

NCPARC Education and Outreach Working Group Meeting
Tuesday, September 30, 2008, 1-4PM
Blue Jay Center for Environmental Education, 3200 Pleasant Union Church Road
Raleigh, NC 27614
Site Contact: Deborah Robertson
Deborah.Robertson@co.wake.nc.us
919-870-4330

Those present

Jeff Hall - NCWRC

Terry Tomasek – Elon University

Peyton Hale - NC State Museum of Natural Sciences

Jeff Beane - NC State Museum of Natural Sciences

Becky Holmes – NC State Parks and Recreation

Deborah Robertson– Wake County Parks and Recreation

Veronica Barnes – NC DOT

Sandy Durso – NC State Museum of Natural Sciences

Liz Jones – NC State Museum of Natural Sciences

Mark Johns – Stevens Nature Center, Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve

Jodie Owen - NCWRC

Kimberly Burge – NCWRC

Jeff Hall gave updates from other working groups

- PR & T – next meeting Oct. 3, 1-4, WRC building, Raleigh
 - Going to be looking at existing regulations specifically possession permitting.
 - Also trying to work something out with NC Dept of Agriculture and state vet to see what can be done about the Asian turtle market.
- RIMM – next meeting Oct. 30, 1-4, UNCG
 - Work being done with chytrid fungus research
 - Talking about box turtle initiative project and research associated with this
 - Ongoing effort to get herpetological library going (Jeff Hall working on getting software approved)
- NCPARC Steering committee
 - Not met since January 08. At that time talking about recommendations from PR & T group and turtle regulation changes that were being considered. This group will meet again in January of 2009.

Terry Tomasek gave update on events since our last meeting

- June 15-20 – Slip Slid'n Away Herp Camp at Chestnut Ridge Conference & Retreat Center
- June 26 – Reptiles Workshop at Cool Springs EE Center near New Bern
- July 23 – NCPARC presentation to Onslow Bight conservation group, Hammocks Beach SP

- Aug. 24 - Reptile Day at the Schiele Museum in Gastonia
- August 17 – Carrboro Recreation and Parks
- Aug. 30-31 – Carolina Reptile and Exotic Animal Show
- Sept. 13 - 6th annual Catawba Riverfest, Hickory
- Sept 17 – Grover Barfield did a program for a newly formed chapter of the National Wildlife Foundation in Mountain Island
- Sept. 20 – “Snaketacular” Festival at the Greensboro Natural Science Center
- Sept. 27 – Wildlife Expo, Pechmann Center, Fayetteville, NC

Upcoming Events that help is needed for

- Saturday, October 25th – 9-5, Croctober, NC Museum of Natural Sciences & AZA Crocodilian Advisory Group, Raleigh; Liz Jones. Focus: croc diversity & conservation. NCPARC members invited to CAG fund raising gala at the museum, tickets are \$25, this will be held in the evening.
 - Liz Jones shared additional info about this. They would really like an NCPARC presence at this, specifically describing conservation projects in NC related to reptiles and amphibians. Jeff Hall is not available that day. Terry Tomasek will send out a request to the E & O working group email list to see if anyone can volunteer for this. A smaller crowd than Herp Day is anticipated. Peyton Hale will be there, he could spend a couple of hours at the NCPARC booth if we could get others. Set up could be the night before. If we bring animals we need permission from the museum.
- February 19-22, 2009 – NCPARC Annual meeting in conjunction with SEPARC, Montreat Center. Gabrielle Graeter (SE PARC co-chair).

We brainstormed and discussed the following ideas for the upcoming 2009 joint SE PARC/NC PARC annual meeting in February (draft agenda below):

Jeff Hall gave the following general outline of events:

- Thursday evening will be the poster session,
- Friday will be SE PARC stuff all day,
- Saturday morning could include NCPARC, Saturday afternoon either working group meetings, task teams, or some other form of workshop.
- Sunday will be field trips.

Theme currently under consideration - "Conservation Successes & Lessons Learned Along the Way."

Topics for Friday and Saturday talks. Talks on Fri and Sat morning are broken up into 6 different sessions, we were thinking that each of these might be a different topic fitting within the overall theme, but we do not have those topics established (Jeff Hall). The following topics were suggested by the group:

- Landscape scale conservation, changes in land use, for example - forestry industry, loss of ag. lands
- Land management including fire management, someone from NC fire council?

- NC issues, conservation successes
- General NCPARC info for other SEPARC attendees
- Conservation in your neighborhood, herp habitats in your backyard – could also include citizen science projects
- private lands conservation – HMG
- legislation, regulation, what states are doing good things with wetland regulations? (turtles in NC was another idea)

The following workshop ideas were suggested by the group:

- NSTA informal science, citizen science, maybe task group or workshop for this idea.
- Addition to the education and outreach discussion group - Deborah to pull together some 'make and take' type ideas and will let Jeff know, also get feedback from others on what has worked and what has not.
- What are other state agencies doing with communication outreach strategies? Marketing ideas?

The following task team ideas were suggested by the group

- Climate change and how it affects herps
- Diamond back terrapin
- CASP training workshop (NAAMP)
- Important Herp areas

Other ideas?, please continue to send these to Jeff.

Field trip suggestions provided by the group:

- Sandhills? Jeff Beane? Maybe too far?
- Pink Beds
- Cradle of Forestry
- Pisgah National Forest Wildlife Center

Other ideas?, please continue to send these to Jeff.

Help with poster set up on Thursday evening? Mike Dorcas and students?

Trying to decide how to accept payment – plan to use PayPal. Want to do on-line registration if possible.

Need to generate a list of potential sponsors for the meeting then send requests to those sponsors. Need to stir up a volunteer to lead this sponsorship effort. If interested in doing this, please contact Jeff Hall. Deborah Robertson and Peyton Hale said they would not mind contacting a few of these people.

- NC Zoo
- Arboretum
- NC Conservation Network (might also be a good source to ask for additional sponsors)

- NC State College of Natural Resources (specifically perhaps Chris Deperno and/or Chris Moorman)
- Cooperative Extension
- DENR (not sure exactly whom within DENR)
- Friends of the Museum
- NCWRC Wild store
- Pisgah Wild Store (contact Tanya Poole)
- Pisgah Forest Institute
- Outdoor Adventure Companies (silent auction items too – things like backpack gear, flyfishing, etc.)
- NC Herp Society
- Davidson College
- Bent Creek USFS research site
- USFS
- Grandfather Mountain (not sure because of current situation)
- Asheville Pizza & Brewery Company, Terrapin Brewery, and/or other local breweries for beverages (Peyton might be able to get some items donated)

Need to solicit items for the silent auction both from members, but also from various companies and organizations. Some of this may be able to be accomplished through Betty Crump (other SE PARC co-chair with USFS in Arkansas).

Current Initiatives

Flyer for promoting NC frog & snake books

- Robertson, Owen and Hall
 - Four suggested ideas for a 4 x 6 postcard were presented to the committee. Would send these postcards to people who already have copies of the snake book to see if they want to purchase the frog book. Would also have these available at the NCPARC booth at various events. Robertson, Owen and Hall will continue to work on this project.

Mike Dorcas has prepared a study Guide for the *Snakes of NC* Book. Jeff Hall is going to put this on the website in our resources section. Jeff has this.

NCPARC Booth & Promoting a Conservation Message

Terry Tomasek shared idea about posting brochures on the NCPARC website and then preparing either a business size card or a post card with the URL of the website. Reducing paper use, saving postage in mailing items around, and better supports our conservation message. Issues to think about are permission to post those items that did not originate with NCPARC. Some brochures we could list as thumbnail pictures with links to the original site.

Sandy Durso said she could work on preparing a new post card in January. Jeff will update what we currently have in the short term. Sandy has someone who might donate the money for the

printing. Jeff not sure how to do this through the Cardinal Foundation. Jodie Owen can help us know who to use for printing, she also has a nice editorial 'eye'. Weyerhaeuser may be a source of money to do this.

Sandy Durso has an Internet links list that she gives out at the museum. She said she would send this to Jeff. Jeff has a list of websites as well. The links need to have some description with them instead of just the name of the site. It would be nice if this links list was organized and then posted on the NCPARC E & O website. Jeff Hall will talk with Mike Dorcas about posting these materials on the NCPARC website (from E & O working group page). Hall is going to get Kristen Sasser's list to put with all of this (Reptile/Amphibian Book Resource List).

Possibly need to look at our current set of posters for revisions.

Keeping a conservation focus ideas. Habitat pictures. Becky Holmes had some game ideas (matching game-habitat and animal; spot the threats to habitat). Need an amphibian 'find the...' game. Go back and look at some resources to see what games are there (Let's hear it for herps, Project Save, Hands on Herpetology, Project Wild & Project Wet, etc.)

Give a-ways: Jeff Hall has a lot of frog rulers still available. There were some at the meeting for people to take if they would be able to use them.

New Information

Combined meeting with NCPARC and NCPIF for Fall of 2009?

Hinson Lake/Jeff Marcus

- Follow-up from Jeff Hall
- Robertson, Wake County Parks rules and regulations to Hall
- Bockhahn, Owen & Hall working on snake sign

Jeff showed a picture of a sign from Hanging Rock State Park. He is going to get this to Colleen to see if she wants to put up something like this. Jeff Hall will also send the picture to Jeff Marcus. He will send this to the whole NCPARC E & O working group as well.

Update on the wildlife profiles from Kimberly Burge. Kay cannot get biologists assigned to animals to respond regarding range maps. Kimberly asked if the range maps could come from data from the museum. Jeff Hall is going to send what he has to Kay. Jeff will talk to Kendrick about maps.

Next meeting place, date and time?

January 13, 2009, Mark Johns, Hemlock Bluffs, Cary, NC, 1-4PM.

Things that we did not get to (will send out in an email):

Mrs. Jennifer Manchester (mjmanchester@yahoo.com)

PTA board member, Bowley Elementary School, Fort Bragg, seeking information about your Environmental education programs. Due to budget constraints, the Department of Defense Education Department has prohibited field trips for our students this school year. As a PTA, we are seeking organizations with grade-appropriate traveling exhibits and/or presentations that we might bring to our school. We are willing to pay for travel expenses and/or reasonable fees. Could you please advise us if you might have any programs available to us?

NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher, second annual Scales & Tails weekend, March 7-8, 2009. please let Jeff Hall know if you are interested in being part of Scales & Tales 2009! Peggy Sloan, Education Curator, NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher, 900 Loggerhead Rd., Kure Beach, NC 28449, T: 910-458-8259 x.230, F: 910-458-6812

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SEPARC/NCPARC 2009

Annual Meeting Schedule

Thursday, February 19: Poster Session & Social

6:00pm Poster Session and Social (heavy hor'dourves)

Friday, February 20: Symposium

7:30am – 8:30am Breakfast in Galax Dining Room

Morning:

8:30am Welcome

8:45am Keynote address

SESSION 1

9:30am

9:50am

10:10am

10:30am Break (30 min)

SESSION 2

11:00am

11:20am

11:40am

12:00pm – 1:00pm Lunch in Galax Dining Room

Afternoon:

SESSION 3:

1:30pm

1:50pm

2:10pm

2:30pm

2:50 Break (30min)

SESSION 4:

3:20pm

3:40pm

4:00pm

4:20pm

5:30pm Banquet and Silent Auction in Galax Dining Room

Saturday, February 21: Symposium

7:30am – 8:30am Breakfast in Galax Dining Room

Morning:

9:00am Announcements

SESSION 5:

9:10am

9:30am

9:50am

10:20am Break (30 min)

SESSION 6:

10:50am

11:20am

11:40am

12:00pm Introduction to workshops and task team meetings

12:15pm – 1:15 pm Lunch in Galax Dining Room

Afternoon Workshops and Meetings:

Round 1: 1:30pm - 3:00pm (1.5 hrs)

Workshops, Discussion Groups, and Opportunities to contribute to PARC

1. Effective outreach & education - Discussion Group
2. PARC Inventory and Monitoring Handbook: species x techniques table
3. State agency roundtable meeting?
4. WORKSHOP 1 TBD
5. WORKSHOP 2 TBD

3:00pm Break (15 min)

Round 2: 3:15pm – 4:45pm (1.5 hrs)

Task Team Meetings

1. SEPARC: Eco-friendly roads
2. SEPARC: Development
3. SEPARC: Reintroduction, etc
4. SEPARC: Invasive species
5. SEPARC: Diseases/Pathogens/Parasites
6. NCPARC:
7. NCPARC:
8. NCPARC:

4:45pm – 5:30 pm General business meeting and closing remarks

5:30pm Executive business meeting

5:30pm Dinner on your own – There are many great restaurants in Black Mountain and Asheville!

Sunday, February 22: Field Trips

7:30am – 8:30am Breakfast in Galax Dining Room

8:30 am -9:30am Check out

9:30am Depart for fieldtrips (lunch is on your own!)

Gabrielle's brainstorming ideas for fieldtrips:

1. salamanders on property? Too early? Jim Petranka??
2. hellbenders and/or mudpuppies? – Lori Williams and Jeff Humphries?
3. in central NC – frog survey? – someone from NCPARC?
4. in Greenville SC area (is warmer!)- Melissa Pilgrim?
5. WNC Nature Center fieldtrip? – have someone give a herp presentation to the group??
6. Mike Dorcas's lab – host a fieldtrip in Davidson area or closer to Montreat?