

An Historical Update of The Southeastern Section, The Wildlife Society 1979–1987

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Abstract: The Southeastern Section, The Wildlife Society (TWS), chartered 19 July 1948 has completed 39 years of operation. Thirty chapters within the Section have been chartered. Committee and other Section activities are described in this report. Information for this report was gathered from committee reports, executive board and annual business meeting minutes, Southeastern Section, TWS Newsletters, previous historical reports and Proceedings of Annual Conferences, Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

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The year 1987 marked the golden anniversary of The Wildlife Society (TWS). In recognition of this special event, a coinciding historical report of the Southeastern Section, TWS, is presented.

The Southeastern Section TWS was chartered 19 July 1948 at the Second Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners. Detailed reports of earlier Section activity were described by Kennamer (1970), Leuth (1979) and in Section newsletters. The following excerpt from the first Southeastern Section TWS Newsletter (Wallace 1960, Minser 1982) described the Section's origins:

The Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners met in St. Petersburg, Florida, in 1947 at which time professional wildlife personnel were in attendance and technical game and fish sessions were held for the first time. At that meeting there was no Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society in existence. In fact, this was the first opportunity for wildlife technicians to assemble, become acquainted, and exchange ideas on regional problems. It was also obvious that the formation of a Southeastern Section of the parent Society would be highly desirable to continue this medium. The Section was formally organized in 1948 and the meeting that year was held in Lexington, Kentucky. C. W. Watson became our first president at that time.

Table 1. Officers and Section Representatives of the Southeastern Section, TWS 1979–1987.

Year	President	President Elect	Sec./Treas.	Section Representative
1979	E. Hill	M. R. Pelton	J. L. Byford	L. E. Williams
1980	J. L. Byford	J. Hair	R. Shelton	L. E. Williams
1981	J. L. Byford	J. Hair	R. Shelton	L. E. Williams
1982	J. Hair	R. Shelton	W. G. Minser	E. Hill
1983	R. Shelton	J. Kurz	W. G. Minser	E. Hill
1984	J. Kurz	G. Valentine	R. W. Duncan	E. Hill
1985	J. Kurz	G. Valentine	R. W. Duncan	E. Hill
1986	G. Valentine	R. W. Duncan	D. Guynn	E. Hill
1987	G. Valentine	R. W. Duncan	D. Guynn	E. Hill

Officers

Officers are the organizing and decision-making force of the Section and their leadership is critical to the success of the Section. Officers and Section Representatives for 1979–87 are presented in Table 1.

Membership and Chapters

At the beginning of this reporting period, 1979, the number of TWS chapters within the states encompassed by the Section was 23. Since that time, the number of chapters in the Section has increased to 30. All states within the Southeastern Section boundaries now have chapters. Part of the reason for increased numbers of chapters in the Section was the transfer of Oklahoma from the Southwest to the Southeastern Section. The remaining increase was due to the establishment of new chapters: Louisiana Chapter, Virginia Chapter, Kentucky Chapter, Murray State University Chapter, and Tennessee Tech University Chapter. Membership grew from 450 in 1979 to 610 in 1986.

Annual Conferences

The Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society evolved as a result of the first Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners (Wallace 1960). The Section has met annually with the Association since that time. The Annual Conference has provided the meeting place for Section executive board meetings, committee meetings, the annual business meeting, and for technical wildlife papers in addition to providing the opportunity for the informal exchange of ideas.

Beginning in 1974, the Association, through its representative Charles D. Kelley (AL), the Southeastern Section TWS, and the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society, worked successfully to improve the quality of technical papers by establishing an Associate Editor for Wildlife and for Fisheries and a peer

review process for selection of papers (Leuth 1979). This arrangement was modified in 1981 through the efforts of Section President Jim Byford and the Association in the form of a written document of understanding. The document clarified that:

- (1) The Association selects the editor of the Proceedings.
- (2) The Association approves the Section's choice of associate editor for Wildlife.
- (3) The Section, through the associate editor for Wildlife, carries out a peer review process for the selection of papers for the wildlife sessions at the Annual Conference and recommends acceptable papers to the Association's program committee chairman (Minser 1982).

The Section has continued to carry out the administration of the selection and presentation process of technical wildlife papers maintaining a high quality of papers published. The average number of papers published during the 1979–87 reporting period was 31 (Table 2) compared to 36 for 1968–79 (Lueth 1979). The associate editors for Wildlife of the Proceedings and the editors of the Section Newsletter are presented in Table 3.

Table 2. Meeting places, dates and number of wildlife papers presented at the Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, 1979–1987.

Year	Location	Number of wildlife papers
1979	Hot Springs, Ark.	41
1980	Nashville, Tenn.	26
1981	Tulsa, Okla.	35
1982	Jacksonville, Fla.	34
1983	Asheville, N.C.	29
1984	New Orleans, La.	32
1985	Lexington, Ky.	30
1986	Baltimore, Md.	24
1987	Mobile, Ala.	26

Table 3. Associate Editors for Wildlife (Southeastern Proceedings) and Newsletter Editors, Southeastern Section TWS 1979–1987.

Year	Wildlife editors 1979–86	Newsletter editors
1979	J. D. Hair	W. G. Minser
1980	J. R. Sweeney	W. G. Minser
1981	J. M. Sweeney	W. G. Minser
1982	P. Doerr	G. A. Hurst
1983	P. Doerr	G. A. Hurst
1984	R. L. Downing	G. A. Hurst
1985	R. A. Lancia	R. J. Warren
1986	L. M. Smith	R. J. Warren
1987	L. M. Smith	R. J. Warren

Many felt that the increased number of workshops and symposiums for single species have affected the number of papers submitted for publication in the Proceedings. The reduced numbers of papers suggest this was a possibility; however, special workshops and symposiums for single species have emerged during the last 10 years as an important avenue for the exchange of ideas and continuing education for members of the wildlife management profession. Some, such as the National Wild Turkey Symposium and the Southeastern Deer Study Group meetings, have been sponsored fully or in part by the Southeastern Section. Others such as the Eastern Black Bear Workshop, the National Bobwhite Quail Symposium, the National Wood Duck Symposium, and the Rare and Endangered Species Symposium are sponsored jointly by state wildlife agencies, state chapters TWS, and others. It became apparent that, given the wealth of information and need for information concerning single species management and research and given the limited time and space at the Annual Conferences, that the evolution of special workshops and symposiums was a natural and needed event. While many biologists are able to attend both the Annual Conference and special workshops, many are limited to only 1 choice and have chosen the workshops as best meeting the needs of their areas of specialization. So, while workshops and symposiums may have altered attendance and paper submission patterns at the Annual Conference, the profession has likely been best served by the changes which have occurred. Also, as a result of efforts to improve the quality of the Proceedings, a more critically carried out peer review process in some years resulted in a higher percent rejection rate of papers submitted for publication (L. M. Smith, pers. commun.).

Budget

Dues were raised from \$2 to \$4 in 1982. The major expense of the Section is the Newsletter printing and its mailing. Publication of the Newsletter was expanded to 3 editions in 1982, published in January, May, and September. Increases in postage rates and Newsletter printing costs were other reasons for increasing revenue for Section operation. Certificates and plaques for awards are other major expenses. Such presentations are made at the Annual Southeastern Conference. Although other expenses such as telephone costs, secretarial help and travel are incurred by Section officers, these expenses are often graciously born by the officers and their employers.

Section Operations

The heart of the Section is the executive board and the committees. While the executive board is the coordinating and decision-making body, the committees carry out much of the Section's work. Some committees, such as the Audit Committee and the Publications Awards Committee, have specific assignments. Other committees focus their attention on broad problem areas of immediate concern to the profession. The committees serve as a medium for professionals within the region to

identify problem areas and to find means to resolve them. Results of committee efforts are presented to the membership at the annual business meeting and in the Newsletter.

Several committees have been active for many years, while others have come and gone as the need dictated. As of 1986 there were 16 committees. The following is a synopsis of committee activity.

Deer Committee

The Deer Committee, formed in 1985, evolved from the Deer Subcommittee of the Forest Wildlife Committee and has been chaired by Mark Bara since 1985. The Deer Committee has annually held Southeastern Deer Study Group workshops since 1979, although the first Southeastern Deer Study Group meeting was held in 1977 at Camp Pickett, Virginia. The workshops are 2 to 3 day meetings addressing deer management and research topics. Often 200 to 300 people attend; abstracts of the meetings are published.

Farm Wildlife Committee

The Farm Wildlife Committee was chaired by Lamar Robinette from 1979 to 1982, Billy McTeer from 1982 to 1985, Josh Sandt in 1986, and Carl Betsill in 1987. The Committee gathered and evaluated information on state agencies success and failures for farm wildlife programs. Other topics of concern and discussion were federal programs affecting farming and wildlife and other land management, specifically no-till agriculture and its impact on wildlife.

Forest Wildlife Committee

The Forest Wildlife Committee was chaired by Bob Downing from 1979 to 1982 and James M. Sweeney since 1982. There were 5 subcommittees in 1979: deer, wild turkey, panther, squirrel, and forest management.

The Forest Management Subcommittee was dissolved in 1982 following several years of intense work on the controversial grazing of public forest lands issue. The work of this subcommittee served to focus professional and public attention on the issue and aided in resolving it. The panther subcommittee created a network of biologists in the Southeast to gather and share information about the status and management of the panther. Once this was accomplished, the subcommittee was dissolved in 1982. The squirrel subcommittee was dissolved in 1985 for lack of interest. The deer subcommittee grew in membership, in quantity of information discussed, and in activity to the point that it received full membership status in 1985. Its activity is given in the Deer Committee report. The wild turkey subcommittee also evolved to full committee status in 1985. Its activity is provided in the Wild Turkey Committee report.

Fur Resources Committee

The Fur Resources Committee, formerly a subcommittee of the Wetlands Committee, was established in 1983 and has been chaired by Ed Hill since 1983. The Committee met jointly with the Association's Fur Resources Committee concerning such topics as scent station surveys for monitoring furbearers, interstate shipment of raccoons for stocking, spread of coyote populations, cooperative research efforts, and anti-trapping movements.

Human Dimensions Committee

The Human Dimensions Committee, chaired by Pete Bromley, dealt with problems related to people such as meeting the needs of the resource user, expenditures of sportsmen related to hunting, and public understanding of management activities. The Committee was dissolved in 1985.

Private Lands Committee

The Private Lands Committee was chaired by Bob Carlton from 1979 to 1981, Bill Tomlinson from 1982 to 1983, Charles Allen from 1983 to 1986, and Tony Melchoirs in 1987. Topics of concern and discussion of this Committee have been controlled burning, federal assistance programs for wildlife on private lands, fee hunting, and wildlife values on private lands.

Professional Affairs Committee

The Professional Affairs Committee was led by Syd Johnson, Dale Arner, and later Richard Noble and was composed of 3 subcommittees: professional standards, communications, and professional education. Subcommittee structure was revised to the accreditation subcommittee and the communication subcommittee. Most of the effort of this committee was devoted towards the continued development of an accreditation program, which began in the mid-1970s, for the evaluation of graduate wildlife programs of universities in the Southeast. In the absence of an accreditation program by TWS, the Southeastern Section developed its own to provide guidance and assistance to universities in strengthening existing programs and to provide prospective graduate wildlife students information for selection of schools. A voluntary accreditation program was put in place, and 6 universities which applied for accreditation in 1979 received it. A major point of contention has been the 3-year field experience requirement for professors teaching applied wildlife management. The requirement was revised in 1986 to allow partial credit for research and consulting. The committee continues to improve the accreditation program under Committee Chairman Richard Noble, and 5 additional schools were offered an accreditation review in 1987.

Publication Awards Committee

The Publications Awards Committee was chaired by Wayne Marion from 1979 to 1981, Jack Gwynn from 1982 to 1984, and Bill McComb from 1985 to 1987. The Committee receives nominations from the membership for 4 different awards and makes a decision on the awards. The awards are for: (1) best wildlife paper at the annual conference (Table 4), (2) outstanding journal article by a Section member (Table 5), (3) outstanding book, bulletin, or monograph (Table 6), and (4) outstand-

Table 4. Authors and titles of papers receiving the award for the best wildlife paper presented at the Annual Conference of Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, 1979–1985.

Year award presented	Authors and titles
1979	Hackett, E., D. Gwynn, and H. Jacobson. Differences in age structuring of white-tailed deer in Mississippi produced by two aging techniques.
1980	Landers, J. L. and D. W. Speake. Management needs of sandhill reptiles in southeastern Georgia.
1981	Beck, D. E. and R. F. Harlow. Understory production following thinning in southern Appalachian cove hardwoods.
1982	Couvillion, C. E., C. B. Crow, and W. R. Davidson. An evaluation of hunter-killed white-tailed deer for abomasal parasite count (APC) studies.
1983	McKee, C. W., W. E. Killcreas, and J. E. Waldrop. Methodology for assessing timber and white-tailed deer habitat trade-offs.
1984	Harris, L. D. and B. D. Wallace. Breeding bird species in Florida's forest fragments.
1985	Everett, D. D., Jr., D. W. Speake, and W. K. Maddox. Habitat use of wild turkeys in northwest Alabama.

Table 5. Authors and titles that were recipients of the Southeastern Section TWS Award for the outstanding journal article by a Section member, 1979–1986.

Year awarded	Authors and titles
1979	Landers, J. L., R. J. Hamilton, A. S. Johnson, and R. L. Marchinton. 1979. Foods and habitat of black bears in southeastern North Carolina. <i>J. Wildl. Manage.</i> 43: 143–153.
1980	Garshelis, D. L., and M. R. Pelton. 1980. Activity of black bears in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. <i>J. Mammal.</i> 61: 8–19.
1981	Engstrom, R. T., and F. C. James. 1981. Plot size as a factor in winter bird population studies. <i>Condor</i> 83: 34–41.
1982	Eve, J. H., and F. E. Kellogg. 1977. Management implications of abomasal parasites in southeastern white-tailed deer. <i>J. Wildl. Manage.</i> 41(2): 169–177.
1983	Pollock, K. H. 1982. A capture-recapture design robust to unequal probability of capture. <i>J. Wildl. Manage.</i> 46: 752–757.
1984	Nichols, J. D., K. J. Reinecke, and J. E. Hines. 1983. Factors affecting the distribution of mallards wintering in the Mississippi alluvial valley. <i>Auk</i> 100: 932–946.
1985	Zwank, P. J., V. L. Wright, P. M. Shealy, and J. D. Newsom. 1985. Lead toxicosis in waterfowl on two major wintering areas in Louisiana. <i>Wildl. Soc. Bul.</i> 13: 17–26.
1986	No award given

Table 6. Authors and titles that were recipients of The Southeastern Section TWS award for outstanding book/bulletin or monograph by a Section member, 1979–1986.

Year awarded	Authors and titles
1979	Dickson, J. G., R. N. Conner, R. R. Fleet, and J. A. Jackson. 1979. The role of insectivorous birds in forest ecosystems. Academic Press, New York. 381 pp.
1980	No award given
1981	No award given
1982	Davidson, W. R., F. A. Hayes, V. F. Nettles, and F. E. Kellogg. 1981. Diseases and parasites of white-tailed deer. Misc. Publ. No. 7, Tall timbers Research Station, Tallahassee, Fla. 458 pp.
1983	Chapman, J. A. and G. A. Feldhamer. 1982. Wild mammals of North America. The Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, Baltimore, Md. 1,147 pp.
1984	Wilbur, S. R. and J. A. Jackson. 1983. Vulture biology and management. Univ. of California Press. Berkeley. 550 pp.
1985	Robinson, W. L. and E. G. Bolen. 1984. Wildlife ecology and management. Macmillan Publ. Co., New York. 478 pp.
1986	Harris, L. D. 1984. The fragmented forest. The Univ. of Chicago Press, Chicago, Ill. 211 pp.

ing group publication. D. Crider and L. Crider were awarded the only outstanding group publication award since 1981 for their book "The Watersong Book." A major objective of TWS is the maintenance and recognition of the highest professional standards; the Publication Awards Committee helped meet this objective.

Rare and Endangered Wildlife Committee

The Rare and Endangered Wildlife Committee was chaired by Ken Stansell from 1979 to 1981, Phil Doerr from 1981 to 1985, Ken Stansell in 1986, and Don Hood in 1987, and served primarily to develop and disseminate biologically sound information on endangered species. The Committee served as an informational exchange for the development of evolving state non-game programs, and provided resolutions concerning endangered species for political considerations. The Non-Game Committee merged with the Rare and Endangered Wildlife Committee in 1985.

Resolutions and Bylaws Committee

The Committee continued to serve at the request of the Executive Board in refining operating procedures for the Section and in evaluating resolutions from committees and membership. Many resolutions on issues important to the professions were sent by the Section during this reporting period; resolutions provide a primary means of transferring the views and desires of the membership to the leadership in the bio-political process.

Waterfowl Committee

The Waterfowl Committee evolved from the Waterfowl Subcommittee of the Wetlands Committee to full committee status in 1985 and was chaired by Frank Montalbano in 1985 and by Monty Whiting since 1986. Committee concerns have been continental waterfowl populations, short-stopping, toxic leadshot, early wood duck seasons, and others.

Wetlands Committee

The Wetlands Committee was composed of 5 sub-committees: waterfowl, fur resources, salt marsh, stream alteration, and alligator and was chaired from 1980 to 1987 by Phil Wilkerson. The Committee continued to provide informational exchange and recommendations for management concerning alligators, stream alteration, toxic lead shot and waterfowl hunting framework, coastal marshland management, and furbearer resources. In 1983 fur resources became a full committee under Ed Hill while waterfowl became a full committee in 1985 and the alligator and salt marsh sub-committees merged under Wetlands.

Wildlife Management Excellence Award Committee

The Wildlife Management Award Committee was established in 1980 to annually recognize an individual for outstanding contribution to wildlife management. Chairmen have been Harry Jacobson from 1980 to 1984 and Ron Thill since 1985. Awards presented were based on nominations from the Section and deliberation by the Committee (Table 7).

Table 7. Winners of the Wildlife Management Excellence Award, South-eastern Section TWS, 1980–1986 and the Clarence W. Watson Award, 1979–1986.

Year	Management Award winners (state)	Watson Award winners (state)
1979	No award	E. Frye, Jr. (Fla.)
1980	D. Austin (Fla.)	F. Hayes (Ga.)
1981	M. A. Byrd (Va.)	D. Hayne (N.C.)
1982	No award	C. McConnell (Tenn.)
1983	A. Brothers (Texas)	H. Alexander (Ark.)
1984	No award	R. Kemp (Texas)
1985	G. Ludlow (Va.)	D. Arner (Miss.)
1986	C. A. McConnell (Tenn.)	T. Joanen (La.)
1986	M. R. Pelton (Tenn.)	

Wild Turkey Committee

The Wild Turkey Committee, chaired by Ron Simpson in 1985, Jack Murray in 1986, and Jim Pack in 1987, also evolved from the Forest Wildlife Committee in 1985. This group established the National Wild Turkey Symposiums held ever 5 years since 1959. Papers of the Symposiums are peer reviewed and published. Though the Committee and the Section still sponsor the Symposium, the National Wild Turkey Federation now carries much of the burden and is a major sponsor. The Wild Turkey Committee has traditionally held 1 annual meeting at alternating states in addition to the Southeastern Conference and reports its efforts in an annual Southeastern Wild Turkey Newsletter. The annual meetings are workshop in style lasting 2 to 3 days; primary concerns have been turkey restoration, diseases, impact of roads on wild turkeys, harvest regulations and population monitoring.

Outstanding Educator Award

The Southeastern Section TWS periodically recognizes professional excellence in the area of education. Beginning in 1979, the Section made this award at the annual business meeting to educators nearing the end of their careers. The 4 individuals recognized that year were: Leslie Glasgow at Louisiana State University; Allen M. Pearson at Auburn University, Fredrick Barkalow at North Carolina State University, and Henry Mosby at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Since that time, James Jenkins at the University of Georgia (1981), Dale H. Arner at Mississippi State University (1986), and James Teer at Texas A&M University (1986), were recognized.

The C. W. Watson Award

This award is the most prestigious award offered by The Southeastern Association and was named for Clarence W. Watson, the first president of the Southeastern Section. It serves to recognize the individual who has made outstanding contributions to the profession. Although the award is made by the Association, nominations are sent to the Section among others, and Section members often serve on the C. W. Watson Award Committee. Award recipients are given in Table 7.

The Southeastern Section TWS continues to function as an important arm of the wildlife profession in the southeastern United States. The degree of success of the Section is totally a reflection of the energies and creativity of its membership. The leadership provided by the Executive Board and committee chairmen is crucial to progress and the interests and efforts of the general membership provide the backbone of the profession. All that have contributed deserve our thanks; the wildlife resource and the profession have reaped the benefits.

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