

## John Gregory Retires After Long Career Of Contributions To TWRA

John Gregory has retired from the TWRA, ending a career that spanned 38 years of service to the Agency.

John was serving as TWRA Region IV Manager at the time of his retirement, a position he had held since 2009. A native of Oak Ridge, he made the move to East Tennessee after serving as the Real Estate and Forestry Division Chief since 1992.

Following his graduation from the University of Tennessee in 1977 with bachelor's degree in forestry, John began his career with TWRA as a Trainee Forester at Cheatham Wildlife Management Area, in Cheatham County. After he received promotions to Forester 1

and Forester 2 at Cheatham, he was named Staff Forester of the Real Estate and Forestry Division. He served in the position for two years before moving into the role as chief.

John was honored with retirement receptions both at the Region IV office in Morristown and later at the Nashville office prior to a meeting of the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission.

John is an avid fisherman who lives on Douglas Lake in Jefferson County and looks forward to enjoying the water with his family. He and his wife, Mickey, are also Tennessee Titans season ticket holders and plan to continue attending football games.



*John Gregory received a plaque of appreciation from TWRA Executive Director Ed Carter.*

## Second Hatcher Scholarship Awarded To APSU Graduate Student

Mackenzie Roeder, a graduate student at Austin Peay State University, is the second recipient of the Robert M. Hatcher Memorial Scholarship. The \$1,000 scholarship was established in 2014 in honor of Bob Hatcher, who served the TWRA for 38 years, which included the Non-Game and Endangered Species Coordinator from 1987 until 2001.

Mackenzie is a graduate biology student at Austin Peay. She will be graduating early to begin Ph.D. position with SHARP (the Salmarch Habitat and Avian Research Project) at the University of Maine. Her plans for the future after completing her doctorate are to use her skills in molecular biology and evolutionary ecology to help conserve threatened and endangered birds and their habitats.

Mackenzie is also the recipient of the Kautz-Thorwell Scholarship, the APSU graduate student research support grant, the Presidential Volunteer Service Lifetime Achievement Award (for dedicating more than 4,000 hours to volunteer conservation service), and the APSU Summa Cum Laude Academic Achievement award for maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

A native of a small town in the Catskill Mountains in New York, she inherited her love of birds from her great-grandmother. She has spent the past 10 years leading bird-watching hikes at wildlife refuges and caring for injured and orphaned birds at wildlife rehabilitation clinics. During her undergraduate years, she became interested in molecular biology and earned two bachelor's degrees, one in forensic science and the other in biology. She assisted with the Missouri Ozark Forest Ecosystem Project's and later joined AmeriCorps and worked at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge in Illinois.

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



*Mackenzie Roeder (far right) received the 2017 Robert M. Hatcher Memorial Scholarship. Pictured from left are Mr. Hatcher's wife, Betty, TWRA Executive Director Ed Carter, the Hatchers' daughter, Terri Hatcher Goodwin, the Hatchers' son, Jerry, and TWRA Bird Conservation Coordinator, David Hanni.*

throughout Tennessee.

Mackenzie becomes the second Austin Peay graduate student in as many years to receive the scholarship award. Megan Hart was the inaugural winner in 2016.

## Dan Gibbs, Joshua Roberson Receive Annual Wildlife Awards

Dan Gibbs and Joshua Roberson have been honored by being named the 2017 TWRA Wildlife Biologist of the Year and Wildlife Technician of the Year, respectively. The annual awards are presented by the TWRA Wildlife and Forestry Division,

Gibbs began his TWRA career in 1997 and has served as a biologist in East Tennessee since 2002, responsible for regional management of bear, deer, turkey, waterfowl, small game, and fur-

bearers. In 2016, he was also designated as the Statewide Bear Program Leader. Roberson serves in TWRA Region I and has worked on Kentucky Lake and Natchez Trace Wildlife Management Area for the past seven years.

The Biologist of the Year is the latest honor for Dan. He was named Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) Biologist of the Year this past fall.

Dan was instrumental in establish-

ing the current Tennessee bear hunt zones, based on data and management techniques that allow for sustainability or growth in each zone. He has worked closely with various organizations and communities on bear conflict and nuisance issues. Gibbs is also responsible for coordinating with the Appalachian Bear Rescue (ABR) in admitting orphaned bear cubs and later relocating cubs into the wild.

Dan has worked with several partners to obtain funding to put radio collars on relocated nuisance bears or orphaned cubs rehabilitated by the Appalachian Bear Rescue Center and subsequently released in the wild to follow their movements and survival. He established an on-line bear reporting system on the TWRA website for the public to log in bear sightings.

Dan currently serves as the chair of the SEAFWA Large Carnivore Working Group and has long been an active member of the Southeast Black Bear Work Group.

Josh has worked to help maintain and promote hunting, fishing and trapping. He assists in banding every year at the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge's Duck River Unit where he has helped band more than 1,000 geese and 2,500 wood ducks. Josh has notoriety as a trapper, particularly trapping beavers on waterfowl impoundments.

He is a certified Hunter Education Instructor and assists local wildlife officers in teaching multiple Hunter Education classes annually in Benton County. Josh has also volunteered in other youth outdoor events such as Free Fishing Day and the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge's "Green Wing Day" that allows youth to participate in wood duck banding.



*Dan Gibbs (second from left) holds his award for being named Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Biologist of the Year for 2017. Pictured (from left) are Ed Carter (TWRA Executive Director), Gibbs, Mark Gudlin (TWRA Wildlife and Forestry Division Chief), John Mike (Region IV Wildlife Manager) Jeff Cook (Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission Vice Chairman).*



*Joshua Roberson (center) is the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Technician of the Year. Pictured (from left) are David Ulderich (Wildlife Manager Kentucky Lake/Natchez Trace WMA), Ed Carter, Roberson, Mark Gudlin, and Jeff Cook.*

## Sportsmen Eye 30,000-Harvest Mark In 2018 Spring Turkey Hunting Season

Tennessee turkey hunters will be looking to surpass to the 30,000-harvest mark for the 16th consecutive year. The 2018 spring turkey hunting season runs March 31-May 13. The Young Sportsman Hunt precedes the start of the statewide season on March 24-25.

The bag limits include one bearded turkey per day, not to exceed four per season.

All 95 counties are open to the spring turkey seasons. Turkeys harvested on quota hunts and specific wildlife management areas (WMAs) are bonus tur-

keys. For more information on the 2018 spring turkey season, view the 2017-18 Tennessee Hunting & Trapping Guide. The guide is available at TWRA offices, license agents, and online at [www.tn-wildlife.org](http://www.tn-wildlife.org)



## MADD Honors TWRA Officers During Annual Night Of Remembrance

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) recently honored four Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency wildlife officers during the annual Statewide Night of Remembrance and Awards Ceremony.

TWRA wildlife officers Greg Julian, Josh Landrum, and Jeff Roberson were honored by MADD Tennessee for their efforts on removing boating under the influence (BUI) operators from Tennessee waterways thus enhancing safety and saving lives.

Julian serves in Anderson County, Landrum in Davidson County, and Roberson in Knox County.

In addition, TWRA Boating Investigator Capt. Matt Majors also received a special honor. He received the 2017 Middle Tennessee Outstanding Service Award.

This year's annual event was held at the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel in Nashville. Hosted by MADD Tennessee, it honors and remembers victims of substance impaired driving and



Four TWRA wildlife officers were honored at the MADD Night of Remembrance and Awards Ceremony. Pictured (from left) are Sgt. Vinny Turocy of the Tennessee High Patrol, Glenn Moates (TWRA Boating and Law Enforcement Assistant Chief), Darren Rider (TWRA Boating and Law Enforcement Chief), and honorees Jeff Roberson, Josh Landrum, Greg Julian, and Matt Majors. In the front, is MADD Tennessee President Pheadra Olsen.

underage drinking and to recognize law enforcement heroes for their commitment to protecting Tennesseans from

these crimes. The organization works with victims from both DUI and BUI incidents.

## 2018 Becoming An Outdoors-Woman Workshop Set For Cumberland County

The 2018 Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) workshop will be held June 1-3 near Crossville at the Clyde M. York 4-H Center.

The popular annual event, hosted by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, is conducted in a relaxed atmosphere. The BOW workshop is an opportunity for those 18 or older to learn outdoor skills usually associated with hunting and fishing.

However, the workshop provides useful for other outdoor pursuits and interests. Workshop participants will have a chance to select from a variety of courses over the



three days and the classes are taught by experts in their respective fields.

The workshop fee is \$225 and includes lodging at the Clyde M York 4-H Center, meals, T-shirt, and a 2018-19 Tennessee Hunting and Fishing License. Registration is taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. Applications may be obtained from the TWRA website at [www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org), or any TWRA regional office. For more information contact Donald Hosse, Wildlife Education Program Coordinator, at [don.hosse@tn.gov](mailto:don.hosse@tn.gov) or telephone (615) 781-6541.



### CLASSES

- Firearms And Firearms Safety
  - Basic Fishing Skills
  - Advanced Fishing Techniques
  - All-terrain Vehicle Operation
  - Basic Archery
  - Boating Safety Education
  - Outdoor Cooking
  - Wild Edible Foray
  - Beginning Fly Fishing
  - Nature Photography Basics
  - Basic Canoeing
  - Paddleboarding
  - Basic Shotgun
  - Backyard Habitat
  - Map/Compass
  - Introduction To Muzzleloading
  - Introduction To Turkey Hunting
  - Introduction To Deer Hunting
  - Introduction To Waterfowl Hunting
  - Reading The Woods
  - Discover Scuba
  - Stream Ecology
- (Classes are subject to change.)*

## Tennessee Outdoors Youth Summit Makes Return To Clyde M. York 4-H Center

The Ninth Annual Tennessee Outdoors Youth Summit will be held for the second year at the Clyde York 4-H Center near Crossville. The 2018 event is scheduled for July 15-20.

The summit was established for high school students from across Tennessee. During the week, students are introduced to many outdoor activities. It was held at the Montgomery County Shooting Complex near Clarksville before moving to the 4-H Center in 2017.

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Foundation are again partnering to host this year's event. Among the different outdoor activities that the students will have an opportunity to become introduced to include boating, hunting, trapping, archery, photography, marksmanship, plant identification, forestry, camping, water quality, trap shooting, skeet shooting, wildlife identification, and several classes with wildlife and fish biology as topics.

Students will participate in hands-on classes that teach the importance of the natural resources and their management. Instructors will be wildlife and

fisheries biologists, wildlife officers, college professors, professional shooting coaches and experts from specific fields of interest. Students can plan on each class they sign up for to be two to four hours in length and will include hands-on application in that subject.

Once students are accepted to the



program, they will be able to attend at least 10 classes during the week. During this week, the students will have the opportunity to gain certification in many different programs. Students, who are interested in a career in the natural resources field, will also enjoy

the experiences that normally are not learned until they are members of the work force.

The cost to attend the summit is \$350 for the week-long experience which includes lodging and meals. Scholarships are available and based on financial need.

Students interested in attending should log on to [www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org) and submit an application by May 25. Students wishing to receive a scholarship only need to submit an application form indicating that they want a scholarship. Applications can be downloaded from [www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org) or [www.twrf.net](http://www.twrf.net).

Enrollment is limited to 120 students and if an application is not accepted, refunds will be returned in full. If an application is chosen, the successful applicant will be sent a password and web address to the location of the scheduling packet. Students will select their classes of interest and pay the balance of the cost of the program.

For questions or additional information, contact Lacey Lane at the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Foundation at (615) 831-9311, ext. 114, (731) 415-0641 or by e-mail at [llane@twrf.net](mailto:llane@twrf.net).

## Fishing Regulations Established At September TFWC Meeting

The Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission established the state's 2018-19 sport fish and commercial fishing regulations at its September meeting.

The establishment of next year's sport fish regulations and commercial fishing proclamations were among the items on the agenda and the two-day meeting held for the first time in several years in Gatlinburg. Tennessee Wildlife Resources Fisheries Division Chief Frank Fiss had presented proposals at

the August meeting.

The changes to the sport fish proclamation include closing upper Cherokee Reservoir to snagging from March 1 through May 31, except during the snagging season (April 1-15). The purpose of the closures is to protect paddlefish from over-harvest.

Another change reduces the area on the Elk River of Watauga Reservoir that has a hook restriction during January through April. The change allows anglers to use all types fishing gear in

this section of the river year round. An additional change opens delayed harvest trout fishing areas on Doe River in Carter County and Buffalo Creek in Grainger County.

An amendment made during the presentation allows a no creel or size limit on crappie taken from Herb Parsons Lake to alleviate an overabundance of small crappie. The goal is to improve the size structure of the crappie population. Herb Parsons Lake is located in Fayette County.



## NASP State Tournament Returns To Middle Tennessee's Miller Coliseum

Tennessee Miller Coliseum will serve as the host venue for the 12th Annual National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) State Championships, March 28-29.

More than 2,000 students are expected to participate by the time the registration concludes. The students will be representing about 100 schools. Both will be records for the event which has expanded to two full days.

Sponsored by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, NASP began in Tennessee in 2004 and has seen tremendous growth since its inception.

Schools will compete in the elementary, middle school and high school divisions. Awards will be presented to the top teams and individual finishers in each of the three divisions.

There will be five flights each day

beginning at 9:45 a.m. The awards ceremony is expected to begin at 5 p.m. on Thursday. The public is welcome and invited to attend. There is no admission charge.

In 2017, 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. Central Magnet's Alison Blanton was the event's top shooter. The junior shot a 297 (out of a possible 300). Austin Evans, a junior at Warren County High School, was the top overall male shooter with 292.

Tennessee began NASP in late 2004 with 12 pilot schools participating in the program. The number of schools has grown to close to 300 schools now participating in the program. NASP is

a two-week curriculum taught during school that teaches International Style Target Archery.

Each student will shoot 30 arrows, 15 from 10 meters and 15 from 15 meters with a maximum score of 300. The top team and top five boys and top five girls in each division automatically receive a bid to compete in the 2018 National NASP Tournament to be held in May in Louisville, Ky. There will also be at-large bids for teams and individuals who qualify.

For information on the NASP program in Tennessee, please contact the TWRA's Don Crawford, Assistant Chief of Information and Education at Don.Crawford@tn.gov or (615) 781-6542 or Matt Clarey, Regional Training Coordinator in TWRA Region III at Matt.Clarey@tn.gov or (931) 484-9571.

## TWRA Participates In Annual National Safe Boating Week Effort

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency will be participating in the 2018 National Safe Boating Week, May 19-25 to promote safe activity and the wear of life jackets during summer boating season.

National Safe Boating Week has become an annual occurrence. The TWRA and other organizations campaign to spread the message of safe and responsible boating. It is a time for boaters to focus on the simple and effective steps that can make any boating activity safer, for both boaters and the people around them.

The TWRA and the organizations continue to strive in their efforts in educating the boating community about life jacket wear and the options available when it comes to comfortable and lightweight life jackets.

The Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day is Friday, May 18 with the goal of demonstrating how easy it is to wear a life jacket. Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day is celebrated each year just prior to National Safe Boating Week. This is a fun, educational way to heighten awareness of different life jacket styles, including inflatable life jackets, and demonstrate their comfort



*TWRA staff will again participate in Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day in 2018. The event promotes the comfort of today's life jackets.*

and versatility by wearing them to work. Those who wear a life jacket to work are asked to have a photograph taken and e-mail it to [tennesseewearit@gmail.com](mailto:tennesseewearit@gmail.com).

On Saturday, May 19, Ready, Set, Wear It!, will enter its eighth year in trying to bring awareness on the importance of life jacket wear by holding a world record day.

The worldwide event kicks off the start of National Safe Boating Week. Participants will be part of the attempt to break a world record for the most life jackets worn at one time.

Both events help usher in National Safe Boating Week which is annually held the week prior to Memorial Day Weekend. Boating partners with the TWRA from across the United States and Canada are teaming to promote safe boating practices throughout the 2018 boating season.

The TWRA Wear It! Boat will be back on the water during the summer. The Wear It! campaign also promotes boating safety and life jacket safety by encouraging boaters to wear life jackets.

## Orders Being Taken For Latest Collectible Waterfowl Stamp Through TWRA

Orders are being taken for the collectible state waterfowl stamp that is produced annually and sold for conservation education through the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

Since 1999, a collectible stamp has been created from the annual Tennessee Junior Duck Stamp program contest's Best of Show. The program is an art contest managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designed to teach the importance of conserving wetlands habitat and waterfowl to students. It pairs science, the arts, and other core subjects to creatively teach greater awareness of our natural resources.

As part of the program, students are invited to participate in an annual art competition. Creating an entry is a valuable experience. It helps students tie together lessons on animal form and function, plant science, observation, wetland habitats, and more. In the visual arts, students practice sketching, drawing, painting, and composition.

This year's duck stamp comes from the artwork that was selected as Best of Show winner in the 2017 contest. Alana Clark from Chattanooga won the prestigious honor for her portrayal of a northern pintail. The 16-year-old created her winning entry in colored pencil.

The public is invited to purchase the collectible stamp. Each state stamp is numbered and printed in full color, measuring 1 2/8 by 2 inches. In addition to this year's stamp, all previous stamps since 1999 are available.

Funds from the sale of the stamp will be used for habitat improvement. Stamps are \$11 each and may be ordered by completing the Wildlife Stamp order form located in the Watchable Wildlife Information under Wildlife Enthusiasts on the TWRA website at [www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org).

Students from across Tennessee participate each year in the contest. The entry deadline is each March and winners are presented awards at a ceremony in the spring.

To obtain a copy of the free curriculum or for more information on the Junior Duck Stamp Program, contact the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge at (731) 642-2091.

Winners from all 50 states compete with best-of-show winners each year. The winner of the national winners be-

comes the artwork used for the Federal Junior Duck Stamp each year.

The public is reminded that the State of Tennessee Waterfowl stamp is voluntary and not required to hunt. However, the Federal Duck stamp is required to hunt waterfowl in Tennessee.



*Alana Clark (center) is pictured (from left) with Rick Eastridge, USFWS Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge, Joan Howe, contest coordinator from the USFWS Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, Alana's art teacher, Karen Barton, Alana, Julie Schuster, former TFWC commissioner and former TWF director, Don King, TWRA Information and Education Division Chief, and Jamie Feddersen, TWRA Migratory Gamebird Program leader.*



## 2018 Free Fishing Day In Tennessee Celebrated June 9

The 2018 Free Fishing Day is Saturday, June 9 in Tennessee when all state residents and visitors may fish without a license.

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency provides the free day each year in early June in hopes of increasing or rekindling an interest in fishing. Along with the opportunity to fish free, many special events are slated throughout the state on and around June 6. Additionally, June 10-15 is Free Fishing Week, when youth ages 15 or younger may fish without a license as well for the entire week.

The TWRA stocks thousands of pounds of catfish to help make Free Fishing Day events a quality experience for young anglers. For a list of event updates throughout the spring, visit the TWRA website at [www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org). Events will be added throughout the spring.





## Process Becomes Easier To Register New Boats In Tennessee

Until recently, the purchase of a new boat in Tennessee required the owner to take the bill of sale to the local courthouse to account for taxes. After having made that trip, another was required to complete the registration process required for new boats.

Using technology provided by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency's license vendor, boat owners can now complete the second step, registering their new boat, using home computers or smart phones.

"You could always mail in your new boat registration paperwork, but so many people are anxious about getting everything done at once," said Susie Spriggs, TWRA License Division Chief. "Now a new boat owner can complete the process without having to visit a second office or wait for the mail."

Once taxes have been taken care of, completing a new boat registration requires visiting [www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org) and clicking on the "Boat Registration" menu atop the agency's website.

"It's a simple process," she said. "Just

follow the application prompts and in a few minutes you will have your boat registered. A registration card and decal will be in the mail two business days following approval."

"Once those taxes have been taken care of, you can register a boat online for up to three years," said Spriggs. She also noted that boat registrations could be set up to automatically renew, further removing any time spent on the renewal process.

The TWRA is the agency that enforces boating laws in Tennessee, which includes checking that boats are properly registered when on the water. While new boat registrations have also required several steps to finalize, boat registration renewals have been easier to complete.

She did point out that registration and hull identification numbers (HINs) are important in the application procedure. The agency has been updating thousands of incorrect hull numbers, which could create an online issue for some boaters attempting to register



boats. If a hull number has not been updated, the registration cannot be completed. However, the agency will receive a message to contact the boater.

"Applicants should make sure to add a telephone number and e-mail address to the customer profile," said Spriggs. "We will provide as much help as possible."

## Eight Elk Harvested During Three Hunting Segments

There were a total of eight elk harvested during the three segments of the 2017 hunts. Participants were allowed to hunt on North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and surrounding private lands, although none of the hunters chose to hunt on private lands.

The elk archery-hunt was the first segment held Sept. 30-Oct. 6 with three of the seven participants recording harvests. Dickson resident Larry Rosenbaum was the first person to check in an elk during the archery hunt on the first afternoon. It was also the first elk taken by archery since the hunt was launched in 2009. He harvested a 5x4 elk that weighed 378 pounds in Elk Hunt Zone 2.

Later that day, Johnny Delaney (Chattanooga) checked a 5x5 elk that weighed 486 pounds taken from Massengale Mountain in Elk Hunt Zone 4. Matthew Meyer (Knoxville) harvested the third and final bull elk of the archery segment on the second day. His harvest was 5x5 and weighed 397 pounds taken in Elk

Hunt Zone 1.

Reed Johnson (Manchester) was this year's recipient of the tag permit to participate in the Young Sportsman Elk Hunt. The Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission voted to allow a full week for the youth participant for the first time this year rather than a two-day weekend hunt. However, Reed only needed the first day on as he harvested his 4x4 elk that field dressed at 316 pounds.

The Oct. 14-20 hunt was open for seven participants with the option to use gun, muzzleloader, or archery equipment. One of the hunters selected in the draw did not participate due to a conflict.

Alabama resident Tim Fisk had the first harvest in the gun hunt. He took a 6x7 elk in Elk Hunt Zone 4 that weighed 702 pounds. He was the successful bidder of the permit that is annually presented to a non-governmental organization. Fund-raising proceeds from the auctioned tag are designated for the

elk restoration program.

The second elk to be taken by a gun was harvested by Gary Ownby (Clinton) in Elk Hunt Zone 7. This was the first elk taken from the Tackett Creek area. It had an antler size of 5x6, but no weight was measured.

Also taken the same day was a 5x5 elk that weighed 510 pounds partially field dressed. Floyd Road (Knoxville) made his harvest in Zone 1.

The final harvest came on the final day of 2017. Kimberly Mayfield (Etowah) recorded her harvest in the morning, taking a 6x6 elk with a field dressed weight of 625 pounds.

Since the first managed hunt in 2009, 41 elk have now been legally harvested. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has worked to make elk habitat improvements at North Cumberland WMA. The arrival of 50 animals came in December 2000, the first wild elk to be in Tennessee since they were last reported in Obion County in 1865.

## TWRA Hosting Fifth International Human-Bear Conflicts Workshop

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency will be hosting the Fifth International Human-Bear Workshop in Gatlinburg on March 25-29. It is the first workshop since 2012 when it was in Missoula, Mont. and the first time to take place east of the Mississippi River.

The workshop's format is designed to provide opportunities for interaction with professional and community human-bear conflict specialists. The workshop's goal is to create a better understanding of the history, causes and current trends in human-bear conflicts. Discussed at the workshop will be new and proven methods of reducing human-bear conflicts.

Along with the TWRA, local community organizers from the Gatlinburg area are also assisting in hosting the workshop. The program for the workshop is being developed by an organizational committee of specialists from across North America.



## Black Bear Harvest Sees Increase During 2017 Seasons

Black bear hunters harvested 545 animals during the 2017 hunting segments, an increase from the 436 taken the previous year. The harvest is the fourth highest on record.

Cocke County had a total of 100 black bears harvested, which included 57 south of Interstate 40 and 43 taken north of I-40. Monroe County had 73

harvests and Polk County 65, 61 coming east of Highway 411. Bears harvests were recorded in 15 counties in 2017.

Tennessee's black bear population has been steadily increasing over the past 40-plus years due to several management practices put in place by TWRA. These practices include establishment of a series of bear reserves

throughout the bear habitat, protection of females and cubs, and setting the majority of the bear hunting season later in the year when most females have gone to the den.

Harvest totals have varied over the past 60 years from less than 10 animals to the more than 500 this year.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### June 1-3

The annual Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) Workshop is held in Crossville. The workshop provides an opportunity to learn and participate in a variety of outdoors-related activities

### June 9

Free Fishing Day is provided for anyone to fish without a license in hopes of increasing interest in fishing.

### June 9-15

Free Fishing Week is for children ages 15 and younger to fish without a license beginning on Free Fishing Day through the following Friday.

### June 20-July 25

The application period held for the 2017 Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Big Game Quota Hunts.

### June 29-July 1

Operation Dry Water is a national weekend of Boating Under the Influence (BUI) awareness and enforcement campaign directed toward reducing alcohol and drug-related accidents and fatalities. Operation Dry Water is held the weekend prior to the Independence Day (July 4) holiday to give BUI enforcement high visibility during the peak boating season.

### August 4 and 11

The WMA waterfowl blind site drawings are held on the first Saturday in August. The sandhill crane hunt permit drawing will be held the following week.

### August 25

The Annual Free Hunting Day is when Tennessee residents are allowed to hunt without a license. The day coincides with the opening day of squirrel season.