

# GENERAL SESSION

## WELCOME ADDRESS

JAMES W. WEBB, *Director,*  
*Division of Game, South Carolina Wildlife Resources Department*

Ladies and gentlemen, the 16th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners is now in session!

I want to welcome you to South Carolina and to the City of Charleston. A special welcome is extended to personnel from Missouri, who are attending for the first time as a member state, and also to the state of Oklahoma, which joined last year, but too late to fully participate in last year's conference.

For those who may be attending the conference for the first time, or who may be unfamiliar with the organization and its purpose, I want to review briefly the history of the organization and some of its accomplishments. I emphasize "briefly" because to enumerate even the most important accomplishments would take most of the day.

The Association was organized many years ago to assist in setting regulations and to discuss special problems peculiar to the Southeastern States. These meetings were limited to the commissioners or directors and were almost entirely business meetings.

Seeing the need for the states' technical personnel to get together to discuss mutual problems, the association organized and held its first conference in St. Petersburg, Florida in 1947. I was not in attendance at this conference, but I have heard many reports of how much the P. T. A. Convention, being held concurrently in the same hotel, added to the conference. I want to urge all of you to remain for all of this conference since our meeting Wednesday will also be concurrent with a P. T. A. Convention.

These annual conferences have been growing in size and scope with each conference larger and better than the previous. I trust and hope that this year's will not be an exception. In 1947 there were only 11 member states and some of these did not participate in this conference. The early meetings consisted of only technical sessions on Game and Fish. The Association membership has increased from 11 to 14 states and the conference now consists of technical sessions in Game, Fish, Law Enforcement, Information and Education and Boating.

The Association may well be proud of its accomplishments in the 16 years since the first conference in 1947. Among things that have been accomplished include the first regional cooperative research project on the mourning dove. Many perplexing questions were answered by this study. Special studies on dove are being carried on by various member states under the guidance of the Technical Dove Committee of the Association. The technique of *coo* counts worked out in this study is being used nationally to measure the dove breeding potentials and furnishes the basis for setting the dove regulations on a national basis.

The accomplishments of the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, established at the University of Georgia, have been very gratifying. This study was started as a deer disease study to determine the cause of the perplexing loss of large numbers of deer in certain areas. The project was later expanded to cover the diseases in all forms of wildlife.

These first two projects proved so successful that a cooperative statistical project was established with North Carolina State College. The success of this cooperative project has been no less pleasing.

The Association had so many requests for the outstanding scientific papers that were being presented at these conferences that arrangements were made to print the proceeding of this conference. The first Proceedings were printed in 1954 and Proceedings of all succeeding conferences are now available from the Secretary.

The Association has never failed to voice its objection when unfavorable legislation was called to their attention and has vigorously supported legislation considered favorable to fish and wildlife. It has condemned practices by various

organizations when they were considered destructive to fish and wildlife interests. This Association supported practices of other organizations wholeheartedly when they were favorable to fish and wildlife interests. Much good legislation, both on state and national level, is now enacted because of the active support of the states associated in this organization.

This Association maintains standing Technical Committees on Forest Game, Dove, Farm Game, Water Use, Water Pollution, Reservoir Fisheries and appoints other committees as needed. It also works with and supports its allied organizations such as the Southeastern Division of American Fisheries, The S. E. Division of Wildlife Society, Law Enforcement, Etc.

If anyone has any doubts as to the real value of the Association and these annual conferences, they need only to review some of the printed Proceedings to see the valuable papers that are presented in these technical sessions.

The Association's primary purpose is to promote sound management of our resources, and is seeking ways and means of accomplishing this aim. The Association recognizes the great opportunity that exists for the State Conservation Departments to cooperate with the private timber and pulpwood and paper corporations owning vast amounts of lands in management of fish and wildlife on such lands. This, along with the State and National Forest lands, can provide hunting and fishing for large numbers of persons that now have no place to fish or hunt.

Although the accomplishments of this Association in the past have been great, the accomplishments in the future, by the dedicated and enthusiastic personnel associated together in this organization will far exceed any of the attainments of the past.

I may be prejudiced, but I am confident that we have the finest annual regional fish and wildlife conference in the U. S. A. I believe that we have the most active and progressive Association and I am indeed honored to serve as your President for this year.

## **THE ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY IN RESIDENT FISH AND GAME MANAGEMENT**

By ROSS LEONARD

*Head, Fish and Wildlife Management Branch  
Natural Resources Management Staff  
Bureau of Yards and Docks  
Department of the Navy*

The Department of the Navy appreciates the opportunity to discuss with you the development of a fish and game program on lands and in waters under its supervision.

The guide posts established by the basic laws and directives require that we work closely with the established conservation agencies. This is as it should be, since the number one function of the Navy is the defense of our country.

The Department of the Navy is an important occupier of public lands. Some of these lands can contribute substantially to the recreational needs of the American people. Because of an awareness of this, the 85th Congress enacted legislation designed to coordinate fish and wildlife management on military installations with established programs of other agencies who have a primary responsibility for the management of our natural resources. This initial Act, Public Law 337, requires that all hunting, trapping and fishing on military installations shall be in accordance with state laws and regulations. Personnel assigned to any such establishment must also purchase the appropriate license—except under this Act, anyone assigned to a designated base shall be accorded resident privileges after the elapse of thirty days. This provision has raised some questions. Some state laws allow military personnel assigned to an installation to purchase a resident license immediately, while other states require residency from thirty days to one year.