

NCPARC Education and Outreach Working Group Meeting
Monday, October 5, 2009, 1-4PM
Lake Crabtree County Park
1400 Aviation Parkway
Morrisville, NC 27560
Contact: Colleen Bockhahn
Phone: 919-460-2723

In attendance:

Kimberly Burge – NCWRC
Jeff Hall - NCWRC
Melissa Jones - NCWRC
Jeff Beane – NCMNS
Liz Jones – NCMNS
Ed Corey – NC State Parks
Grover Barfield
Colleen Bockhahn – Lake Crabtree CP

Jeff Hall gave updates from other working groups.

- PRT – Jeff will be working with this group on the 2010 Annual meeting agenda, too. They will be discussing how to incorporate the current python bills and Mike Dorcas' research into the meeting. The new NC laws on large exotic snakes, venomous, and crocodilians goes in effect on December 1, 2009. USARK is working on getting feedback from people about the law and wants to get correct information on these laws out to the public. Florida enacted similar laws a few years ago and there has been little compliance. Educating the public about the law changes in NC may be the key to a higher rate of compliance. There has been lots of negative feedback on these new laws mainly because people do not understand them. Jeff thinks this is a good opportunity to partner with USARK on an educational campaign. There is a meeting in October between USARK, the Senator of the bill, and NCWRC. There will be a PRT meeting soon after and Kim plans on attending with Jeff to hear the outcome and find out how E&O can contribute.

- RIMM – Jeff is currently seeking a chair for this group. Mike Dorcas has stepped down.

Upcoming Events:

Jeff proposed that Kim send out an email at the beginning of the year with all the scheduled events so people can get them on their calendar early. Jan-July was suggested but possibly the entire year. This might help increase volunteer participation.

- March 5, 2010 2-6pm Reptile Day, Imagination Station Science Museum of Wilson; Contact: Kristy Owens (kowens@imaginescience.org or 252-291-5113). Kim will contact Kristy to confirm the date on this event.
- March 5-7, 2010 Dixie Deer Classic – Kim will be heading up the NCPARC/NCHS booth at this event again this year. She will be getting in touch with them shortly for more details.
- March 13, 2010 9 -5pm Reptile & Amphibian Day – Museum of Natural Sciences. This year's topic is most likely going to be "Hots". Not just venomous, but desert hot as well and why reptiles need heat.
- March 17-18th, 2010 Annual NCPARC meeting will be at Haw River State Park. More information to follow soon.

Update on events since our last meeting.

- Sept 26, 2009 9-3pm Wildlife Expo (National Hunting & Fishing Day) at NCWRC Headquarters & Pechmann Center in Fayetteville – Keith Farmer assisting Jodie & Grover assisting Kim Burge – There were around 350 attendees at the Raleigh event and Fayetteville had about 450 attendees. Everyone thought this was a very successful event regardless of the rain. Unfortunately, Grover Barfield was envenomated

by a copperhead at the event. He is doing well. We will be developing outreach handling protocols for our educators using live animals. See further discussion on this below.

- NC State Fair Oct, 2009 - NCWRC has cancelled this year's stage events so we will not be attending.
- **2010 Annual NCPARC Meeting Planning –**
 - Cost of the event was discussed since there has been a tightening of budgets. Liz suggested trying to get food donated to help further off set costs. Jeff will contact Sue at Haw River to find out if they will allow us to bring in outside food.
 - A silent auction was discussed as well as a raffle. We agreed to hold a silent auction if donations could be acquired. Donations can be a tax write off if they donate them to our 501c3 Cardinal Foundation which handles NCPARC's money. Liz and Jackie (pending her agreement) will lead the push for finding donations and setup the auction. It was decided that getting a raffle item would be a better money making idea for the Dixie Deer Classic. Liz said that people always come prepared to make raffle donations at this event and proceeds could be split between NCPARC and NCHS. Kim to follow up on this.
 - Liz suggested St. Patrick's Day decorations or fun things for the meeting. She'll look into getting "green" donations for the Wed night dinner.
 - Ed suggested an NC herp photographer's display during the poster session and Wednesday night festivities. Would they be willing to donate a photo for the silent auction? *We didn't decide who would follow up on this. Ed?*
 - Still looking for a keynote speaker and also looking for more small session speakers. Jeff to follow up on this and send out an email request for session speakers.
 - The second day will be an outdoor workshop day. Sessions include: invasive species removal workshop, herp capture techniques session workshop, citizen science workshop, herp and habitat photography workshop, and a habitat identification workshop. Jeff will make sure all sessions have leaders.
 - Will need registration help for the Wed afternoon check in.
 - Grover suggested a speaker for the future. Dr. Benjamin German – at Wake Med Hospital in Raleigh. Amateur herpetologist and ER doctor with extensive background on snake envenomation.

New Initiative

- Development of live animal outreach protocols – Kim will follow up with Liz to see what the Museum's protocol is. From there Kim and Jeff will work together on a protocol write-up as a starting off point and bring a rough draft to the next E&O meeting for discussion. These protocols will include both venomous and non-venomous animals. NCHS will be looking into doing the same thing and the hope is that they along with other education centers will adopt or adapt our protocols for their events. Most places do not have a protocol so we would like ours posted on our web site and available to the public. We will use the new NC laws as a guide for how animals should be caged (locks, keeping container closed, etc.).

Current Initiatives & Updates

Review of handouts – Jodie was not able to attend the meeting so Jeff filled us in on what she's been doing. We ran out of time at our last meeting to discuss the rattlesnake & venomous snake handouts that Jodie had completed. Jeff took notes on our suggestions which included changing the columns around so it would be the snake picture, range map, information, and then natural history. We all thought the brochures were great and an improvement over last year's DDC brochure. We really liked the tear off section and think the reorganization of the columns will still make the handout useable. We liked the large format "bookmark" with the venomous on it. Jeff suggested they be printed on hard plastic but Liz felt like card stock would be better on the environment if they simply get thrown out. Jeff will discuss this with Jodie and get back to us.

Find the Copperhead game - Jeff reported the Jodie had completed and field tested the new and improved "Find the Copperhead" game. It was used at the Fayetteville Wildlife Expo last month. She found that the game needed

instructions since it was designed to be an unmanned activity. Kim will get in touch with Jodie about viewing it since no one at the meeting has seen it. It will be displayed at the NC State Fair.

Kim suggested a keychain idea – She suggested a hard plastic piece like the ones used in grocery stores (ie. VIC cards) that people could carry around on their keychain. She suggested that only one snake would fit and thought the copperhead would a good candidate since it was found statewide and was fairly common.

Reptile/Amphibian Book Resource List

Deborah Robertson was unable to attend but she sent Kim an update – Started organizing references this summer and is looking into bibliography software to help with organization. Plans on having something to show us at our next E&O meeting. We all agreed that using software that would easily transfer into a program that would allow online searching would be important.

Backyard Habitat Exhibit – Kim still planning on including set-up directions – hasn't done this yet. Jackie was unable to attend the meeting but sent Kim an update on this. Jackie has the plastic herps and just needs to get them painted. She needs to know what species would be needed and how many of each species. Jeff Hall suggested we make 2-3 copies of each for backups and Grover said he'd pay for his own set.

Suggested list:

Ringneck snake	Marbled Salamander	Toad of some sort	Anole
Brown snake	Slimy Salamander	Grey Tree frog	Rough earth snake
Worm snake	Spotted Salamander	Green tree frog	
Black Rat Snake	Copperhead	Squirrel tree frog	
Garter Snake	Box turtle	Skink (Scincella and Eumeces)	

Kim will follow up on given suggestions on a less heavy log for the tree-mounted PVC frog pipe. Our goal is to make this very transportable and easy to set up. We'd like to have this be the first of several educational outreach boxes that could be sent out to events.

CASP

- How did this year go? - Jeff Hall reported that it is still hard to know how things went this year because he is still getting data in. Several CASP observers mentioned they thought there were fewer total numbers but greater variety of species. There is already an improvement from years past because everyone who has turned in data this year passed the required quiz. Jeff is going to compile a three year summary of the CASP route data.

Future Discussion

E&O Priorities & Goals – We should have time to discuss this at our next meeting. Kim will forward the goals and priorities from the inaugural meeting prior to next E&O meeting. Are we accomplishing items on our original priority list and do we have new ones? Where do we want to go from here?

Next meeting place, date and time?

December 10th 1-4pm at the Museum's Research and Collection's lab located at: 4301 Reedy Creek Road, Raleigh, NC 27607