

NC Wildlifer: The Feral Report

AUGUST 2006 ◊ NC CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY ◊ VOL. 22 NO. 3

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Seems you can't swing a dead cat without hitting a conservation partnership these days. So what is a conservation partnership and why are they becoming so plentiful? And, what do they mean to our Chapter?

Conservation partnerships, collaborations, coalitions, alliances, forums, and the like are groups of folks with a common interest in conservation of natural resources for a particular place. Some are formal with signed Memorandums of Understanding, strategic plans, rules, and regular meetings. Some are informal with undulating membership and sporadic meetings. Whether their mission is to recover a declining species, link up or buffer protected lands, maintain a high level of biodiversity, or improve water quality in a watershed, conservation of natural resources is the key to any conservation partnership.

I think there is a good reason for the growing popularity of conservation partnerships. They work. We just get a whole lot more done at a higher level of quality as a group sharing information and leveraging resources than we do as individuals plugging away alone. That means more land protection, more habitat restoration, and more management for the benefit of wildlife. How often we hear, "Focus your effort!" Indeed we have seen that it is difficult to discern measurable results when we do restoration, protection, or management using a shot gun approach. By targeting habitat protection, restoration, and management into one area, we can create demonstrable results. In addition to the conservation partnerships, many programs are focusing, too. Farm Bill programs such as the Wetlands Reserve Program and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program are concentrating in particular areas of the state. The Cooperative Upland habitat Restoration and Enhancement program founded itself on defined cooperatives. And even our state Wildlife Action Plan references the opportunities to focus.

One of the most mature and successful conservation partnerships of which I am aware is the Mitchell River Coalition. It began in 1997 when part of the Mitchell River watershed in Surry County was designated as Outstanding Resource Waters and part was not. More than 20 agencies and organizations as well as watershed landowners and volunteers rallied with the purpose of safe-guarding the

water quality of the Mitchell. To accomplish this goal, the Coalition works with landowners using a variety of

strategies, such as land protection, stream restoration, and Best Management Practices for agricultural and forestry activities. These strategies have changed the river's course to one of long-term stability and maintenance of the highest water quality possible for future generations. They began with

some landowners losing as much as 10 feet of bank per year to erosion, with only meager grants to put towards the problem. The Coalition has grown to the point of boasting over five miles of restored and protected stream using over \$6 million in grants. The Coalition meets quarterly to discuss monitoring, land conservation, and education and to tackle new projects. They are considering expanding county-wide as interested people from adjacent watersheds want to take advantage of the Coalition's momentum and experience. The Mitchell River Coalition is certainly a testament to how a mission driven group can accomplish incredible things.

Our Chapter's Conservation Review Committee has decided to reach out to conservation partnerships across North Carolina to offer our collaboration so that we can further enhance their efforts and ours. Many Chapter members are directly involved with a conservation partnership. If you are not, I encourage you to tune into the information that the Conservation Review Committee shares and seek out one in your area. You may be able to contribute ideas and information that will ultimately be translated into on-the-ground improvements for wildlife. One of the objectives spelled out in our North Carolina Chapter of the Wildlife Society (NCTWS) bylaws is to develop and promote sound stewardship of wildlife resources and the environment upon which wildlife and humans depend. I think that conservation partnerships serve as an excellent avenue for us to use to achieve this objective.

— John Ann



Dick Everhart is a leader with the exemplary Mitchell River Coalition, a conservation partnership dedicated to improving the water quality of the Mitchell.

CHAPTER VISION STATEMENT
*To guide and promote the conservation and management
of wildlife resources throughout North Carolina.*

The CHAPTER MISSION STATEMENT and CHAPTER OBJECTIVES
can be viewed on the Chapter's website at:
www.main.nc.us/nctws

2006-2007 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

2006-2007 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

NEWS FROM OUR CHAPTER COMMITTEES

MEMBERSHIP

By Jeff Marcus

As of July 27, 2006, the NCTWS had 162 active members. Fifty-two additional members were paid up through 2004 or 2005, but have not yet renewed for 2006.

The membership committee will be meeting soon (date to be determined) at the Turner House on the North Carolina State University (NCSU) Campus in

Raleigh. At this meeting we will strategize future directions for this committee, including how to better keep track of existing members and recruiting new members. You are invited to participate in this committee. If you are interested, please contact Jeff Marcus, jfmarcus@alltel.net, 910-281-4388.

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

By Laura Fogo

The Education and Information Committee met on June 19, 2006 in Raleigh to kickoff a new forum of members and to define a future strategic plan to guide the new group and to serve as a baseline for future committees. The meeting was facilitated by Pete Campbell. Thanks Pete!! New members present were Beth Evans, Mark Johns, Allen Basala, and Anna Smith. Donna MacLennan was also present serving her second year. A mission

statement and goals were drafted. The group also began to discuss development of an educational display. The next meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2006 from 10 am to 12 pm, at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Raleigh Field Office conference room. Thank you all for such a good, successful, new start for this committee. Let's keep the momentum going. New members are welcome to attend.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

By Mark Johns

Workshops have been set up or are being finalized for this fall. Members will be notified as details are worked out. The following workshops are scheduled:

Shorebird ID at Bogue Banks

September 12, 2006

Contact: Sue Cameron, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) at camerons@coastalnet.com

Reptile and Amphibian ID (Henderson, Transylvania and Buncombe Counties) October 6, 2006

Contact: Lori Williams, NCWRC at lori_williams@earthlink.net



Reptile and Amphibian ID in the Coastal Plain at Cool Springs

October 6, 2006

Contact: Jeff Hall at jeffhall@coolsprings.org

MENTOR PROGRAM

By Brady Beck

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

assistance with projects. The program is designed to be flexible and provide a match for both parties so that the mentorship can be convenient for scheduling and traveling. We currently have 19 professionals signed up as mentors and five students matched up with them. 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.

CONSERVATION REVIEW

By Salinda Daley and Mike Begier

Wildlife Information Network (WIN) Grant

The WIN grant brochures are completed. They will be distributed to 4,000 North Carolina 5th grade teachers this fall in a packet being compiled by the Office of Environmental Education and will also be available for distribution via the NCTWS and the NC Birding Trail. A PDF version of the brochure is available as a download from the NCTWS website.

US Navy Outlying Landing Field update

The US Navy and environmental contractors are finishing work on a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) regarding work on the



Outlying Landing Field site location. Meetings to finalize the document have occurred and comments have been solicited from

the USFWS, who is a cooperating agency on the document. The SEIS document is scheduled for release and public comment during the autumn of 2006. The Wildlife Society (TWS) has formed an expert committee to review the document, including experts on aircraft-bird collisions and the impact of airfields on waterfowl and other avifauna. The state chapter will assist this committee if it is requested by the parent organization.

Conservation Review Committee (CRC) Conference Call Update

On June 28, 2006 the CRC conducted a conference call meeting. The co-chairs, John Ann Shearer and new member John Weller, participated. The committee hopes to convene other interested participants in a sit-down committee meeting later this summer or early fall. The CRC is here to serve the Chapter members by researching and reporting on current conservation issues affecting our state and educating the membership about those issues. If there is a particular wildlife conservation issue that you would like to see the Committee tackle, let us know. And if you would like to get involved in current conservation issues in North Carolina through participation in the CRC, please contact Mike Begier (mike.begier@aphis.usda.gov) or Salinda Daley (salinda.daley@earthlink.net).

Regional Land Conservation Partnerships

The CRC will soon be sending letters of introduction to regional land conservation partnerships (e.g., Sandhills Conservation Partnership, Uwharrie Conservation Partnership, etc.) to seek collaboration and information exchange concerning mutual interest issues. The NCTWS will offer ourselves as a resource related to wildlife goals/values/objectives. If the NCTWS can become better connected with these regional organizations, we can work more effectively to share pertinent information with the NCTWS membership in upcoming newsletters and promote membership interest in the local partnerships.

FUNDRAISING AND STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

By Pete Campbell

The fund-raising committee has been working with Dave Dudek and Dick Lancia to develop formal agreements to establish an annual NCTWS student scholarship endowment fund at NCSU and Haywood Community College (HCC). The Chapter endowment funds will be part of two larger endowment funds that are already well-established at each school; the HCC Endowment Fund and NCSU's NC Forestry Foundation. One benefit of contributing to these existing scholarship funds is the opportunity to leverage our Chapter's annual contributions with contributions from other sources. In effect, we would then be able to solicit contributions from interested members of the wildlife community in North Carolina, and others, as well as seek funding from outside grants. All monies contributed by the Chapter to each school's

endowment fund will be earmarked for the Chapter's Annual Student Scholarship. As we strive to build up the necessary principle in these endowment funds, the Chapter will continue to award a scholarship to one member from each student chapter. Once we have achieved our financial goal for each endowment fund, the interest will be used to pay for the annual scholarships each year.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

NC Partners in Flight Fall Meeting
"Sandhills Bird Conservation Efforts"
Weymouth Woods State Nature Preserve,
Southern Pines, NC
November 15, 2006, 1 pm - 5 pm

STEP UP TO THE PLATE—RUN FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD

By Don Seriff

The Nominations and Elections Committee would like each member to consider running for a seat on the Executive Board or to nominate an individual to run for the Executive Board this year. Your active participation in Chapter activities at this level is the key to our future success. We are now accepting nominations for candidates for the following positions:

President-Elect: Three-year commitment
Treasurer: Two-year commitment
Member At-Large: One-year commitment

MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENT

Chapter member Mike Begier was recently appointed as U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Services Eastern Region representative to Bird Strike Committee (BSC) USA. The committee is a volunteer organization directed by a 9-12 person steering committee consisting of 2-3 members each from the Federal Aviation Administration, USDA, Department of Defense (DOD) and the aviation industry. For more information please visit the BSC-USA website at: <http://www.birdstrike.org/>.



All current chapter members are eligible to run for office. Remember, it is vital in professional organizations such as ours, that each and every member step up and volunteer their service for office - at least once - during their membership. Please make this the year that you "Step Up to the Plate." To volunteer to run or to make a nomination contact: Don Seriff at 704-432-1391 or Donald.Seriff@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov.

RESOLVING CONFLICT THROUGH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

By Mary Lou Addor

In North Carolina, environmental managers and decision makers have to deal with many sensitive issues, including wildlife management, endangered species, and the loss of biodiversity.

To help these leaders build common interests between various interest groups and create new approaches to managing competing resource uses, the N.C. Cooperative Extension at NCSU initiated the North Carolina Natural Resources Leadership Institute (NRLI).

Since the institute's inception in 1994, more than 300 professionals in North Carolina and five other states, from industry, government, nonprofit organizations and higher education institutions, have participated in the institute.

The NRLI curriculum focuses on leadership development, public participation, conflict resolution, and collaborative problem solving, during six workshops and a leadership project, also known as the practicum.

Several members of the NCTWS are Fellows of the NRLI including recent graduate Jeff Marcus, the Piedmont Faunal Diversity Biologist for the NCWRC and Pete Campbell, Biologist with the USFWS.

Last year, Jeff Marcus used the leadership model to improve communication, coordination, and understanding in forming the Greater Uwharrie Conservation Partnership. The Partnership is engaging government planners, developers, landowners, private industry, and other important stakeholders to develop a comprehensive vision for the future of the region that includes both economic development and conservation of natural resources. As of May 2006, the Partnership has developed a Memorandum of Understanding with 12 member organizations.



**NATURAL
RESOURCES
LEADERSHIP
INSTITUTE**

"NRLI was a great opportunity to

enhance my communication skills, and network with other natural resources professionals across the state. I'd recommend the program for anyone who works extensively with collaborative (or confrontational) relationships," says Marcus.

To learn more about the upcoming 2007 NRLI, contact, Mary Lou Addor, Associate Director at either: 919.515.9602 or Mary_Addor@ncsu.edu. A current application for the 2007 institute is located at www.ces.ncsu.edu/NRLI.

WANTED—NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

We want to hear from our members regarding news in their area or work, upcoming workshops and meetings, and other topics of interest to the membership so that we can include this information in future newsletters. We would also like to include photos or graphics related to those submissions or other visuals that could be used throughout the newsletter. Please submit any articles, general information, photographs and/or visuals, or other ideas to: lbeckst@carolina.rr.com.

Deadline for the next newsletter is October 25, 2006.

CHANGES ON THE NCTWS BOARD

By Jeff Marcus

We are sad to announce that Anna Smith resigned her position as a NCTWS board member because she will be moving to South Carolina for her husband's job change. Anna moved to North Carolina in January of 2005 to be the NCWRC's Urban Wildlife Biologist. In her brief stay in North Carolina, Anna brought a tremendous amount of energy and new ideas to her position and pioneered some novel approaches to achieving conservation goals in a rapidly urbanizing landscape. She didn't hesitate to jump right in to participate with the NCTWS, attending several meetings and training sessions and then volunteering her time to run for the board. We wish Anna well in her new home and with her new baby expected in early October.

Replacing Anna on the board will be Jeff Hall. Jeff Hall is a private contractor specializing in wildlife

research and environmental education. He currently contracts as the Environmental Coordinator for Weyerhaeuser's Cool Springs Environmental Education Center and also with the DOD working on an amphibian monitoring project at Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station. Jeff's passion is for reptiles and amphibians, and he has been working to better understand and conserve these animals, while getting both students and teachers excited about them. Jeff has participated in the NCTWS meetings and has led the NCTWS Professional Development workshops, but this is his first time serving on the board. We welcome Jeff and thank him for stepping up to make this contribution to the NCTWS. Jeff will serve out the remainder of Anna's term until elections at the winter meeting.

NCTWS JOINS NC PRESCRIBED FIRE COUNCIL

By Chris Moorman

The Executive Board of NCTWS recently voted to become a member of the NC Prescribed Fire Council. The Council is comprised of member representatives of any agency, organization, corporation, institution, or private ownership with an interest in prescribed fire. The Council's mission is *to foster cooperation among all parties in North Carolina with an interest or stake in prescribed fire for the purpose of optimizing burning opportunities for the benefit of natural ecosystems and wildlife and to reduce the risk of damage from wildfires.* Because the Council is so new (just formed in winter 2006), it is seeking interested individuals or groups of individuals to join and/or participate on its subcommittees. To become involved on the



Council, contact
Margit Bucher
(Chair) at
mbucher@tnc.org,
Chris Moorman
(Vice-chair and
Implementation
Subcommittee,
Chair) at chris.moorman@ncsu.edu, Kelley Van
Druten (Education and Outreach Subcommittee,
Chair) at Kelley_VanDruten@fws.gov, Mark Megalos
(Membership and Annual Meeting, Chair) at
mark.megalos@ncsu.edu, or Matt Flint (Data and
Planning Subcommittee, Chair) at
Matt.Flint@nc.usda.gov.

2007 ANNUAL MEETING – SAVE THE DATE

By Chris Moorman

The Chapter's annual meeting will be held at Camp Kanuga Conference Center just outside of Hendersonville, North Carolina on March 15-16, 2007. The theme will be "Fire on the Mountain" with all presentations during the first afternoon related to the use of prescribed fire to conserve habitats in western North Carolina. The morning

session on March 16 will include contributed presentations on a variety of topics and the Chapter business meeting. A pre-conference tour/workshop on the morning of March 15 will be led to the Fire and Fire Surrogate Study site and Table Mountain and pitch pine restoration burn sites on Green River Game Land located near Kanuga.

THE MEAT OF FUR, FISH, N' GAME RENEDZVOUS

By Allen Basala

More than two decades ago, representatives of a local wildlife club met with an NCSU official. Dr. Gary San Julian wanted the club's time to invest in establishing and nurturing an outdoor camp for boys and girls ages 12-15. The club members helped some. But, folks from NCSU, the NCWRC, NC Wildlife Federation, and others did a lot of the heavy lifting.

The six-day, five-night event was established and continues to be held in June at Camp Millstone, near Ellerbe, NC. The Fur, Fish, n' Game (FFNG)



Advanced Camp Crow Hunt with David Cobb, Terry Sharpe, and Lincoln Sadler.

Rendezvous experience seems to be a catalyst for some attendees. They go on to wildlife related careers in the private sector. Some others find careers with wildlife, environmental, and/or natural resource state or federal government agencies. Still other former FFNG campers now direct conservation non-profit organizations. The wildlife and natural resource conservation and education accomplishments of those former campers are just some of the dividends provided perhaps by the seeds planted in the FFNG experience.

Many FFNG campers never go onto a professional career in wildlife and natural resources management. But, if their end-of-camp test scores mean anything, they too learned the underpinnings of wildlife management, importance of game and non-game species and habitat, safety and marksmanship with gun and archery equipment, accountability for their actions, and the value of a positive wildlife ethic. Today, many of this majority are ethical hunters, anglers, and/or wildlife watchers who understand their roles as ambassadors for wildlife and natural resource

stewardship. They often comprise the "supportive" constituency welcomed by the wildlife professional in cooperative conservation and other ventures.



Chris Moorman showing advanced campers some of the beneficial plants that grow after a prescribed fire.

Some out-of-state residents have attended the camp. And, you never know who might have been a FFNG camper, or an almost camper. In 1996, a U.S. Senator was checking out hunter education opportunities in the DC area. At that time, local hunter education training was a scarce commodity. The Senator's senior staff biologist learned about FFNG and passed the information onto the Senator. But, in the meantime, an opportunity for hunter education training opened up in the DC area. The US Senator was, however, very appreciative of the information regarding FFNG.

Today, the number of FFNG graduates is about



Dave Woodward and his talented turtles.

1800. Dixon Herman, partner with Blue Ridge Wildlife Control, LLC; Manley Fuller, Executive Director of the Florida Wildlife Federation; and, Dr. David Cobb, Director of the Wildlife Management Division of NCWRC are among the FFNG graduates. Dr. Gary San Julian is a Professor at Penn State and still championing wildlife conservation and education.

The local wildlife club continues to provide labor and financial support to FFNG. And, the Idaho Senator is now the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior.

In 2007, NC Cooperative Extension, NCWRC and other partners will present and celebrate the 25th anniversary of Fur, Fish, n' Game Rendezvous. The NCTWS can be an important part of that celebration. The NCTWS has 200 members. If the average donation to the Susan Sharpe Endowment fund were \$50 dollars, the chapter could make an annual camp scholarship a reality. What an honor it would be for Susan Sharpe's memory and the NCTWS to announce that endowed scholarship. More importantly, this would be a great investment in the future of wildlife and natural resources

conservation and education in North Carolina, the Southeast U.S., and other parts of the globe. Her Russian counterparts from the exchange program

would say "bolshiya spasiba" in English: BIG thank you.



Dave Woodward showing campers some of his snakes.

A TRIBUTE TO THE SHARPE'S

By Jeff Marcus



Terry Sharpe preparing a fish for the advanced camper fish fry at this year's Fur, Fish, n' Game Rendezvous.

On December 1, 2006, Terry Sharpe will be retiring after a distinguished career with the NCWRC. Terry has long been an active supporter of and participant in TWS. He was instrumental in

creating the Susan Sharpe Memorial Fur, Fish, and Game Scholarship to help train and inspire the next generation of wildlife enthusiasts. In lieu of the traditional retirement gift, Terry has requested that anyone wishing to contribute to a retirement gift to make a donation to the Susan Sharpe fund instead. Donations can be made out to the NCTWS with Sharpe Fund in the memo field and sent to PO Box 37742, Raleigh, NC 27627.

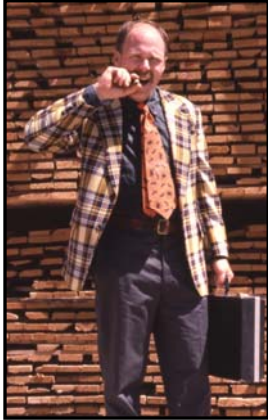
AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

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

NCTWS MEMBER PROFILES

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

Ken Knight



What you're called: Ken, Kenny-Bob (and I'm sure many other things behind my back)

Current Position and Employer and location: Piedmont Wildlife Biologist Supervisor (Private Lands Section) for NCWRC. Live in Albemarle, work Districts 3, 5 and 6

How long have you been with this employer? 20 years

Phone number and/or e-mail: (704)982-1600; kbknight@vnet.net

Education: B.S. in Zoology/Wildlife Biology from NCSU in 1977. M.S. in Wildlife Management from West Virginia University in 1980.

Where did you grow up? Weldon, Halifax County (if indeed I ever did grow up).

What other work experience do you have? West Virginia Dept. of Natural Resources - last position as T&E species biologist, 1979-1986.

Why did you go into a wildlife career? Same as most of us in the field: a love of the outdoors in general and wildlife in particular. My academic interest developed at NCSU through meeting and knowing other wildlife students and great professors (Drs. Barkalow, Doerr and Martof, in particular).

Have you always been interested in wildlife? Yes, without a doubt.

Who has been an influence on you in your career? How and why? Dr. Fred Barkalow was my advisor

at NCSU. He was a huge influence on me academically and guiding me toward graduate school. And he helped me get my first wildlife job as a summer intern with NCWRC. The internship was sponsored by the N.C. Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (a fledgling organization at the time). My summer was spent working every day with Wayne Bailey on the turkey restoration project in the North Carolina mountains. Mr. Bailey was a tremendous outdoorsman, botanist and birder, in addition to being an authority on wild turkeys, and I learned a lot from him that summer.

Have you ever worked outside the wildlife profession? What did you do? Two summers working at R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. convinced me that I didn't want to sweep floors or build shipping crates as a career.

What has been the highlight of your wildlife career so far? Meeting Marlin Perkins (just kidding). It would be impossible to pick a single highlight - there have been many. But being involved with wild turkey restoration in my little part of the world would have to be one.

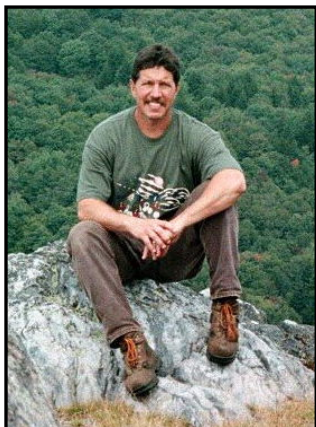
What was your most embarrassing experience in the field? Having a confiscated deer, which had been sedated, hog-tied and put into the back of a pick-up truck, then wake up, shake loose of the ropes and stand up in the back of the truck in stop-and-go traffic during rush hour in Charlotte.

What do you think is the greatest misunderstanding that the public has about wildlife? That wild animals are either cute and cuddly (wanting to be held and petted) or that wild animals are to be feared.

What advise would you give someone just starting out in wildlife? Work hard in school and keep your options open career-wise.

What are your hobbies? Hunting, canoeing, backpacking, bicycling and refereeing youth soccer.

Dean Simon



What you're called:
Dean

Current Position and Employer and location:
Wildlife Forester in the Mountain Region of the state for NCWRC.

How long have you been with this employer? 20 years

Phone number and/or e-mail: (828) 433-7277; simondm@earthlink.net

Education: B.S. in Forestry from Louisiana State University; M.S. in Wildlife Biology from University of Georgia (emphasis fire ecology).

Where did you grow up? Southeastern U.S. I've lived in Georgia, Louisiana, and Virginia, but mostly grew up in central Florida before the days of Disney World, Sea World, etc. and all the destructive development that occurred in that area. Nowadays, I find it very depressing anytime I'm back down in Florida and see what's happened to all the places I use to hunt and fish as a kid - not much left of the cypress swamps, live oak forests, piney flat woods, and barren coastal strands where I spent a lot of time growing up.

What other work experience do you have? I pretty much sowed my wild oats for a while after high school and went to work part time for the United Parcel Service just before I started college full time. I worked part time as a Student Worker (Forest Research Assistant) while at Louisiana State University and worked part time for the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study Unit while at the University of Georgia.

Have you always been interested in wildlife? I was always the kid in my family (1 of 4) that was out playing with frogs, turtles, snakes, crawdads, etc. I knew at 12 years old that I definitely wanted to work in the forest. Once I finally got in college, I found the path that I thought would keep me in the

woods, working with wildlife, and not having to deal with people. Little did I realize then how much part of my job would be out of the woods, spent in front of a computer, and doing a lot more "people management" than I ever expected. But, I love this job, I work with a great bunch of folks, and I truly feel very fortunate.

What has been the highlight of your wildlife career so far? The development of an active prescribed burning program on Mountain Region Game Lands. When I became Wildlife Forester in this region about 20 years ago, prescribed burning in the mountains was virtually non-existent, other than the occasional site preparation burning of clear-cuts. Now, we are burning several thousand acres a year on game lands across the region and have been a strong influence and supporter of the U. S. Forest Service and the thousands of acres they now burn annually here in the mountains as well.

The year 2000 was by far a very memorable year for me as part of the North Carolina Chapter of The Wildlife Society. While serving on the Executive Board that year, I was honored and privileged to have been part of the team and membership that received the Chapter of the Year Award. Also, having received my Associate Wildlife Biologist designation while in college, it was very satisfying to finally receive my Certified Wildlife Biologist designation in 2000 as well.

What do you think is the greatest challenges to wildlife professionals? Is to educate the public with the "other side of the story" regarding forestry and wildlife management. The excessive amount of time and money spent by numerous "Environmental" groups has provided the public with one sided information and left folks with no knowledge of the need for early successional wildlife habitat and the importance of diversity. Subsequently, it will continue to be an uphill battle to encourage private landowners to actively manage their forest resources and for active management to continue on National Forests and other public lands. Wildlife professionals face real challenges in getting the truth out about forestry as a tool for maintaining healthy forests, wildlife habitat diversity, and the need for hunting to manage healthy game animal populations.

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THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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