

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION CANDIDATES

At the direction of SE Section President Darren A. Miller, the Nominating Committee which included Jim Miller, Professor Emeritus-Wildlife and Fisheries at Mississippi State University; Dr. James L. Byford, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Science at the University of Tennessee at Martin; and Dr. David Guynn, Wildlife Professor at Clemson University secured the willing nomination of two professional candidates for each of the two Section offices to be filled for 2010. These candidates brief bio's and their interest in serving the SE Section TWS are listed below for the information of the membership to vote on in this fall's election. The Nominating Committee strongly encourages every member of the Section to review these candidates information, and to submit your vote for the candidate of your choice for each of these two important offices for the Section. My thanks to the other members of the Nominating Committee, and to the candidates who are willing to serve the Society and the Section for your commitment.

Respectfully Submitted by James E. "Jim" Miller
Professor Emeritus, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Mississippi State University

CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT

GREG K. YARROW

Greg grew up in Hattiesburg, MS, and attended the University of Southern Mississippi receiving his B.S. in Biology with a minor in Chemistry in 1977. He then went on to Mississippi State University to work on white-tailed deer food habits where he received his M.S. in Wildlife Ecology in 1979. After graduating from MSU, he worked as a Research Specialist at Virginia Tech until 1982, coordinating field work of graduate students in the Wildlife and Fisheries Department. In 1984 he left Virginia Tech to pursue his doctorate at Stephen F. Austin State University, working on competition of feral hogs and white-tailed deer in the Post Oak Savannah region of Texas, where he graduated with a Doctor of Forestry degree in Forest Wildlife Ecology in 1987. In 1986, while still working on his doctorate, he became an Area Extension Wildlife Specialist with Mississippi State University in Tupelo, MS working on a special project with the Tennessee Valley Authority to develop and demonstrate the concept of landowner cooperatives for managing natural resources on a landscape level. He then moved to the main campus of MSU to become the Extension Wildlife Specialist for Mississippi. In 1988, he was hired by Clemson University where he is currently employed as Professor of Wildlife Ecology with teaching, research and outreach responsibilities in the areas of wildlife management, human-wildlife conflicts/wildlife damage management, and integrated wildlife management on farms and forestlands. Dr. Yarrow has received numerous awards for his work, with the latest being the 2008 Distinguished Public Service Award from the Clemson University Alumni Association. He is author of numerous publications including the book *Managing Wildlife*, a reference book for landowners, wildlife professionals, and students. He became a Certified Wildlife Biologist in 1989 and has been active in the South Carolina Chapter of The Wildlife Society, serving as President from 1995-1997. Dr. Yarrow is married to Tina Yarrow and has 5 grown children and 2 grandchildren. At 54 years of age he loves all outdoor activities, especially fly-fishing, backpacking, hunting, and working on his 1955 Farmall tractor.

As a wildlife professional, I feel strongly that it's important to give back to the profession that has provided so many of us with an enjoyable, challenging, and fulfilling career. As part of the educational process here at Clemson University, this is something that we try to instill in our students. There are many issues and challenges that we face as professionals, that are clearly stated in The Wildlife Society's 2008-2013 strategic plan, as well as in the activities of the numerous committees of the Southeastern Section. As President - Elect I would like to see the Section continue to align our efforts with the parent society's strategic plan, particularly as it affects our Section, membership, and the resources we manage. Some of these efforts would include following the mission, vision and core values of TWS and the Southeastern Section; continuing efforts to expand our membership; and addressing current and future issues that affect wildlife professionals in the Southeast, as well as the natural resources that they manage. I am continually amazed at the volume and quality of work that wildlife professionals are pursuing and accomplishing in the Southeast, the positive impacts that these efforts are having on our natural resources, and the benefits that the public receives from these efforts. So many of you are doing great work; but unfortunately, the public-at-large is mostly unaware of these efforts, the contributions that they make toward conservation, and the impacts that they have on the quality of life that we all enjoy. Consequently, an additional effort that I would like the Section to initiate, in addition to the items in TWS's strategic plan and our own current and future committee action items, is to aggressively tell the "good story" of what wildlife professionals are accomplishing in the Southeast. The story needs telling to the public, natural resource policy makers, and other stakeholders. Increased awareness of the contributions that wildlife professionals are making (and having) on natural resource conservation would bring a greater recognition of your efforts, and help secure support for our programs that address the issues and challenges of the future.

DAVID T. COBB

A native North Carolinian, David received a B.S. degree in Wildlife Biology from North Carolina State University in 1983, a M.S. degree in Biology/Applied Ecology from Eastern Kentucky University in 1985, and a Ph.D. in Zoology (Wildlife) from NCSU in 1990. After graduate school he worked for over 8 years with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in positions varying from statewide wild turkey management program coordinator, to surveys and research coordinator and then Assistant Chief for the Bureau of Wildlife Diversity Conservation. In 1998, he returned to North Carolina as, and remains, Chief of the Division of Wildlife Management for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. In this position, he oversees programs dealing with wildlife conservation issues on private lands, management of game lands, wildlife surveys and research, wildlife diversity, and administration; with a budget of >\$12M and 140 employees. In addition, David is a National Conservation Leadership Institute Fellow; and has adjunct Assistant Professor appointments in the departments of Zoology and Forestry, is a member of the Fisheries and Wildlife and Graduate faculties, and currently serves on five graduate committees at NCSU. An avid hunter, fisherman, and outdoorsman, David and his family lives in the rural Piedmont.

"The southeast is blessed with some of the most diverse and spectacular wildlife and natural resources in our country. With that diversity also comes conservation challenges, challenges related to inadequate funding for traditional and new programs; human population changes; changes in land use; changes in our environment and wildlife densities and distributions; and changes in human perceptions and appreciation for natural resources. Wildlife professionals can address these challenges, but only if working with bold vision over broad spatial and temporal scales. We must muster the collective energies and abilities of all wildlifers in the

southeast to work collectively within our profession and collaboratively among professions to maintain resources and resource-based opportunities that have always been part of our heritage, and to expand our society's engagement in the natural world in new and innovative ways. Active TWS membership participation in Section, student and State Chapter programs and activities are some of the ways to achieve this goal. If elected as President-Elect of the Southeastern Section, I am committed to serve the Section, and the profession in helping the Section continue to be the largest and most active Section of TWS in the nation through effective partnerships, and a legacy of wise stewardship for our renewable natural resources to benefit present and future generations of American's." – David Cobb

CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY/TREASURER

JOHN W. BOWERS

Education: B.S. in Biology, Auburn University at Montgomery (1992); M.S. in Wildlife Science, Auburn University (1995).

Professional Experience: Assistant Chief, Game Management Section, Georgia Wildlife Resources Division (GA-WRD; 2005-2009); Sr. Wildlife Biologist, Special Projects, GA-WRD (2001-2005); Sr. Wildlife Biologist, Asst. Region Supervisor (Coastal Region), GA-WRD (1998-2001); Wildlife Biologist, Coastal Region, GA-WRD (1996-1998); Wildlife Biologist/Island Manager, Sapelo Island, GA-WRD (1996); Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Zoology & Wildlife Science, Auburn University (1992-1995).

Activities in The Wildlife Society: Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society (SE-TWS), Secretary-Treasurer (2007-2009); Georgia Chapter, The Wildlife Society, Resolutions & Public Statements Committee, Chair (2007); SE-TWS Wildlife Management Excellence Award Committee, Chair (2002-2008); SE-TWS, Newsletter Editor (2002-2005); SE-TWS, Wildlife Society Bulletin, Reviewer (2001-2007); SE-TWS, Wildlife Management Excellence Award Committee, Member (2000-2001).

Other professional affiliations and activities:

Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Education, Outreach & Diversity Committee, Member (2004-2008), Wildlife Resources Policy Committee, Member (2005-2008); Southeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies: Southeast Proceedings, Reviewer (2002); Georgia Wildlife Federation, Member; Ducks Unlimited, Member & local committee volunteer; Quail Unlimited, Member.

Statement: It has been a honor and privilege to serve you all as Secretary-Treasurer for the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society (SETWS) for the past two years. It has been a rewarding experience and I am excited to again be nominated for the position of Secretary/Treasurer of the SETWS. Over the past two years, the Executive Board of SETWS has been very active, on your behalf, in important wildlife conservation issues (e.g., the role of hunting in conservation, TWS position statements, conservation funding). SETWS has consistently tackled and addressed these issues with exemplary professionalism and open-minded resolve. Regional and national meetings are important venues providing opportunities for interested members to provide input on and discuss the Section's actions toward addressing critical issues affecting wildlife conservation and management. As your Treasurer, I have worked with the SETWS Executive Board to ensure that we financially support these meetings. Additionally, we have done our best to honor requests from student and state chapters to

provide support for significant conservation-related projects. Despite these successes, there is much more that can be done. If I am re-elected to serve you as Secretary-Treasurer for a final term, I would like to consider the possibility of developing an electronic archive of SETWS records. Presently, the amount of material is voluminous and cumbersome. Converting this information to electronic format will ease the burden on future holders of this office and the transfer of this information. Additionally, this fits well with the movement to Green technology and can help conserve our natural resources. Additionally, over the past two years, I have realized that SETWS has many members who have not renewed their memberships presenting an opportunity to develop marketing strategies to encourage renewal of memberships and retaining current members. Along with such an effort, we can investigate strategies for recruiting more student members. If elected, I hope to discuss these opportunities with the Executive Board and promise to maintain the Section's strengths, grow our reputation, and be a good steward of your membership dollars. I respectfully request your support and approval to serve you.

ERIC PELREN

Eric Pelren is a Professor of Wildlife Biology at the University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM), where he has been since 1997. Eric is a native Tennessean with a B.A. degree in Biology from Berea College in KY (1988), an M.S. degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from U.T. Knoxville (1991) and, following a 9-month student position with the Corps of Engineers at Waterways Experiment Station in Vicksburg, MS, a Ph.D. degree in Wildlife Science from Oregon State University (1996). His graduate and postgraduate studies dealt with forest grouse habitat associations. Eric is a Certified Wildlife Biologist with The Wildlife Society. He teaches and is the senior academic advisor in the undergraduate wildlife and natural resources management program at UTM. He has an appointment with the U.T. Martin Center of Excellence for Experiential Learning in the Agricultural Sciences and annually teaches and leads wildlife research efforts in the Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences. He has received the UTM National Alumni Outstanding Teacher Award, the UTM Outstanding Advisor Award, the Tennessee State Honorary FFA Degree, and a Teacher Fellowship from NACTA. Eric is the faculty advisor to the University of Tennessee at Martin Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, which has received the Outstanding Student Chapter award several times at the national and regional levels, as well as the TN Wildlife Federation's Conservation Organization of the Year Award. He has served as President of the Tennessee Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Chair of the SE-TWS Publication Awards Committee, and member of the SE-TWS C. W. Watson Award Committee. He is a member of the University Wildlife Education Working Group and has served on the Annual Conference Steering Committee (2000) and Program Committee (2002, 2005, 2008). Eric's free time is mostly spent in the outdoors with his wife Suzanne, daughter Laurel (10), and son Joseph (8).

Position Statement: My focus as Secretary-Treasurer would be to support the President, Executive Board, and membership in carrying out the mission of the Southeastern Section; to use organizational and technological skills to maintain and advance the effectiveness of the Section; to identify methods to increase membership and communication within the membership; and to forward the Section as the primary non-governmental scientific wildlife authority in the Southeast.