

**Minutes**  
**Wildlife Resources Committee**  
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S. E.  
Suite 1252 East Tower  
Atlanta, GA 30334

**August 28, 2012**

**Attending:**

Committee Members

Rob Leebern, Chairman  
Joe Hatfield, Vice Chairman  
William Bagwell  
Mabel Jenkins  
Duncan Johnson  
Phyllis Johnson  
Ray Lambert  
Aaron McWhorter  
Philip Wilheit, Jr.  
Philip Watt, Board Chairman, ex-officio

Board Members

Dennis Billew  
Mark Mobley  
Mark Smith  
Loyce Turner  
Steven Woodruff

Visitors

Hans Neuhauser, Georgia Land Conservation Center  
Walter Jones, Morris News Service  
Carol Hassell, Georgia Piedmont Land Trust  
Doug Hattaway, Trust for Public Land  
Daniel Groce, Georgia Agribusiness Council  
Phil Zinsmeister, Sierra Club  
Katie Kirkpatrick, Metro-Atlanta Chamber of Commerce  
Doug Fulle, Oglethorpe Power Corporation  
Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network  
Ronny Just, Georgia Power  
John Eberhart, Georgia Earth Alliance  
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Coalition  
David Word, Joe Tanner & Associates  
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club  
Sally Bethea, Chattahoochee RiverKeeper  
Juliet Cohen, Chattahoochee RiverKeeper  
Brittany Isom

Staff Members

Mark Williams  
Todd Holbrook  
Homer Bryson  
Spud Woodward  
Dan Forster  
Becky Kelley  
Dave Crass  
Steve Friedman  
Eric Isom  
Jac Capp  
Keith Bentley  
Linda MacGregor  
Jim Ussery  
Doralyn Kirkland  
Lauren Curry  
Ben Stowers  
Kyle Pearson  
Zachary Harris  
Paul Nelson  
John Bowers  
Eddie Henderson  
Stephen Adams  
Lon Revall  
Jeff Cown  
Mark Whitney  
Linda Willis  
Cathy Barnette  
Mary Ann Evans  
Hellen Harris

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Kylie Isom

Elijah Isom

Mr. Glover

The August 28, 2012 Committee day was called to order by Board Chairman Philip Watt. Chairman Watt stated that if there were no objections, he would like to begin the day with the Wildlife Resources Committee and called on Rob Leebern, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee.

Mr. Leebern called on John Bowers, Assistant Chief of the Game Management Section, to present the proposed amendments to the Hunting Regulations, Chapters 391-4-2-.16, 391-4-2-.48, 391-4-2-.49, 391-4-2-.52, and 391-4-2-.55 through 391-4-2-.58, Waterfowl and Late Season Migratory Bird Regulations.

Mr. Bowers stated that he had briefed the Board on these proposals in June, which were based on anticipated framework as proposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). He further stated that concerning scaup, the framework was more flexible than anticipated, and the proposal was modified to reflect a bag limit increase from two to four for scaup. He added that these proposed seasons and bag limits conform to Federal frameworks approved by the USFWS in late July and maximize hunting opportunity in Georgia.

Mr. Bowers stated that the proposed 2012-2013 Migratory Bird Seasons are as follows:

- Canada Goose – September 1 – 30; November 17-25; December 8 – January 27
- Teal – September 8 – 23
- Youth Days – November 10 – 11
- Ducks – November 17 – 25; December 8 – January 27
- King & Clapper Rails – September 14 – October 31; November 10 – December 1
- Sora & Virginia Rails – September 14 – October 31; November 10 – December 1
- Woodcock – December 8 – January 21
- Common (Wilson's) Snipe – November 15 – February 28
- Snow Goose – November 17 – 25; December 8 – January 27
- Gallinules – November 17 – 25; December 8 – January 27
- Mergansers – November 17 – 25; December 8 – January 27
- Coots – November 17 – 25; December 8 – January 27
- Sea Ducks – November 17 – 25; December 8 – January 27  
(Scoters, Elders, Long-tailed)
- Falconry – September 1 – 30; November 17 – February 1

Mr. Bowers stated that he would request approval of the proposed amendments, as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Hatfield, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends that the Board approve the proposed amendments to the Hunting Regulations, Chapters 391-4-2-.46, 391-4-2-.48, 391-4-2-.49, 391-4-2-.52, and 391-4-2-.55 through 391-4-2-.58, Waterfowl and Late Season Migratory Bird Regulations, as presented. (Proposed amendments to Hunting Regulations attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Leebern called on Dan Forster, Director of the Wildlife Resources Division (WRD), to give a Division update.

Director Forster called attention to the lapel pin with the WRD logo that had been placed at their seats, and asked them to wear it proudly. He also handed out a document regarding Federal funding for WRD and explained the rationale behind these funds.

Director Forster stated that WRD is in the process of identifying a new license plate design to replace the eagle and hummingbird plates. He further stated that an online voting process has begun to make this determination. He added that more than 12,000 votes had already been received. He further added that he hoped to have the new license plate in place by January 2013.

Director Forster gave an update on Weekend for Wildlife, February 7 – 9, 2013, at the Cloister at Sea Island, and encouraged everyone to attend.

Director Forster gave an update on the partnership with Gwinnett County Police Department for joint patrol on Lake Lanier; the Forrest L. Wood Cup Championship Tournament at Lake Lanier; the Sea Turtle nesting success this year; and FY-2012 Hunting & Fishing Revenues and Certification. He also stated that Dove Season opens this Saturday.

Mr. Leebern echoed Director Forster's comments about Weekend for Wildlife and stated that he would like to encourage participation in the program to make it a huge success.

At this time, Chairman Watt presented a Lifesaving Award to Ranger First Class Eric Isom for his heroic efforts to save the life of 15-year old Jordan Shipp during a boating accident on July 6, on Lake Lanier. Sadly, 11-year old Kyle Glover would succumb to his injuries from that accident.

Chairman Watt introduced Ranger Isom's family, Mrs. Brittany Isom, and children Kylie and Elijah. Mr. Glover, Kyle's father, was present to witness Ranger Isom receiving this award and to acknowledge his efforts on Kyle's behalf.

Chairman Watt stated that Ranger Isom's response was reflective of the excellent training of DNR's Law Enforcement officers. He further stated that they provide an incredible service to the citizens of the State of Georgia.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.