

NC Wildlifer

SEPTEMBER 2008 ♦ NC CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY ♦ VOLUME 24 NO. 2

MARK'S MESSAGE

Change is good! How many times have you heard that line? Well, I'll get a chance to personally test it out now. By the time you are all reading this, I'll have resigned from my position with the Wildlife Commission to take on a new position with the Town of Cary at Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve as the Nature Program Specialist. Needless to say, I have tremendously enjoyed working with many of you over the last 12 years and hope to continue to partner with many of you in new ways in the future. I also look forward to continuing to serve the chapter on the executive board.

Change can be uncertain, and all of us certainly like to cling to the familiar. Whether it be a comfortable pair of hiking shoes or our favorite hunting or fishing spot, it's tough to break old habits. I have often heard that one should 'embrace' change. That is easier said than done, I think we'd all agree. But for this chapter to be successful and continue to grow and be relevant, we all need to consider making a change in our professional lives.

We have had several chapter members take the 'leap of faith' and try something new over the last year. We have some new committee chairs; we have some new executive board members. We have new people stepping up and becoming active committee members. We have had a member offer to run for treasurer this coming year. We even had a current board member 'volunteer' to run for president-elect for 2010 already! All this and I haven't even had to threaten or beg anyone yet. Unbelievable!

All of these people have one thing in common. They were willing to take that 'blind step out into empty space' and confront change. They are willing to make something positive happen with a job that is new to them. By making goals as individuals and as a team and then having the discipline to work toward accomplishments that benefit the chapter and its members, we can all make things happen that will benefit North Carolina's wildlife resources. I urge you to 'embrace change' with us as we head into the last third of 2008 and move into 2009. I'll see you all at the NCTWS annual meeting at Haw River State Park on February 17, 2009!

- *Mark*

CHAPTER VISION STATEMENT

To guide and promote the conservation and management
of wildlife resources throughout North Carolina.

CHAPTER MISSION STATEMENT and CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

Can be viewed on the Chapter's website at:

<http://www.nctws.org>

2008-2009 Executive Board

Position	Officer	Phone
President	Mark Johns	(919) 852-5124
President-elect	Mike Begier	(252) 466-9320
Past President	Don Seriff	(704) 432-1391
Secretary	Danny Ray	(336) 562-5066
Treasurer	Joe Folta	(919) 269-2767
Board	John Stanton	(252) 796-3004 x228
Board	Chris DePerno	(919) 513-7559
SE Section Rep.	Nils Peterson	(919) 515-7588

**Our new Southeastern TWS Representative is Nils Peterson, replacing Chris Moorman. Nils phone number is 919-515-7588*



2008-2009 Committees

Committee	Chair	Phone
Audit	Jon Heisterberg	(919) 786-4480 x228
Awards	Mike Baranski	(704) 637-4442
Conservation Review	Kathryn Reis	(919) 469-4272
COWCH	Bob Hazel	(919) 772-1393
Education & Information	Jamie Sasser	(919) 938-0115
Fund Raising	Pete Campbell Terry Sharpe	(910) 695-3323 (910) 652-6403
Mentoring Program	John Ann Shearer	(919) 856-4520 x17
Membership	Kate Golden Colter Chitwood	kegolden@ncsu.edu colter.chitwood@gmail.com
Newsletter	John Stanton	(252) 796-3004 x228
Nominations & Elections	Mike Begier	(252) 466-9320
Professional Development	Lori Williams Sue Cameron	(828) 684-0358 (910) 325-3602
Program (annual meeting)	Mark Johns	(919) 852-5124
Webmaster	Susan Miller	(910) 695-3323
Leopold Wildlife Club	Adam Byrd	
Haywood Community College	Erin Bellavia	(828) 768-4776

Attention all NCTWS Committee Chairs:

Please send Joe Folta (foltaje@bellsouth.net) your budget requests for 2009 by October 1, 2008.

Conservation Review Committee Report

North Carolina's Property Tax Reduction Now Includes a Wildlife Habitat Category

If you haven't already heard, in late July 2008 North Carolina's General Assembly approved legislation that expands the property tax reduction program to include six types of wildlife habitat and land areas supporting species of concern to the State of North Carolina. The approved habitat types are long leaf pine forest, early successional habitat, small wetlands, stream/riparian zones, rock outcrops, and bat caves. To qualify for a lower present-use valuation, private landowners must meet the following criteria:

- Own 20 to 100 contiguous acres of land containing either one of the designated habitat types or a state-protected species;
- Owned the land for at least five years; and
- Based on a management plan approved by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, managed the land for wildlife for at least three years prior to the tax break.

The NCWRC will administer this new program for wildlife habitat protection and has through 2009 to create programmatic guidelines. Administration of the program begins in 2010 and will play a critical role in fulfilling the land protection and management goals of North Carolina's Wildlife Action Plan.

You can learn more about this property tax reduction program at <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/158/story/117575.html> and http://www.smokymountainnews.com/issues/07_08/07_23_08/fr_wildlife_exempt.html.

U.S. Senate Committee Holds Hearing on ORV Use at Cape Hatteras National Seashore

On 30 July 2008, the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources held a hearing to explore the pros and cons of S. 3113. North Carolina Senators Elizabeth Dole and Richard Burr introduced this bill on 11 June 2008 to reinstate the Interim Management Strategy governing off-road vehicle (ORV) use in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore pending the National Park Service's issuance of a final rule for ORV management. Individuals testifying before the Senate Committee included NPS Deputy Director Daniel Wenk, Derb Carter, Jr. of the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC), and Dale County Board of Commissioners Chairman Warren Judge. Both the NPS and SELC oppose S. 3113 whereas Warren Judge supports the bill.

At issue is the significant decline of shorebirds and colonial waterbirds that nest along the beaches of Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The species of concern are the following: 1) piping plover (federally listed as threatened); 2) gull-billed tern (listed in North Carolina as threatened); 3) common tern; 4) least tern; 5) black skimmer; and 6) American oystercatcher. As Deputy Director Wenk noted in his testimony, a combination of weather, predation and human disturbance might account for the above birds' nesting decline. Of key concern to Defenders of Wildlife and National Audubon Society is ORV use.

Consequently, the Southern Environmental Law Center represented both organizations in a lawsuit that was filed against the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in October 2007. The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina granted a coalition of local ORV and fishing groups intervenor status in the lawsuit.

In February 2008, SELC filed a motion for a preliminary injunction that would force the NPS to prohibit ORV access to six breeding sites at Cape Hatteras year round. These six breeding sites are also popular access points for anglers.

Two months later SELC, Defenders of Wildlife, National Audubon Society, NPS, USFWS and the local ORV-fishing coalition reached a settlement and filed a proposed consent decree with the U.S. District Court. Rather than restrict ORV access to the six breeding sites year-round, all parties agreed to permit ORV access during the non-breeding season and to augment resource protection of the those sites during the breeding season. The U.S. District Court issued the consent decree on 30 April 2008. Under this consent decree, the NPS has until April 2011 to publish its final ORV management regulation in the Federal Register.

Deputy Director Daniel Wenk and SELC attorney Derb Carter, Jr. oppose S. 3113, stating that the consent decree promotes shorebird and colonial waterbird conservation actions that would exceed the conservation

measures prescribed in the Interim Management Strategy. For instance, Wenk commented that the consent decree advocates larger, non-discretionary buffer distances to protect the breeding birds once biologists observe nesting activity. Additionally, the consent decree disallows night driving on the beaches to protect nesting sea turtles.

In contrast, Dale County Commissioner Warren Judge supports S. 3113. He claims the consent decree unduly restricts fishing and swimming activities on a substantial part of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. These recreational restrictions in turn place economic hardship on local businesses.

At this time, no committee vote is scheduled for S. 3113. Congressman Walter Jones (NC. District 3) introduced a similar bill, H.R. 6233, on 11 June 2008, but the Committee on Natural Resources has not yet held a hearing.

If you are not a member of the committee but wish to share your opinion on this matter, contact Kathryn Reis at kbreis@mac.com.

- *Kathryn*

NCTWS Annual Meeting



Feb. 17-18, 2009 at Haw River State Park

Mark your calendars now to attend.

<p><i>The Summit</i></p> <p><i>at Haw River State Park</i></p> <p><i>A Retreat and Conference Center for Youth and Adults</i></p>	
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NCTWS Professional Development Opportunities

Upcoming Workshops

- **Bird Banding Refresher with Jamie Sasser:** October 8, 2008, and April 17, 2009; 7:30 am-1:00 pm; Howell Woods Environmental Learning Center, Johnston Community College, Johnston County, NC; LIMITED TO 5 PARTICIPANTS WITH PRIOR MIST NETTING EXPERIENCE. Be prepared for a full day in the field; topics include: mist net set up and take down, recording banding data, aging and sexing, and net extraction. Overnight lodging is available on site for \$10/person. Contact Jamie Sasser (sasserj@howellwoods.org; 919-938-0115 ext 221) for more details and to sign up.
- **Piedmont Herp ID and Surveys with Jeff Humphries:** October 15, 2008; 10 am-4 pm; meet at parking lot across from Lake Wheeler entrance before dam, on Lake Wheeler Rd., ~5 miles south of I-40; topics include herp ID and survey techniques, site visits to Swift Creek area (below Lake Wheeler) and other nearby natural areas to survey several floodplain ephemeral pools and seeps. Participants could see most of the area's native salamander species. LIMITED TO 10-15 PARTICIPANTS DUE TO HABITAT SENSITIVITY AND PARKING RESTRICTIONS. Dress for the field; bring food/water. Contact Jeff Humphries (jeff.humphries@earthlink.net) for more details and to sign up.

Professional Development Survey

Thanks to all who responded to the professional development survey. We heard from 20 members and received a wide variety of ideas for future workshops. The most requested workshop locations were the piedmont and coastal areas. There was no clear consensus on suggested times of year for workshops. The most requested workshop topics included the following: plants, herps, statistics and modeling, wildlife diseases, game species, and GIS.

- *Lori Williams*

CONGRATULATIONS!

Two members of the NC Chapter of The Wildlife Society were recently selected to participate in the prestigious 2008 TWS Leadership Institute. Please join me in offering congratulations to:

LeAnne Bonner, Cure Biologist, NC Wildlife Resources Commission

Kelly Douglass, Captive Cervid Program Leader, NC Wildlife Resources Commission

Haywood Community College Student Chapter Update

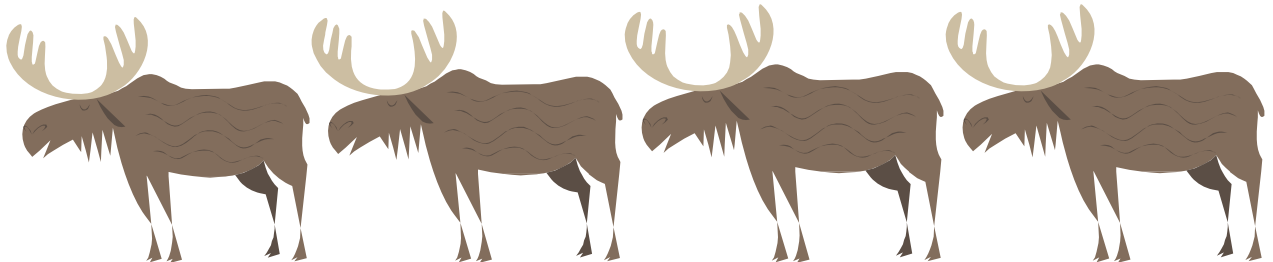
I have replaced Dave Dudek as the Fish & Wildlife Management Program Coordinator at HCC. I'd be happy to serve the NC state chapter of TWS as needed. I have been co-advisor of HCC's student chapter of TWS since I arrived in Fall 2006. Shannon Rabby is another instructor in our dept. who teaches Fish & Wildlife Mgmt courses, and he is the other co-advisor to the HCC student chapter. My contact info is below.

I apologize for not being very active at the state chapter level as of yet. I've been developing courses and just trying to keep my head above water ever since I arrived. I replaced two faculty members, one Wildlife and one Forestry. Now that Dave retired, I've been assigned some new courses to teach but am excited about these wonderful opportunities! However, we're currently strengthening the student chapter and our curriculum all the while... Dave was a big part of helping us in these areas before retirement. I miss him already.

Please feel free to contact me anytime and hopefully I'll be over the hump and can serve you better in the future.

- *Chris*

Chris A. Graves
Fish & Wildlife Management Instructor and Program Coordinator Haywood
Community College 185 Freedlander Drive Clyde, NC 28721
(828) 627-4565



NCTWS Member Profiles



Nils and his son.

Markus Peterson

What are you called? Nils

Current Position and Employer and location?

Human Dimensions of Wildlife, Assistant Professor, NC State University, Raleigh NC

How long have you been with this employer?

Almost 1 year.

Phone number and/or e-mail

919-515-7588/Nils_Peterson@ncsu.edu

Education

BS and MS, Wildlife and Fisheries Science (Texas A&M University) and PhD Fisheries and Wildlife Science (Michigan State University)

Where did you grow up? *Victor, Idaho and College Station, Texas*

What other work experience do you have?

Lots of years in graduate school studying Turkey, Lesser Prairie-Chicken, Key deer, and people

Why did you go into a wildlife career?

Maybe my own greed. Wildlife and their associated habitat are my family's favorite things and we don't want them to disappear.

Have you always been interested in wildlife? *Yes*

Have you ever worked outside the wildlife profession? What did you do? *Yes. Concrete, Framing, Roofing, Dairy*

What species or habitat do you know most about or work with the most? *I study humans the most, but as with most highly studied species (e.g., white-tailed deer) we don't know much about them.*

What do you see as the greatest challenge for wildlife professionals? *Helping the general public feel the urgency associated with wildlife conservation.*

What would your fellow biologists be surprised to learn about you?

I went hunting for the first time last year.

NCTWS Member Profiles



Sorting and cleaning native plant seed.

Emily Moberg

What you're called: My dad and brother call me Lou

Current Position and Employer and location: Natural Resources Specialist I, Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation, Division of Natural Resources

How long have you been with this employer? Almost 3 years

Phone number and/or e-mail: Emily.Moberg@mecklenburgcountync.gov
(980) 721-8768

Education:

Master of Natural Resources, Virginia Tech, in progress.

Bachelor of Arts, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg Virginia, December 2001

Associate of Science, Finger Lakes Community College, May 1997

Where did you grow up? *The Finger Lakes Region of New York State*

What other work experience do you have? *Graduate Teaching Assistant at Virginia Tech*

Why did you go into a wildlife career? *I was given the opportunity to transfer to the Division of Natural Resources from another position within Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation.*

Have you always been interested in wildlife? *Yes, I think growing up in the country makes one closer to nature and wildlife without realizing it is happening.*

Who has been an influence on you in your career? How and why? *My dad got his PhD in horticulture from Penn State. He always encouraged me to stay in school. I felt growing up that I could do and be whatever I wanted. His support definitely has played a role in my professional career. I appreciate his constant encouragement towards anything that I do.*

What species or habitat do you know most about or work with the most? *I have been focusing on native plant propagation. I collect seed and grow plants in a greenhouse. After a healthy rootstock has established, the plants are transplanted to the piedmont prairies on our nature preserves to increase plant diversity. Initially, only *Helianthus schweinitzii* was propagated (with permission from USFW), but now about 12 different species are grown each year, totaling 1000 plants.*

What advise would you give someone just starting out in wildlife? *I wish I had been more focused on career goals while I was in school. I would advise students to be pro-active about internships and attending specialized training classes.*

What are your hobbies? *I moved to Virginia from New York State because I am an old-time musician. I play traditional Appalachian music. I play the fiddle, banjo, guitar and bass. I attend numerous fiddler's conventions in the summer months. One of my favorites is held in Mt. Airy, NC during the first weekend in June. People come from all over the United States to attend music festivals in North Carolina.*

Craig Littlejohn Memorial Donations

The NC Chapter of The Wildlife Society was honored to recently receive several donations in memory of Craig Littlejohn, a former member of NCTWS. In all, \$300.00 went into the Susan Sharpe Memorial Fur, Fish and Game Camp Scholarship Endowment Fund. This scholarship was established to provide aid to help children afford the cost of attending the Camp, an annual week-long overnight event for high school students held at Camp Millstone in Richmond County. All of our thoughts and prayers go out to Craig's family and friends, but we hope they will take comfort in knowing that these donations will allow scholarships to be awarded to students whose desire it is to protect and manage the natural resources that were so dear to Craig.



Take your seat in the sun!

The Wildlife Society 15th Annual Conference

*November 8-12, 2008
Miami, Florida*



Don't Forget to Mark your Calendars!

For more information and to register (Registration opens June 2008)

www.wildlife.org

Other meetings of interest;

*NC Partners in Flight Fall Meeting, November 5, 2008, 1-5pm at
Riverbend Park in Catawba County*

We encourage all of you to submit future articles for consideration for publishing in our Chapter's newsletter. Remember, it's your newsletter!

Mark Johns, President

John Stanton, Newsletter Editor

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