

NC Wildlifer: The Feral Report

JUNE 2007 ♦ NC CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY ♦ VOL. 23 NO. 2

DON'S DISCOURSE



This year, the North Carolina Chapter of The Wildlife Society (NCTWS) will be planning, and working towards our future, while we learn from and celebrate our past. At our next annual meeting in February 2008, we will honor our Chapter members and celebrate the founding and chartering of our Chapter in 1983. We hope this "silver anniversary meeting" will be a very special event that will bring together members from the past 25 years to share stories and memories, as well as each other's company.

This month, in addition to our regular newsletter updating you about all of our Chapter and committee activities, you are receiving a second document. This 25th anniversary document highlights the founding of our Chapter and compiles some facts from our Chapter's history for you to peruse and enjoy. I hope it will begin to evoke some good memories. Where were you in April of 1983? What were you doing? I know many of you were just entering the wildlife profession, some of our younger members were not yet in school, some of our older members were eyeing retirement, and some of our student members were still just a "twinkle in their

parent's eyes." I will follow this initial history summary with another document, to be included with the next newsletter, highlighting our Chapter committee chairpersons and some of the Chapter's major accomplishments over the past 25 years. I would be very happy to get input from any Chapter member who wants to share his or her ideas on what should be included. Also in honor of our 25th anniversary, we will highlight two of our early Chapter members in each newsletter's *NCTWS Member Profiles*. In this issue, you will meet our first Chapter President: Bob Hazel and our first Chapter Secretary: Sunny Allen, both of whom have remained active in the Chapter in a variety of ways since the very beginning.

I hope each of you will be able to join us at our 25th anniversary meeting in February 2008. It will be a great celebration and it will be a good time for all wildlife professionals in North Carolina to gather together to enjoy some professional fellowship and to look towards a productive future for our profession.

– Don

(Thanks to Mary Wyant – Archive Chair (conscript?) for all her work compiling the information for the History document, and to Sunny Allen who provided the newsletter collection that made much of our detective work possible.)

* TRIVIA *

What popular major motion picture, premiering in 1983, was about the exploits of a wildlife biologist? You can find the answer in our Chapter History document – sent along with this newsletter.

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>

2007-2008 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Position	Officer	Phone	Email address
President	Don Seriff	704-432-1391	Donald.Seriff@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov
President-elect	Mark Johns	919-852-5124	johnsme@mindspring.com
Past President	John Ann Shearer	919-856-4520, ext. 17	JohnAnn_Shearer@fws.gov
Secretary	Danny Ray	336-562-5066	danielray@embarqmail.com
Treasurer	Joe Folta	919-269-2767	fojtaje@bellsouth.net
At-large Board	Salinda Daley	919-604-5183	salinda.daley@earthlink.net
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Ad Hoc Representatives			
Leopold Wildlife Club (NCSU)	Adam Byrd		atbyrd@ncsu.edu
Haywood Community College	Erin Bellavia	828-768-4776	Lady_lope_alot@hotmail.com

2007-2008 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Audit	Jon Heisterberg	919-786-4480, ext. 228	Jon.F.Heisterberg@aphis.usda.gov
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Newsletter	Lisa Beckstrom	704-523-4726	lbeckst@carolina.rr.com
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Professional Development	Lori Williams	828-684-0358	lori_williams@earthlink.net
Program (annual meeting)	Ken Knight	704-982-1600	kbknight@vnet.net
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RUSSIAN EXCHANGE PROGRAM

By Carl Betsill

As they say, "all good things must come to an end," but it was with some regret that I had to inform our President John Ann, shortly before this past annual meeting, that it was time to end our official involvement in the Russian Exchange program. Our plans were to have one last group travel to Smolensk Lakelands National Park to help celebrate the park's 15th anniversary this spring. Several chapter members had expressed interest. The factor that led us to conclude that it was time to bring the program to an end was the difficulty in obtaining a translator for our trip. That special synergy that kept the program going since 1996 had simply lost its momentum. Leaders at the park have changed and our translators at Moscow Pedagogical University had simply grown tired of spending their summer vacations away from their families.

When I broke the news to John Ann, she asked that I write an article for the newsletter outlining the accomplishments and history of the program. Our chapter has really expanded in the last few years and many of you may not be aware of what the program has been all about.

When I look back over the program's history, I am truly amazed. Here are just a few bullets showing some of the highlights:

- Ten different chapter members traveled to Russia one or more times, as program participants.
- Over \$12,000 in funding was raised to support the program from seven different sources.
- Twelve U.S. companies or organizations and at least six Russian organizations were involved. This includes two secondary schools and two Universities in Russia.
- In 1999, four Russian foresters along with an interpreter were brought to the U.S. for a tour of wildlife and park management facilities and law enforcement training.
- In 2000, two outdoor education specialist were brought from the park to attend a two week long training session for environmental educators at the Great Smokey Mountains Institute in Tremont, TN.
- In March 2001, the NCTWS teamed with the North Carolina Chapter of the American

Fisheries Society and Duke Power Company to host the park's fisheries biologist, Vlad Khokhriakov, and his interpreter for a two week tour of fisheries management in North Carolina.

- In summer of 2000, the Chapter embarked on a program to introduce GLOBE, an outdoor education and awareness program, to the public schools around and in the park.
- Trips almost every year since by Hice and other outdoor educators have provided training for local teachers.
- Funds and seeds were provided through a small donation to establish an arboretum on the park.
- Funds were provided for an education center at Baklanovo Lodge.
- \$6,125 were donated in 2003 to financially support an outdoor education and interpretive center in the town of Przhevalskoe.

The really interesting part of the program however is the story of how our Chapter became involved and how world events took such a strange turn and made a unique one time opportunity for a cultural exchange that will probably never happen again. Our Chapter is truly blessed to have been a part of it.

Those of you not growing up during the heights of the cold war can probably not begin to imagine what Russia was to those of us who were growing up in the decades of the 50's, 60's, and 70's. None of us from that era can forget the image of Nikita Khrushchev in the fall of 1960 pounding on the table at the UN with his shoe and declaring to the west that "we will bury you." I never dreamed, at that time, that within 35 years I would be in Russia sitting in the living room of an ex-Communist Party member discussing that very incident. Even five years before my first trip to Russia in 1994, such a discussion would have been unimaginable. Yet those of us fortunate enough to participate in the Russia Exchange program were part of those kinds of exchanges. We were the first Americans most of the Russians we worked with had ever seen. Westerners are now common on the streets of Moscow, but that was not true just a decade ago.

By the way, that discussion about Khrushchev ended in a rather interesting manner. Our Russian host thought the story about the shoe at the UN

was rather humorous and stated that they never really thought of Americans as their enemy in the same way we thought of Russians as our enemy. They went on to state that "the problem was rather obvious." When pressed as to what they meant. Our host stated that "it is obvious that your "propaganda machine" was better than ours." The Americans looked at each other in puzzlement not sure what our host was getting at. Finally he explained that Russians never believe anything their government tells them and Americans believe everything their government says. We then proceeded with another round of vodka to toast our "propaganda machines."

At any rate, the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 and a trip with the Great Smoky Mountain Park Foundation by Anne Hice in 1992, led to a "very fortunate series of events." Anne, at the time was an outdoor educator with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC). To say the least, Anne has an adventuresome spirit. Anne met three other people on her trip and that foursome would eventually lead a very unique partnership between The Wildlife Society (TWS), Smolensk Lakelands National Park and the NCTWS.

The first person she met was Sergey Volkov, director of a brand new National Park in western Russia near the Belarus border. Volkov was looking for some fresh ideas from the west to make his park a leader in the Russian park system.

The second person Anne met was a fiery red-headed English instructor by the name of Svetlana Myorshina from the leading teaching University in Moscow. Svetlana was looking for a way to get her students some practical experience in speaking English to westerners.

Finally, Anne became acquainted with Jim Walker, an American freelance interpreter from north Georgia that specialized in translating Russian forestry journals into English.

Some may call finding such a unique group of individuals with all the necessary skills to put an exchange program together as luck, but they probably don't know Anne Hice very well. She is one that looks for opportunities and then works to make them happen. Those of us who traveled with her soon learned to quit worrying about the trip details and let Anne handle everything. She had a plan. She never let Russians or Americans forget why we were there and what we needed to get accomplished.

A typical three-week trip to Russia consisted of one week in Moscow doing the tourist thing. Svetlana would arrange for one of her students to host an American for the week in their homes. During this time the group would be split up in the evenings but get together during the day for tours of Red Square, the Kremlin, etc. This gave the students a real opportunity to practice their English and us the opportunity to see how Muscovites really live and work. The real business end of the trip, however, would start on the second week when the park would send a van or bus to pick up the group and our interpreters. It was a grueling 12 to 15 hour ride over roads not exactly up to western standards. Rest stops consisted of men headed to the bushes on the right of the bus, and women on the left.

The park is located in western Russia near the Belarus border. It is a 146,000 hectare area administered by the Smolensk Forest Service. It employs in excess of 200 people. Most of the early trips involved providing training for foresters and park rangers on how wildlands are managed in the U.S. We were able to provide some new concepts on public involvement in park planning and the importance of the public having a stake in the health of wildlife populations.

Some of the most rewarding experiences were being able to provide some basic equipment like increment borers, clinometers, compasses, and computers. Just watching a forester that had been practicing forestry all his life without an increment borer to age stands was like watching a child on Christmas morning.

During the classroom training and our trips to the field is where Jim Walker really showed his worth. While our Russian interpreters were excellent in general conversation, Jim knew the technical terms for forestry and ecology. Between Jim's technical skills and our fundamental knowledge of Latin names for plants and animals, we were able to carry on some pretty in-depth professional discussions.

Although a pretty fair ecologist herself, Svetlana was at her best in social situations. To this day I don't understand how she could keep three or four Americans and just as many Russians talking to each other over dinner or rounds of vodka. After a few toasts, poor Jim would be speaking Russian to me and English to Sergey, but Svet would never let the conversation slow.

Sergey Volkov, the park director, was a man of vision. He visited us here in North Carolina before the Exchange Program began. He spent a lot of time with biologists with the NCWRC and saw how they were managing public lands on the Sandhills and other areas. It was his idea to invite a group of biologists over to work with his rangers. As a host, he was superb. We always had comfortable accommodations at the park and some kind of social most every night. One of the most memorable evenings was spent at his home with a real Russia banya, a swim in the Dnieper River, dinner with he and his wife and vodka toasts until we had settled the cold war.

In latter years of the program, Svet turned over her duties to a former student and new instructor with the University, Julia Galkina. Julie accompanied both the foresters and the fish biologist on their trips to the U.S. and was an invaluable member of the team. She was also very helpful to Anne as the program moved to working with the local teachers in and around the park and training them in Outdoor Education programs like Project Wild and GLOBE.

Sergey too, moved on and became involved in Oblast politics. President Vladimir Putin put an end to election of local governors about the time of Sergey's support of a local candidate for that office. While we still had support for a number of years after Sergey's replacement, the real passion for the program in the park was lost.

So our Russian Exchange Program comes to an end. Anne is still talking about one last trip to the park to check on our \$6,000+ investment in the Outdoor Education Center. We hear it is opening this spring.

The following is a list of financial supporters of this program. I would be remiss if I did not particularly mention the special, behind the scenes support, of Hal Atkinson. Hal served on the board of the Camp-Younts foundations and was a strong early supporter of the idea of an Exchange Program.

- Major Funding has come through grants from the Camp-Younts Foundation
- Other contributors included:
 - Carolina Biological Supply
 - Duke Power Company
 - Forestry Suppliers, Inc.

- the late Don Hayne, professor emeritus NCSU
- Trimble Navigation, Ltd (US & Moscow)
- Bass Pro Shops
- Our US partners included:
 - Center for Mathematics and Science Education – UNC Chapel Hill
 - Greensboro Parks and Recreation
 - Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont
 - Jim Walker, freelance Russian/English interpreter
 - N. C. Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
 - N. C. Division of Forest Resources
 - N. C. Division of Parks & Recreation
 - N. C. Museum of Natural Sciences
 - N. C. State University
 - N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission
 - U. S. Army Corp of Engineers
 - U. S. Forest Service
 - Wake County Wildlife Club
- Our Russian partners:
 - Moscow Pedagogical State University
 - Numerous students and families in Moscow.
 - Przhevalskoye Secondary School, Demidovshy region, Smolensk Oblast
 - Smolensk Secondary Comprehensive School # 33 Smolensk, RU
 - Smolensk Humanitarian University
 - U. S. Peace Corp (Moscow Office)

Finally I would like to thank those members that traveled to Russia or hosted our Russian guests in their home. Our financial support did not cover airline tickets or other travel costs for the Americans. These costs were borne by the participants.

Hopefully Anne, if she does continue her trips to Russia, will remember to bring back that ever popular Russian Vodka for our Annual meeting auctions. I would also ask that Anne extend our warmest congratulations to the Staff of Smolensk Lakelands National Park on their fifteenth anniversary. I hope we contributed in some small part to their success.

OVER FIFTY PEOPLE ATTEND PRE-CONFERENCE FIELD TOUR

By Chris Moorman

Approximately 55 students and natural resource professionals attended the tour of the Fire and Fire Surrogate Study at the Green River Game Land on the morning of March 15th. Haywood Community College (HCC) undergraduates and NC State University (NCSU) graduate students comprised a bulk of the attendees, but professionals from The Nature Conservancy, State Parks, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the NCWRC also were present. Dr. Tom Waldrop, a fire ecologist with the USDA Forest Service at Clemson University, explained the origin of the research and presented some of the general findings related to plant and soil response to the mechanical fuel reduction and prescribed fire treatments. Dean Simon, Wildlife Forester for the NCWRC, discussed

his agency's involvement in the project. Later, Dr. Katie Greenberg, a wildlife ecologist with the USDA Forest Service, and Charlotte Matthews, a NCSU graduate student, reviewed the techniques used to sample wildlife response to the treatments and presented results of their wildlife studies. Dr. Craig Harper, Associate Professor at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, also tagged along during the tour and pointed out many of the native grasses and forbs growing in the burned sites. The weather was generally nice and the information presented meshed well with the presentations on prescribed fire made during the Annual Meeting at the Kanuga Conference Center later in the day. Thanks to all that made the morning a success!

2007 ANNUAL MEETING – “A HOT ONE!”

By Elizabeth Evans

On March 15-16, 2007, the annual NCTWS meeting “Fire on the Mountain” was held at the Kanuga Conference Center near Hendersonville, NC. Over 70 members from a variety of agencies were “fired up” attending the conference on prescribed fire and its benefits to the plants and animals in our southern Appalachian mountains. Both student chapters were missing due to the Southeastern Wildlife Conclave being held at the same time, making our conference a little less wild than usual. Haywood Community College did manage to swing by the field trip portion on their way to University of Georgia where this year's conclave was being held.

Even though I missed the field trip portion, I still caught a glimpse during the presentations of what the stewards of the southern Appalachians are up against trying to implement fire. The word ‘fire’ inspires many different emotions: warmth, fear, safety, devastation, and renewal. It is natural process we as humans have coexisted with for thousands of years and use to our advantage to cook food, stay warm and to manipulate our environment. As wildlife biologist/managers, this is one of the most important tools used for management, yet fire is severely under used. Our state's population has undergone a dramatic change from an agrarian community to an increased urban landscape. With this change and

the highly successful Smokey the Bear's campaign, the once common, accepted and understood practice of burning is now feared, considered a nuisance and to be avoided. I was surprised to learn that it has only been a few years with very little equipment and personnel that the state has been burning some of the most endangered yellow pine communities. The main species, the Table Mountain pine, only found on the southern slopes of our mountains, are slowly disappearing. These slopes are relatively steep, dry quickly and with a southern wind are highly fire adapted. Without fire, this community is being taken over by hardwood and rhododendrons. Those species are shading out the pine regeneration and other natural vegetation (grasses, briers) that creates food and cover for the animals found in this community.

Several of the presentations touched on how prescribed fire can improve a landowner's property by providing food and cover to deer, turkey, quail, songbirds and many amphibians and reptiles. The landowners can also improve their timber stands by knocking back the other species that take up nutrients and light from the saleable timber. The student presentations showed after a combination of mechanical removal and burning most amphibians and reptiles moved more, most small mammals responded favorably except the shrews

and the species richness and density of birds increased after a year or two. The macroarthropods though did not show a change. Unfortunately, many biologist/extension agents are bombarded with requests on what to plant in food plots to increase wildlife populations while few request information on prescribed fire or timber harvesting which provides more food and cover than planting of non-native species. Once again it comes to educating the public and changing attitudes on prescribed fire. Renee Strnad from the NC Project Learning Tree brought us tangible examples and games we can use at educational events to teach the components of fire and how it behaves. (Luckily no pumper truck was needed, the squirt bottles kept the blazes under control!).

Along with prescribed fire comes smoke management. The old saying "where there is smoke there is fire" well in this case "where there is fire there is smoke management." We had an enlightening talk from Paul Muller from the NC Division of Air Quality. It was shocking to find out NC does not have a smoke management plan approved by the EPA. This affects our ability as managers to use prescribed burns in parts of our state. Places like Hickory, NC due to terrain and current industry and transportation issues are already unable to meet daily/annual standards of fine particle release. To keep prescribed burning as a management option for the state; the North Carolina Prescribed Fire Council has been created. Information on how to join can be found at www.ncprescribedfirecouncil.org.

On Thursday night the auction was a small affair, but we made over \$600 that is going towards our scholarship funds. The items were numerous ranging from t-shirts, photographs, books and turkey calls and other hand-made items. I also

think this social goes down in the chapter history as a first ever, as beverages were left over after the auction was completed.

The business meeting was called to order for the last time Friday morning by our out-going President, John Ann. After saying a few words, the Treasurer's report and budget for 2007 were reviewed. Committee chair members provided their mission statements and updated us on their activities. Many wonderful accomplishments were presented and many of the committees were rejuvenated with new blood. These committees are a perfect way to become involved in the chapter and a great way to make new professional contacts. The HCC student received their student chapter award during the field trip and the NCSU student will be given theirs at an appropriate time at the school. Salinda Daley received the NCTWS Chapter award for her dedication to her profession and contribution to the Chapter. The hunting/fishing raffles were drawn by John Ann. They brought in more than \$500, for the Susan Sharpe Memorial scholarship fund.

The last event of the business meeting was passing of the goat from John Ann to Don Seriff, our new President. He presented us with a quick slide show, Chapter goals, and few words of what is in store for the next year. Next year will be the Chapter's 25th anniversary and we plan on celebrating. The place has yet to be chosen but will be towards the middle of our state so all can attend. Lots of great things are being planned for next year's meeting so....Mark your calendars for next February- cuz we are G-O-I-N-G T-O P-A-R-T-Y !!!!!

2008 ANNUAL MEETING PLANS 25th Anniversary

Join us in late February 2008, as we celebrate our 25th Anniversary – at The Summit at Haw River State Park (near Reidsville). The exact dates, program theme, and meeting registration specifics will be shared with you during the next few months, so that you will have plenty of advance notice. We want to have more participation at this meeting than NCTWS has ever had at any annual meeting conducted over the past 25 years! Please join your friends and colleagues at this special event.

If you would like to help plan the event, or if you have any questions, please contact: Don Seriff or Ken Knight (see contact information on page 2).

2006-2007 NCTWS AWARDS PROGRAM-UPDATE

By David Dudek & Joe Folta

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 year nominations were also solicited via membership email. The deadline for submitting deserving candidates for consideration was February 16, 2007.

Thanks to Awards Program Committee members Joffrey Brooks and Mike Carraway for their service, as well as, to Chapter Newsletter Editor Lisa Beckstrom and Chapter Webmaster Susan Miller for posting the Awards Program and to Joe Folta as Treasurer in covering Award Program expenses.

The following presentations were made at the Camp Kanuga Conference Center during the annual NCTWS meeting held on March 15-16, 2007.

STUDENT AWARD

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: Gabriel Karns

Nomination submitted by: Richard Lancia and Chris DePerno

Gabe Karns is deserving of the Ken Wilson Memorial Award. Gabe graduated in December 2006 with a BS in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences at

NCSU and is continuing on for an MS. In the spring 2007 semester he was awarded a merit-based research assistantship from the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources, a truly significant recognition. In the summer he will begin a project on adult white-tailed deer at Chesapeake Farms, which is funded by DuPont for three years. As an undergraduate he had a GPA of 3.92 and was 4th of 139 in his major. He made the dean's list every semester and graduated in only seven semesters. He was awarded the Coley Scholarship and the Citizen's Scholarship Foundation of America Award. He coordinated an undergraduate research project on backyard bird feeder use at Turner House on the NCSU Campus. This project won a \$1,000 grant. Results were presented at the NCSU Undergraduate Symposium in 2005. Even while doing this project and studying for classes, Gabe still had time to be active in the Leopold Club, and served as President for the 2005-06 academic year. Finally, he is an active sportsman who hunts, traps, and fishes in his spare time. Gabe Karns represents the epitome of a fledgling wildlifer, who undoubtedly will make a significant contribution to the profession throughout his career.

Call for 2008 Award Nominations

Please consider your fellow members and other wildlife professionals who demonstrate 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 above and 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. Please contact Mike Baranski @ mbaransk@catawba.edu for forms and information.

STUDENT AWARD

HCC Recipient: **Gina Smith**

Nomination submitted by: **Chris Graves and Shanon Rabby**

Gina exhibits a willingness to go beyond the call of duty. She has surpassed curriculum expectations by pursuing and receiving environmental education certification in Project Wild, Aquatic Wild and CATCH, workshops administered by the NCWRC. Gina has also demonstrated service above self in extra-curricular activities. Gina is enthusiastically serving as Vice-President of both the HCC Volunteer Club and the HCC Student Chapter of TWS. Gina has demonstrated a willingness and capability to assume leadership roles and fulfill the duties of elected office; she leads by effective example. These student clubs under Gina's leadership have been very proactive in the community and have been involved in service projects such as litter removal from county roads and streams, environmental education programs for disadvantaged youth, and public school beautification projects. The Volunteer Club was selected as one of four first place winners in the

Commission for a Clean County's 2006 Community Pride awards.

Gina Smith is currently enrolled in the Fish & Wildlife Management Technology program at HCC. Gina entered the program in the summer of 2005 and will earn an A.A.S. degree graduating with honors in the spring of this year. She has proven to be an exemplary student. Due to her academic excellence, Gina received invitation for Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society induction. To her credit, Gina has managed to excel in her studies as a young mother of two children. Gina has consistently exhibited a strong work ethic, which will serve her well in future endeavors. She has proven to be a dependable HCC employee both as a Greenhouse Assistant and Library Technician; Gina has been recognized for excellence in time management, multi-tasking, and customer service skills.

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: **Salinda Daley**

Nomination submitted by: **John Ann Shearer and Chris Moorman**

The NCTWS runs off of volunteer efforts by natural resource professionals with a willingness to accept responsibilities in addition to those specified by their normal job duties. Some say that 20% of a society's membership completes 100% of the work. Over the past several years, Salinda Daley has shown the willingness to become part of that important minority that makes things happen. Salinda volunteered in 2006 to help solicit silent auction items and schedule the evening social for the annual meeting at Fort Fisher. Her efforts

helped raise hundreds of dollars used to support the NCTWS budget and student scholarships. Salinda attends most NCTWS Executive Board meetings and readily contributes constructively to discussions. During her service as co-chair of the Conservation Review Committee of the North Carolina Chapter, Salinda has diligently and effectively addressed many issues pertinent to conservation in our state. Over the past year, she was instrumental in developing a letter in support of the state's purchase of Chimney Rock, letters to conservation partnerships seeking cross communication, and a letter to the U.S. Forest Service supporting their forest management plan for the Globe area. She kept the Chapter informed on Teaming With Wildlife and the Outlying Landing Field. She also worked with the committee to develop guidelines as a tool for the committee to determine if and when it is appropriate for the chapter to pursue a letter of support (or opposition) or the development of a position statement. Salinda's willingness to take on the conservation work of the Chapter is refreshing and admirable.

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 custom designed plaque.

Recipient: **Bill Rogers** Nomination submitted by: **George Radford and Michael Begier**. Bill Rogers, a Charter Member of the NCTWS, leads the Encroachment Partnering Team on behalf of Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point. Through Bill's tireless efforts, the team continues to produce laudable successes both from the aspect of

preserving coastal marsh and other sensitive natural areas from future development to accomplishing encroachment minimization for the ongoing mission of Cherry Point. Thus far, the team's efforts through the Coastal Land Trust have secured a total of \$6 million in NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant funds plus \$500,000 in a federal Coastal Wetlands Grant (for the 1,378-acre Neuse River/Bay River Investments Tract) and \$315,000 from a federal North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant (for acquiring easements on the Turnagain Bay/Henry project). These projects are all down east in Carteret County. These coastal areas are extremely valuable to many species of wildlife. In a rapidly growing state these coastal natural resources might otherwise have been lost or impinged upon in some way.

2007 NCTWS RAFFLE SUMMARY

By Terry Sharpe

The Chapter sold \$593.00 worth of raffle tickets this year for three individual raffle drawings. All money collected from raffles is used to support the Susan Sharpe Memorial Fund which provides grant support to a camper at the Annual Fur Fish and Game Rendezvous. Individual tickets in each drawing were not counted but ticket sales were pretty evenly distributed between each of the three drawings. The three winners were:



Turkey Hunt Raffle - Brian Dugan. Brian plans to hunt with Vic French on The Coastal Plain.

Fishing Raffle - Max Cox. He is a HCC student. Max is leaning toward choosing the striper fishing trip on the Roanoke River.

Deer Hunt Raffle - Patrick Farrell. Patrick plans to hunt at Howell Woods.

Top Ticket Seller - Salinda Dailey. Salinda sold the most tickets (49) and as the top ticket seller, she got to pick a trip of her choice. Salinda chose to send a friend to go catfish grabbling on the Pee Dee River with Lincoln Sadler and Terry Sharpe.

Thanks again to all who donated trips and sold tickets.

CALL FOR PHOTOGRAPHS!

We are looking for photographs of the Chapter from its early years. We can accept hard copies or digital files. All hard copies will be returned. If you have any photos of yourself or others involved in Chapter related activities please submit them to Don Seriff – Conservation Science Office - 9401 Plaza Road Ext., Charlotte, NC 28215 or to : Donald.Seriff@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov

CONGRATULATIONS!

North Carolina's Newest "Certified Wildlife Biologist" – Danny Ray



Danny Ray, Forest Stewardship Biologist with the NCWRC, has completed all requirements and has been awarded his Certified Wildlife Biologist status by TWS. Danny is in

the position of Secretary on the Executive Board of the Chapter.

Certification demonstrates that a person has attained the level of special expertise required to practice as a professional wildlife biologist. A Certification Review Board, composed of highly qualified wildlife biologists, reviews all applications

and determines whether the education, experience, and professional contributions of the applicant satisfy the intent of the established minimum requirements.

The program for certification of wildlife biologists is a service provided by TWS for its members, as well as nonmembers and the public, who may desire a peer evaluation statement. Certification constitutes recognition by TWS that, to its best knowledge, an applicant meets the minimum educational, experience, and ethical standards adopted by the Society for professional wildlife biologists.

Congratulations to Danny on his outstanding achievement!

WEDDING BELLS!



Salinda Daley, Coordinator of the North Carolina Birding Trail for the NCWRC, is getting married on July 21st in Morehead City. Salinda is this

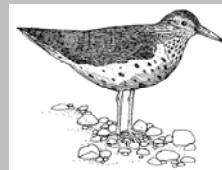
year's Chapter Award winner, an At-Large member of the Chapter's Executive Board, and she has

chaired the Conservation Review committee for the past several years. She also sold the most tickets at this year's raffle. Salinda is marrying Nate Bachelor, a doctoral candidate at North Carolina State University. Nate has been studying red drum ecology and movement.

Congratulations and our warmest best wishes for the future to Salinda and Nate!

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

NC Partners in Flight fall meeting
'Coastal Plain Bird Monitoring and Research'
November 7, 2007 1:00 – 5:00 pm
Pocosin lakes National Wildlife Refuge
Mark Johns, <mailto:johnsme@mindspring.com>



NEWS FROM OUR CHAPTER COMMITTEES

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

By Marek Smith

Laura Fogo has officially passed the baton to Marek Smith, new chair of the Education and Information Committee. Laura, Marek, and new President Don Seriff met on April 27 in Charlotte to discuss the committee's recent activities and its strategic plan.

The committee's next meeting will be scheduled for sometime during the early summer. Agenda items will include continued work on the Chapter educational display, assisting our webmaster Susan Miller with development of an outreach calendar for the Chapter's web site, and a discussion on strategies for promoting our profession to more young people.

In preparation for the meeting, committee members (old and new) are encouraged to review the inaugural issue of *The Wildlife Professional*, in particular the article entitled "Graying of the Green." If you haven't received your own hard copy, TWS members can view it on-line at www.wildlife.org.

2007-08 looks to be a busy year for this committee, so all interested members are encouraged to join. Please contact Marek Smith for more details on the meeting or the committee's upcoming plans at Marek.Smith@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov.

CHAPTER WEBSITE

By Susan Miller

Several activities and accomplishments were made in regards to the NCTWS website since the annual meeting. I requested and received board approval to sign up for web hosting with IX Web Hosting for \$60 for 24 months and migrated all nctws.org pages to a new web host. Additionally, I updated executive board and committee pages to reflect new officers and committee chairs.

My future plans for the website include setting up an ftp account for use by NCTWS board and others.

I'll be working on an online calendar to list events of interest for NCTWS members. I'm looking for suggestions from everyone – **what do you want to see on the www.nctws.org website?**

Our domain name of nctws.org was secured for one year in November of 2006. We can expect to pay approximately \$9 for renewal of "www.nctws.org" in November of 2007.

COWCH REPORT

By Bob Hazel

Four interviews have been conducted so far in 2007. Interviews were conducted by Jon Heisterberg, Ted Dorsett, and Bob Hazel. Admiral Howell, a retired Wildlife Enforcement Officer whose career began in the early days of the Wildlife Resources Commission, was interviewed on January 16. Capt. John Kennedy, who retired as Wildlife Enforcement Supervisor in District 4, and who had also done a lot of work as an undercover agent for the Commission and USFWS dealing with illegal game, was interviewed on February 22. On March 6, Jimmy Davis was interviewed and Bill Smith was interviewed on March 13. Jimmy Davis was a Fisheries Biologist and Field Supervisor for the

Wildlife Resources Commission's Division of Inland Fisheries. Bill Smith began his work in the early days of the Wildlife Resources Commission and he did much of the survey work on which the inland fisheries program was built. Smith ended his career as Asst. Chief of the Inland Fisheries Division. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to each of the interviewees for their cooperation and assistance. They provide a strong incentive for all of us still involved in wildlife work, as well as a lot of helpful and necessary history.

NCTWS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

By Lori Williams

NOTE: Interested participants should contact the workshop organizer directly to reserve a spot and inquire about dates, location information, details, etc., if unknown at this time.

Fall 2007

Sea Turtles (coast)

Contact: Wendy Cluse, NCWRC, e-mail: emc@vol.com

Date: TBD

Location: TBD

Details: an overview of sea turtle species I.D. and anatomy (possible necropsy); possible visit to the Sea Turtle Hospital on Topsail Island; possible evening nest excavation

Bats (piedmont or coast)

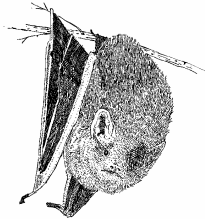
Contact: Mary Kay Clark, NCWRC, e-mail:

mary.k.clark@earthlink.net

Date: TBD

Location: TBD

Details: TBD



Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (coast)

Contact: Jenna Beiger, NCWRC, e-mail: jbeiger@earthlink.net

Date: TBD

Location: TBD

Details: introduction to RCWs and longleaf pine habitat; possible cavity tree surveys on Holly Shelter Game Land (training session provided)

Small Mammals (mountains)

Contact: Scott Bosworth, NCWRC, e-mail: bosworthsc@earthlink.net

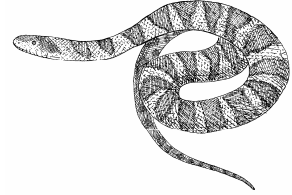
Date: September 17, 2007

Location: Yancey and/or Madison Counties; specifics TBD

Details: overview of priority mountain region small mammal species and trapping techniques; checking and re-setting traps in the field

Reptiles and Amphibians (mountains)

Contact: Gabrielle Graeter or Lori Williams, g.graeter@earthlink.net or



lori_williams@earthlink.net

Date: October 5, 2007

Location: TBD

Details: mountain region reptile and amphibian I.D. from specimens observed in the field; use of a variety of field techniques

Reptiles and Amphibians (piedmont or coast)

Contact: Jeff Hall, NCWRC, e-mail: jeff.g.hall@earthlink.net

Date: TBD

Location: TBD

Details: piedmont or coastal region reptile and amphibian I.D. from specimens observed in the field; other details TBD

Reptiles and Amphibians (piedmont)

Contact: Jeff Humphries, NCWRC, e-mail: jeff.humphries@earthlink.net

Date: TBD

Location: TBD

Details: piedmont region reptile and amphibian I.D. from specimens observed in the field; other details TBD

AN ONGOING OPPORTUNITY FOR PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

It is a continuing goal of the Chapter to build and activate its standing committees. To achieve this goal, we need help from you. Please review the list of Chapter committees and the committee chairs listed on page 2, and consider joining a committee this year. We challenge you to select your committee of interest and join us in making this Chapter even more productive over its next 25 years! We look forward to hearing from you.

If you haven't renewed your 2007 membership yet, please do so now. Simply fill out this form and mail it in.

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

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. In this year's newsletters, we will feature profiles of some of our early Chapter members that helped to guide us to where we are today.

Robert B. Hazel

What you're called: Bob. Sometimes called Professor, Director, Chief, and Major



Current Position and Employer and location: Retired from NCSU and NCWRC

How long have you been with this employer? NCSU 8 years/NCWRC 30 years

Phone number and/or e-mail: 919-772-1393/hazel386@juno.com

Education: Penn State University, B.S. Ag. Edu., M.S. Zoology and Wildlife Management

Where did you grow up? On a dairy farm at Madisonburg, PA., 25 miles from State College

What other work experience do you have? Taught class in Wildlife Management at Duke University and worked as a pilot doing mapping photography and wildlife surveys.

Why did you go into a wildlife career? Grew up in the mountains of central PA. Had a great uncle who was a wildlife enthusiast and good hunter. He took me on walks in the woods.

Have you always been interested in wildlife? Yes.

Who has been an influence on you in your career? How and why? Great uncle, Rev. J.F. Roush. Also father Boyd E. Hazel. Also Dr. P.F. English, wildlife professor at Penn State.

Have you ever worked outside the wildlife profession? What did you do? Flew airplanes for mapping aerial photography. Three years service in WWII as medium bomber pilot, 37 combat missions, ETO

What has been the highlight of your wildlife career so far? Serving as Executive Director of the NCWRC.

What has been your most fulfilling experience with TWS? Doing COWCH interviews.

What species or habitat do you know most about or work with the most? Ruffed Grouse. Master's thesis was a study of Ruffed Grouse in central PA.

What do you see as the greatest challenge for wildlife professionals? Managing wildlife in our rapidly expanding urban environment.

What advice would you give someone just starting out in wildlife? Learn as much as you can about public relations. Almost all wildlife jobs involve dealing with people.

What are your hobbies? Hunting, fishing, flying, camping.

Where is the most interesting place you have traveled? Europe – England, Ireland, Scotland, France, and Belgium.

What song, quote, or movie title sums up your life philosophy? "I am a Pilgrim."

Susan Allen



What you're called:
Sunny

Current Position and Employer and location:
Exhibit Halls Programmer,
NC Museum of Natural
Sciences, Raleigh, NC

How long have you been with this employer? 11 years

Phone number and/or e-mail: (919)733-7450
x524/ Sunny.Allen@ncmail.net

Education: B.S. Wildlife Biology, Univ of Maine;
M.S. Wildlife Ecology, NCSU

Where did you grow up? Suburbs of
Philadelphia, PA

What other work experience do you have?
Naturalist, Green Mtn Club, VT; Instructor, NCSU
Zoology Dept.

Why did you go into a wildlife career? It is the
perfect blend for my interest in animals, my love of
the outdoors and my concern for the environment
(certainly not for the money!).

Have you always been interested in wildlife?
Always. When I was little, my Mom had to check
my pockets for snails (or worse) before she did the
wash. Growing up, we had the usual – three cats,
a Great Dane, fish, gerbils, guinea pigs, and the
unusual – a moody iguana, a gopher tortoise who
roamed freely in the house, anoles and a rehab box
turtle. They kept life interesting.

Who has been an influence on you in your career? How and why? Dick Lancia, my M.S.
major professor, encouraged me to believe in
myself and to uphold my environmental convictions,
no matter how small a minority I might find myself
in.

Have you ever worked outside the wildlife profession? What did you do? No. I have been very fortunate.

What has been the highlight of your wildlife career so far? There have been many – serving as a Commissioner with the NCWRC for six years, serving on the TLC Board of Directors, teaching Wildlife Management and Conservation of Natural Resources to undergraduates, bringing smiles to the faces of adults who have never touched a live snake before (and never really wanted to!), introducing kids to all sorts of neat creatures up close and in person.

What has been your most surprising discovery in your job? That so many kids (and adults) have never seen or touched a box turtle before.

What do you see as the greatest challenge for wildlife professionals? The increasing disconnect between our growing population and the natural world. Very few people spend time out exploring nature and I wonder if there will even be quiet local natural areas for us to enjoy in the future. How can anyone be expected to value tree frogs or wood thrushes or yellow bellied sliders when they don't even know they exist? And if people don't value wildlife, why should they make choices that would allow those species to coexist with us? When a child tells me we're not animals (so, what are we? humans, of course, which clearly separates us from the animals), I think we are facing a huge challenge. Habitat loss, overpopulation, global warming, pollution, acid rain, invasive species, extinctions are hard sells when no one is listening.

What are your hobbies? Horses, gardening, bird watching, photography, walking, genealogy

What was your most thrilling hunting or fishing experience? If hunting with binoculars counts, it was unbelievably thrilling to see wild born California condors flying free in the Grand Canyon.

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



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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