

THE THIRD DECADE FOR THE SOUTHEASTERN SECTION, THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY: A BRIEF HISTORY

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The Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society was chartered in 1948 at the second annual meeting of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners at Lexington, Ky. Highlights of the Section activities for the first 20 years were given by Kennamer (1970). This paper is an attempt to up-date the history for the decade of years 1969 through 1978. Newsletters, Proceedings of Annual Conferences, records of executive board meetings and correspondence files provided the basis for this report. The assistance from the past presidents of the Section in preparing portions of this paper was also most helpful.

OFFICERS

The officers over the years are given in Table I. Most officers served in more than one office, and usually in some other capacity as well, during the past 10 years.

TABLE I. Officers and section representatives of the Southeastern Section, the Wildlife Society, 1969-78

Year	President	Vice President	Secretary Treasurer	Section Representative
1969	Walter Rosene	Dale H. Arner	Lovett E. Williams	Harold E. Warvel
1970	Dale H. Arner	Lovett E. Williams	William L. Holland	Leslie L. Glasgow
1971	Dale H. Arner	Lovett E. Williams	William L. Holland	Leslie L. Glasgow
1972	Lovett E. Williams	William L. Holland	A. Sydney Johnson	Leslie L. Glasgow
1973	Lovett E. Williams	William L. Holland	A. Sydney Johnson	Robert L. Downing
1974	William L. Holland	A. Sydney Johnson	Richard H. Cross	Robert L. Downing
1975	William L. Holland	A. Sydney Johnson	Richard H. Cross	Robert L. Downing
1976	A. Sydney Johnson	Jack V. Gwynn	Michael R. Pelton	Lovett E. Williams
1977	A. Sydney Johnson	Jack V. Gwynn	Michael R. Pelton	Lovett E. Williams
1978	Edward P. Hill	Michael R. Pelton	James L. Byford	Lovett E. Williams

MEMBERSHIP AND CHAPTERS

At the beginning of the decade there were 14 Wildlife Society Chapters within the 16 southeastern states covered by the Section, and there were 293 section members. In 1972 as a result of action by the Wildlife Society, residents of Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas and West Virginia could no longer vote for a Southeastern Regional Representative; however, a few residents of these states continued as dues-paying members of the Section. The 1978 membership (348) in the Southeastern Section consists primarily of residents from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Many of the 1,086 The Wildlife Society members in 12 southeastern states participate in chapters but have remained uninvolved with the Section. In 1978, there were 23 chapters in the 12 states covered by the Section.

STATE AGENCIES

During the decade several state wildlife and fisheries agencies underwent reorganization. Most assumed additional responsibilities including the protection, research and management of non-game wildlife. The public became more aware of the words, if not the true meaning of, "environment" and "natural resources." This was the era of "Anti" emergence. A variety of groups accelerated their opposition to hunting, trapping and other forms of consumptive use. The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies replaced, in name, the former Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners in 1976.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Since 1947 the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies or its predecessor arranged for, and an individual state volunteered to host the annual meeting (Table 2). The Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society has held its annual business

TABLE 2. Number of wildlife papers presented, location, and meeting dates of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Conferences.

Number of Wildlife Papers Presented	Dates	Locations
24	October 19-22, 1969	Mobile, Alabama
31	September 27-30, 1970	Atlanta, Georgia
38	October 17-20, 1971	Charleston, South Carolina
39	October 22-25, 1972	Knoxville, Tennessee
46	October 14-17, 1973	Hot Springs, Arkansas
29	November 17-20, 1974	White Sulphur Springs, West Va.
48	October 12-15, 1975	St. Louis, Missouri
26	October 24-27, 1976	Jackson, Mississippi
42	October 9-12, 1977	San Antonio, Texas
40	November 5-9, 1978	Hot Springs, Virginia

meeting at the same time, but it was usually a small part of a much larger proceeding. The procedure of rotating the location of the annual Conferences among the host states occasionally resulted in the meeting being held in one of the four states that are a part of the Association but outside the boundaries of the Southeastern Section.

Although there has been some concern among the membership regarding the cost of lodging at some of the meetings, a survey of the Section membership indicated that the cost of attending is not a deterrent.

One of the significant accomplishments emanating from sectional activities in cooperation with the Association and the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society was upgrading the quality of papers presented at the annual conferences and printed in the Proceedings. Following several years of increasing concern over the need for better quality of papers published in the Proceedings, President Dale H. Arner at the 1969 business meeting appointed a committee chaired by A. Sydney Johnson to investigate ways and means of improving the quality of the papers. Shortly thereafter a similar committee chaired by I.B. Byrd was appointed by the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society. The two committees issued a joint report in March 1970. The

Directors, recognizing the need for improvements in procedures, appointed Charles D. Kelley to work with the technical groups in implementing some of the recommendations of the committees. Since that time the Southeastern Section has been responsible for the selection and the quality of the wildlife papers presented at the meetings.

In 1973, Wilmer A. Rogers was appointed Editor-in-Chief of the Proceedings. Lovett E. Williams, Jr. became the first Associate Editor for wildlife papers and with the 1974 conference initiated a peer review process following a standardized format. An effort was made to increase distribution, awareness and recognition of the publication outside the region. Ralph W. Dimmick succeeded Lovett Williams as Associate Editor for wildlife papers in 1975 and in 1977 he was appointed Editor-in-Chief of the Proceedings to succeed Wilmer Rogers. At that time Jay D. Hair was appointed Associate Editor for wildlife papers.

The number of technical papers submitted increased greatly during the decade and it became necessary to reject a greater percentage than in earlier years. Of the 126 titles submitted in 1978, 82 manuscripts were evaluated. Of these 51 were accepted, 7 of which were later withdrawn. The efforts of the section in cooperation with the Association and Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society have been fruitful as the technical quality of the proceedings has improved.

BUDGET

In a decade of rapidly rising prices, when the Wildlife Society revised its dues structure and increased the cost of its publications a number of times, the Southeastern Section has held its dues to a very moderate level. Because the Proceedings of Annual Conferences are published by the Association, the Southeastern Section is not burdened with the costs of publication and these costs are not reflected in the dues structure. Dues were raised from \$1.00 to \$2.00 in 1974.

A portion of the funds amassed from Section dues is spent for an annual award given for the best wildlife paper presented at the previous conference. In 1969, the award consisted of a framed certificate and \$50.00. In 1976 the cash award was increased to \$100. In addition to the annual award for best paper, the Section may present an award for outstanding journal articles and/or outstanding books, bulletins, or monographs. Awards made by the Section during the decade are given in Tables 3 and 4.

Other funds from dues are spent on the Section NEWSLETTER. Larry Safley was appointed as the first editor in 1974. Larry moved in 1976 and was replaced by William G. Minser. William has served until the present and was given a citation in 1978 in recognition of his outstanding work as editor.

In 1972 the Section contributed \$150 to the Wildlife Society Building Fund and, in 1978, contributed another \$500 in Fred Evenden's name. In 1973, \$800 of the budget was used to defray expenses of a Wildlife Society visitation committee sent to the University of Florida to review its wildlife program.

SECTION OPERATIONS

Standard Operating Procedures were adopted by the Section in 1973, and this greatly facilitated the handling of in-house business and administration. Beginning in 1978, the members could vote for Section officers by mail. Prior to this date only members attending the annual meetings could vote for the slate of nominated officers. It should be noted that Section officers MUST be members of the Society as well as the Section. The Section Representative is considered an officer of the national organization and is elected by all Society members residing within the Section boundaries.

Much of the work of the Section is accomplished by committees. Some committees such as the Program, Publication Awards, Resolution and Bylaws, and Watson Awards

TABLE 3. Authors and titles of papers receiving the award for best wildlife paper presented at Annual Conference of Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, 1968-1978.

Year Presented	Authors and Titles
1968	Lovett E. Williams, Jr., David H. Austin, Neal F. Eicholz, Tommie E. Peoples, and Robert W. Phillips - A study of nesting turkeys in southern Florida.
1969	Ted Joanen - Nesting ecology of Alligators in Louisiana
1970	John R. Sweeney, R. Larry Marchinton, and James M. Sweeney - Responses of radio-monitored white-tailed deer chased by hunting dogs ^a
1971	Lovett E. Williams, Jr., David H. Austin, Tommie E. Peoples and Robert W. Phillips - Laying data and nesting behavior of wild turkeys
1972	David H. Austin, Tommie E. Peoples and Lovett E. Williams, Jr. - Procedures for capturing and handling live wild turkeys
1973	John M. Collins - Some aspects of reproduction and age structure in the black bear in North Carolina
1974	Larry Harris, L.D. White, J.E. Johnson, and D.G. Milchunas - Impact of forest plantations on North Florida wildlife and habitat
1975	Kent E. Kammermeyer and R. Larry Marchinton - The dynamic aspects of deer populations utilizing a refuge
1976	Gerald W. Garner, John A. Morrison, and James C. Lewis - Mortality of white-tailed deer fawns in the Wichita Mountains, Oklahoma
1977	Marion H. Gray and Dale H. Arner - The effects of channelization on furbearers and furbearer habitat
1978	Allan R. Woodward and Wayne R. Marion - An evaluation of factors affecting night-light counts of alligators.

^aPresented at annual conferences - withheld from publication in Proceedings for publication in the Journal of Wildlife Management (Vol. 35, No. 4).

TABLE 4. Authors and titles that were recipients of the Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society award for outstanding publication by a section member 1969-1978.

1969	H.S. Mosby. The influence of hunting on the population dynamics of a woodlot gray squirrel population. J. Wildl. Manage. 33(1)59-73.
1970	Walter Rosene, The bobwhite quail, its life history and management. Rutgers Univ. Press. 418 pp.
1972	A.S. Johnson. Biology of the raccoon (<i>Procyon lotor varius</i> Nelson and Goldman) in Alabama. Auburn Univ. Agr. Exp. Sta. Bull. 402 pp.
1979	J.L. Landers and A.S. Johnson. Bobwhite quail food habits in the southeastern United States with a seed key to important foods. Tall Timbers Research Station Misc. Pub. No. 4. 90 pp.

committees have specific, designated responsibilities. Other committees develop their activities within the scope of a broad problem area (e.g., Forest Wildlife, Professional Affairs). These activities may include study and analysis of problems, adopting

resolutions, conducting surveys, conducting workshops, and compiling and distributing information. From 1969 through 1978 standing committees were restructured periodically to accommodate changes in issues and perspectives and to keep the number of committees at a manageable level by more effective use of subcommittees.

The Farm Game Committee, established in 1954, has had close ties with the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and from 1964 to 1973 was a joint committee of the Section and the Association. The name was changed to Farm Wildlife committee in 1976, and the Sections' Dove Committee, chaired by James E. Keeler, became a subcommittee. The Dove committee/Subcommittee also worked closely with the Association and was a joint committee until 1976. Chairmen of the Farm Wildlife Committee were Hubert Handy, 1968-1971; Chester A. McConnell 1972-1977; and Ronald C. Simpson, 1977-. The Farm Wildlife Committee was particularly effective in getting wildlife provisions incorporated into agricultural programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Forest Game Committee, formed in 1955, became the Forest Wildlife Committee in 1976. Chaired by Donald D. Strode (1969), E.B. Chamberlain (1970-1976) and Robert L. Downing (1976-), this committee sponsored lively forums on current issues and technical matters during the annual conferences and was influential on several matters such as the controversy over grazing on the national forests and implementation of the National Forest Management Act of 1976. The committee was a co-sponsor of the "Symposium on White-tailed Deer in the Southern Forest Habitat" (Halls 1969), and a publication on fruit-producing plants used by wildlife (Halls 1977). Subcommittees provided increased opportunity for exchange of information and contributed to the development of regular technical workshops such as the Southeast Deer Study Group, which met for the first time in 1977.

The Foreign Game Committee was formed in 1963 primarily to provide greater coordination of efforts to establish exotic game birds. It was a joint committee of the Section and the Association from 1967 through 1972. In 1972 the name of the Section committee was changed to Exotic Wildlife Committee, and its scope of activity was expanded to include problems of exotic pests and importation of exotic species by groups or individuals other than wildlife agencies. Chairmen were Glenn D. Chambers (1967-1971), Dennis Hart (1971-1972), Dale Crider (1973-1975), and Patrick F. Scanlon (1976-).

The Rare and Endangered Wildlife Committee was formed in 1967 with Alexander Sprunt IV, Chairman. Subsequent chairmen were Hilburn O. Hillestad (1972-1976) and Kenneth B. Stansell (1976-). The Committee concentrated on exchange of information on species and critical habitats, identification of biologists outside the wildlife management profession who have knowledge of specific groups or habitats, and providing comments on specific issues. In 1974 the Committee and Tall Timbers Research Station sponsored a Workshop on Endangered Vertebrates in the Southeast.

The Water Use Committee, chaired by Harold E. Alexander, was replaced in 1972 by a committee on Wildlife Environments, also chaired by Alexander. During further reorganization of committees in 1976, the role of this committee was pre-empted by the new committee on Wetlands Wildlife and the expanded scope of the Forest Wildlife and Farm Wildlife Committees.

The Wetlands Wildlife committee was formed in 1976 under the chairmanship of Leonard O. Walker. Philip M. Wilkinson became chairman in 1978. It incorporated as subcommittees the Alligator Committee, formed in 1972 with Ted Joanen as Chairman, and the Wood Duck Committee, formed in 1975 with Warren Parker as chairman. The Wetlands Wildlife Committee and its subcommittees have provided forums for discussion of such issues as status and harvest of alligators and fur-bearers, waterfowl

regulations, stream alteration, and wetlands inventories. Recommendations and resolutions on various issues were released.

The Professional Affairs Committee was created in 1976 under the chairmanship of James L. Byford. Dale H. Arner became chairman in 1978. The Committee incorporated and expanded the functions of two former committees into three subcommittees: Communications, Professional Education and Professional Standards.

The Public and Professional Relations Committee, formed in 1972 to improve communications within the Section and to make the public and the profession more aware of the Section's activities, was chaired by James L. Byford until 1976 when its functions were assumed by the Communications subcommittee. Byford continued as chairman until 1977 when L. Ross Shelton assumed chairmanship. The work of this committee/subcommittee led to a greatly improved Section Newsletter with a regular editor. Other significant accomplishments included preparing and issuing news releases based on papers given at the technical sessions and publication of a brochure on the Section.

The Professional Wildlife Education Committee, formed in 1972, became a subcommittee of the Professional Affairs Committee in 1976. Chairmen were R. Larry Marchinton, 1972-1975; Michael R. Pelton 1975; Dale H. Arner 1976-. This committee/subcommittee conducted comprehensive surveys and analyses of wildlife education programs in the Southeast in 1973 and 1976. It developed a set of minimum standards for colleges and universities offering graduate training in wildlife management and prepared a list of college and universities requesting evaluation and meeting the minimum standards.

The Professional Standards Subcommittee created in 1976 concerned itself with professionalism, salaries, and hiring and firing practices of state agencies. It conducted a survey of salaries of natural resources professionals in state agencies in 1977. The subcommittee also prompted the Section to work with the Georgia chapter in actively opposing implementation of subprofessional standards for minimum qualifications for wildlife professionals in Georgia. These efforts led to acceptable modification of the standards.

The Private Wildlife Managers Committee was formed in 1974 and became the Private Lands Committee in 1976. Noel S. Yoho has served as chairman since the committee was formed. The Committee has dealt with issues unique to private lands including fee hunting, trespass, liability, tax incentives for wildlife management, non-game management on private lands, impact of endangered species legislation on private landowners, and hiring of wildlife professionals in private industry.

A committee on Non-game Wildlife Management was formed in 1978, with Robert L. Curtis, Chairman. Four subcommittees previously had dealt with non-game wildlife problems divided primarily along habitat lines.

The Publications Awards Committee, which selects outstanding publications for recognition (Tables 4,5), was chaired by A. Sydney Johnson (1966-1970), M. Keith Causey (1971-1972), Richard H. Cross (1973-1975), James L. Baker (1976-1977), and Wayne R. Marion (1978-). The Resolution and Bylaws Committee was chaired by David Wesley (1969-1978) and George A. Hurst (1978-).

The Watson Award Committee consists of one member from the Section, one from the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society and one from the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The Committee selects an individual who has made a significant contribution to fish and wildlife conservation to receive an award given in the name of Clarence W. Watson, founder and first president of the Southeastern Section. Recipients of the award since its initiation are listed in Table 5.

TABLE 5. Winners of the Clarence W. Watson Award to recognize and to further excellence in Fish and Wildlife Conservation 1964-1978.

Year	Recipient	State
1964	Clarence W. Watson	Georgia
1965	Robert E. Stevens	S. Carolina
1966	Price Wilkins	Tennessee
1967	Ted Kistner	Georgia
1968	John Crumb	Virginia
1969	Fredric F. Fish	North Carolina
1970	Forest E. Kellogg	Georgia
1971	Chester F. Phelps	Virginia
1972	Trusten H. Holder	Arkansas
1973	Harold E. Warvel	Tennessee
1974	Verlon E. Carter	Georgia
1975	William H. Turcott	Mississippi
1976	Carroll J. Perkins	Mississippi
1977	O. Earle Frye Jr.	Florida
1978	Jack A. Crockford	Georgia

A year to year account of each resolution passed is not necessary to realize that the Section has been a biopolitical factor in sponsoring and maintaining regional professionalism in the wildlife field. More than 30 years of building have provided a good foundation for continued work. These early workers, who have given freely of their time and energies, have exemplified the highest traditions of our profession and they deserve our thanks. The Southeastern Section, like any organization is productive only through the efforts of its workers. The invitation is open to enthusiastic dedicated members to pull in harness toward service to wildlife resources and our profession.

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