

Twenty Nongame Conservation Section Projects Funded at the Annual Membership Meeting May 2016

The annual TERN membership and board meeting was held at the beautiful Person's River Cabin in Forsyth, Georgia on Saturday, May 14th. The membership voted to fund 20 projects totaling \$69,918. A summary of the funded projects is found below.

Additional Transmitters for the project Determination of Range and Potential Habitat for Cave-Dwelling Bat Species in North Georgia (\$4,445) - Funds would support a study that is designed to conduct large-scale surveys to document the distribution and habitat associations of cave-roosting/hibernating bats (species susceptible to White Nose Syndrome) in north Georgia.

Summer 2017 Camp ACE (Adventures in Conservation Education) (\$8,000) - These funds will help reduce registration costs to just \$100 per middle school student to attend an advanced wildlife conservation camp about non-game species of Georgia.

Camp TALON 2016 (\$3,000) - These funds will help to reduce registration costs for students to attend Camp TALON (Teen Adventures Learning Ornithology and Nature), a six-day camp for teens designed to educate them about birds, conservation, and the coastal ecology of Georgia.

Christmas Bird Count (2016) for Young Birders (\$1,640) - These funds will make possible the creation and implementation of a Christmas Bird Count for Young Birders (Youth CBC) ages 8-16.

Nongame Conservation Section (NCS) Ecoburner Support (\$1,000) - NCS helps lead prescribed burns on high priority State Parks that support rare species habitat.

Automated Recorders ("Frog Loggers") for Anuran Survey and Monitoring (\$4,500) - Automated recording devices have proven to be extremely useful for detecting the distinctive vocalizations of targeted anurans, especially at remote sites that cannot be frequently visited at night when calling activity is greatest. Used to document frog population trends and adjust habitat management accordingly.

27th Annual Give Wildlife a Chance Poster Contest (\$2,600) - The annual Give Wildlife a Chance Poster Contest is a conservation art competition that is open to all kindergarten through 5th grade students in public schools, private schools and homeschool groups in the state of Georgia.

Hellbender Informational Signage & Education/Outreach Poster (\$1,890) - These funds will be used to pay for signage and outreach posters designed to educate the public about the hellbender – its ecology, biology, and conservation needs

Manatee Satellite Telemetry (\$6,100) - These funds will be used to purchase a Telonics satellite transmitter, batteries, belt, and tether in support of an ongoing 3-4-year telemetry study of manatee movements along the Georgia and Florida coasts

DNR Nongame Festival Booth Activities (\$1,150) - DNR staff regularly sets up booths at festivals to educate the public about Georgia's rich natural heritage, inspiring them to conserve native wildlife and their habitats.

TERN Outstanding Teacher Award (\$1,250) - According to the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS), the third grade life science curriculum focuses on: 1) Habitat differentiation and dependence of organisms on their habitat; and 2) Conservation of these organisms and other forms of natural resources. This award seeks to assist teachers of projects that fulfill these objectives with a focus on nongame animals and Georgia plant species and their habitats.

OWLS (Outdoor Wildlife Leadership School) 2017 (\$7,800) - Funds will be used to reduce registration costs down to \$50 per person for educators to attend the Outdoor Wildlife Leadership School (OWLS).

Radford's Mint Habitat Restoration (\$805) - DNR staff are working to restore of one of only two known locations of the rare Radford's mint (*Dicerandra radfordiana*) in the world

RCW Management Equipment Request (\$575) - Tree cavities can be a limiting resource for RCWs due to the time it takes the birds to excavate them. Biologists use a chainsaw and climbing equipment to install artificial cavity inserts, supplementing the number of cavities available for this endangered species.

Revitalize Big Hammock Nature Trail (\$7,200) - Big Hammock Natural Area is outstanding for its geologic features and natural community diversity.

The Impacts of Extreme High Tide Events on Sea Turtle Nesting (\$4,800) Funds will be used to rent a survey-grade GPS unit with a base station that is capable of collecting elevation data for sea turtle nests with an accuracy of ± 2 cm.

License Plate Promotion: Tag Office Contest (\$3,000) Funds from this grant would be used to buy food prizes for first and second place in this competition. For the winners, breakfast or lunch would be purchased for the entire office. For second place, a sweet treat such as donuts would be bought for the entire office.

Teacher Conservation Workshop 2016 (\$2,000) - This workshop will provide formal and informal educators with a one-week in-depth study in Georgia forestry, wildlife management, and water ecology.

Youth Birding Competition 2017 (\$7,400) - This 11-year-old event is a 24-hour competitive birding competition in which 90-130 students compete against others their age to identify as many bird species as they can in Georgia.

Forsyth NCS Office Porch Furniture Upgrade (\$763) - The Forsyth Nongame Office is currently undergoing extensive and much-needed repairs and improvements.