

NCPARC/NCPIF 2017 Annual Meeting Agenda

April 4-5, Kanuga Conference Center, Hendersonville

Tuesday, April 4th

9:00 *Optional field trips to nearby areas:*

Option 1: *Herping Kanuga - herping on-site at Kanuga with Jeff Beane (NC Museum of Natural Sciences), Lori Williams, and Gabrielle Graeter (NCWRC).*

Option 2: *Bird Refresher - birding at several spots in the Brevard area. Start at Hospital Fields greenway in Brevard. Next stop will be nearby along the Davidson River by the Pisgah Ranger Station. We will finish at the Pisgah Wildlife Education Center or continue up US-276 toward the Parkway, depending on time. Leaders: Chris Kelly and Clifton Avery (NCWRC)*

12:30 Arrival, check-in, and silent auction drop-off [cannot check into rooms until 4 PM]

1:00 **General Session** – welcome to facility, overview of meeting, NCPARC and NCPIF updates, working group reports

1:30 **Conservation Status via the North Carolina Species Assessment Tool: Application to Amphibians, Reptiles, and Birds**

Todd Ewing, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, and Joe Poston, Catawba College

2:15 Break

2:30 **Management of State-owned Game Lands and Conservation Conundrums**

Dean Simon, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, retired

3:00 **State Parks: The Nexus for Conservation, Recreation, and Education**

Ed Corey, NC Division of Parks and Recreation

3:30 **Use of Game Cameras to Photograph Wildlife**

Alan Cameron, volunteer

4:00 Break and check-in to rooms

4:30 **Conservation Without Advanced Degrees: Utilizing Citizen Science Programs to Increase Conservation Efforts for the Eastern Hellbender**

J. J. Apodaca, Warren Wilson College

5:00 **Exurban Development and Forest Birds in the French Broad River Basin: Joint Responses of Climatic Gradients and Habitat Changes**

Scott Pearson, Mars Hill University

5:30 **Prioritizing Areas for Species Persistence Using Occupancy and Habitat Threat-risk Analyses: a Case Study Illustrated by Painted Buntings in North Carolina**

Liani Yirka or Jaime Collazo, NC State University

6:00 Dinner, followed by Social, Poster Session, and Silent Auction

Wednesday, April 5th

8:00 Breakfast (and room check-out)

9:00 **Morning announcements**

9:15 **Workshops:**

1. **Evaluating Habitat Types & Quality Using Remotely Available Data** - An overview of the process of using available online and GIS data to evaluate habitat types and quality. This workshop will include both classroom and field components. Presenters: David Cooper and Lane Sauls (Ecological Engineering, LLP).
2. **Exploring the South Atlantic Conservation Blueprint: Turning Data into Action** - The Conservation Blueprint is a living spatial plan that identifies shared conservation priorities for natural and cultural resources across the South Atlantic region. Blueprint 2.1 is a data-driven plan based on ecosystem indicator conditions and a connectivity analysis. You can explore the Blueprint and the underlying indicators on two easy-to-use online viewers. Learn how to use the Blueprint to support conservation across the South Atlantic and access other complementary regional datasets like landcover, protected areas, urbanization, and sea-level rise. Presenters: Louise Vaughn and Hilary Morris (South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative).
3. **The Modern Swiss Army Knife: Your Smart Phone** - Advances in technology, of smart phones and other handheld devices, have opened up a world of opportunities for people on the go. Come and learn about a wide variety of apps that can be downloaded and used for bird and herp outings, or general nature outings. The vast majority of apps discussed will be free. Both Android and Apple platforms will be discussed. Subject areas covered will include GPS and mapping, basic field tools, photography, field guides, and more. Presenters: Jeff Hall and Brady Beck (NC Wildlife Resources Commission).
4. **The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: An Introduction to Social Media for Scientists** - Social media can be an excellent tool for engaging the public, but how do you know where to begin? In this session we will discuss objective setting for public engagement through social media and take you through a variety of social media platforms (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat) to learn how they can support your communication objectives. Examples will be provided to illustrate best (and worst) practices on various platforms. Come with ideas and questions, we will have time for brainstorming. Presenter: Jessie Birkhead (NC Wildlife Resources Commission).
5. **Automated Recording Devices** – Come and learn about audio recording devices and their uses for detecting birds and anurans in the field. Presenters: Chris Kreh, Benjy Strope, and Jeff Humphries (NC Wildlife Resources Commission).

11:00 **The State of the Nation: Land and Water Conservation, and Public Policy**
Jay Leutze, Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy

11:30 **The Importance of Difficult Conservation Conversations**
Scott Anderson, NC Wildlife Resources Commission

12:00 Lunch with closing comments

1:00 *Optional field trips to nearby areas:*

Option 1: *Herping DuPont – herping at DuPont State Forest with Alan Cameron and Lori Williams (NCWRC). Limit to 15 participants.*

Option 2: *Green River Game Land - We will explore the Big Hungry area. We will walk the game land's trails and interior roads, passing through forest, open woodland, timber harvest units, and fields. In addition to birding, management strategies utilized in the area will be discussed including details on a fire/fire surrogate study. Leaders: Katie Greenberg (USFS), Chris Kelly and Clifton Avery (NCWRC)*