

NCPARC Education and Outreach Working Group Meeting Minutes

January 24th, 2008, 1-4PM

NC Musuem of Natural Sciences Research Lab facility on Reedy Creek Road, Raleigh, North Carolina

Site Contact: Jeff Beane, Jeff.Beane@ncmail.net

Action Items from this Meeting for all members

- Make comments on NCPARC **aquatic turtle resolution** by February 1, 2008 [NCPARC website]
- Register for **Annual NCPARC meeting**, decide about poster presentation [NCPARC website]
- If anyone has a 'pet' herp and would like to develop a new **wildlife profile** just let Jeff Hall know.
- Anyone interested in hosting other **CASP events**, please let Jeff Hall know.
- March 1 & 2, Ft. **Fisher Aquarium Year of the Frog Kick-off**. NCPARC will host a booth. Jeff Hall will be attending and needs some help. Contact him if you are available. He may be able to help with housing.
- Help is needed in the NCPARC booth at **Reptile and Amphibian Day** at the Museum, March 15th. Contact Jeff Hall to volunteer for a time slot [8:30 – 11: 30, 11-2:30, 2-5:30].
- **Frog Fest at Crowder Park**, April 12th 10-3. Need volunteers to help with NCPARC booth. Already committed: Peyton Hale, Jess Bridges, Kristin Sasser, Veronica Barnes, Jeff Hall, Terry Tomasek – Grover Barfield will already be there in the Herp Society booth.
- **Exotic Animal Show, first weekend in May and first weekend in September**. Need help to man NCPARC booth for both dates. Contact Grover Barfield if you can help at the May event. Contact Jess Bridges if you can help at the September event. 2 day show, all day, both days.
- Continue to send **reptile and amphibian resource ideas** to Kristin Sasser (Kristin.sasser@leecountync.com). She is compiling this list to post on the NCPARC website.

Jeff Beane conducted a tour of the facility prior to the meeting.

In attendance:

Grover Barfield- Civilian Independent Researcher and Educator, Herp Society

Veronica Barnes – NC DOT

Jeff Beane - NC Museum of Natural Sciences

Brian Bockhahn- NC State Parks and Recreation

Colleen Bockhahn – Wake County Parks and Recreation

Jess Bridges – Lee County Parks

Kimberly Burge – NCWRC

Ed Corey – NC State Parks and Recreation

Martha Flanagan – NC State Parks and Recreation

Peyton Hale – NC Museum of Natural Sciences

Jeff Hall – NCPARC

Joann Harcke – NC Aquarium

Becky Holmes – NC State Parks and Recreation

Deborah Robertson – Blue Jay Point

Kristin Sasser – Lee County Parks

Terry Tomasek – Committee Chair, Elon University

Jackie Trickel – Crowder Park

Kendrick Weeks - NCWRC

Meeting was called to order

Terry welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. Appreciation was extended to Jeff Beane for hosting the meeting at the Museum's Research Facility.

Updates from other working groups

- PR & T (Kendrick Weeks reporting)
 - Met January 24, 2008. Article 55 being rewritten (potentially dangerous animals). Just about ready to send to steering committee. Also talked about turtle laws and Asian turtle market (trying to document this more in North Carolina). There is a resolution on the NCPARC website related to snapping, mud and musk turtle harvest collection limits. Jeff Hall sent an email to all NCPARC members with a link to make comments on this resolution. Continue to share this info with others and encourage them to make comments as well (till Feb. 1st).
- RIMM (Grover Barfield reporting)
 - Met January 16, 2008 at UNCG. Looked at herp road crossing data. Possible April 3rd training related to Box turtle project (conducted at Haw River State Park). A presentation on chytrid fungus was given. Working on recommendations to wildlife commission regarding developers. Talked about data sharing throughout the state (heritage foundation, etc).
- NCPARC Steering committee (Jeff Hall reporting)
 - Going to try to get info on the website related to who is serving on this committee. Currently 11 members on this committee. Representative from museum, herp society, universities, chairs of working groups, representative of wildlife commission, and representative from non-profits. Working groups bring matters to the steering committee for a vote.

Current Initiatives

1. Annual NCPARC Meeting, March 6-7, Trinity Center, Salter Path, NC

- A draft agenda was presented for this committee to comment on. Hopefully, registration info will be on the NCPARC website in the next couple of days.
 - There are some major changes from last year's meeting -fewer workshops, 2 concurrent sessions on Thursday, being called task force teams, on Friday there will be one field workshop session with several options for field opportunities.
 - Jeff Holmes (Nashville) -keynote speaker
 - Task force Team and Field workshop ideas on handout provided (see attached)
 - Theme-Habitats for herps and humanity-Threats to conservation of imperiled species
 - Need topics for table conversations at Thursday evening dinner
 - Table to elect speaker for group, given opportunity to discuss with entire group by using post-it papers to highlight main ideas. Topic ideas:
 - Crazy things you hear kids say in reptile presentations
 - Informal educational successes
 - Areas of state you think need most attention herp-wise (surveys): herp hot spots
 - Most important thing that NCPARC has accomplished so far and what should we be the continued focus

- Different studies going on: box turtles, etc
- Herp collecting laws
- Working groups
- What species need the most attention in the state (conservation stand point)
- Why should a certain species be our state amphibian
- Frog Watch
- CASP
- Email other ideas to Jeff Hall
- Jeff will send out info asking for who wants to present in the poster sessions, a place to register for this will be put on the general registration form (draft attached)
- Draft Registration form handout provided and reviewed by the committee (attached)
 - 44 rooms reserved. Only offer single occupancy if have enough rooms.

2. **Habitat Management Guidelines** [www.parcplace.org, \$10]

- Talked to NC STATE Forestry Education Outreach program about workshop for this. There appear to be more hurdles than originally anticipated to this process. Jeff Hall still working out the logistics of being able to do this. Maybe in the sandhills area, somewhere in Sanford, NC. The workshop should be held some place where we could reach multiple types of habitat. Target audience land managers: US forest service, park managers, NC division of forest resources, US forest service, land trust, nature conservancy, etc.. Had hoped for May but probably not going to happen, probably more like September.
- Distilled version for backyard management? [NE section of PARC has a flyer] Jill Anderson, master's student to possibly work on this for a project. Chris Mormon, NC STATE professor]

3. **Wildlife species profiles**

Updating of wildlife species profiles is almost completed. Some have already been posted. There has been lot's of hard work on this. Almost all have come back, some need to still be reviewed. If you still have one and have not done it, try to complete it when you can and send on to Jeff Hall. Begin to think about what future species profiles we might want to develop. If anyone has a 'pet' herp and would like to develop a new profile just let Jeff Hall know. Jeff is working with Kay Cross, conservation education group. Does not appear that range maps will be updated. Kimberly Burge will follow up on this.

4. **CASP: 2008 Workshops**

- January 26 – Davidson College, Davidson
- February 12 – Pechmann Center, Fayetteville
- February 21 – Falls Lake SRA, Wake Forest
- February 26 – NC Zoo, Asheboro
- April 8 – River Park North, Greenville
- April 17 – Howell Woods, Four Oaks

- Pretty popular so far, good numbers of registrations. Anyone interested in hosting other events, please let Jeff Hall know. CASP 2008, 139 routes in the state, 110 observers, not all of these have passed the NAMP quiz. Jan 15 – Feb 28 is the first window.

5. **Reptile/Amphibian Book Resource List.** Kristen Sasser is working on this list. Teaching resources, websites also, getting mostly children's books and field guide. Do we want to deal with non-native species books? Yes. Do we want to include resources that deal with raising critters? Yes. Discussion to yes, include these types of things. Maybe post at annual meeting to get more ideas, go ahead and make an electronic version to post so that others can see. Kristin will do this and send to me so that I can forward to mike to post on the website. Some discussion regarding ways to make this list in a format that would allow for queries? Can it be created in ACCESS and posted so that one could download in ACCESS to own computer?

6. Future events

- **Dixie Deer Classic** – March (first weekend), Dave Woodward putting NCPARC material with another booth. Dave did check about booth for NCPARC. Free booth for non-profits, but we are not a non-profit. Have to commit a year in advance. Herp society is a non-profit. Maybe we could put NCPARC and herp society together (since herp society is non-profit). For this year only going to put out info (at Leopold club booth). Dave will pick up a form for us to register for a booth for next year. Grover spoke for herp society that we want Dave to pursue filling out this registration form for next year. Snake oriented education, venomous species, records of what finding and where. Maybe develop a survey card for hunters to complete that could be passed out. Jeff Hall will get Dave materials for this year.
- **Ft. Fisher Aquarium** event same weekend as Dixie deer classic- March (first weekend). Kick off for year of the frog. Grover already going to be at this. Jeff Hall NCPARC at this, focus on live frogs and CASP. Similar to water fest. Some live animals and handouts. Saturday and Sunday, March 1st and 2nd. Friday night get-together. Housing might be available. Deborah Robertson might be able to bring Wally Pog. If others interested contact Jeff Hall.
- **Amphibian & Reptile Day** at the Museum– March 15, 9-5
NC PARC Booth, would be good to have Wally Pog at this event, Jackie Trickle to check with schedule. We need volunteers again. Theme this year is constrictors. Arrangement of booths will be different but content of booth will be similar to last year. Various flyers, handouts, live animals. Two tables, two to four people during each time slot. Bockhahns- first shift, Jackie trickle. Jeff Hall going to coordinate the volunteers. 8:30 – 11: 30, 11- 2:30, 2-5:30 are the shifts.
- **Frog Fest at Crowder Park** [Jackie Trickle] – April 12th, 10-3, looking for venders. Frog mascot “big fuzzy outfit”. Wally Pog the Water Quality Frog. This could be borrowed for other frog events. Jackie going to send info to me and I will send out to all NCPARC E & O members. Great place to have NCPARC booth, particularly CASP. This booth should be separate from the herp society. Peyton, Jess, Kristin, Veronica, Jeff, Terry?, Grover?

- **Exotic Animal Show** – May (first weekend) and September (first weekend). 2 day show, all day, both days. (Grover? Handouts that explain new regulations and husbandry info?) . Grover Barfield will take care of organizing the booth for the May show. Jess Bridges & Peyton Hale will take care of organizing the September show. Maybe have sign-up sheet at annual meeting. Set up is Friday night before.

New Information

Year of the Frog designation by AZA for 2008

Various events will be held throughout the year and throughout the state. This is a good opportunity for educational outreach.

Some discussion about money that NCPARC has. Is there a way we could generate a revenue? How is birds in flight doing this?

Questions received

- Jeff Marcus, Piedmont Wildlife Diversity Supervisor (email). Hinson Lake, snakes killed by public, wants to erect a sign discouraging killing of snakes, asking if we have some sort of appropriate materials already put together that could be modified for Hinson Lake? Are there legal restrictions on killing a non-listed species? Town park. Not game land. PRETTY GOOD NEED FOR THIS. MAYBE THIS SIGN SHOULD TAKE MULTIPLE FORMS DEPENDING ON THE TYPE OF LAND. SEEMS LIKE GREATEST PROBLEM WITH WATER SNAKES. TALKING TO PEOPLE MIGHT WORK BETTER THAN ANY SIGN BECAUSE YOU CAN FIND OUT WHY THEY ARE KILLING SNAKE. SITE SPECIFIC SIGN IDENTIFYING SPECIFIC SNAKE AND FACT THAT IT IS NON-VENEMOUS. WORK WITH EAGLE SCOUT TO BUILD A STRUCTURE TO TEACH ABOUT SNAKES. IS THERE A PRODUCT THAT WE HAVE THAT COULD BE USED MORE GENERALLY? SIGNAGE CONTEST WITH LOCAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. RICHMOND COUNTY. JEFF HALL GOING TO GET WITH JEFF MARCUS, MAYBE TO DO A PROGRAM AT THE SCHOOL AND FOLLOW UP WITH CONTEST. GROVER BARFIELD IS WILLING TO BRING SNAKES TO PROGRAM. COMMUNITY PROGRAM. TERRY TOMASEK WILL ALSO HELP.

Next meeting

- Falls Lake State Recreation Area, Brian Bockhahm to host, 1-4 PM with potential for before meeting excursion event.
- Possibilities for future meetings: Durham County Park and Blue Jay Point

Action Items for Selected Members

Jeff Hall – continue to work on Habitat Management Guideline workshop

- get NCPARC materials to Dave Woodward for the Dixie Deer Classic
- Get with Jeff Marcus to see about doing a program at a local school, following up the program with a signage contest focused on preservation of snakes. Grover Barfield and Terry Tomasek are willing to help with this.

Kimberly Burge to follow up on revisions to range maps associated with wildlife profiles.

Dave Woodward will pick up a booth registration form for us at the Dixie Deer Classic to register the Herp Society/NCPARC for a booth for next year.

Jackie Trickle - check about Wally Pog availability for Amphibian and Reptile Day at the Museum, 3/15

- send Frog Fest info to Terry Tomasek so that she can forward it to all E & O members

Deborah Robinson might be able to bring Wally Pog to Ft. Fisher Year of the Frog Kickoff.

Grover Barfield -organizing the NCPARC booth for the May Exotic Animal show

- said would help Jeff with snake program in Rockingham. Jeff to work out details of this.

Jess Bridges & Peyton Hale - organizing the NCPARC booth at the September Exotic Animal show

Terry Tomasek – sign-up sheet for help to man booth at Exotic Animal Show, first weekend in May and first weekend in September.

Kristin Sasser – continue to compile Reptile & Amphibian Book Resource List. Put in electronic format and send to Mike Dorcas for immediate posting on NCPARC website. We can always add to the list as more resources come in. Create a poster to put up at the Annual NCPARC meeting to get additional information from attendees.