

WILDLIFE INSIDER ONLINE

Assistant Director Barry Summers Retires From Agency

After more than 37 years of service to the TWRA, Assistant Director Barry Summers has retired, concluding a career which began in November 1979 as a wildlife officer in West Tennessee.

Barry was honored at the April meeting of the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission. Director Ed Carter thanked Barry for his many years of service in various roles, including coordinating the Agency's federal aid programs since 1999.

Barry received an associate's degree from Volunteer State in Gallatin before embarking to Cookeville where he earned his bachelor's degree in wildlife management. He later completed his master's degree in biology at Memphis State while he was working for the Agency.

He served as a wildlife officer in Hardeman County until he became the WMA manager at Shelby Forest. In 1988, he moved back to Middle Tennessee where he became supervisor of all WMAs in Region II.



Barry Summers was honored at the conclusion of the April TFWC meeting. He is pictured with Director Ed Carter and TFWC Chair Jamie Woodson.

In 1999, Barry was named the Chief of Planning and Federal Aid. In January 2013, he became assistant director. He retained the planning duties and continued to function as the Agency's federal

aid coordinator along with coordinating all staff operations. He supervised the divisions of Human Resources, Information Technology, Revenue, and Information and Education.

Bill Reeves Concludes TWRA Career

Bill Reeves has entered into a new phase of his life, retiring from the TWRA after 21 years which included serving as chief of a pair of Agency divisions.

Reeves came to the Agency in 1996 as Fisheries Division chief, a position he had for 15 years. In 2010, he became the Biodiversity chief. Prior to moving to Tennessee, Reeves had worked for the Alabama Department of Conservation for 24 years, the last 12 as Assistant Chief for Fish Research.

He was presented a plaque of appreciation by Director Ed Carter and Assistant Director Bobby Wilson. Many persons who worked with Reeves were in attendance.

In addition to receiving his plaque of appreciation, Reeves also received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Tennessee Endangered Mollusk Committee.



Bill Reeves was presented a plaque of appreciation by Director Ed Carter and Assistant Director Bobby Wilson.

Fish And Wildlife Commission Welcomes Six New Members

The Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission has six members who have begun their appointments this year.

The new commissioners are Angie Box (Jackson, TFWC District 8), Brian McLerran (Moss, District 3), Kent Woods (Kodak, District 2), Tony Sanders (Hixson, District 4), Dennis Gardner (Lakeland, Statewide), and James Stroud (Dyersburg, Statewide).

Commissioner Box, her husband Brad, and their four children are very active in the outdoors and school activities. She belongs to the NRA, Deer River Hunting Retriever Club, involved in Quality Deer Management and organizations at the University School of Jackson.

Residing in the Clay County community of Moss, Commissioner McLerran and his wife, Samantha, have three children. He is active in the NWTF, NRA, SCTP, and the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association.

Commissioner Woods also enjoys a variety of outdoors activities. Along with hunting and fishing, he enjoys rafting, ATVs, sporting clays, and boating. He has three daughters, and serves as a Sevier County commissioner, and is a member of the Northview Optimists and Ducks Unlimited.

Commissioner Gardner is a native of Millington and resides with wife Kim in the Shelby County community of Lake-



Angie Box



Dennis Gardner



Brian McLerran



Tony Sanders



James Stroud



Kent Woods

land. Along with hunting and fishing, he enjoys working with his labs. He is involved with Ducks Unlimited, Delta Waterfowl, NWTF and a member of the National Air Traffic Control Association.

Commissioner Stroud returns to the TFWC after previously serving an appointment from 2012-15. He and his wife, Laura, now have a residence in Dyersburg. He received the Tennessee Wildlife Federation Conservation Communicator award in 2015.

Commissioner Sanders was appointed after previous District 4 commissioner David Watson resigned due to health reasons. Commissioner Sanders is involved with numerous outdoors-related and professional organizations in the Chattanooga area, including serving as a hunter education instructor. He works as a CPA and hosts the weekly Tony Sanders Outdoors Radio Show. Commissioner Sanders and his wife, Kinah, have a daughter and son.

David Watson Honored For TFWC Service

David Watson was honored for his service to the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission. Commissioner Watson, who was elected as the vice chairman for 2017-18, resigned his position on the commission due to health reasons.

A resident of Lookout Mountain, he was the District 4 representative, which is comprised of 10 counties in the southeastern portion of the state.

In his last full year on the commission, he served as chairman of the Budget Committee. In addition, Commissioner Watson was also on the Boating and Law Enforcement, Fisheries, Government Relations, Property & Infrastructure, and Governance committees.

David Watson holds his plaque of appreciation in recognition for his service to the TFWC and is pictured with TWRA Director Ed Carter and TFWC Chair Jamie Woodson.



Five TFWC Members Complete Appointments

Five persons completed their appointment as members of the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission earlier this year.

The commissioners concluding their tenures were Harold Cannon (Lenoir City), Jim Bledsoe (Jamestown), Trey Teague (Jackson), Dr. Jeff McMillin (Bristol), and Jim Ripley (Sevierville). The commissioners were saluted for their service during the TFWC's February meeting.

"I am truly thankful to our departing members for time spent away from their families and businesses as public servants who agreed to confront the difficulties that accomplish commission roles," said Ed Carter, TWRA Executive Director. "Sitting on the governing board of a fish and wildlife agency is guaranteed to have more than a few tough decisions."

Mr. Cannon was the TFWC chair for



The five commissioners completing their service to the TFWC are (from left) Harold Cannon, Jim Ripley, Jim Bledsoe, Trey Teague, and Dr. Jeff McMillin.

2016-17 and served on several committees prior to moving into that position. Mr. Bledsoe was the TFWC chairman in 2015-16 and then became chair of the Fisheries Management Committee.

Dr. McMillin was TFWC chair in 2013-14 and served the past year as chair

of the new Property and Infrastructure Committee. Mr. Teague chaired the Wildlife Management Committee. Mr. Ripley was chair of the Audit Committee and vice chair of the Boating and Law Enforcement Committee and Governance Committee.

2017-18 TFWC Officers Elected

The Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission has elected its officers for 2017-18. Jamie Woodson was named the TFWC's new chair. A resident of Lebanon, she served as the group's vice-chairman for the past year and as secretary the previous year.

Decaturville resident Kurt Hulbert is a new officer and will serve as the TFWC secretary. He has served on the TFWC since 2015.

Jeff Cook, M.D. has also been a member of the commission since 2015. He was elected vice chair.



2017-18 Tennessee Hunting And Trapping Guide Available

The 2017-18 Tennessee Hunting & Trapping Guide is available as provided by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

The guide may be obtained at any TWRA regional office and anywhere state hunting and fishing licenses are sold. Also, the guide is available on TWRA's website, www.tnwildlife.org.

The What's New section lists changes for the upcoming year. In addition to the hunting regulations and various

seasons for this year, information is also provided on TWRA firing ranges, public hunting areas, and Wildlife Management Areas.

The cover photograph is by Ryan Yoder, who resides in Maryville.

The 2017-18 Tennessee hunting and fishing licenses are valid through February 2018. Licenses are available at any TWRA regional office, licensing agents, the TWRA website and on the TWRA app.



Trio Honored With Federation Annual Conservation Awards

TWRA employees Darrell “Bones” Bernd, Pandy English and retiree Clarence Coffey were among those honored as the recently-held Tennessee Wildlife Federation’s 52nd Annual Conservation Achievement Awards ceremony.

“Bones” serves a wildlife technician for the Region II Fisheries Streams and Rivers crew was named the Hunter Education Instructor of the Year. Pandy, who moved into the assistant chief’s position in the Biodiversity Division earlier this year, received the Gedeon D. Petit Memorial Award. Clarence, who retired as the Region III manager, was named Forest Conservationist of the Year.

In addition to his regular job duties, Bones has taken an active role in the Hunter Education program. He was certified as an instructor in 1992 and has taught or assisted with more than 700 classes. He also has created tools to assist fellow Hunter Ed instructors.

Pandy moved to the Biodiversity Division after serving as Instream Flow Coordinator for Environmental Services since 2012. She has worked to grow the Tennessee Naturalist Program to eight chapters in the state and has shared her knowledge about the state’s flora, fauna, and natural history with many wildlife fans.



The Gedeon D. Petit Memorial Award is presented to a TWRA officer in the areas of citizen education, public outreach, and community services. The honored recipient is recognized for those traits which exemplify the dedication, energy, enthusiasm, skills, and dedication of the late TWRA officer.

Clarence was a long-time fixture in TWRA Region III. Prior to becoming the regional manager, he was the region’s I&E coordinator. He was recognized for his work in helping reawaken the interest in the state about the shortleaf pine, which once stretched across 23 states. Through his efforts, there are now plantings in the Cherokee National Forest and two Wildlife Management Areas to re-establish the species and provide vital habitats for grassland birds.



Federation Board Chairman Ric Wolbrecht was the presenter of the awards to (clockwise from top left) Bones, Pandy, and Clarence at the ceremony held at the banquet hall of the Loveless Café.

Changes To The Hunting Seasons For 2017-18

The 2017-18 hunting regulations were set in May by the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission. The commission annually sets the regulations that go into effect on August 1.

The TFWC voted to make changes surrounding the annual elk hunts. There will be an increase to the total number of elk hunt permits from 11 to 15 and an increase for the three hunt segments to seven days each. This will include seven archery permits, seven for gun (which includes the auctioned permit), and one youth permit.

The archery only elk hunt was increased from five to seven days and will be held beginning the last Saturday of September. The dates are Sept. 30 through Oct. 6.

The gun season hunt, with its in-

crease of two days from previous years, will be held Oct. 14-20. Similar to last year, all hunt permits are valid on the North Cumberland WMA and can also be used on private lands (with landowner permission) within the Elk Restoration Zone in Anderson, Campbell, Claiborne, Morgan and Scott counties.

The Young Sportsman hunt was previously a two-day weekend hunt and increases to seven days. It begins Oct. 7 and continues through Oct. 13.

No changes were made to the deer and turkey hunting seasons, limits and regulations.

There were also no changes to the bear hunting dates but standardized bear seasons language was adopted. There were no changes to the furbearer proclamation other than removing some

antiquated language in the proclamation regarding fox hunting.

Some slight changes were made requiring hunters to check in their big game animals prior to gifting an animal to another person and prior to a big game animal leaving Tennessee.

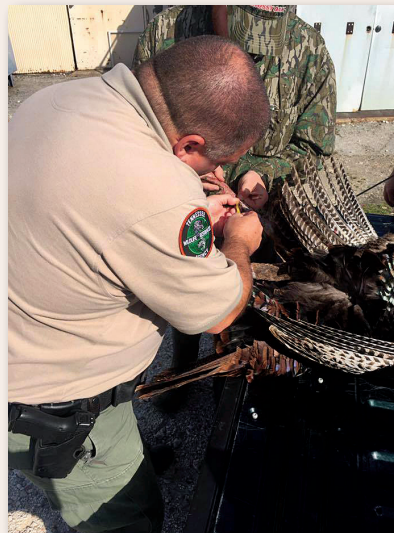
Due to removal of some language in a state law, the commission will now have more authority in determining the type, placement and inspection of traps utilized in furbearer trapping. All traps approved implement accepted Best Management Practices.

Various minor changes to several WMAs were made across the state. They are listed in the WMA section in the 2017-18 Tennessee Hunting and Trapping Guide and on the TWRA website at www.tnwildlife.org.

New State Turkey Record Set With Henry County Harvest

It has been a record-breaking kind of era recently in Tennessee as fish after fish records have fallen, a world class deer taken, and now a new state record wild turkey.

Cord Maddox, 23, of Huntingdon and December graduate of the University of Tennessee, bagged a gobbler in Henry County in April. Using a scoring method developed by the National Wild Turkey Federation, beat the previous typical record set in 2016 in East Tennessee's Campbell County.



Henry County Wildlife Officer Greg Barker measured the turkey that weighed 25.37 pounds. It had a beard length of 12 7/16 inches, a right spur of 2 1/15 inches, a left spur of 1 7/8 inches for a total score of 89.5625. The Campbell County turkey had a score of 89.50. The measurements along with multiple photos were sent to the NWTf for certification.

(right) Cord Maddox, with his state record turkey.

(left) Wildlife officer Greg Barker measures a spur of the turkey.



A Subscription To Tennessee Wildlife And A Gift Book Make For Great Christmas Gifts

With the Christmas season around the corner, a gift subscription to *Tennessee Wildlife* magazine makes for a great holiday gift. This year, you can add a book as well.

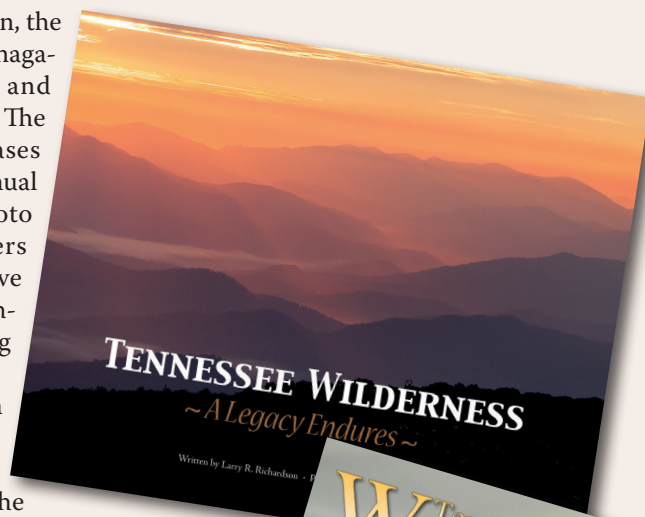
Tennessee Wilderness - A Legacy Endures, is a pictorial essay which contains more than 150 vibrant photographs of state, national, and public lands and waters in Tennessee accented by quotes from noted outdoorsmen. The table-top book became available late last year. The cost is \$39.95 plus tax and shipping/handling. It can be ordered through the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Foundation at www.TWRF.net or telephone (615) 831-9311.

For *Tennessee Wildlife*, a gift subscription for one year (four issues) is only \$10, and includes the always-popular summer calendar issue. If you wish to make the gift last longer, a two-year subscription is just \$17 and three years is available for the bargain price of \$25. Those persons receiving a gift will be notified with a card from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

Each issue of *Tennessee Wildlife* includes feature articles relating to hunting, fishing, and boating in the state. Articles are accompanied by outstanding

photography. In addition, the Insider section of the magazine highlights news and human interest items. The calendar issue showcases the winners of the annual *Tennessee Wildlife* photo contest. Photographers submit entries on native wildlife species and fishing, boating, and hunting scenes in Tennessee.

A subscription form is located on page 32. Subscription forms are also available on the TWRA website: www.tnwildlife.org.



Central Magnet High Repeats, Stewarts Creek Middle, East Lincoln Elementary Win NASP State Titles

Central Magnet High School repeated as champion of its division while Stewarts Creek Middle School and East Lincoln Elementary School claimed their first championships in their respective division at the 2017 Tennessee National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) State Championships.

Central Magnet High shot a score of 3,367, beating last year's winning score by 22 points. White County, the state high school champion in 2014 and 2015, was again the runner-up with a 3,352. CHET, which participates with home school students in the Nashville area, had a 3,287 to finish third. Oakland was fourth with a 3,263 and Warren County fifth with a 3,246.

Stewarts Creek ended Central Magnet's two-year reign as champion of the middle school division with a winning score of 3,212. Central Magnet was runner-up at 3,199 followed by Stone at 3,179, Whitworth Buchanan 3,147, and Christiana 3,136 to round out the top five.

East Lincoln moved to the top spot in the elementary division by shooting a 3,192. Buchanan was second with a 3,182, while Christiana, which had won the championship three of the past four years, was third with a 3,079. Cleveland's Black Fox elementary was fourth with a 3,029 while Browns Chapel was fifth with a 2,914.

Central Magnet's Alison Blanton was

the event's top shooter. The junior shot a 297 (out of a possible 300). CHET's Laurel Thompson, who was the event's top female shooter three straight years, edged Central Magnet's Kaylie Corban for second place. Both girls shot a 294 in their rounds and a shoot-off was held to determine the runner-up. White County High's Haylie Young was fourth with a 293 and Tullahoma Middle School's KT Payne had a 289 to comprise the top five overall female scores.

Warren County High School junior Austin Evans and Meigs County High freshman Caleb Smith each shot a 292. Austin was the medalist as he had 23 10s to Caleb's 21. Caleb's Meigs County classmate Jay Tyson was third with a 291. Stewarts Creek's Chase Hulan was fourth with a 289 and Central Magnet's Chase Wyatt fifth with a 286.

Following the competition, team awards were presented to the top three teams in each division. Medals were presented to the top five female and male finishers in the high school, middle school and elementary school divisions. Each student shot 30 arrows, 15 from 10 meters and 15 from 15 meters with a maximum score of 300.

Sponsored by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Tennessee began NASP in late 2004 with 12 pilot schools participating in the program. More than 400 schools now participate in the program. NASP is a 2-8 week curriculum taught during school that teaches International style target archery.



Central Magnet (above) repeated as champion of the high school division. Stewarts Creek Middle School (middle) and East Lincoln Elementary School (below) each claimed their first championships in their respective division. Warren County High School junior Austin Evans (right) was the top male shooter. Central Magnet's Alison Blanton was the event's top shooter with a 297.



State Record Musky Caught In Melton Hill Reservoir

A state fishing record for a muskellunge, better known as a musky, was broken by Nashville resident Stephen Paul on Melton Hill Reservoir. The angler landed the giant musky that weighed 43 pounds, 14 ounces while fishing on the Knox County portion of the reservoir earlier this year.

Caught on an artificial lure, the fish went through the process of being certified as a new state record. With Paul to document the historic catch was a friend, Dylan Gano. Paul also said the fish unfortunately died in his net when it was landed, being the only reason he considered weighing it for a state record. Otherwise, he says it would have been released back into the water.

After the catch was made, the angler contacted TWRA Fisheries Technician Paul Shaw who tried, but was unable to find certified scales near the area where the fish was caught. Shaw then contacted Reservoirs Fisheries Biologist John Hammonds and Regional Fisheries Coordinator Bart Carter, who met Paul in Dandridge about three hours later to weigh and verify the new pending state

Angler Stephen Paul caught the new state record musky on Melton Hill Reservoir. The fish weighed 43 pounds, 14 ounces and measured 51 3/8 inches in length.

record fish.

The TWRA officials also measured the fish at 51 3/8 inches in length with a girth of 23 1/2 inches. The state musky record has stood for nearly 34 years. Angler Kyle F. Edwards caught a musky in Norris Reservoir weighing 42 pounds, 8 ounces on April 27, 1983.

TWRA Fisheries Biologist Jim Negus estimates the fish to be between 12-15 years old, but says that Melton Hill musky have been known to reach 50 inches by age 10. On the contrary, a musky in Wisconsin takes about 17 years to reach 50 inches. Tennessee muskies are at the southern end of the species range and consequently, have a faster growth rate than northern musky.

“The musky is an apex predator and a tremendous sport fish native to Tennessee,” Hammonds said. “They put on



a remarkable fight, once hooked and are typically very difficult to catch. A musky over 50 inches in length is extremely difficult to hook and land, and is considered to be a ‘fish of a lifetime’ for most musky anglers.”

The fish are present in Melton Hill due to TWRA’s stocking program and are placed into the reservoir annually based on availability of fish. So far, there has been no documented natural reproduction and the fishery in Melton Hill exists due to stocking efforts.

New Wildlife Officers Set To Serve State’s Sportsmen

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has welcomed five new wildlife officers to serve the state’s sportsmen.

The new wildlife officer additions and their county assignments are Ethan Davis (Trousdale), Kendall Fletcher (Polk), Jamie Greenwood (Putnam), and David Holt (Hamilton). Michael Bobel, who has been a wildlife technician, will serve as a wildlife manager at Old Hickory Wildlife Management Area.

The officers are required to complete TWRA training and graduate from the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy. Once they complete their training, they will begin their assignments at various locations.

TWRA Executive Director Ed Carter commissioned the new officers at the ceremony held at the Ed Jones Auditorium in the Ellington Agriculture Center.



The class of 2017 TWRA wildlife officers (from left are David Holt, Michael Bobel, Kendall Fletcher, Ethan Davis, and Jamie Greenwood).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 7-13

Young sportsman elk quota hunt

October 14-20

Elk quota hunt

October 14-27

Fall turkey shotgun season

October 27

Fall turkey season closes.
Deer archery season closes.

October 28-29

Young sportsman deer hunt

October 30

Deer archery season resumes.

November 3

Deer archery season closes.

November 4

Quail and rabbit seasons open.
Deer muzzleloader season opens.

November 11-12

Duck hunting season first segment in
Reelfoot Zone

November 17

Trapping season opens.
Deer muzzleloader hunting season
closes.

November 18

Deer gun hunting season opens state-
wide. The traditional opening for the
gun season is the Saturday prior to
Thanksgiving.

November 25-26

The first segment of the statewide
duck season (excluding the Reelfoot
Zone) opens.



Cecil Calloway