

**Minutes of the October 23, 2007 Meeting of the
New Jersey Chapter of The Wildlife Society**

Rutgers University, Cook College Campus Center, New Brunswick, New Jersey

Evan Madlinger, President of the Chapter, called the meeting to order at approximately 10:15 am

Evan introduced himself as the elected President of the chapter for the new term, as well as Amy Jones, Secretary.

Evan advised all people present at the meeting that membership has expired and new application forms and dues should be provided to Jim Sciasca, Chapter Treasurer, prior to the close of the meeting to update memberships.

Evan provided a report for Miriam Dunn, board member (who was to arrive late) in regards to the Russell Cookingham Scholarship recipient for 2007. Angela Gorzcyca, 2007 graduate of Rutgers University, received the \$1000.00 award for 2007. In addition, changes for 2008 include an emphasis in the undergraduate level and the requirement of one (1) letter of recommendation rather than two (2). The deadline for receipt of applications is June.

Eric Shrading provided a report as the interim president of the Chapter.

-Four (4) letters were prepared in regards to the trap/neuter/release program to the City of Cape May, Atlantic City Press, Cape May Gazette and the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services identifying The Wildlife Society's position.

-The Northeast Section has revised the bylaws, which are available on-line

-There has been discussion in regards to combining the chapter and section dues, which at this time is limited to discussion only.

Jim Sciascia provided the financial report. The checking account for the end of September was reported at \$2,360.48. Recent activity since the last report (meeting) includes an income of \$350.00 in dues, a deposit of \$1,000.00 redemption for the scholarship, an expense of \$184.00 for the spring meeting lunch and \$1000.00 payment for the scholarship. The Scholarship Fund is reported at \$8,251.84 after the 2007 scholarship payment.

An update was provided by Steve Atzert, Chair of the Conservation Committee. There are currently a number of bills identified on the legislation list with fish and wildlife related subjects that Steve recommends be reviewed by all members. A suggestion is that all persons present look at individual bills and report to the board with notes. This information is present on the website. One bill of particular interest is identified as A3275, which proposes to alter the make-up of the State fish and game council. Steve urges opposition and requests that all interested write a letter to their representatives. Specifically, this bill proposes changes mandating that the council will no longer manage recreation (i.e. hunting and fishing).

Reference of this bill promoted further discussion from the audience/members:

- The NJ Audubon Society (Eric Stiles) recommended that a positive model for the council be proposed and presented by TWS (it should be noted that NJ Audubon Society will not take the lead). It may be beneficial to look at models from other states.
- Dave Jenkins is willing to serve on a committee to look into this proposal further.
- Len Wolgast is currently on the council and will provide advice, however serving on a committee to further address this issue may be a conflict of interest. In addition, most other states have similar councils that are more political and in some respects worse off than NJ.
- Steve and others interested will continue look into forming this new council

Ted Nichols commented on general housekeeping and stated that there is nothing new on that front.

The business meeting ended and the following presentations were given:

Domestic Cat – Trap, Neuter, and Release (TNR) Issues

Grant Ellis, American Bird Conservancy (Washington D.C.) – Impacts of Cat Predation on Wildlife with Emphasis on Birds. Additional emphasis on the Cat's Indoor's Campaign

Stephanie Egger, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – NJ Field Office – Implications of Feral Cats and TNR on the Endangered Species Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Dave Jenkins, NJDEP – Division of Fish and Wildlife, Endangered and Nongame Species Program – Experiences with Feral Cat Management in New Jersey and TNR in the State's Wildlife Action Plan

Eric Stiles – NJ Audubon Society – Road Map for Reducing Unintended Ecological Consequences: Using Critical Habitat Mapping to Aid in Management of TNR Colonies

Bryan Kortis – Neighborhood Cats – What It Is and What It Is Not from a Cat Advocate's Prospective

Linda Cherkassky, Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge – Feral Cat Colony Management: Questions to Consider and a Unique Perspective

Final : Moderated Panel Discussion regarding the above referenced presentation in regards to the TNR program issues

Meeting minutes prepared and submitted by Amy Jones, New Jersey TWS Chapter Secretary