

# NCPARC “Education and Outreach”:: Meeting Minutes at Harris Lake County Park

08/01/13

## In Attendance:

Jeff Hall

Jeff Beane

Rhonda Washington

Deb Robertson

Dave Woodward

Joanne St. Clair

Jackie Trickel

Jaclyn Jaworski

- Kim is retiring from the Commission. However, she will continue as the chair of the Working Group. She will be at the November meeting.
- PR&T had a meeting in July. Figuring out how to deal with snapping turtles and bullfrogs. Balancing protection and harvest. Will come up with suggestions for the Commission.
- Change to Article 55: Museum wants to change if an officer (Animal Control etc.) feels unsafe, they may take action without consulting Museum or other specialists. Dave Davenport wants help from this committee to educate people about the rules pertaining to herps. One way would be having a “summary” page on the NCPARC website; Jeff is working on this. Maybe make a tri-fold for reptile shows?
- RIMM has not been meeting but has been working on PARCA’s behind the scenes. Making a map of NC of areas that are important to herps. Also, involved in rewriting Wildlife Action Plan and ranking species of need.

**Updates on Events since our last meeting:** Tattoos are in! Tony D’Amico (Harris Lake Staff) may be able to draw the state herps for future tattoos. We can use these for events like Reptile & Amphibian day.

- May 11<sup>th</sup>-Turtle Fest: The event went well. Probably in the hundreds of people visiting.

## Upcoming Events:

- National Hunting & Fishing Day(September 28): Only Joanne working it so far. We will need critters for this event. Ask Ron Grunwald? Snakes seem to be a big hit at this event. Maybe start building a database of who has animals that can be used for events.
- Fox 50’s Family Fest and Great American Tobacco Duck Race (October 5-6): NCSU Herp Society or Leopold Club might help with the day at Pullen Park. Do we want only native species? We can go ahead and commit and Joanne will be there. Jeff and Joanne will organize.
- Dixie Deer Classic (March 7-9 2014): not confirmed yet, but we should be on schedule to do this.
- Reptile & Amphibian Day (March 15<sup>th</sup>?)
- Longleaf Festival (April 12, 2014) Will be looking for Longleaf species in particular but any native herp is great.
- Winter Open House (February 1) “Open Space”: at Blue Jay Point County Park. Would NCPARC be interested in representing there? Just a few animals would be sufficient...maybe salamanders? Will discuss at our November meeting.
- Frog Fest (date unknown?): Crowder District Park

## New Initiative:

- *What are your thoughts about having NCPARC annual member awards? Newcomer, Educator of the Year, Partner in Conservation, Most Involved, etc. How would we decide? EENC has a 2 person nominating committee. Send thoughts to Jeff.*

## Current Initiatives & Updates:

- Outreach Protocols: Approved by the Steering Committee. See additional sheet to see protocol changes. First bullet: If you are using, but do not own more than 4 native reptiles and/or 24 amphibians, at an

event, you only need a copy of the owners permit and their written permission (for listed species) to use the animals for that date. We will reword this bullet. Once the Outreach Protocols is finished, it will be posted on the website and will be sent out in a newsletter.

- Link to Article 55 is on the homepage of NCPARC. Look for any additional details there.
- Venomous signs for all 6 species are almost finished. Each sign has information about the species and anti-venom and medical phone numbers. These satisfy Article 55 and will be available on the NCPARC website.
- Unwanted herp protocols- tabled until 2014. Wait until Kim can be more involved.

### **Annual Meeting Discussion**

- NC Forest Service has a training facility “Crossnore” in Avery County that we may be able to use in March. The cost will be about \$25 for lodging... \$6-12 per meal. Overall, will be cheaper than last year.
- One full day meeting over 2 days. Mid- week sometime near the end of March? This will just be NCPARC not joint with NCHS.
- Will field trips be an option? Maybe the morning on the 1<sup>st</sup> day and afternoon on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. What about lodging the night before? Send thoughts to Jeff.
- Ideas: Forest Health (Rob Trickel), Photography, Bog Turtles, Hellbenders... Send thoughts to Jeff!

### **CASP Update**

- Websites are now up. Turn in data by September 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

Thursday, November 7 @ Hemlock Bluffs

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Thursday, May 1, 2014

### **Other:**

- PARC Inventory and Monitoring Book: If you want a copy, email Jeff
- Habitat Management Guidelines for Amphibians and Reptiles of the Southeastern United States
- NC Naturalist has an article on Coachwhips by Jeff Beane.