

SE Section Representative Annual Report

June Report:

Three meetings have been held so far since January. During the first meeting introductions were made and committees joined to further understand the structure of their committees. In March they made decisions on fur species actions with details included within their September issue. Kelly is wanting to facilitate more information sharing. This includes inviting everyone to attend their July meeting. They also want to facilitate meetings for sub-units within the SE section. They currently do not have access to student chapter and NCTWS member information. It has to be specifically asked for. These meetings will be vital for information sharing.

The SE Sections first Field Course went off with a success! 16 students from across 6 different states attended. Some from large universities and some from small. Kelly was able to attend the first four days and heard positive feedback from students. They had many experiences including heavy equipment use and operation, firearm safety, small mammal tracking, prescribed burn, owl surveys, a trapping demo, and much more. The evaluations from students will be included in the September newsletter. The SE section will be determining if they will continue to hold this event every year or every other year. Two applicants received the NC sponsored grants. Only one person showed up. One expected student ended up with Covid and was unable to attend. That money will need to be dealt with (possibly a refund).

Kolby Altabet was the 2019 Minorities in Natural Resources Conservation Committee Student Sponsor to attend the SEAFWA annual conference. They graduated from NCSU with a BS in Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology in December 2020. Since then, Kolby has worked two seasons as a gopher frog technician with Mississippi State University, and as a park aid with Wake County Open Space where they led natural resource workdays, including Neuse River Waterdog snorkeling surveys and longleaf pine planting.

April 26th was the day 26 Eastern Indigo snakes were released in Florida to return to native habitat. This marked the 6th successful time this took place in TNC's Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines Preserve. Collaboration by TNC and many, many other agencies contributed to this project.

August Report:

On July 26th the SETWS Section had a general meeting. Everyone was invited to attend. Only had 597 members out of 2,000 which are within the SE Section of TWS. This has been a discrepancy and they are attempting to tackle this issue. Most money raised for the SE Section is through membership dues. The SE Field Course brought in some of the money raised this year and hopefully will continue to.

Lisa Muller spoke of how Jim Miller's work will be recognized and there may be a conservation leadership scholarship to become of this. Sadly, Jim Miller passed away this year. The website will have changes in publications. Wildlife monographs will be broadened and there will be a possibility for people to publish policy reports. Bylaws were attempted to be changed last year. Although, this was a steep task to tackle due to the need to organize the committee structure.

Fur Resources Issue Statement- Issue statement for predator killing contests that was created four years ago. They were unable to find out who drafted the statement. Requested TWS would review

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that issue statement and that maybe to revise it. Including expertise from the fur resources committee. There was no process for issuing/revising these issue statements. So, council approved process for creating/reviewing/revising issue statements. Hunting trapping conservation group of TWS created another version of the predator contest. Will review this one and see if the current issue statement would be replaced with it or not. Still going through process of formally requesting to review that.

Field course for 2023 dates are to be determined. Wildlife Management of Excellence Award is due August 1st. Marcella will be the student sponsor for the Annual Meeting in October and was offered a scholarship for SEAFWA. This will be happening in Charleston, WV from October 23-26th.

For more information on what's happening in the SE Section of TWS you can go to their website here
<https://wildlife.org/se-section/>

October and December there were no updates to be reported.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelsey Pistner

kelseynicolepistner@gmail.com