Recognition of Wildlife Needs in Forest Management* and will be specific to North Carolina. It will clarify the NCTWS position on timber harvest, prescribed fire, plantings, the value of early successional habitat, and invasive plant species management. Other position statements, focusing on just one particular topic, may follow. If you are interested in serving on the committee to develop this position statement, please contact Mike ([mike.begier@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:mike.begier@aphis.usda.gov)) or Salinda ([salinda.daley@earthlink.net](mailto:salinda.daley@earthlink.net)).

### **Committee Membership**

The committee is actively seeking individuals to contribute toward the development of this position statement. Also, general assistance as CRC topics arise would be appreciated; please contact Mike or Salinda if you desire to become involved.

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

**By Jeff Marcus**

The Membership Committee met on November 8 to craft a strategy for membership recruitment. The primary charge of the committee is to recruit and retain members for the state and national chapters. The committee determined that in order to be effective in recruiting members, they have to tailor a message to a specific audience. We outlined the reasons people are involved with NCTWS and identified potential audiences. We agreed to target one audience at a time and once headway was made, then one committee member would follow up with that group while the rest of the committee moved on to the next target group. The first audience will be students because of the potential for greater long-term pay offs.

On December 7 the Membership Committee held a focus group meeting at the Turner House with ~10 NCSU wildlife students recruited by Will Ricks. The group was a mix of grad and undergrad, members and non-members, men and women. The discussion focused on which aspects of TWS will be most attractive to students to make it more likely for them to become members or increase participation. We also discussed which methods of communicating with students will be most effective. After the committee distills the results, we will determine if additional inquiries into motivational factors for students is warranted (including considering students from other institutions), and then craft a plan for recruiting students.

## 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://www.nctws.org>.

Please forward nominations to: Dave Dudek, NCTWS Awards Committee Chair, HCC, Division of Natural Resources, 185 Freedlander Drive, Clyde, NC 28786 or [ddudek@haywood.edu](mailto: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.



### 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.

### SUSAN SHARPE MEMORIAL FUR, FISH, AND GAME SCHOLARSHIP GROWS

Many wildlifers and friends contributed to the Susan Sharpe Memorial Fur, Fish, and Game scholarship in honor of Terry Sharpe upon his retirement in December. Contributions totaled \$3,636, bringing the balance of this account to \$5,136.19. Thanks to all for your generous contributions.

## HAYWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT CHAPTER

By Kasey Strganac, President

In addition to our rigorous academic endeavors this fall semester, HCC student chapter members:

- planned and manned a "mini" wildlife conclave team field competition for the annual meeting of the NCWRC Wildlife Management Division held at Lake Logan;
- conducted Haywood County Big Sweep clean streams day removing over two tons of debris from nearly four miles of stream.
- participated in the HCC Opportunity Showcase, a Natural Resources Division college recruitment event targeting all Haywood County public school students.
- hosted a Student Government Association sponsored "Spring Fling" with hands-on activities focusing on exposing our student

body to technical skills used in the wildlife profession.

- volunteered considerable time toward NCWRC gill-netting surveys of mountain lakes and SCDNR hunter surveys on public dove fields.

The HCC student chapter is currently preparing for the Southeastern Wildlife Conclave competition through after-hours study sessions. Monies raised through raffles (competition bow / lifetime sportsman license) will help to defray travel expenses. We are looking forward to this year's event hosted by UGA.

## INTRODUCING--CHAPTER WEBSITE!

By Susan Miller

The NC Chapter is pleased to announce that we have a newly designed website with an easy-to-remember address [www.nctws.org](http://www.nctws.org).

The Wildlife Society (national organization) has recently redesigned its website (<http://www.wildlife.org/>) and is planning to provide new tools for each chapter, section, and working group to better manage their own content.

The NC Chapter executive board and education & information committee have lots of great ideas about what kinds of information will be added to

the new website in the coming months and I hope that each of you will also send any suggestions, ideas or photographs to me at [susan\\_miller@fws.gov](mailto:susan_miller@fws.gov).



I hope that you will view this tool as an effective way of communicating our common goals and ideas, not only among ourselves, but to potential new members and other wildlife professionals.

### NCPARC ANNUAL MEETING

The 2007 North Carolina Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (NCPARC) annual meeting will be held March 21-22 at "The Summit" located just north of Greensboro. Please mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend. Registration information will be sent out shortly and will be available on the NCPARC website ([www.ncparc.org](http://www.ncparc.org)).

This year's meeting will focus on inventory and monitoring techniques and will be conducted in a workshop style format with considerable "hands-on" activities planned. In addition, this year's meeting will feature a poster session. This poster session is designed to allow students and faculty from universities and colleges to present their work and for agencies and NGOs to present their herp-related projects. Poster topics should relate to NC herps and be in some way relevant to conservation. Please send authors and titles for posters to [jeff.g.hall@earthlink.net](mailto:jeff.g.hall@earthlink.net) which is my new email address.

## THE CAROLINA HERP ATLAS

By Steven Price

Have you ever seen an eastern kingsnake in your backyard or found a Fowler's toad on your porch and wondered if wildlife biologists needed to know about it? These observations are important and now there is a place to submit your observations that can help with the conservation of amphibians and reptiles in the Carolinas: The Carolina Herp Atlas (CHA). The CHA, developed by the Davidson College Herpetology Laboratory and Davidson College Information Technology Services, is a new, online database that uses observations by citizen scientists to track reptile and amphibian distributions in North and South Carolina. Funded by the NCWRC, the CHA also allows users a simple way to maintain a personal database of the reptiles and amphibians they observe. County-level distribution maps can be viewed by anyone who visits the website. Wildlife biologists and herpetologists can use these data to understand activity periods, habitat relationships, distribution, conservation status and other facets of amphibian

and reptile ecology in North Carolina. How does the CHA work? Before you can submit records, you must first register and set-up a "My Herps" account. Once you register, you are able to add records and



Red-bellied watersnake.

keep track of your observations. Each observation should include: 1) state and county, 2) genus and species, 3) date, 4) location, 5) geographic coordinates (using our GeoLocator) 6) remarks, 7) and a digital photo for verification of the species identification. The GeoLocator allows the user to pinpoint the exact location of their herp observation.

So, if you want to help conserve amphibians and reptiles in the Carolinas, then tell us where they are. Submit your observations to the Carolina Herp Atlas at [www.carolinaherpatlas.org](http://www.carolinaherpatlas.org).

## ANNUAL MEETING—SILENT AUCTION

By Susan Campbell and Pete Campbell

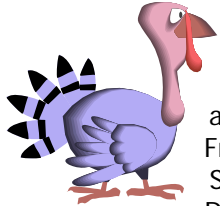
Items are being solicited for the silent auction that will be held Thursday evening directly following dinner. Although perhaps not as entertaining as live auctions of the past, this format was very successful last year. We raised over \$1,000 in scholarship funds from 76 separate items. We are again looking for a variety of wildlife-related donations such as artwork, books, and bird feeders as well as outdoor apparel and hunting accessories. This is our biggest fund raising opportunity of the year in support of wildlife students so please make every effort that you can to provide us with some quality items.

We encourage you to approach local businesses for donations. All items received will be tax-deductible. A vendor solicitation letter can be downloaded from the NCTWS site to assist you in this process. We will recognize businesses for their contributions.

Please indicate whether you will be bringing a donation for the auction on your meeting registration form. No item is too small! We simply ask that it be new or "lightly used." We will be collecting these items at the desk when you check in at the conference center.

## 2007 NCTWS EXPEDITIONS

NCTWS will again be conducting three raffles for expeditions hosted by NC Wildlifers. Tickets and instructions will be reaching you soon via e-mail. The format will be similar to last year, but we have added a trip or two to choose from.



Raffle number one will be for one of the three following spring turkey trips. The winner will choose either a Coastal Plain hunting trip with Vic French, a Piedmont trip with Mike Seamster, or a mountain trip with David Allen.

The second raffle will be for the winner's choice of a trip on the Roanoke with David Cobb for stripers, an inshore salt water trip with Ken Shughart, a mountain trout trip with David Woody, or a hands-

on catfish trip in the PeeDee River with Lincoln Sadler and Terry Sharpe.

The third expedition will be a choice of a deer hunt in the Edgecombe-Greene County area with Glenn Smith and David Cobb or a trip to Howell Woods to hunt for deer and wild hogs that Jamie Sasser will coordinate.

Last year these raffles raised almost \$1,000 for TWS projects. Let's work hard to make it worthwhile for the members who have volunteered their time and hunting and fishing spots and so that the State Chapter will have adequate funds to accomplish projects. The chapter member who sells the most raffle tickets wins a hunting or fishing trip of their choice. They can choose from the list of remaining trips once the raffle winners have made their selections.

## WANTED: CHAPTER ARCHIVIST VOLUNTEER

By Don Seriff, President-Elect

The Executive Board is searching for someone who would be interested in serving as an Archivist for a



project that would compile a historical record of the NCTWS Chapter from its founding to the present. The Board values the

contributions of its members over the past 20+ years and we believe the historical context of the Chapter is significant for us to preserve. The goal would be to research information and locate, obtain, and organize existing documentation about the Chapter before this information is lost forever. It is anticipated that this would be a two year commitment.

In general, the duties of the archivist would be to interview founding members of the Chapter and collect and compile oral history information, photographs, and documents relating to the Chapter's early years. The archivist would plan and

organize systems and procedures for the permanent safekeeping of both printed and digital records and other documents that may be considered historically valuable and would compile a summary of these records to share with the Chapter membership and outside parties.

Tasks may include:

- conducting informal interviews of early Chapter members;
- acquiring and organizing early newsletters and other Chapter records;
- evaluating the importance of records for preservation and retention;
- managing information and records and creating a protocol for Chapter archival procedures;
- identifying ways of permanently protecting and preserving the collection;
- preparing a concise biographical profile of the Chapter and its activities.

Interested? Please contact John Ann Shearer or Don Seriff for more information.

## 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 appreciation for each other, and work together more effectively on our common wildlife mission.

### Cathryn H. Greenberg



Search for the elusive scrub jay

**What you're called:** Anything but late for dinner (usually Katie)

**Current Position and Employer and location:** I am a research ecologist for the

U.S. Forest Service Southern Research Station at the Bent Creek Experimental Forest in Asheville, N.C.

### How long have you been with this employer?

For about 15 years (11 in Asheville).

**Phone number and/or e-mail:** (828) 667-5261, ext. 118; kgreenberg@fs.fed.us

**Education:** I have a BA in philosophy from the George Washington University, a MS in wildlife ecology from the University of Tennessee, and a PhD in wildlife ecology from the University of Florida

**Where did you grow up?** Washington, D.C.

### What other work experience do you have?

Before working for the Forest Service I had many short-term jobs. These included volunteering for six months for resource management in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP), working as a seasonal park interpretive-naturalist for GSMNP for two summers, working as a field technician on a vegetation crew for GSMNP, working as a field assistant on a small cat project in Belize, and working for two years as a biologist for the Florida Department of Transportation.

**Why did you go into a wildlife career?** It's an opportunity to explore the wonders of nature and contribute to what I deeply believe in – wildlife and ecosystem conservation.

### Have you always been interested in wildlife?

Yes

### Who has been an influence on you in your career? How and why?

A lot of people – too many to list - have had an influence on me by introducing me to new ideas or opportunities.

### Have you ever worked outside the wildlife profession? What did you do?

In my younger years I did a lot of waitressing, at places ranging from fast food and pizza to pancake houses and Greek restaurants, to the cafeteria at Mount Rushmore in South Dakota. I was also a maid at the Flamingo Inn in the Everglades National Park for several months.

### What has been the highlight of your wildlife career so far?

I find it very gratifying when my research results have tangible forest and wildlife management applications.

### What has been your most fulfilling experience with TWS?

I've enjoyed serving as an Associate Editor for Journal of Wildlife Management for the past year or two.

### What species or habitat do you know most about or work with the most?

I've worked a lot in southern Appalachian hardwoods, and also in coastal plain sandhills and sand pine scrub. I don't usually work with single species, but rather whole wildlife community response to natural disturbances (such as fire or wind) or silvicultural disturbances (such as timber harvesting). I also work a lot in the wildlife-habitat interface, particularly with food resources for wildlife such as hard mast and fleshy fruit availability.

### What was your most embarrassing experience in the field?

Rolling a truck down a steep embankment in the middle of the night while doing radio-telemetry on gray foxes.

### What has been your most surprising discovery in your job?

It's not as much surprising as frustrating at how hard it is to find

generalities in ecology. Many studies are applicable to a very specific set of conditions or species, and the results often can't be applied across a broad geographic area or across ecosystems. Also, it's very hard for logistic reasons to get enough replication in wildlife studies to be confident that the results are "real." That's why a lot of similar studies come up with conflicting results.

**What do you think is the greatest misunderstanding that the public has about wildlife?** I think that much of the public has little understanding of why biological diversity matters. It's possible to find far-reaching, hard-to-prove explanations such as how everything is interconnected (would the world really fall apart if red-cockaded-woodpeckers or green salamanders went extinct?), but it really boils down to having a love – even reverence – for nature, which a lot of people just don't have. I also think that a large sector of the public has a rigid view that forest preservation is good wildlife management. Of course, each ecosystem is adapted to a different suite of disturbance types and intensities (forest management shouldn't be a "one size fits all" strategy), and any management decision may benefit one set of plants and animals might but be detrimental to another set. However, decreeing that forests should never be harvested or silviculturally disturbed in any way is a disservice to many species, just as would be a decree that all forests should be clear cut.

**What advice would you give someone just starting out in wildlife?** Get as much diverse, hands-on experience as possible. Become familiar with all aspects of wildlife ecology, including non-game species and a variety of ecosystems. Become intimately familiar with plant identification – at least trees, as vegetation provides food and cover for wildlife, and many wildlife species or communities are associated with specific forest (or non-forest) types. And, don't sacrifice your personal life for your career; it's possible to do both. Family is a life-long investment and won't (hopefully) forget you after you retire.

**Is there anything else about yourself that you would like to share?** I have five wonderful kids – four boys and a girl, ages 12 to 6 (the last two being identical twins).

## Charles Victor French

**What you're called:** many things, I'm sure.



Handling another wildlife challenge

Usually...Vic. During the turkey trapping days, Dale Davis referred to me as...Sir.

**Current Position and Employer and location:** effective Jan.1, Southern Coastal Management Biologist with NCWRC

**How long have you been with this employer?** 31 years

**Phone number and/or e-mail:** 910-259-3470 or 910-604-1017, vic.french@earthlink.net

**Education:** Associate/Science Rockingham Comm. College, Bachelor/Science Wildlife Biology (1975) NCSU

**Where did you grow up?** Rockingham County

**What other work experience do you have?** Wildlife Technician (75-78) Troy Depot, Wildlife Technician/Crew Leader (78-05) Holly Shelter Depot, Coastal Stewardship Biologist (05 until Jan.07)

**Why did you go into a wildlife career?** It just fit... and matched my interests as a kid growing up... hunting, trapping, and rambling outdoors.

**Have you always been interested in wildlife?** I started hunting with my father and both grandfathers on their farms when I was 9 yrs. old. I learned many piedmont tree common names as a kid, hunting for squirrels, from my granddaddy just pointing out which tree the squirrel was in. Wildlife and the outdoors consumed me during the teenage years with hunting and trapping probably helping to keep me out of a lot of trouble and places that I didn't need to be.

**Who has been an influence on you in your career?** Of course, the family members that I've previously mentioned and I'd say some inspiring staff from NCSU, Phil Doerr and Fred Barkalow. And, I've been with the NCWRC for a long time and

worked with many outstanding people that have all had positive impacts.

**What has been the highlight of your wildlife career so far?** Receiving the Joe Kurz Excellence in Wildlife Mgmt. Award in 2004 from the NWTF

**What do you see as the greatest challenge for wildlife professionals?** People are losing their touch to the land. Small farms are a thing of the past. With the passing of the previous generation, lands are divided, sold, and developed. We have to renew the value in wildlife, habitat, ecosystems, and conservation. Thank goodness we have funding sources to save wetland, critical, and unique

habitats. Now, the greatest losses are in upland habitat.

**What do you think is the greatest misunderstanding that the public has about wildlife?** That the state and federal agencies can do all that needs to be done...without the public's help...WRONG, Everybody's got to pull together

**What song, quote, or movie title sums up your life philosophy?** "The cup is always half-full and nothing is over 'till it's over."

#### MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NC Partners in Flight spring meeting**

March 27, 2007 at Blue Jay Point County Park 9:30am-4:30pm for information: Mark Johns, <mailto:johnsme@mindspring.com>

**Southeast Partners in Flight meeting**

February 7-10, 2007 in Memphis, TN. The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Select at the Memphis Airport. Please refer to the following website for more information: <http://www.state.tn.us/twra/pifmeeting.html> or contact Scott Somershoe, 615-781-6653

## 2007 Annual Membership Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Annual Dues \$10.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Additional Contribution (Additional contributions to the Chapter will be used for NCSU, Haywood Community College, and Fur, Fish, and Game scholarships)

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I am willing to serve as a mentor and my contact information may be shared with a college student. (The Chapter Mentor Program is designed to pair professionals and college students with like interests in close proximity to one another. Professionals may simply engage in conversations with the students to share their experiences and advise or they may invite students along for office or field work to gain help and provide experience.)

Preference of Committee on which you would like to serve:  
(Descriptions of the Committees are on the NCTWS web site)

\_\_\_\_\_ Nominations and Elections

\_\_\_\_\_ Membership

\_\_\_\_\_ Program

\_\_\_\_\_ Conservation Review

\_\_\_\_\_ Education and Information

\_\_\_\_\_ Audit

\_\_\_\_\_ Awards

\_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter

\_\_\_\_\_ Professional Development

\_\_\_\_\_ COWCH

\_\_\_\_\_ Web Site

\_\_\_\_\_ Fund Raising

Mail with check (to NCTWS) to NCTWS, P.O. Box 37742, Raleigh, NC 27627

**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.nctws.org](http://www.nctws.org)



**THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

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