

NCPARC Education and Outreach Working Group Meeting
Wednesday, May 27, 2009, 1-4PM
Yates Mill Pond County Park
4620 Lake Wheeler Rd.
Raleigh NC 27603
Contact: Deborah Robertson, Blue Jay Point County Park
919-856-6674

Meeting began at 1:12 pm and ended at 3:40pm followed by a guided herp tour lead by Mike Smith from Yates Mill Park.

In attendance:

Kimberly Burge - NCWRC

Jeff Hall – NCWRC

Melissa Jones - NCWRC

Jeff Beane - NC State Museum of Natural Sciences

Deborah Robertson – Wake Co. Parks & Rec., Blue Jay Point

Jodie Owens - NCWRC

Jackie Trickel – Wake Co. Parks & Rec., Crowder Dist. Park

Lindsay Cleveland – NCSU student, Wake Co. Parks & Rec., Crowder Dist. Park

Grover Barfield

Jeff Hall gave updates from other working groups.

- PR& T – This was the only group that met since our last meeting. They are going through existing NC regulations and looking at potential suggestions for changes. They are trying to keep up with article 55 re-write. This article would add regulations on the big five constrictors and crocodilians. It is in the legislature currently, but not sure of its status at this time. DENR has been commenting on the article because it would affect the museum. Dave has been out of town so date for next meeting is TBD but most likely will be in Aug.
- RIMM – Planning on meeting at the end of the summer or in the fall but no date yet set.
- NCPARC Steering Committee meeting: Thurs, Jan., 22 1-4pm. We're not sure when they will meet again. Box turtle license plate will not be pursued by NCPARC. It was suggested that the NC Herp Society would be a better partner for the gentleman interested in pursuing this license plate. Ann Somers and Jeff Hall will be sending letters in support of the plate.

There were lots of updates from the numerous outreach events that occurred since our last meeting in January. Updates are given below:

- Joint SEPARC/NCPARC meeting: (Kim Burge and Jeff hall reported) An overall success with over 160 people attended. Great posters and projects were presented. There were not as many regular NCPARC attendees at this meeting most likely because of the length. The NCPARC business meeting was not well attended by other states. We had been

looking forward to talking to the other state representatives interested in starting their own PARC chapters. **NCPARC 2010 meeting:** Date for next year's meeting is March 17th and 18th in a TBD Piedmont location.

- Dixie Deer Classic, Mar 6-8th 9-5pm Fri, 9-7pm Sat, 9-5pm Sun – (Kim, Jeff, Jackie, and Jodie reported)
 - There was some disagreement with the overall success of our attendance at this event. It was a long event and there were other spring herp events around the same time so it was difficult to get people to volunteer. It was mainly attended by adults, some with good questions and others with a negative mindset against snakes. We never heard back on the exact number of attendees.
 - Jodie and Jeff in particular were very disappointed with the public's attitude towards snakes. Jodie felt that it is hard to change an adult's opinion about snakes and more adults were in attendance. (Jeff Reported) Friday was not as well attended as Sat. and Sun. This was the first event that people approached him and were hostile or very angry that we had a booth.
 - People would be interested in doing the event in 2010. This might be the exact audience that we need to continue to try to reach.
 - Kim Burge is willing to head up the event again if we attend in 2010.
 - Kim will now be sending out an email with all 2010 spring events so people can see what is coming up. Then an email reminder for a specific event will be sent out a week or two before the volunteer sign up deadline date.
- Scales and Tails, Mar 7-8th @ Fort Fisher Aquarium – (Grover reported) There was a better than expected turnout with Sat: 2,213, and Sun: 1,608 attendees.
- Reptile and Amphibian Day, Mar 14th 9-5pm @ NC Museum of Natural Sciences –Great success with one of the largest turnouts. People were really interested in the coverboards and PVC pipes for frogs in your backyard at the NCPARC table.
- Cape Fear Wildlife Expo, Mar 21-22nd @ Wilmington Convention Center – Keith Farmer attended and the Wildlife Commission had a booth. Lots of kids and families attended but layout was not well planned and not as many attendees as expected. Next year it will be on March 20th and 21st 2010. May try attending again if we have willing volunteers.
- Frog Fest, Apr 4th 10-3pm @ Crowder Dist. Park, Apex- (Jackie reported) – Almost 3,000 people attended and it was very successful. Our booth was a last minute addition due to no NCPARC volunteer help until Colleen Bockhahn agreed but she was sick on the day of the event. Next year's event will be April 10th 2010.
- Reptile Day at Davidson, April 18th 10-1pm – (Grover reported) 850 people attended which may have been a larger crowd than last year. 2010 date has not yet been set.
- Turtle Fest, May 9th 1-4pm – (Jodie Owens reported) Between 1,000 and 2,000 attendees. Jodie made a PVC pipe handout on how you can bring frogs to your backyard. She said

those went fast. People were very interested in our booth. We will not be sending only one person to this event in the future.

- May 16th Garden Center, Greensboro. (Grover reported) Wanted to get customers to think about native plants, water conservation, and landscaping yards to attract animals. Green View Garden Center. About 54 people attended.

Upcoming Events:

- June 20th 11-1pm live herps at event in Durham, NC. Andrew Durso expressed interest in summer outreach so Kim will be contacted about attending.
- May 30th - Catawba 2nd annual Conservation Celebration 11-4pm. Grover will be attending.
- June 20th - Mid summer festival 10-4pm Schiele museum. Interested volunteers can contact Grover for more information about this event.
- June 23rd – Meet the Herpetologist summer camp Schiele museum. (Grover attending)
- July 8th – 4H Super Summer Camp (Grover attending)
- Slip Sliding Away Camp June 18th (Kim and Jeff are attending)
- Sept 26th Wildlife Expo at NCWRC Pechmann Center in Fayetteville 9am-3pm – Jodie will contact Keith to see if he could do this event.
- National Hunting and Fishing Day Sept 26th 12pm – 5pm Centennial Campus in Raleigh. We would like to have NCPARC booth if it is do-able. Grover might be interested if we are able to have venomous. Kim will check on this.
- NC State Fair, Oct 15-25th – NCPARC might have volunteers to attend for a few hours. Jodie reported that NCWRC is really trying to increase the non-game wildlife educational aspect of their booth. Maybe it will be do-able for NCPARC if it was a shorter shift or only for a few days instead of the whole time.

Current Initiatives:

Outreach volunteer list

Jeff reported that there is no list of outreach people to give Grover, but we need to create one. We might talk to NCWRC IT people to build our own database. No timeline on when this will be ready.

Backyard Habitat Exhibit

We discussed improvements to the NCPARC backyard habitat outreach exhibit. New Critters are needed because our current animals for the coverboards and PVC pipes are not durable

enough. Jackie will be inquiring about a woman who paints plastic herps. We could paint our own native frogs if the paint works well. This will keep the clay frogs and snakes from getting broken and re-glued after every event.

Several people suggested the inclusion of a layout guide to help volunteers with set up of materials at outreach events. Directions, laminated photo, or schematic of items would be helpful.

We discussed having a new copperhead game created. Velcro and a felt board version was suggested but Jodie will look into this. One other suggestion was to switch the range map colors because they are opposite what they should be on the sets produced by the NC State Museum.

Resource List on the website:

Jeff has been unable to get a resource list from Kristen. It was decided to start a new list at this time. Deborah Robertson volunteered to start the new list of resources.

Wildlife Profiles

Kim reported that Cay Cross said they were on hold for budget clarifications but Jodie was going to look into this. Jodie reported back that the profiles were moving forward and that Jeff should send Cay whatever he has completed.

CASP

Jeff will try to send out emails a little before the windows open and just prior to closing. **Last window. May 15th – June 30.**

Jeff reported that they had to cancel 3 CASP workshops due to low turnout. Jeff will send a list of workshops that went and the three that were cancelled. Jodie suggested sending out a news release a week ahead of time to the location of the workshop to remind the people or to give more localized publicity.

This year there are lots of observers running their routes and lots of new recruits. It may be a record year.

Rattlesnake Wanted Brochure – We are unsure how effective this tool is since there is an additional step of having to sign up for the Carolina Herp Atlas (CHA) to actually report rattlesnake sightings. Many thought that event attendees might not go through the process or forget to do it once they got home. It was suggested to have a computer with online access for helping people get signed up on CHA at an event.

Editing the brochure was also discussed. This is a working document and we are open for suggestions and changes. Jackie's comment was to flip the range map and name and picture or separate the two snakes by a different color background. It is a little difficult to follow the information. Grover's comment was to make the diamondback and timber layout like the pigmy's. ie. Show the pictures and then all the information is below it. A tear off portion of the brochure where they can just mail in all the information was also suggested. Jeff Beane had

some information changes. Jodie will look into a larger, true tri-fold brochure and all the other changes that were suggested.

The new NCPARC postcard sized handout that refers people to our web site was also discussed. Everyone really liked the design and having one brochure instead of many to hand out at events.

The creation of a venomous snake guide that could be given away was discussed. The museum already has an inexpensive brochure like this and it is available as a free PDF download brochure for interested people. Kim Burge will forward everyone a link to this online document. Jeff Hall will see if we can put the actual brochure on our web site, not just a link to it.

Creation of bookmarks or other give-away educational items were discussed again. A venomous snake bookmark or large, heavy postcard-like card with range maps were both popular ideas.

Priorities and Goals – We are going to put this off until next meeting due to time. Kim Burge will include an attachment of our priorities and goals from the inaugural meeting in an upcoming email.

Annual Meeting Discussion:

This was discussed earlier in the meeting. There will not be a joint NCPARC and NCPIF meeting. NCPARC's annual meeting will be March 17th and 18th in a TBD Piedmont location

Next meeting place, date, & time:

August 5th, 2009 1-4pm
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Headquarters Building
5th floor Commission Hearing Room
1751 Varsity Drive
Raleigh NC 27606
Contact: Kimberly Burge
Phone: 919-707-0204

The web site www.doddle.com was suggested to query members about upcoming meeting dates and meeting reminders. Kim will look into utilizing this for future meetings.

The suggestion was also made to have an optional field trip prior to our meetings. Kim will look into offering this at the August meeting.