

NCPARC/NCHS 2018 Annual Meeting Agenda

3rd North Carolina Congress of Herpetology

April 27-29, NC Zoo

Friday, April 27th

- 12:30 – 1:00 Arrival, check-in, and silent auction drop-off all begin
- 1:00 – 1:30 Welcome, NCPARC – NCHS overview, SEPARC update
- 1:30 – 2:00 **Results from a decade of Hellbender surveys and conservation efforts in North Carolina**
Lori Williams, NC Wildlife Resources Commission; John Groves, NC Zoo (retired)
- 2:00 – 2:30 **Quantifying the threat of a novel fungal pathogen (*Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*) to amphibians of conservation concern in North Carolina**
Matt Gray, University of Tennessee
- 2:30 – 2:45 Break
- 2:45 – 3:15 **Survey of four emerging human-mediated pathogens in North Carolina amphibians and reptiles**
Bryan Stuart, NC Museum of Natural Sciences
- 3:15 – 3:45 **Climate change in our region: What's happening now and what's in store for the future**
Adam Terando, US Geological Survey, NC State University
- 3:45 – 4:00 Break
- 4:00 – 4:30 **SSAs and the ESA - a look at recent and upcoming herp species status assessments developed by USFWS**
Sarah McRae, US Fish and Wildlife Service
- 4:30 – 5:00 **Inter- and intra-population variation in behavior and survival of Eastern Box Turtles in southeastern forests: implications for the use of prescribed fire in forest management**
John Roe, UNC-Pembroke
- 5:00 – 5:15 Announcements
- 5:15 – 6:00 Break & Social
- 6:00 – 7:00 *Plenary Address: Emerging Infectious Diseases And Impacts On Biodiversity*
Karen Lips, University of Maryland
- 7:00 – 9:30 p.m. Dinner, Silent Auction, and Poster Session

Saturday, April 28th

- 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Arrival, welcome, and announcements
- 9:00 – 9:30 a.m. **The Timber Rattlesnake Conservation Action Plan (TRCAP): The first range-wide Timber Rattlesnake conservation effort, an overview**
John Sealy, UNC-Greensboro (retired)
- 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. **Range, microhabitat, and phylogeography of *Plethodon welleri* in the southern Blue Ridge Mountains**
Graham Reynolds, UNC-Asheville
- 10:00 – 10:15 a.m. Break
- 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. **A tiny turtle tale: Genomic assessment of captive, wild, and introduced Bog Turtles (*Glyptemys muhlenbergii*) in the southern region**
Cassie Dresser-Briggs, Michigan State University
- 10:45 – 11:15 a.m. **The impossible salamander: Aberrant coloration as a result of metal toxicity, cryptsis, or light exposure?**
Wendy Harmon, Western Carolina University
- 11:15 – 11:30 a.m. Break
- 11:30 – 12:00 p.m. **2017 American Alligator research in North Carolina**
Alicia Davis, NC Wildlife Resources Commission
- 12:00 – 12:30 p.m. **Assessing the sustainability of Virginia’s commercial Snapping Turtle harvest**
J. D. Kleopfer, VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
- 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. Lunch, NCHS Business Session, and NCPARC working group reports
- 2:00 – 3:15 p.m. Live Auction and Photo Contest Presentation
- 3:15 – 3:45 p.m. **Captive husbandry and reproduction of plethodontid salamanders**
Tim Herman, Indoor Ecosystems, LLC
- 3:45 – 4:15 p.m. **Pine Snakes in North Georgia? Unearthing a forest ghost**
Bryan Hudson, Project Pine Snake
- 4:15 – 4:30 p.m. Break
- 4:30 – 5:00 p.m. **A life in herpetology: lessons learned and changes observed**
Stephen Bennett, SC Department of Natural Resources (retired)
- 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Raffle Drawing, Announcements, Break & Social
- 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. **Plenary Address: The Frog that Gambled and Lost: The Life and Death (and Life?) of the Crawfish Frog**
Mike Lannoo, Indiana University School of Medicine
- 7:00 – 9:30 p.m. Group Dinner, Social, Poster Session, Silent Auction (ends at 8:30)

Sunday, April 29th

Field-site Presentations:

1. Uwharrie National Forest

Join NC State Parks Biologist Ed Corey and State Museum Herpetology Collections Manager Jeff Beane for a look at habitat and herpetofaunal diversity in the Uwharrie National Forest. The Uwharries represent North Carolina's oldest mountains, and the largest block of relatively intact forested habitat remaining in the Piedmont. Habitats we will visit may include oak-hickory forest, mixed woods, rock outcrops, streams, seeps, old fields, and ephemeral woodland pools. At least 71 amphibian and reptile species have been documented from the Uwharries. Among those we may expect to encounter are marbled salamander, spotted salamander, northern dusky salamander, southern two-lined salamander, white-spotted slimy salamander, American and Fowler's toads, northern cricket frog, eastern box turtle, green anole, fence lizard, five-lined and ground skinks, eastern worm snake, black racer, ringneck snake, northern water snake, and queen snake, but many other species are also possible.

2. Ridges Mountain Nature Preserve

Come and explore the Ridges Mountain Nature Preserve with NCWRC staff Jeff Hall and Myles Lance. Located in Randolph County slightly west of Asheboro, Ridges Mountain is protected in partnership by the NC Zoo, the Piedmont Land Conservancy, and the NC Natural Heritage Program. Home to several high quality natural communities, such as upland pools, upland depression swamp forest, Piedmont monadnock forest, and oak-hickory forest, this site offers great opportunities for a variety of herp species. Little of the herp diversity has been documented, so we will use this field trip as a mini bioblitz to document what we find.

3. Sandhills Gameland (Scotland Co., NC)

Join NCWRC staff Mike Martin and Jeff Humphries, along with Natural Heritage biologist Nate Shepard on a herp-fueled trip through the Sandhills Gameland. Comprised of approximately 63,000 acres, the Sandhills Gameland is owned and managed by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. A number of natural communities can be found on the property, including xeric longleaf pine uplands, cypress dominated bottomland streams, pitcher plant seepage slopes, and isolated, ephemeral wetlands. This site investigation will focus on looking at natural, restored, and artificially created isolated, ephemeral wetlands. We will go over survey methods and learn a little about what it takes for these natural communities to thrive, as well as what this means for management and restoration efforts.

4. Self-tour of the NC Zoo (provided free of charge)

Spend the day on your own among the many wonderful exhibits with species from all over the world at the NC Zoo.