

# NCPARC

## Education and Outreach Working Group Meeting

November 16, 2006  
11:00-3:00 Umstead State Park

Jeff Hall- Chair, Cool Springs Environmental Learning Center  
Michelle Kirlin- Davidson College Herpetology  
Becca Kirlin- National Outdoor Center  
Steve Price- Davidson College Herpetology  
Kimberly Burge- NCWRC  
Brian Bockhahn- NC State Parks and Recreation  
Martha Flanagan- NC State Parks and Recreation  
Janet Braddy- NC State Parks and Recreation  
Kendrick Weeks- NCWRC  
Grover Barfield- Independent Researcher and Educator  
Peyton Hale- NCSU Herpetology Club  
Zack Barfield- NCSU Herpetology Club  
Mike Campbell- NCWRC  
Ed Corey- NC Parks & Recreation  
Jeff Beane- NC Museum of Natural Sciences  
Jess Bridges- Lee County Parks  
Kristin Sasser- Lee County Parks  
Deborah Robertson- Wake County Parks and Recreation  
Dave Davenport- EcoQuest Travel, Inc.

Meeting called to order

### **Introductions**

Jeff: What I would like to do today is go over the action items that we developed at our last meeting. Before that, Dave is going to give an update on the Policy, Regulation, and Trade Committee (PRT) work. This is important because we may be asked questions that pertain to their work and we can educate people on what is currently being done. Then later, we will hear from Michelle Kirin and the Davidson Herpetology Lab on development of curriculums that they will eventually make available through NCPARC. Finally, we need to discuss the annual meeting which is planned for March 21 and 22, 2007 at The Summit in Brown Summit, NC. Alright Dave, please give us an update of what the PRT committee is doing.

Dave discussed general tasks of PRT including the Turtle Bill Rules and Inherently Dangerous Animals Study Bill. Specifically described progress with Inherently Dangerous Animal Bill (See minutes of PRT November 15, 2006 meeting).

Dave: This committee generally began in agreement that the extreme ends of the spectrum surrounding inherently dangerous animals was not the way to go; there should not be a total ban on keeping dangerous reptiles, but that no regulation is not realistic either. So, we distilled these

down to the big five large constrictors (green anaconda, reticulated python, Burmese python, African rock python, and amethystine python), Crocodylians, and venomous. As far as the regulating agency it is generally thought that the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) is the best agency for this because the North Carolina Department of Agriculture (NCDA) does not have an enforcement division. These proposed regulations will prevent impulse buys and non-native escapees into our native ecosystems, and provide a tracking system for dangerous reptiles being kept in the state.

Please see the PRT committee meeting minutes and other publications for more information on permitting and licensing recommendations that Dave discussed.

Jeff: What should we provide to the public as to what the PRT is working on?

Dave: I think we need to finish before you go into specifics, but the general work can be communicated. We are hoping to make this self-funded regulation. But, I think it is premature to actively educate what we are currently doing.

Jeff: Are the details going to be on the NCPARC website?

Dave: The minutes of the meetings are on the website and when we finish the document that will also be on the NCPARC website. So, we will revise our latest draft from the previous meeting and post it on the website. We have a really specific draft with all the genera of dangerous reptiles listed that will probably over the heads of the legislature. So, we will have a pared down version for submittal to them. I think it will be really important if this ever gets passed as new regulation for this committee (Education and Outreach) to get the word out...

Jeff: And even current regulations. A lot of people don't know about them. Or even about status of protected species.

Dave: Well, what I would suggest is that NCPARC create a legislative overview that is available on the web and otherwise.

Jeff: Does anyone have any questions?

Grover: This study bill's sponsor is no longer in the legislature, but we are still going ahead with what we are doing because it needs to be addressed, right?

Dave: Right. As background, the study bill is different from the regulations we have been developing. The study bill was brought up because a girl was killed by a tiger in the mountains a little less than a year ago. It was largely driven by, "should people have big cats?" But, the animal rights lobby saw it as an opportunity to ban a lot of pets, anything other than cats and dogs.

Jeff: Thanks Dave. So, now we can all be prepared for how we can help publicize this thing if it happens. OK. So, let's go over the Action Items for last time. I wanted to bring up the Calling

Amphibian Survey Program (CASP) and it is going strong, but still needs volunteers for 2007. I think more than half are assigned right now, is that right Kendrick?

Kendrick: Yes, assuming volunteers from this year run their routes in 2007 about half are currently assigned.

Jeff: Ok, great. And towards that end, we held a workshop in October to train volunteers and recruit new ones. And, we were able to use a presentation created by Steve Price that worked really well except that the sound files were not embedded. So, I was wondering if anyone had any suggestions. I embedded the sound files, but it makes it a very large file. We had 36 registered for the workshop but only 17 showed up, which was kind of a relief because I was concerned of that many participants. But, it went well and we picked up a few more volunteers. I think we might want to have another one in January.

Steven: Who would publicize it?

Jeff: NCPARC mainly.

Kendrick: We need to do a CASP press release anyway and when we do that we can mention the workshop.

Ed: Brian mentioned having one near here and maybe one of the State Parks around here could host it. Would Falls Lake be interested?

Brian nods.

Jeff: Yes, I was thinking of an eastern Piedmont workshop and a western Piedmont one also.

Ed: We might even be able to set up routes in State Parks...would that count as a random route?

Kendrick: Well, no but we can set up non-random routes especially the more random routes we can fill because those are the priority for detecting region wide trends. The non-random routes have biases.

Jeff: But, you can still get more data on trends...

Kendrick: Yes, as far as the hard to detect and rarer species, they are very useful. Our biggest hole in the sampling network is the southeast portion of the state which has the highest diversity and rarest species.

Jeff: And I don't think we picked up any rare species this year did we?

Kendrick: No. (Correction: *Hyla versicolor* was detected on one night on one route)

Jeff: Also, we had routes in areas where these species occur that weren't run.

Kendrick: Right.

Jeff: So, if you're interested in running a frog call route. And, we would like to set up a mentoring deal that will provide some on-the-job training. So, if you are interested in mentoring someone, send me an email.

Brian: Can I set up a random route on other properties?

Kendrick: Non-random routes. So if you want to set up your own route at Falls Lake that is perfectly fine. And, immediately filling non-random routes is a pre-requisite to getting them set up and into the national database.

Ed: How many non-random routes are there?

Kendrick: Three. One of yours, Bald Head Island, and Caswell Gamelands.

Jeff: Also, we are letting folks know that when you volunteer to do a route you will receive a copy of the new Frogs and Toads of North Carolina CD and booklet written by Mike Dorcas, Jeff Beane, Steve Price, and Sarah Cross Owen. Have you gotten any information about when the thing will be done?

Kendrick: No. I have requested some info, but don't know yet.

Steve: If it is not at the printers, it is very close...

Jeff: Well, I think it is a great product.

Jeff Beane: I don't think it is at the printers yet.

Jeff: They will be available for purchase through the NCWRC also.

Kimberly: Yes, you will be able to get them at the WildStore.

Jeff: I did talk to Jamie, but not recently. Maybe we could set up a CASP training program down there like the bird radio. Anyway, I will talk to him about that. What about the press release?

Kendrick: Well, the article for the Wilmington Star did not get written because the frogs stopped calling before the reporter could get down to Bald Head Island. I was hoping we could use Mike's contact in the future.

Mike: I think we talked about doing that for Lake Waccamaw too.

Jeff: Yeah, we were thinking about doing another workshop down there too. Ok, habitat management guidelines. If you haven't seen one, they can be bought at [www.parcplace.org](http://www.parcplace.org) for \$10 including shipping. Sarah had talked about purchasing these and giving them to land

managers. There are two methods used including managing just for herps and something they call maximizing compatibility as a secondary management objective. So, we might want to do some HMG workshops across the state. One thing we talked about a long time is take these HMGs and distill it for a backyard management publication.

Brian: We could partner with NCSU since they already have that series.

Jeff: Yeah, I think that they can do them really cheaply because I was talking to Chris Moorman about that. I will talk to him about that. I talked with Mike Dorcas about Action Item 9. If I understand correctly, the guy who created the original is no longer working there, right?

Steve: I don't know the full details, but I think there might be a possibility he may do it. I will talk to Mike about it.

Jeff: Is anybody here familiar with online database creation? OK, talk to Mike and we will discuss that next time. OK, let's break for lunch and then

12:30 PM BREAK

Jeff: We will be talking about things we have been doing after we hear from Michelle. Something Grover and I have been talking about that he has mentioned is booth materials for outreach programs. So, I will turn it over to Michelle.

Michelle: OK. What I want to talk about is a project another student, Heather, and I did last spring. We developed an amphibian and reptile curriculum in the Davidson College Herpetology Laboratory. There are three areas of work at the lab are research, conservation, and outreach. I am most involved in the outreach portion and teach people why herps are cool. We developed this curriculum to be used by those who know about herps as well as those who know nothing. The curriculum was split up by age group to provide the same information in formats that are easier to understand by each age group. We developed four PowerPoint presentations; Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary, Middle, and High School/Adults. For each age group we developed three to four different lessons. Each lesson is an hour or an hour and a half. Each lesson also comes with a Word document that the teachers can use. We have one series up on the Davidson website; Amphibians and Reptiles: an Introduction to Herpetofauna at <http://www.bio.davidson.edu/people/midorcas/outreach/Education%20presentations.html>.

Other lessons we are working on include Life Cycles, Herps around the World, Snakes, and Conservation. For the conservation lesson plan for the high school we developed a discussion format instead of PowerPoint presentation. I went to 12 local schools to give these presentations and get teacher and student feedback.

Michelle demonstrated the differences between formats.

Jeff: Would you do the presentation and then do the live animals or vice versa?

Michelle: I would go through each section and when I get to frogs, I would bring out a frog. But, I would wait and let them touch animals at the end. With each PowerPoint presentation.

Michelle demonstrates Lesson 1, Amphibians and Reptiles: an Introduction to Herpetofauna.

Michelle: If anyone has any suggestions on how to make these better, we would appreciate any comments or suggestions you have.

Grover: I tried to access the Lower Elementary and I couldn't get the document for that one, only the slides.

Michelle: OK, I will go back and see.

Deborah: When you chose the broad topics, did you correlate them with curriculum standards because I know that is a big issue with teachers. It makes it a lot easier for them to use if they can check off that they are meeting those standards.

Michelle: That was one of our initial goals and I have all of the curriculum standards for North Carolina, but we never actually did it. And, that would be something we need to do.

Kimberly: If you created activities associated with your presentation, I think that would apply towards those standards. That way it would make it fit without changing the PowerPoints.

Jeff: Some will be obvious like Life Cycles for second grade and you won't have to do anything.

Deborah: Yeah, I don't think you should change the PowerPoint but to have it listed so that teachers know which standards apply so they don't have to figure it out; even though they are really good at that already.

Michelle: So, do you think it would be good to put something on the material that says, "This presentation covers your life cycle requirement for second grade" or something like that?

Jeff: What would be most useful is if you could say, "This fits goals 1.01, 1.03, 5.07..." because that is what they want.

Jess: Yes, teachers have such crunched time that if they had an easy cross reference, it would get a lot more use.

Deborah: Marty Wiggins is really good at that and could possibly do that for you.

Jeff: I don't think it would be that difficult to do it on your own. Just go to [www.learnnc.org](http://www.learnnc.org) or <http://ncteach.ga.unc.edu/> I forget which one. I will send everyone a link.

Mike: There is also the NC Science Teachers Association.

Jeff: There is also the NC Office of Environmental Education. It might be a good idea to present these to the NC Science Teachers Association annual meeting.

Jess: That might be good to link with the educator's registry that we were talking about before where someone in the area could visit the classroom to present it with live animals and the teacher would not have to do it themselves.

Jeff: Yes, that fits in really well with what we were already working on. Educators that need material and teachers that have material and need presenters. I think there are some great opportunities. With your permission, maybe we could each spend some time reviewing these and giving comments.

Michelle: Yes, I know you didn't get to really examine it closely today.

Jeff: I have a quick one. A pet peeve for me is poisonous. We need to public to learn what venomous is.

Michelle: Are there any more things like that?

Jeff Beane: There were a couple of grammatical errors and inconsistencies with capitalized words.

Martha: Is there going to be in the Word document a key to all the pictures so when the kids ask what that frog is, and then you can know for sure.

Michelle: It does say down at the bottom of the PowerPoint what each species is.

Martha: I have a suggestion, maybe you could take out the photo credits and put them all at the end; and then you can put the species name where the photo credit is now. Because when you are giving the slideshow, those will not show up.

Discussion about where to put species names, slide versus document.

Jeff: Well it is a neat product and we are glad that you have put this together.

Michelle: And please let me know if you find any other problems or have suggestions.

Jeff: Thanks for coming and sharing that today. Along those same lines, I put together a PowerPoint back in the spring; Conservation of Herps. I want to change some of this, but 157 species is a lot and we should be excited about our herps. Also, I have a slide that lists all the protected species in the state. It is busy, which is the point. There are too many listed. So, then I went through what I have done to study them as an example. Then I used Ron Sutherland's list of things that you can do to conserve reptiles and amphibians. Is this something people would like? It needs some work, but it gives things people can do to conserve herps.

Kendrick: I think it would be great for someone who also has sampling on their property to put that in place of your Cool Springs work. That way it would be relevant to that particular place.

Jeff: Yes, that brings up a good point that we talked about as far as people changing it for a different purpose. There is no way to protect a PowerPoint file from being changed.

Deborah: You can also turn PowerPoints into pdfs which cannot be changed.

Jeff: Yes, that is one way around it. Turn a PowerPoint into a pdf and it can't be changed.

Discussion about the pros and cons of protecting files and photos.

Jeff: While I have this up, I wanted to show the CASP Training Manual. And, we will probably have all of the materials accessible on the NCPARC website.

Kendrick: A lot of the CASP material is available on the CASP website at [www.ncparc.org](http://www.ncparc.org).

Jeff: What about an article about CASP and/or the NC Frog and Toad booklet/CD in North Carolina Wildlife? I talked to Jeff Beane about it yesterday and we did not come to any conclusion. We talked about whether or not that was going to be something Jeff was going to write or Kendrick or Sarah...

Kendrick: Well, we originally wanted to combine the CASP article with a date for the release of the CD and booklet as well as a workshop. If we can't then we will just need something written for CASP. I will find out.

Jeff: What about an article for Wildlife in NC?

Kendrick: I think you need to submit an article like a year in advance...

Kimberly: Well, we submitted something a couple of weeks ago for February and they said OK. It wasn't a full blown article, but it is something short and sweet.

Jeff Beane: Yeah, it would go in the Back Porch section.

Jeff: Maybe that is something you can check on. We have to know when the book is going to be ready. Next time you talk to Sarah you can ask what she is thinking about.

Ed: Maybe would could advertise CASP in our publications, which if anything will add more non-random routes.

Kendrick: That is a great idea, especially in areas that have filled routes like anywhere near Wake County.

Jeff Beane: There are a lot of places you can write an article such as Friends of Wildlife and others.

Jeff: Ok. We'll keep working on that. Kendrick also got some brochures produced for CASP and Don't Turn It Loose, which were given out at the reptile and exotic animal show in Raleigh. And, in reference to that I want to turn it over to Grover who has developed a nice road display.

Grover: I have been studying snakes for about 50 years. We finally joined the NC Herpetological Society, but did not get to do as many outreach programs as we wanted. So, along came NCPARC and I have got out and started doing it. I am trying to change the misperception that the only good snake is a dead snake. It has taken me 25 years to get my father-in-law to stop killing snakes. Basically, I started out with a flip chart and expanded using posters and handouts. I now have a large display with live animals separated based upon whether they are live bearers or egg layers. I could have used the help of four people to answer questions at the last festival. I can't miss an opportunity to get people to stop killing snakes.

Jeff: Are there any materials you may need that you don't have?

Grover: Well, I would like to have more info relative to the NC Herp Society to show what they are doing. I have the bookmarks from the museum that show the dates of the Museum of Natural Sciences events. They go like hot cakes. Hopefully, we will recruit people from all over the state to come to the Reptile and Amphibian Day at the museum. Also, Peyton and Zach produced this Venomous snake poster that I think is really good. And, they would like to donate it to the Herp Society and NCPARC for distribution. Anyway, I love it and it is a good way to reach the public.

Jeff Beane: There are updated posters of the egg layers and live bearers. They haven't changed much, but some species are protected now.

Jeff: If anyone is able to go, would you be willing to loan out the NCPARC poster?

Grover: Well, I wouldn't mind as long as logistics don't become a nightmare.

Kendrick: And, folks who could help him out would be greatly appreciated.

Jeff: Well, we might want to have an NCPARC booth at the Reptile and Amphibian Day at the museum.

Kendrick: Yeah, last year they were combined but might need to be separated this year.

Jeff: And, it is really close to the NCPARC annual meeting...

Grover: Well, I am going to do the Reptile and Exotic Animal Shows. We have a standing free booth now because he wants to elevate the professionalism of his shows. So, he has given NCHS, NCPARC, and NCARK free spaces together.

Kirsten: I have looked into getting stickers produced so I don't know what we would like to produce. We could do bumper stickers and other things with the NCPARC logo. I don't know if NCPARC or the Commission can produce these?

Kendrick: I need to find out from Sarah where exactly the funds will come from.

Jeff: I remember that y'all had some at the Reptile and Amphibian day.

Kendrick: Yes, those were made in-house.

Jeff: You could do that with the NCPARC logo too?

Kendrick: Yes, possibly. I will check into it.

Jeff: Also, we were talking about doing a booth at the Dixie Deer Classic. Peyton was going to try to contact Dave Woodward about getting a booth there. After we find out, we are going to need folks willing to participate so keep that in mind. Next are the wildlife profiles. The Commission developed wildlife profiles and we discussed updating the herp ones and posting them on the NCPARC website.

Michelle: I have been instructed to put them up on our website.

Jeff: I asked Mike to put them on the NCPARC website for people to use. Sarah gave me the OK for that. Then everybody could look at them. Then we could update them and add new species. So, stay tuned for that. And, the last item was to review some curriculum pieces to pull out activities that we can reference on our E&O Working group section of the NCPARC website. We can't have the actual activities but many teachers have these references and can quickly go to activities specifically referenced by our website. So, if you would like to do some of that please contact me. We will table the discussion until our next meeting. Finally, we need to discuss the annual meeting. Jeff Beane, Ed, and I talked a little bit before this meeting about some ideas. We may need to form a subcommittee to handle planning the annual meeting. We talked about themes and workshop formats. Some pros were that everyone got to see each workshop. Some cons were that presenters had to give their presentations three times and did not get to see other presentations. Ed had the idea of survey and monitoring techniques. Jeff mentioned that maybe people might not be interested in just sampling techniques. So, we thought maybe we could add something like herp habitats in your backyard or things like that. I would like to open the discussion for brainstorming. Maybe we could have more options?

A long discussion ensued about a survey techniques theme vs. more diverse subject matter. Some issues discussed were interest in particular topics, length of workshops, and what the participant comments were from last year.

Jeff: We are out of time so is anyone interested in discussing this further and possibly being on the annual meeting planning committee? Next E&O meeting is January 31 at San-Lee Park in Sanford, NC from 11am-3pm.

<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Persons Involved</b>	<b>Status</b>
1. Obtain frog call PPT from Steven Price for use in PARC workshops, programs, etc.	Jeff Hall; working group members	Completed; Jeff has updated to embed sound files, but it is a very large file. Any suggestions?
2. Purchase frog call CD/booklets for CASP route volunteers	Sarah Cross	Pending completion of CD/booklet; already budgeted
3. Formulate and host frog call ID workshop to draw in volunteers for CASP route – first route in coastal plain (would potentially draw on AI #1)	Jeff Hall, Mike Campbell, Ed Corey, Brian Bockhahn, Kendrick Weeks	Working on –Oct. 18, 4-9PM at Goose Creek State Park Completed; Discussed E and W Piedmont workshops for January. Possibly Lake Waccamaw
4. Talk to Jamie Sasser at Howell Woods about using BBS testing grounds reconfigured for CASP (for future projects); Training	Jeff Hall	Pending
5. Press release to go out at some point about CASP (potentially just before or during first calling window of 2007). Also pursue article about CASP for Wilmington Star	Sarah Cross, Jodie Owen, Kendrick Weeks, Mike Campbell (has contact – Mike Marsh)	Pending; want to time so that CASP, the CD/booklet, and the workshops can be worked in together. Article for Wilmington Star never panned out before frogs stopped calling at Bald Head Island
6. Formulate PARC annual meeting committee and plan annual meeting	Jeff Hall, Ed Corey, Sarah Cross, working group members	Pending, additional members needed; Brown Summit, March 21-22; Discussed some ideas; lots of support for methods theme.
7. Promote HMGs	All	Completed
8. Develop Backyard HMGs	Jeff Hall, Chris Moorman	Pending
9. Convert outreach program registry to similar program used by RIMM – perhaps one form could be used to generate lists for	Jeff Hall, Mike Dorcas, Sarah Cross	Pending

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both RIMM and E&O?		
10. Evaluate potential PPT presentations to be available from NC PARC website	All	On-going; Next E&O meeting
11. Evaluate potential curriculum pieces to be available from NC PARC website	Mike Dorcas' students present, All participate	On-going; Next E&O meeting
12. Article for NC Wildlife on CASP and upcoming frog call CD	Kendrick Weeks, Sarah Cross, Jeff Beane	Pending
13. CASP brochures and others (Don't Turn It Loose, etc.)	Kendrick Weeks, Sarah Cross	Completed
14. Participation at herp show Labor Day weekend	All – Grover Barfield coordinating	Sept 2-3, 2006
15. Potential for NC PARC Participation in "Dixie Deer Classic" – contacting NCSU Leopold Club to get more details	Peyton Hale	Pending
16. Add links to NCWRC wildlife profiles from NC PARC page	Jeff Hall, Mike Dorcas, Sarah Cross, Kendrick Weeks	Nearing completion – profiles will be stored on NCPARC site and will be reviewed soon by all to evaluate need for updating
17. Review curriculum pieces for herp related information	Project SAVE – all, WILD and Aquatic WILD – Mike Campbell, PLT – Jeff Hall, WET and Let's Hear it for Herps – Sandy Durso, WOW – Kendrick Weeks, Hands On Herpetology – Terry Tomasek and Kathy Matthews?	Pending – discussion at next E&O meeting

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