

THE WILDLIFE INSIDER

Director Ed Carter Elected President of Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Ed Carter, Executive Director of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, has been elected to serve as the 2018-19 president of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA). The election came at AFWA's 108th meeting held in Tampa, Fla.

AFWA represents North America's fish and wildlife agencies to "advance sound, science-based management and conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats in the public interest."

Carter began his career in 1972 and has held positions in Law Enforcement, Information and Education, and as TWRA Region II assistant manager for 25 counties in Middle Tennessee. He became TWRA's first Chief of the Boating Division when the division was formed in 1990. He was appointed TWRA's executive director in 2009.

"Ed Carter has been a true champion of wildlife and conservation for more than 46 years," said Kurt Holbert, Vice Chair of the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission. "I have no doubt that he will continue to make Tennessee proud by leading the advancement of those interests on a national scale."

"Thank you for this opportunity and honor to serve in this capacity," Carter said upon accepting the presidency. "I am looking forward to personally working with all of the state and federal agencies, partners, and friends towards our common conservation goals. It is of great importance that we work together to conserve the fish and wildlife that are among this nation's most valuable resources, along with clean air, water, healthy forests and agricultural lands that support all of us."

Other areas of focus in the coming year will include passage of "The Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow's Needs Act," engagement with federal ESA issues and Chronic Wasting Disease. Carter also plans to continue efforts toward strengthening partnerships and increasing efforts on hunting, shooting sports, angling and boating recruitment, retention and reactivation initiatives.

Carter has received numerous awards and honors. His most recent came when he received the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture Meritorious Award, the Institute's highest and most prestigious award. Other honors included



being named an "Environmental Hero," recognition from the Tennessee State Legislature for meritorious service to the State of Tennessee, induction into the National Boating Safety Hall of Fame by the National Safe Boating Council and selection to the TWRA Hunter Education Hall of Fame.

Kyle Walling Honored with Selection as Wildlife Office of the Year

Kyle Walling is the recipient of the TWRA Wildlife Officer of the Year for the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA).

Walling is a wildlife officer in TWRA Region III's District 31 and was selected among other TWRA law enforcement officers to become the state recipient. Walling is assigned to Van Buren County, but works throughout the district's 12 counties. He was recognized at the annual SEAFWA meeting in October, this year held in Mobile, Ala.

Also honored as TWRA region and district selections were: Brandon Gavrock, Region I and Chuck Casey, District 11; Rusty Thompson, Region II and Matt Brian, District 21; Joe Pike, District 32; Gene Parker, Region IV and Ryan Rosier,



District 42. The officers were selected for their efforts in teamwork, public outreach, innovation, attitude, leadership, achievements and accomplishments.

Among Walling's activities, he con-

ducted educational and outreach events that included boater education, hunter education, trapper education, NASP tournaments, fair booths, "Wildlife on Wheels" display at NWTF Jakes Day, and information booth at Tennessee Fur Harvester Association convention. He also participated in the Jim Hall Hunt for Wounded Warriors, and youth hunting and fishing events.

His law enforcement efforts resulted in 2,018 hunters, fishermen and boaters being inspected for compliance. These duties produced a total of 121 court citations and warnings with 35 of these being big game cases.

Walling is a TWRA Honor Guard member, helping demonstrate his passion in honoring agency law enforcement.

Joe Benedict Named Wildlife and Forestry Division Chief

Joe Benedict has been named to serve as the chief of the Wildlife and Forestry Division. He will oversee all operations of the statewide division.

Benedict has been serving as assistant chief of the division since December 2015. He joined the TWRA in January 2014 to serve as the TWRA's Migratory Game Program Leader.

He came to Tennessee from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission where he served for 15 years. He was the Waterfowl and Small Game Management Program Leader and field state supervisor (2008-14) at the time of his move. He previously had worked as Waterfowl Biologist and Statewide Wetland Wildlife Coordinator.

Benedict grew up in rural Connecticut and earned a B.S. in Wildlife from Unity College in Maine. He earned his M.S. in Wildlife Science from Auburn University studying wintering waterfowl on the Tennessee River in northeast Alabama. He has worked on bird and wetland research projects in Connecticut, Iowa, New York, Alabama, Louisiana and Florida.



Kirk Miles (left) and Joe Benedict have assumed new leadership roles in the Wildlife and Forestry Division.

Kirk Miles Moves into Role as Assistant Wildlife and Forestry Chief

Long-time TWRA employee Kirk Miles has been named as assistant chief of the Wildlife and Forestry Division. Kirk has served the Agency in variety of roles since joining the Agency in 1995 following his service in the U.S. Air Force.

In his new position, Kirk will oversee field operations, wildlife species and habitat programs. He will also assist Chief Joe Benedict with other projects

in the division.

A native of northwest Alabama, Miles served four years in the Air Force. He attended the University of Tennessee, where he earned both his B.S. and M.S. degrees in wildlife science. He came to TWRA in February 1995 and worked in the GIS office. In 1996, he became a wildlife officer in Cumberland County where he served for four years.

In 2000, he moved to aquatic habitat protection for four years out of the Region III office. In 2004, he moved to the Non-Game Program and was a part of the team that produced the first State Wildlife Action Plan.

Miles continued with the Non-Game Program until 2011 when he became the Region III Wildlife Program Manager and has continued in that position until his recent appointment.

Eric Anderson Receives Shikar-Safari Wildlife Officer of the Year Award

Eric Anderson, of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, has been honored by the Shikar-Safari Club International as its 2017 Tennessee Wildlife Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

The annual award from the conservation-based organization honors the officer whose efforts during the year display outstanding performance and achievement among TWRA law enforcement personnel. Anderson is among a distinguished group of officers nationwide to receive the honor.

Along with his duties as a wildlife officer, Anderson is very active in public outreach in his county and district. He organized a fishing event for wounded soldiers and their families in conjunction with the Percy Priest Hybrid and Stripe Club. He also assisted with youth hunting events across the district.

He worked with the special investigations unit on a taxidermy case that recovered an 18-point buck has been poached on Fort Campbell Military Base. He applied new technology that prosecuted a pair for the illegal deer. He also prosecuted seven other individuals using social media to discover poaching violations.

Anderson issued 156 citations and assisted with 85 additional citations. He



Eric Anderson holds his award for being selected as the Tennessee 2017 Shikar-Safari Club International TWRA Officer of the Year. He was presented the award by Shikar-Safari representative Dr. Jack Gayden, who is standing to his left. Also pictured (from left) are Boating and Law Enforcement's Jim Hooper, Dale Grandstaff, and Darren Rider.

checked more than 1,400 individuals for compliance. He made extensive personal contacts on behalf of the agency and as well as with school groups, sportsman's organizations, civic groups and county fairs.

Shikar-Safari Club International was founded in 1952 for the purpose of ad-

vancing knowledge concerning wildlife of the world, independently and in cooperation with zoological societies, universities and museums. Each year, the club sponsors an award for the Wildlife Officer of the Year in all 50 states and 10 Canadian provinces.

Annual Photo Contest Set to Begin for 2019-20 Tennessee Wildlife Magazine Summer Issue

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is now accepting entries for its 2019-20 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

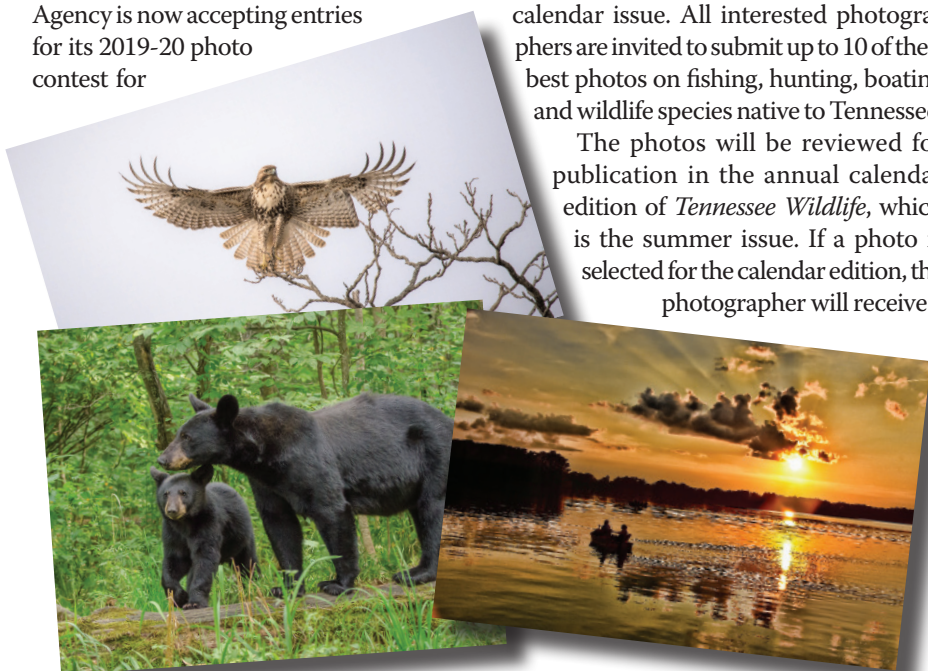
cash stipend of \$60.

Photographers must submit their photo entries by the March 20, 2019 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 (or DPI).

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.



Seven New Wildlife Officers Commissioned to Serve Tennessee Residents

The TWRA officially welcomed seven new wildlife officers to the Agency during a commission ceremony held at the agency's Region II office.

Many of the officers' family and friends were on hand for their special day. Director Ed Carter and Chief Darren Rider made remarks and Director Carter administered the oath. Randy Huskey and Ken Reedy oversaw the training, which included 45 instructors over the three months.

The new TWRA officers and their primary assigned areas are Hayden Cook (Williamson County), Hunter Daniels (Davidson County), Matthew Howard (Washington County), Matthew Norman (Davidson County), Brad Petty (Trousdale County), Cole Presley (Hickman County), and Slate Rider (Hardeman County). As wildlife officers, their duties will include enforcing and educating the public of hunting and fishing regulations, boating regulations, conducting hunter education programs and public education in the outdoors, and habitat



management.

Hayden Cook was honored by receiving the Gregory-McWherter

Award. The award recognizes the officer who is the most outstanding in the class and overcomes the most obstacles. The award is named in honor of former wildlife officers George Gregory and Gary McWherter who each passed away following battles with cancer.

Slate Rider was presented with the Leadership Award for the class. Cole Presley was the Top Shot Award winner.

Top: The crop of new wildlife officers with Director Ed Carter and law enforcement leadership.

Below (top to bottom): Cole Presley received the Top Shot Award, Hayden Cook is presented the Gregory-McWherter award, given to the officer who is the most outstanding in the class and overcomes the most obstacles, and Slate Rider received the Leadership Award.

Corrections of Photo Attribution

In the Fall issue of Tennessee Wildlife, a photo accompanying the "Wildlife Myths" article was incorrectly attributed to Gil Lackey. The photo of the mountain lion on the front of the spread was taken by Mary Sword.

Fisheries Division Annual Awards presented to David Roddy, Marilyn Davis

David Roddy and Marilyn Davis have been named the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency's Fisheries Division's biologist of the year and fisheries technician of the year, respectively.

The recipients of the award were announced and introduced during the September meeting of the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission held in Knoxville. Frank Fiss, TWRA Fisheries Division chief, made the presentations.

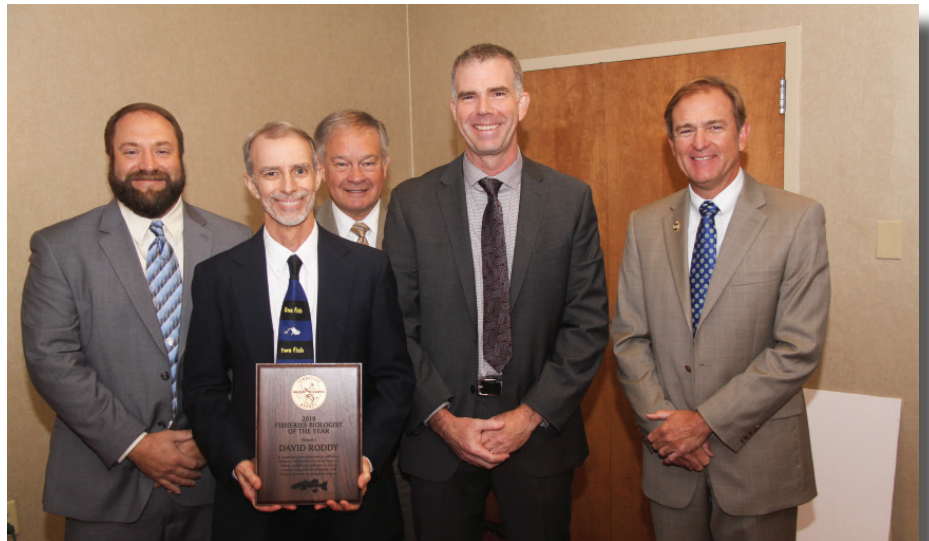
Roddy serves the agency as the State-wide Hatchery Coordinator and Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinator. Davis serves on TWRA Region IV Fisheries staff at Eagle Bend Hatchery in Anderson County.

Roddy joined the TWRA in 1987 as a wildlife aide with the Region II Reservoir Management crew. He was promoted to manage the Springfield Fish Hatchery, where for the next 23 years, he worked with 17 different species of fish producing 20.5 million fingerling fish for Tennessee waters. He was the biologist of the year in 2006 for his production success and several pond renovations.

In 2012, he was promoted to his current position. He manages all production plans and prepares the annual hatchery reports. He plays a daily support role for the four cold water and seven warm water facilities across the state. Roddy is dedicated to using proven technology and aquaculture techniques to efficiently produce the highest quality fish.

Among his accomplishments, he coordinated TWRA's first intensive Florida largemouth propagation effort at Humboldt Hatchery, and has since written a manual about Florida largemouth bass production. In only its second year of operation, the Humboldt Hatchery is nearing full production with the capacity to produce about one million fingerling bass. He also played a major role in constructing a walleye hatching facility at Sugar Creek.

Roddy currently serves as chair of the Southern Division American Fisheries Society (SDAFS), Aquaculture Technical Committee. In his role as the Aquatic Nuisance Species coordinator, he has coordinated efforts to relay the importance of preventing aquatic nuisance disease and to educate the public on the threat it



Top: David Roddy is the Fisheries Biologist of the Year. He is with Fisheries Assistant Chief Jason Henegar, Director Ed Carter, Fisheries Chief Frank Fiss, and TFWC Chair Jeff Cook.

Bottom: Marilyn Davis is the Fisheries Technician of the Year. She is with (from left) Region IV Fisheries Program Manager Bart Carter, Director Ed Carter, Eagle Bend Hatchery Manager Mike Smith, Fisheries Chief Frank Fiss, and TFWC Chair Jeff Cook.

poses for fisheries.

Davis joined the TWRA under the Young Adult Conservation program in 1978 and made the transition to a full-time technician at Eagle Bend Hatchery. She is credited with providing valuable assistance in every aspect of managing the hatchery.

Among her duties, she assists in spawning and producing more than five million fish larvae a year. She reports the number of fish shipped each week and submits all hatchery stocking reports. She also assists in stocking the fry into produc-

tion ponds and provides weekly samples to document survival rates. Davis also handles all hatchery invoices and receipts.

Davis has continued to serve as the hatchery's information center, conducting more than 25 tours each year and answering hundreds of calls in regard to stocking information and pond technical assistance. In addition, she has volunteered to take on the daily duties of caring for more than 750 snapping turtles which have been pit tagged and stocked to evaluate the agency's age and growth project on this commercial species.

Joe Elkins and Freddie Kelley were named the 2018 Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Wildlife Biologist of the Year and Wildlife Technician of the Year, respectively.

Elkins has served as the manager of North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area since 2013. At close to 190,000 acres, is one of the largest WMAs in the state. He began his TWRA career in 2001 and initially served as the forester for North Cumberland.

At North Cumberland WMA, he currently supervises seven staff members and coordinates activities of six additional staff assigned to the area. Elkins is one of the main forces behind successful programs that include the Off Highway Vehicle Program, Elk Program and Forestry Programs.

Elkins is a native of East Tennessee and is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Joe is a United States Army Veteran who served with the 101st Airborne Division during the initial assault into Iraq during Operation Desert Storm.

Kelley has served the TWRA for 25 years and works out of the Region III Tellico Lake and South Cherokee WMA. He is regarded by his colleagues as a “poster-child” wildlife technician, not only knowledgeable in wildlife habitat management practices and techniques, but also a highly skilled tradesman with an extensive background and training in farming, lands management, prescribed fire, logging, carpentry, welding, general construction and auto mechanics that make him invaluable to the Wildlife Management Division.

During the past year, Kelley coordinated and oversaw the prescribed burning of nearly 200 acres of fields and 80 acres of forest on Tellico Lake WMA. In addition to his WMA prescribed fire duties, he also worked on three separate two-week wildland firefighting details for the U.S. Forest Service.

Freddie helped lead wildlife education activities at the Annual Eco Days Event at Indian Boundary Campground on South Cherokee WMA. He also was involved with Memorial Day, Free Fishing Day and Veteran's Day fishing events



Joe Elkins (center) holds his award for being named Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Biologist of the Year for 2018. Pictured (from left) are Ed Carter (TWRA Executive Director), Jeff Cook (Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission Chair), John Mike (TWRA Region IV Wildlife Manager), and Kirk Miles (Wildlife and Forestry Assistant Chief).



Freddie Kelley (second from left) is the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Technician of the Year for 2018. Pictured (from left) are Ed Carter, Kelley, Kirk Miles and Jeff Cook.

at the Tellico River on South Cherokee WMA.

This past year, Kelley was instrumental in the initial response and recovery process after a U.S. Navy training jet crashed in the South Cherokee Forest. He was working a bear hunt at the North River Check Station when the jet

crashed in the late afternoon. Freddie heard the explosion nearby. He immediately responded and was the second person to arrive at the crash site. Freddie helped lead first responders to the site, and with his extensive knowledge of the local terrain, he was crucial to the entire rescue/recovery process.

Record Number of Elk Harvested During 2018 Hunts

Participants harvested a total of 12 elk during the 2018 Tennessee elk hunts in the three segments. Participants could hunt on North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and surrounding private lands. This year was the most harvests since the managed hunts began in 2009.

The elk archery hunt was the first segment held Sept. 29-Oct. 5 with all seven participants recording harvests. Three of the harvests were recorded on the opening day and all were 6x6. Darrell Clark (Corryton) checked a bull that field dressed at 473 pounds taken in Elk Hunt Zone 2. Adam A. Miller (James-town) harvest dressed at 554 pounds in Zone 5 and Marcus B. Tilson (Oakdale) had a bull field dress at 556 pounds from Zone 7S.

On Oct. 1, Charlie A. Hall (Chat-tanooga) took a 7x6 elk that had a full weight of 734 pounds in Zone 1. Also, Hunter Munck (Cleveland) harvested a 9x7 bull. The weight is not available. Other archery harvests were on Oct. 4 by Mason King (Harriman), a 4x7 that field dressed at 392 pounds in Zone 3 and the final archery harvest was on Oct. 5 by Luke Dunham (Cookeville) in Zone 4 took a 6x5 bull field dress at 552 pounds.

Porter Neubauer (Belvidere) was this year's recipient of the tag permit winner to participate in the Young Sportsman



Elk Hunt. Porter took his harvest on Oct. 11, taking a 6x6 elk in Zone 4. The elk field dressed at 558 pounds.

The Oct. 13-19 hunt was open for seven participants with the option to use gun, muzzleloader or archery equipment. One of the permits is presented annually to a non-governmental organization, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Foundation. In previous years, the permit was auctioned to the high bidder. This year, a raffle was held with tickets sold for \$10 each. Scott Thomas (Cleveland) was drawn from 22,484 tickets, and on the first day harvested a 8x6 bull, field dressing at 555 pounds in Zone 1.

Also having harvests on the first day

were Henry Cothron (Bethpage) taking a 3x4 weighing 256 pounds in Zone 4. Denise Porter (Maryville) took a 4x4 in 7N. The weight is unavailable. The final harvest came on Oct. 16 by David Pruitt (Jackson) taking a 6x4 bull with the weight unavailable. The harvest came in Zone 7S.

Since the managed hunts have been held, 53 elk have now been legally harvested. The TWRA 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 Welcomes Attorney Thomas Moncrief to Legal Division

Thomas Moncrief has joined the TWRA as its attorney. He comes to the Agency from the Tennessee General Assembly. Moncrief is working with Tracey Boyers in the Agency's Legal Division.

He worked for the General Assembly for six years with the Fiscal Review Committee as the Counsel for the Committee. Moncrief is a graduate of the University of Tennessee with a degree

in political science. He earned his law degree at the University of Memphis.

A native of Tennessee, and a lifetime sportsman, he grew up in Goodlettsville and attended Goodpasture Christian School.

Moncrief serves on the board of directors for the non-profit Special Ops Xcursions. The organization takes active-duty special operations soldiers on various outdoor activities.

