

Austin Peay Graduate Student Megan Hart First Recipient of Robert M. Hatcher Scholarship

Megan Hart, a graduate student at Austin Peay State University, is the first recipient of the Robert M. Hatcher Memorial Scholarship.

The \$1,000 scholarship is named in honor of Bob Hatcher, who served the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency for 38 years including serving as the Non-Game and Endangered Species Coordinator from 1987 until 2001.

Megan completed her bachelor's degree in biology in 2015 with a perfect 4.0 grade point average. She is pursuing her master's degree in biology, focusing on conservation and wildlife biology with a graduation target date in 2017.

She was presented the scholarship award on the campus at Austin Peay with members of the Hatcher family, members of her family, and officials from the TWRA, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Foundation, and the Tennessee Ornithological Society.

A resident of Cumberland City in Montgomery County, her research interests are to examine various habitat-species interactions among mammalian and avian species. Following completion of her M.S. degree, she plans to complete her doctorate degree. Her ultimate goal is to study the anthropogenic effects on at-risk, threatened, and endangered avian species for a state or federal agency.

She has served both as an undergraduate and graduate research assistant, involved in various projects. Megan is an executive officer with the Alpha Lambda Honors

Society and a member of other honor organizations. She was honored in the President's Emerging Leaders Program, exclusive to the top one percent of students at APSU.

Mr. Hatcher initiated the state bald eagle recovery efforts in the early 1980s resulting in the release of 284 eagles over 22 years. He also was responsible for reintroducing osprey, river otters, endangered mussels and other species throughout Tennessee.

The establishment of the scholarship was announced in 2014 at the release

of a 13-week old bald eaglet named "Hatcher's Legacy" in his honor at a ceremony at Bells Bend Park near the Cumberland River, just outside of Nashville. The announcement came shortly before Mr. Hatcher's death after a battle with cancer.

The Robert M. Hatcher College Memorial Scholarship is administered by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Foundation (TWRf). Donations are welcome, tax deductible, and can be sent to TWRf at 5000 Linbar Dr., Nashville, TN 37211.



Megan Hart, with her big check, stands between Mr. Hatcher's wife, Betty, and the Hatcher's daughter, Terri Hatcher Goodwin. (back row) TWRA Executive Director, Ed Carter, the Hatcher's son, Jerry, TWRA Bird Conservation Coordinator, David Hanni, TWRf Executive Director, Julie Schuster, and TWRA Biodiversity Division Chief, Bill Reeves. The presentation was made on the campus of Austin Peay State University in Clarksville.

Joe Fortner Named SEAFWA Tennessee Wildlife Officer of the Year

Joe Fortner has been honored as TWRA's Officer of the Year for the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA).

The recipient of the award was announced by Col. Darren Rider, TWRA Boating and Law Enforcement Division Chief.

Joe serves as a wildlife officer in TWRA Region III District 31's DeKalb County. He was selected among other TWRA law enforcement officers to become the state recipient. While assigned DeKalb County, Fortner works throughout the district's 12 counties.

Among Fortner's activities this past year, he conducted educational and outreach events that included a kids fishing rodeo, displaying the "Wildlife on Wheels" educational trailer, "Gigging for Grads," and the National Archery in-



the Schools Program (NASP). He also assisted with several county fair exhibits providing information. He taught several hunter education, boater education and trapper education programs.

"Joe's efforts in excellence and in-

novation were also great," said Rider. He covers one of the premier trout fisheries in the state, the Caney Fork River, and has utilized the use of a kayak to reach these large crowds of anglers and paddlers.

"His determined law enforcement efforts resulted in 4,392 hunters, fishermen and boaters being inspected for compliance. These efforts produced a total of 147 court citations and warnings."

He also assisted other officers with another 110 citations and warnings. Through his efforts on a simple tagging violation, he ending up prosecuting a poaching ring that concluded with nine individuals being charged and convicted of the illegal killing of 11 deer.

Fortner is a firearms instructor for the agency, assisting with range preparations and semi-annual qualification of all commissioned personnel in Region III.

Brad Miller Joins Region IV As Elk Program Coordinator

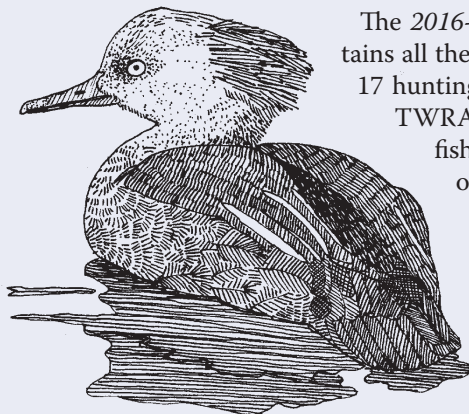


Brad Miller will serve as the Elk Program Coordinator and will be based out of the North Cumberland WMA work center. Brad comes to TWRA from the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) where he worked as the Regional Biologist for Tennessee and North Carolina. Prior to working for the NWTF, Brad was the Assistant Chief of Wildlife at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) where he supervised the Elk Program Coordinator and others. He additionally served as the Deer Program Coordinator for the

AGFC and supervised the Elk Program Coordinator.

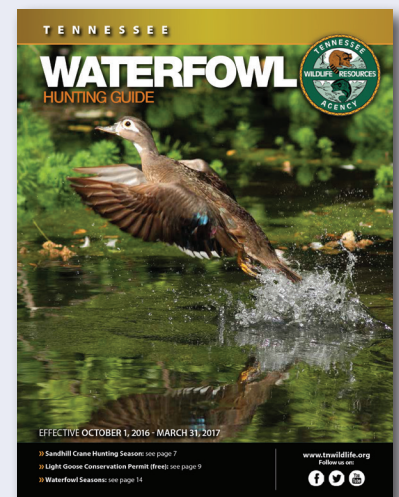
Brad is from Knoxville and received his B.S. and M.S. Degrees in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from the University of Tennessee. His Masters topic examined silvicultural and prescribed fire techniques for improving wildlife habitat. Brad attended the University of Georgia and received a Ph.D. in Forest Resources where he investigated white-tailed deer social behavior, herbivory, and genetic characteristics.

Waterfowl Guide Provides Important Information for 2016-17 Seasons



The *2016-17 Tennessee Waterfowl Hunting Guide* contains all the important information needed for the 2016-17 hunting seasons. The guide may be obtained at any TWRA regional office and anywhere state hunting and fishing licenses are sold. The guide is also available on TWRA's website (www.tnwildlife.org).

The 2016 Tennessee hunting and fishing licenses are valid through February 2017. Licenses are available on the TWRA mobile app, at TWRA regional offices, license agents, and on the TWRA website.



National Boating Law Association Recognizes TWRA Officers

Two Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency boating and law enforcement officials have received awards from the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA).

Capt. Matt Majors, Wildlife Officer Supervisor, received the NASBLA President's Award for his accomplishments as the Chair of the Law Enforcement and Training Committee. Boating and Law Enforcement Division Chief, Col. Darren Rider was awarded with the NASBLA President's Award by the National Safe Boating Council. He served as the organization's president this past year.

Matt has served as committee chairman since 2013. Under his leadership during the three years, Matt was honored for providing valuable guidance and products to the NASBLA member agencies and their partners as the committee faced tough issues.

The Teaching Moment program published a series of articles and produced many marketing products for the marine law enforcement officer.

"Operation Dry Water" continues to be a flagship awareness and enforcement event. Each year the law enforcement

committee collaborates with NASBLA staff to decide what steps can be taken to continue to grow this campaign and expand its reach. Over the past three years, "Swift-Water Training" went from a concept to reality.

Col. Rider received a replica Colt Model 1851 Navy engraved black powder .44 revolver in acknowledgment of Darren's leadership. The weapon was carried by the early waterborne leaders of this country, the U.S. Naval Officer, it was stated upon the presentation. "Like Darren, they kept the waters safe for those who traveled them. The intricate scrollwork on the barrel and the receiver of the revolver is representative of the detail with which Col. Rider worked to ensure safe boating."

NASBLA is a national nonprofit organization that works to develop public policy for recreational boating safety. NASBLA represents the recreational



Matt Majors and Darren Rider each received prestigious awards from the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators. Chief Rider is with Matt after he was presented with his award.

boating authorities of all 50 states and the U.S. territories. Through a national network of thousands of professional educators, law enforcement officers and volunteers, NASBLA affects the lives of more than 76 million American boaters.

Roger Applegate Receives Inaugural Award from The Wildlife Society

The Wildlife Society recently established the W.L. McAtee and G.V. Burger Award for Outstanding Service as an Associate Editor. Dr. W.L. McAtee was the founding editor for the Journal of Wildlife Management, serving in the role from 1937-42. Dr. G.V. Burger was the first editor of the Wildlife Society Bulletin, serving from 1973-75.

Roger Applegate, who has served as one of the associate editors for both publications, was notified that he was selected as the first recipient of the award. The official presentation came at the TWS Annual Conference in Raleigh, N.C.

Roger serves the TWRA as its Furbearer, Small Game, and Wildlife Health Program Leader.

The Wildlife Society has been influencing the future of wildlife and wild places for the benefit of generations to come. Founded in 1937, The Wildlife So-

ciety's mission is "To inspire, empower, and enable wildlife professionals to sustain wildlife populations and habitats through science-based management and conservation." The Wildlife Society enhances its nearly 10,000 members' networking and learning opportunities, professional and career development, and provides numerous ways for them to get more involved in creating a better future for wildlife and their habitats.

The Wildlife Society's Awards Program annually honors professional excellence, recognizes outstanding achievement, and highlights contributions to wildlife science and management. Through the years many new awards have been established, including the one that Roger received this year, to recognize accomplishments in wildlife publications, management, science, and professionalism. Special recognition by The Wildlife Society promotes the



professional growth of our members, provides our membership with role models, and strengthens the image of our membership in the eyes of their peers, employers, our leadership, and society.

TWRA Fisheries Division Presents Yearly Honors

John Hammonds and Perry Massengill have been honored by being named the Fisheries Division's biologist of the year and fisheries technician of the year, respectively.

John is the Reservoir Operations Coordinator in TWRA Region IV. Perry serves as a Technician 2 for the Region III reservoir fisheries crew

John has been with the Agency for 12 years, where he has served as a res-

ervoir biologist prior to moving into his current position. As the coordinator for Reservoir Operations, he is responsible for fisheries programs focusing on fisheries data collection, and habitat improvements.

John has made efforts in developing and implementing innovative reservoir habitat management projects and assisting on aquatic nuisance species issues. He has administered and secured

reservoir funding opportunities for the Agency and addressing habitat permitting for area reservoirs.

His efforts over the last year have led to the expansion of the habitat enhancement project within TWRA and developed a new level of cooperation in managing East Tennessee reservoirs. He has worked to prevent the spread of the invasive zebra mussels from a quarry used by recreational divers.

John has continued to act as the chair for the Outreach Committee of the Tennessee Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. John has always been willing to assist other work units and regularly helps out with harvesting hatchery ponds, stream surveys, public programs, and administrative support. He has also recently been involved with a trout in the classroom project in his hometown of Newport and conducts a stream side ecology program.

Perry has served the TWRA for 20 years. In addition to performing a variety of fish survey work, he is also entrusted with the task of entering and organizing most of the data. He displays a sincere commitment to Tennessee's anglers which is evident in his willingness to go above and beyond on various projects.

He works to help educate the next generation of anglers. He has teamed with his colleagues to conduct workshops with local high school fishing teams. These workshops show young anglers how aquatic nuisance species move and how to check their boats.

Perry served on an advisory board for Rhea County High School to help develop job descriptions for wildlife and fisheries management careers. He also participated in Earth Day activities in Rhea County. Perry has an active role with the Annual Chuck Copeland Memorial Fishing Rodeo, which is one of the largest events in the state.



(from left) TFWC Chairman, Harold Cannon, TWRA Fisheries Chief, Frank Fiss, TWRA Executive Director, Ed Carter, John Hammonds, and Bart Carter, Fisheries Program Coordinator for TWRA's Region IV



(from left) TWRA's Region III Fisheries Program Coordinator, Mark Thurman, Region III Fisheries Manager, Mike Jolley, Perry Massengill, TWRA Fisheries Chief, Frank Fiss, Region III Reservoir Manager, Brandon Ragland, and John Mayer, Regional Manager of TWRA's Region III

Wildlife Names Duncan, Whitehead Annual Award Winners

Tony Duncan and David Whitehead have been honored by being named the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Wildlife Technician of the Year and Wildlife Biologist of the Year, respectively.

Tony has served as a wildlife technician at Wolf River Wildlife Management area in TWRA Region I since 2012. David is the wildlife manager on Tellico Lake WMA and South Cherokee WMA in Region III.

Tony is regarded as a talented well-rounded worker who is always eager to volunteer in various areas. He assisted in Canada with the Mississippi Flyway Council on the duck banding project and helped with the elk census at North Cumberland WMA.

Tony is instrumental in the manipulation of habitat on the Wolf River, which is the Region I Quail Anchor WMA. He participates in the quail censuses on both Wolf River WMA and private lands Quail Focus Area. He is proficient in operating heavy equipment, welding, and carpentry.

A certified Hunter Education instructor, Tony also assists with Trapper Education classes. Since joining the TWRA, Tony has become certified in herbicide/pesticide application, explosives, CPR, Tennessee Deer Registry, and maintains his CDL license.

David began his career with TWRA in 1984 as a wildlife officer in Cocke County. In 1986, he became the Wildlife Manager on White's Mill Refuge, Kyker Bottoms Refuge, and the Tapoco Unit of the South Cherokee/Foothills WMA.

Over his 32-year TWRA career, David has been involved in the restoration of black bear, white-tailed deer, wild turkey, river otter, and elk. David has been involved in relocating about 250



(from left) TWRA Wildlife & Forestry Chief, Mark Gudlin, TFWC Chairman, Harold Cannon, Tony Duncan, TWRA Executive Director, Ed Carter, and Region I Wildlife Manager, Brandon Gilbert



(from left) TFWC Chairman, Harold Cannon, David Whitehead, TWRA Wildlife & Forestry Chief, Mark Gudlin, and TWRA Executive Director, Ed Carter

black bears, many of these rehabilitated black bear cubs through his work with the Appalachian Bear Rescue Center.

David supervised the development of more than 1.5 miles of levee, representing some of the first waterfowl impoundments on TWRA lands in East Tennessee. Through the years, he and his team created an area on the McGhee-

Carson Unit of Tellico Lake for the running of field trials. The Chota Waterfowl Refuge Unit of Tellico Lake was the first M.A.R.S.H project that Ducks Unlimited and TWRA partnered on in Tennessee. Chota Waterfowl Refuge has grown to four water impoundments, creating more winter habitat for migrating waterfowl.

Boating Officers of the Year Honored at Commission Meetings

Brad Bagwell and Melvin McLerran have been selected as the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency 2015 Boating Officer of the Year and part-time Boating Officer of the Year, respectively.

Both officers are assigned to work District 21, a 12-county district in Middle Tennessee. District 21 contains the

five major reservoirs of J. Percy Priest, Old Hickory, Cordell Hull, Cheatham, and Barkley.

Brad inspected 457 boats for compliance, issued 63 court citations for violations, 15 warning citations, administered Field Sobriety Tests to 22 boat operators and made 10 boating

under the influence (BUI) arrests. Additionally, Brad assisted other TWRA officers with 19 violations and helped 20 boaters on the water that required immediate assistance. Brad worked patrol at three major public marine events in the Nashville area. Brad also checked close to 400 people for various hunting, fishing, and access area violations throughout the year.

Brad was the lead investigator on seven boating incidents and assisted on four others. Three investigations led to criminal charges being filed.

In the area of education and outreach, Brad assisted with three boater education classes, certifying 35 and assisted with the training of law enforcement officers. Brad has also spent a lot of his time working with numerous groups teaching them boating safety, hunting safety, and providing education on the importance of our agency and its mission.

In his duties as a part-time boating officer, Melvin inspected 567 boats for compliance, issued 85 court citations for violations, 56 warning citations, administered Field Sobriety Tests to 14 boat operators and made two arrests for boating under the influence (BUI). Additionally, Melvin assisted other TWRA officers with nine BUI violations and helped 43 boaters on the water that required immediate assistance. Melvin worked patrol at major public marine events in the Nashville area and fulfilled the need to have more enforcement presence during hunting season when full-time officers were tasked with other duties.

In the area of outreach, Melvin participated in the Nashville Boat Show, conducted public programs and participated in other public venues to promote boating safety. He also provided support during the 2015 "Fun Run" event that highlights high performance powerboats and supports the Wounded Warrior Project.



(from left) Lieutenant Jim Hooper, Colonel Darren Rider, Executive Director Ed Carter, Officer Bagwell, Lieutenant Colonel Glenn Moates, TFWC Chairman, Harold Cannon, and Captain Dale Grandstaff



(from left) Captain Dale Grandstaff, TFWC Chairman, Harold Cannon, Lieutenant Colonel Glenn Moates, Officer McLerran, Colonel Darren Rider, and Executive Director Ed Carter

TWRA Wildcast Primarily Features Agency Professionals

The TWRA is now producing a Podcast named *Tennessee WildCast* where the featured guests are primarily the agency's field and office staff.

A weekly program, *WildCast* is available at several different Internet sites depending on whether someone wants to watch it, or just listen. The best way to make that choice is by visiting www.tnwildcast.com.

Hosted by TWRA's Doug Markham and produced by Jason Harmon, *WildCast* is updated weekly, but the shows are archived and available at any time.

Shows will include big game, small game, and non-game management interviews, along with many discussions about fish, law enforcement, and boating. Guests will include agency employees from the Nashville office as well as from its four regional offices spanning the state. Other guests from outside the agency will also appear on occasion.

"We will also talk about hunting and fishing techniques at times," said Markham. "We have some very skilled sportsmen who love the outdoors and the opportunity to talk about it."

Originally a 20-minute show, *WildCast* recently increased to 30 minutes. In addition, the agency will also produce

Tennessee Wildcast Extra, a 3-5 minute video on agency topics which will only be available on the TWRA's statewide Facebook page.

While the podcast is setup with a radio-style format, a television monitor is a part of the studio and often includes photographs and video to illustrate information being discussed.

"This program is free and we hope

sportsmen will tune in to learn more about how the state's fish and wildlife and other programs are managed," said Markham.

Video of *WildCast* and other TWRA programs are available at www.twra.tv

The TWRA.TV link is one of the sites included on the www.tnwildcast.com website.



Bill Cox, a member of the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission, is interviewed by hosts Doug Markham and Jason Harmon for a Tennessee WildCast segment. A variety of outdoor topics from a variety of guests are discussed on the weekly Podcast.

New Wildlife Officers Set to Serve State's Sportsmen

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has welcomed six new wildlife officers to serve in various locations across the state.

The officers are required to complete TWRA training and graduate from the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy.

The new wildlife officer additions and their county assignments are Brendon Marlow (Hickman), Scott Bauer (Davidson), Caleb Marshall (Sullivan), Cody Butler (Williamson), and Brant Luker (Decatur). In addition, Josh Emerson will serve as a WMA manager in Region I.

Six new wildlife officers will join the ranks of the TWRA. Pictured following the officers commission ceremony are (front row, from left), Brant Luker, Cody Butler, and Josh Emerson. Middle row; Scott Bauer, Caleb Marshall, and Brendon Marlow. Back row; Boating and Law Enforcement's Cape Taylor, Glenn Moates, Ken Reedy, Darren Rider, and Randy Huskey.



2017-18 Tennessee Wildlife Calendar Photo Contest Underway

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is now accepting entries for its 2017-18 photo contest for publication in *Tennessee Wildlife's* annual calendar issue. All interested photographers are invited to submit **up to 10** of their best photos on fishing, hunting, boating, and wildlife species native to Tennessee.

The photos will be reviewed for publication in the annual calendar edition of *Tennessee Wildlife*, which is the summer issue. If a photo is selected for the calendar edition, the photographer will receive a cash stipend of \$60.

Photographers must submit their photo entries by the March 17, 2017 deadline. Photos must be horizontal (landscape), in JPEG format, and submitted on a CD. They must be sized to print no smaller than 8-1/2x11 and resolution should be at least 300 pixels/inch.

Photographers must be sure to provide their name, address, phone number, and e-mail address with their disk. Disks cannot be returned.

Entries may be mailed to:
Tennessee Wildlife
Calendar Issue
P.O. Box 40747
Nashville, TN 37204

Tennessee Wildlife is the official magazine for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Subscription rates are \$10 for one year, \$17 for two years and \$25 for three years.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 8

The statewide hunting season for deer concludes.

January 9-13

Antlerless deer hunting is allowed on private lands only.

January 14-15

The second statewide Young Sportsman Deer Hunt is held.

The 2017 Tennessee Sandhill Crane Festival, the 26th annual event, is held at the Birchwood Community Center and the Hiwassee Refuge. Programs will be held throughout the day and shuttle service is available to the refuge and Cherokee Removal Park.

January 15

Final segment of dove season ends.

January 16

Second segment of sandhill crane season begins.

January 18

WMA Spring Turkey Quota Hunts application period ends.

January 29

Statewide and Reelfoot Zone hunting season ends for ducks, coots, and mergansers.

Sandhill crane season in East Tennessee in designated area ends.

February 4 and 11

Youth waterfowl hunting season is held on the first two Saturdays of February. Youth ages 6-15 are eligible.

February 18

2017-18 Hunt and Fishing licenses go on sale.

February 28

Hunting season concludes for most small game including squirrel, grouse, rabbit, quail, Wilson Snipe, and crow. Trapping seasons conclude.

2016-17 hunting and fishing licenses are expired after today.