



The Wildlife Society

Tennessee Chapter

*Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through
Science and Education*

February 2008

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TENNESSEE CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

MARCH 5-7, 2008
Henry Horton State Park
Chapel Hill, Tennessee

The 2008 annual meeting of the Tennessee Chapter of The Wildlife Society will be held at the Henry Horton State Park, 40 miles south of Nashville at Chapel Hill, Tennessee. The meeting will begin Wednesday, March 5 and run through March 7, 2008. Noted speakers from around the state will be there to enhance our knowledge and our skills on the status of wildlife in Tennessee. The theme for the annual meeting will be "Meeting in the Middle." Topics will cover partnerships and joint ventures currently in-state. Student presentations will begin at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5.

Rooms are being held for those attending the meeting, but it is up to attendees to make their own reservations (see Hotel Information, third column). Take special note: The park

requires a one-night deposit for advanced reservations. You can get a refund if you notify them in advance if, for some reason, you cannot attend.

Tentative Schedule

- 3/5 1-5 p.m. – Student presentations (followed by informal social)
- 3/6 9 a.m.-5 p.m. – Professional Presentations (followed by Banquet and Social)
- 3/7 9-11 a.m. – Business Meeting

Hotel Information

Henry Horton State Park
4358 Nashville Hwy.
Chapel Hill, TN 37034
Office: 931-364-2222 or
1-800-250-8612

If you need more information or any clarifications, please contact Alan Peterson by e-mail (alan.peterson@state.tn.us).

AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED!!!

The Annual Tennessee Chapter of TWS Auction will be held after the Social Thursday night, March 6, 2008. If you have something you would like to donate do so the night of the auction. Anything would be good for auction items and most anything sells, sometimes more than once. Homemade jams/jellies, guided hunts/fishing excursions, other home and garden crafts welcome. Proceeds help fund the TN-TWS Chapter. E-mail Gray.Anderson@state.tn.us for more information.

TWRA TO PLAY MAJOR ROLE AS RESULT OF HISTORIC LAND ACQUISITION

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency will play a major role in the management of the largest land conservation initiative in the state since the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was dedicated in 1940.

“Connecting the Cumberland” marks the successful completion of a historic 127,000-acre acquisition on the northern portion of the Cumberland Plateau. The project is called “Connecting the Cumberlands” because it connects the acquired property with other publicly owned land on the northern Cumberland Plateau.

All the acreage in the acquisition, totaling 200 square miles, will be managed for public use and enjoyment by TWRA and Tennessee State Parks. The properties are located in Scott, Campbell, Anderson, and Morgan counties and stretch from Frozen Head State Natural Area to the Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area.

The acquisition includes an additional 49,000 acres for hunting and fishing. Other increased recreational opportunities such as hiking, biking, horseback riding and wildlife viewing, while at the same time, utilizing conservation tools that protect the land and local economies, are now available.

“I believe that the generation in place when Teddy Roosevelt set aside millions of acres for our national park system did not appreciate it nearly as much as we do now,” said Gary Myers, TWRA Executive Director.

“Similarly, I think today’s generation might not fully realize the benefits that this acquisition brings to our children, grandchildren, and beyond.”

The “landscape scale” of the acquisition provides a natural corridor for wildlife such as deer, elk, songbirds, and bats to move and migrate freely and helps preserve the purity of streams and rivers.

“This project gave us a rare, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to protect ecologically significant woodlands on a large scale and make them available for recreation,” said Gov. Phil Bredesen in Knoxville at a celebration to mark the acquisition’s conclusion. “It will also help protect our air and water quality and wildlife habitat, as well as the natural beauty and cultural heritage that make our state uniquely Tennessee.”

The state of Tennessee partnered with The Nature Conservancy and two conservation-minded timber companies, Conservation Forestry and Lyme Timber, to successfully complete the acquisition. The state contributed \$82 million to the \$135 million total investment through a one-time appropriation supported by the General Assembly.

“It is fabulous that Gov. Bredesen has stepped forward and put us in position to manage many important species in Tennessee, forever,” Myers said.

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Tennessee Chapter Newsletter
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Editor

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The Wildlife Society is a nonprofit organization.

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6TH ANNUAL SOUTHEASTERN BAT DIVERSITY NETWORK BAT BLITZ NETS OVER 100 BIOLOGISTS

The 6th Annual Southeastern Bat Diversity Network Bat Blitz held July 29-August 2, 2007, was attended by more than 100 bat enthusiasts. The blitz focused this year on the mountains of northeastern Tennessee and northwestern North Carolina where participants from eight state agencies, five federal agencies, 17 colleges and universities and 13 other organizations converged on Roan Mountain State Park, headquarters for the event.

The bat blitz involved four nights of intensive surveys on about 50 different sites to look at the various bat species in the Cherokee and Pisgah National Forests and adjoining state lands. Survey techniques included mist netting and acoustic sampling. Captured bats were measured and then released.

Each night the scientists and volunteers packed up bat detec-

tors, nets, lights and plenty of insect repellent. At dusk, several mist nets were set up at each location, usually near or over water. After bats flew into the nets, they were quickly removed and examined. Researchers recorded species, sex, age, weight and measurements.

The blitz netted 462 bats of seven species including big brown bat, eastern red bat, eastern small-footed bat, little brown bat, northern long-eared bat, gray bat and the eastern pipistrelle bat.

An intense blitz is an efficient way to provide land managers with information about local bat communities and the importance of forests to their populations. The volume of surveying and data collection during a bat blitz is significantly greater than the work a single biologist can accomplish during an entire season.

The blitz also provides an opportunity for researchers and management biologists to exchange information and develop strategies for studying bat communities. Through the blitz, information is gathered about the needs of bats to incorporate into land management planning efforts.

The event was hosted jointly by the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cherokee National Forest; Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency; Southeastern Bat Diversity Network; Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation; Tennessee Bat Working Group; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Roan Mountain State Park; The Partners of the Cherokee National Forest; National Forest Foundation; Wal-Mart of South Cleveland, Tennessee, and many other agencies and non-profit organizations.

AGENCY & CHAPTER NEWS



The TTU Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society is celebrating its recent first place finish at the 2007 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave in Georgia in March! The chapter also taught a hunter education class at the National Wild Turkey Federation Convention in Nashville in February. Dr. Robert's Wetlands Ecology class is assisting the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation with development of a Tennessee Wetlands

website. A number of students worked as interns during the summer, in positions in Tennessee, Texas, Arizona, Montana, and elsewhere. The new Student Chapter officers are President Michael Claridy, Vice-President Bryon Franklin, and Secretary/Treasurer Nathan Fowler.

A new professional reference manual, *Native Warm-Season Grasses: Identification, Establishment, and Management for Wildlife and Forage Production*



in the Mid-South, by Craig A. Harper, Gary E. Bates, Michael P. Hansbrough, Mark J. Gudlin, John P. Gruchy, and Patrick D. Keyser (189 pages), was recently published by the University of Tennessee Extension. It is available (\$35) through UT Extension at <http://www.utextension.utk.edu/publications/wildlife/default.asp>.

Eighteen students took 18 in various summer conservation jobs around the country. Student jobs are in natural resources

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with state, federal and private organizations from New York to Alaska, Montana, Dakotas to islands off the Georgia coast—and many points in between.

LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY

The Chapter has built a 256 square foot gazebo in the LMU Arboretum and continues to work on the development of the arboretum. Congratulations to Todd Perkins for receiving a scholarship from the National Wild Turkey Federation.

In March, the U.T. Martin Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society attended the Southeastern Wildlife Student Conclave in Georgia, where they placed 4th overall in the student competitions. The group continues to work with Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as to write a column for the West Tennessee Outdoors magazine. UTM-TWS also contracted with TN Wildlife Federation to provide workers for a new program called Great Outdoors University (GOU), a project to expose inner city youth to outdoor activities such as hiking, fishing and camping. Finally, the chapter held the first annual youth fishing rodeo, on the Saturday of the Spring UTM Collegiate Rodeo.

The University of Tennessee at Martin Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society is hosting the 2008 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave at Paris Landing State Park from March 13th through the 15th. Early registration deadline



was February 1st; all attendees must register by February 15th. Visit the Conclave Website for details and registration information: www.utm.edu/conclave. Questions may be directed to Eric Pelren at epelren@utm.edu or 731-881-7263.



The APSU Chapter of The Wildlife Society was founded in September of 2007. This student chapter is dedicated to becoming the most active and beneficial club on the Austin Peay campus. We strive to develop well educated and experienced wildlife professionals that will one day manage this country's natural resources.

In cooperation with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, the TWRA Wildlife Division has hired four new Private Lands Biologists (Wally Akins, Clint Borum, Aubrey Deck, and Chris Hunter) that will work out of NRCS offices delivering USDA and TWRA conservation programs to private landowners. Ben Davis has been named as the Southeastern Association Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) 2007 Tennessee Wildlife Officer of the Year. The Shikar-Safari Club International has honored Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Officer Joe Fortner as its Tennessee Wildlife Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for 2007. Fortner serves TWRA as an officer in Williamson County,



facing the task of being the only TWRA Wildlife Officer in the state's fastest growing county. David Sims has been named the 2007 Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Wildlife Biologist of the Year. Sims serves TWRA as a Region II Aquatic Habitat Protection Biologist and throughout his career has been an effective and active advocate for stream and river habitat protection. Freddie Majors, father of Hamilton County officer Matt Majors, was recently awarded the Statewide TWRA Volunteer of the Year Award at the annual wildlife managers meeting held at the Chattanooga Choo Choo. Ben Bush of Hendersonville was honored as the TWF/ TWRA Hunter Education Instructor of the Year.

The TWRA welcomed 11 new officers who recently completed an extensive eight-week orientation process and now have begun their assignments across the state. The new officers are: Andrew Rush, Brad Daugherty, Brandon Geesling, Brandon Selvog, Christy Twilla, Dustin McCubbins, Jarod Coxey, Jonathan Hutson, Jonathan Lee, Matt Swecker, and Ray McMillen. In addition to the new officers, Region II assistant regional manager Tim Cleveland, who had been a wildlife manager, joined the new officers during the training.

TENNESSEE CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEES

PRESIDENT ELECT: (Vote for One)

Tim White has been with TWRA since 2000 and has served as the statewide Waterfowl, Dove and Nuisance Wildlife Programs Coordinator for TWRA in Nashville since 2005. A native Tennessean, Tim earned his B.S. degree in wildlife management and M.S. degree in biology from Tennessee Tech University. His Master's research was on food habits, body condition and activity budgets of American black ducks and mallards at Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge. He has held numerous temporary and seasonal positions with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and other agencies. He has worked as a wetlands biologist with the Tennessee Dept. of Transportation and spent five years as a waterfowl biologist and manager with the South Carolina Waterfowl Association. Tim has served as the Southeastern representative for the Tennessee Chapter of TWS. For the past several years Tim has coordinated and/or served as chef at many of the banquets held at state chapter meetings.

Matthew (Matt) Gray is an assistant professor in the Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and directs the U.T. Wetlands and the Amphibian Disease Programs there. A Certified Wildlife Biologist, Matt served as vice president of the Michigan State student chapter of TWS and has been a member of TWS for 15 years. Matt earned his undergraduate degree in wildlife and fisheries at Michigan State University; his M.S. degree in wetland ecology and management at Mississippi State University; and received his Ph.D. from Texas Tech University where he studied playa lake ecology and the impacts of agriculture on amphibians. He moved to Tennessee in 2004 and has been active in numerous professional societies and serves as a member on the Wetlands Wildlife and Publications Committees of the Southeastern Section of TWS. He is a former associate editor of wildlife for the *Proceedings of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies*. He also currently serves TWS as an associate editor for *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, organizing the review of wetland, waterfowl and amphibian manuscripts. Matt is secretary of the Tennessee Herpetological Society, a member of the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture Waterfowl Working Group, Central Hardwoods Bird Conservation Region Technical Committee, and the Tennessee Partners Project Committee. Matt is the faculty advisor for the University of Tennessee Chapter of Ducks Unlimited.

SECRETARY TREASURER: (Vote for One)

Steve Hayslette is originally from the mountains of Virginia. He received his B.S. degree in forestry and wildlife from Virginia Tech in 1991. After working for a year as a research technician in New Mexico, Steve completed his master's degree at Texas A&M-Kingsville in range and wildlife in 1996 and then his Ph.D. in forestry and wildlife science at Auburn University in 2001. He joined the faculty at Tennessee Tech in 2002 in the Department of Biology and is now an Associate Professor there where he teaches and does research primarily with upland game birds such as doves and northern bobwhites.

Aubrey L. Deck, a Knoxville native, graduated with his B.S. and M.S. degrees in wildlife and fisheries science from the University of Tennessee in 2003 and Texas A & M University in 2006, respectively. While in school, he completed an internship with the SCA and the NPS in the Great Smoky Mountains NP. After completing his undergraduate work, Aubrey worked with USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services, where he was a wildlife damage control specialist before he went to Texas A&M. From February 2006 to June 2007 Aubrey worked as an Extension Wildlife Assistant for the University of Tennessee. There, Aubrey delivered programs to the public through 4-H and civic organizations to educate Tennesseans about wildlife management

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and shooting sports. Aubrey also served as the Tennessee 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator during that time. Since 2007, he has been a private lands biologist for the TWRA in cooperation with USDA-NRCS. Active as a volunteer with the 4-H Shooting Sports Program in Tennessee, Aubrey has accredited his knowledge by becoming an Associate Wildlife Biologist, certified by TWS.

**SOUTHEASTERN REPRESENTATIVE:
(Vote for One)**

Daryl Ratajczak is the Big Game Program Coordinator for the TWRA handling the statewide management responsibilities for deer, elk, black bear, and boar. He came to TWRA after working five years as the manager of the Appalachian Bear Center in Townsend. Daryl also worked for the Izaak Walton League of America where he produced an outdoor ethics program for ESPN Outdoors which aired in 2001. He received his B.S. in environmental and forest biology from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse and is currently enrolled as a graduate student at Tennessee Technical University. Daryl has been a member of The Wildlife Society since 2004.

Chad Harden is the regional non-game biologist/planner for TWRA Region I in Jackson. Prior to this position he worked as the West Tennessee Stewardship Ecologist for TDEC - Division of Natural Areas. He has a B.S. in natural resources management-wildlife biology from U.T. Martin and a M.S. in zoology from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale - Cooperative Wildlife Research Lab.

**DIRECTOR AT LARGE:
(Vote for Two)**

Robin Mayberry is the NRCS upland habitat biologist for the eastern most 37 counties in Tennessee. He works with private landowners who want to develop wildlife habitat on their land. Robin was raised in Hickman County in southwestern Middle Tennessee on a 300-acre commercial cattle and row-crop farm along the Duck River. He still partners with his father and brother there. After graduating from the University of Tennessee at Martin with a degree in wildlife biology, he became a wildlife consultant for three years. In January of 2003 he became the NRCS biologist in East Tennessee.

Pat Keyser has been the Associate Professor and Coordinator, Center for Native Grasslands Management at the University of Tennessee since 2006. Prior to that, Pat was Senior Wildlife Biologist with MeadWestvaco and District Wildlife Biologist with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. After completing his B.S. in forestry at Virginia Tech, 1982, and his M.S. in wildlife at LSU, 1984, he worked briefly for the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Pat has served as a chapter officer, vice president, president-elect, president, and past-president with the Virginia Chapter of the TWS and has been a member for many years.

Brian Carver is a faculty member in the Biology Department at Freed-Hardeman University. Brian anticipates completion of his doctoral dissertation this year. Research interests include ecology of Rafinesque's big-eared bats and southeastern myotis in bottomland floodplain ecosystems, ecology of mammalian mesopredators, and population trends of neotropical migratory birds. Brian currently serves on the board of directors for the Tennessee Bat Working Group.

Roger Applegate is the Small Game Coordinator for TWRA. He has been working in wildlife for nearly 40 years. He has also worked for the states of Illinois, Maine, and Kansas. His management experience ranges from managing offshore and inshore islands to native grasslands and with everything from bears to butterflies. His primary focus and passion is restoring the native bobwhite and ruffed grouse and anything associated with those habitats.

BALLOT 2008

The Wildlife Society, Tennessee Chapter Board of Directors

President Elect (Choose 1)

- Tim White
 Matt Gray

Secretary/Treasurer (Choose 1)

- Steve Hayslette
 Aubrey Deck

Southeastern Representative (Choose 1)

- Daryl Ratajczak
 Chad Harden

Directors at Large (Choose 2)

- Robin Mayberry
 Pat Keyser
 Brian Carver
 Roger Applegate

Mail this ballot by February 22, 2008 or turn it
in at the Annual Conference in March.

Mail to: Mary Dodson
P.O. Box 778
Vonore, TN 37885

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY, TENNESSEE CHAPTER

Use the membership application below to join or renew your membership. Return the form with your check or money order (payable to TN-TWS). Enclose \$5 for each year; \$3 for students. (You may also pay at the annual meeting.) Student members, please use your permanent address to ensure delivery.

Mail to: Mary Dodson
P.O. Box 778
Vonore, TN 37885

Mark one: Student Professional

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ E-mail _____

Check/money order enclosed for years 2008 2009 2010 2011

Do you need a receipt? Yes No

Is this a change of address? Yes No

TENNESSEE'S WILDLIFE PLATES

The wild turkey and black bear license plates are available. Money from the sale of these two specialty plates will be available to the TWRA to fund wildlife habitat protection and enhancement programs, provide public hunting and fishing access, support law enforcement efforts, and improve youth education projects. The original wildlife plate, the Eastern bluebird, is also available. This plate has become the most popular specialty license plate in Tennessee.



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