



Georgia Chapter of The Wildlife Society

2025 Annual Meeting

February 27 – 28, 2025

Richmond Hill City Center

Richmond Hill, GA

Thursday, February 27

JF Gregory Park, 520 Cedar Street, Richmond Hill, GA 31324

8:00 – 8:45 AM	Registration- Gallery CD and Red Bird Creek Rooms
8:45 – 9:00 AM	Welcome and Instructions Krisha Whiting, President, GA Chapter TWS Andrew Edelman, Past-President, GA Chapter TWS
9:00 – 9:20 AM	Hurricane Helene Damage Assessment Dr. David Dickens, University of Georgia
9:20 – 9:35 AM	Coyote Den Site Selection in an Urban Landscape Summer Fink, University of Georgia
9:35 – 9:50 AM	Cyanotoxins in the Southeast - a Case Study of Aetokthonotoxin Tobias Haymes, University of Georgia
9:50 – 10:05 AM	Effects of Land Use and Fence Structure on Wildlife Crossing Behavior Between A Protected Area And Surrounding Human Dominated Landscape Maddie Melton, University of Georgia
10:05 – 10:20 AM	Diet and Predation Frequencies of Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnakes on Jekyll Island, Georgia Michael Brennan, University of Georgia
10:20 – 10:40 AM	BREAK
10:40 – 11:30 AM	Keynote Presentation: Implementing Conservation Without Conflict Dr. Leo Miranda-Castro, Executive Director of Conservation Without Conflict
11:30 – 11:45 AM	Experimental Tests for an Effective Barrier Design to Exclude Diamondback Terrapins (<i>Malaclemys terrapin</i>) from Roads Abbey C. Crossman, University of Georgia
11:45 – 11:50 AM	Effectiveness of 3-mercaptopropanoic acid as carnivore repellent in a semi-arid ecosystem of Southern Africa Brennan PetersonWood, University of Georgia
11:50 – 12:05 PM	Leveraging Accelerometry to Test for Thermal Behavior Syndromes in Wild-Ranging Rattlesnakes (<i>Crotalus horridus</i>) Amber Stubbs, Georgia College & State University

12:15 – 1:15 PM	LUNCH (included with registration)
1:15 – 1:35 PM	Chronic Wasting Disease in Georgia Kevin Rose, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
1:35 – 1:50 PM	Quantifying Costs and Benefits of Alternative Overwintering Strategies in a Southeastern Population of Timber Rattlesnakes (<i>Crotalus horridus</i>) John Powers, Georgia College & State University
1:50 – 2:05 PM	Impact of Free-Roaming Cats on Urban Biodiversity: A Study in Metro Atlanta Dana Wells, University of Georgia
2:05 – 2:20 PM	Territory Overlap in American alligators (<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>): Seasonal and Sex Effects Mark Hoog, University of Georgia
2:20 – 3:05 PM	BREAK & POSTER SESSION (See Page 3 for Presenters)
3:05 – 3:25 PM	Fine-Scale Effects of Simulated Wind Disturbance: Vertebrate Use of Uprooted Pine Treefalls Jennifer Howze, Jones Center at Ichauway
3:25 – 3:40 PM	Investigating Occupancy of a Diverse Carnivore Guild in Etosha National Park, Namibia Aidan Branney, University of Georgia
3:40 – 3:55 PM	Improving Mesopredator Monitoring: A Recommended Camera Trapping Protocol for Georgia Jenna Myers, University of Georgia
3:55 – 4:15 PM	Techniques for Measuring Successional Vegetation Changes Following Introduction of Gopher Tortoises (<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>) onto Reclaimed Mine Lands Joshua Billings, University of Georgia Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant Coastal Ecology Lab
4:15 – 4:30 PM	<u>BREAK</u>
4:30 – 5:30 PM	Business Meeting - ALL MEETING REGISTRANTS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!!!
6:00 – 8:00 PM	Social & Awards Debellation Brewing Company 822 Longwood Dr. Richmond Hill, GA 31324 ALL MEETING REGISTRANTS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!

Friday, February 28 - Field Trips

Pre-registration required. Ask an officer at the meeting if you didn't register and want to go.

- Field trip option 1 is a guided tour of the UGA marina aquarium on Skidaway. The cost is \$10 (normally \$15!), and includes a tour of the oyster hatchery, aquarium, and CEL projects. To attend this event, you'll need to pay GATWS via eventbrite prior to the annual meeting. There is now a ticket option for this. **Please arrive at the aquarium between 8:00am-8:20am.**
- Field trip option 2 is a landmark trolley tour on Jekyll Island (normally \$20!). There is a 25 person cap for the trolley, and you will need to pay a small car fee to enter the island. **Please arrive at the Mosaic, Jekyll Island Museum by 9:00am.**

POSTER PRESENTATIONS - Thursday 2:20 – 3:05 PM

Effects of Winter Shelter Characteristics On Brumation Duration, Body Mass Loss, and *Ophidiomyces ophidiicola* Infection Load in a Southeastern Population of Timber Rattlesnakes (*Crotalus horridus*)

Danielle C. Bartlett (Georgia College & State University), John Powers (Georgia College & State University), Amber Stubbs (Georgia College & State University), Amanda Duffus (Gordon State College), Dave Bachoon (Georgia College & State University), Dominic L. DeSantis (Georgia College & State University)

Refining Camera Trap Methodologies for Cryptic and Common Mesopredators Across Georgia's Ecoregions

Aeryn Dingerson (University of Georgia), Jenna Myers (University of Georgia), Emily Rushton (Georgia DNR), Kristina Johannsen (Georgia DNR), Mike Conner (The Jones Center at Ichauway), Steven Castleberry (University of Georgia)

Evaluating the Wildlife Response to Golf Course Habitat Restoration

Lauren Gingerella (University of Georgia), Nathan Nibbelink (University of Georgia), Joseph Colbert (Jekyll Island Authority)

Mammalian Predator Activity Relative to Supplemental Feeding of Northern Bobwhite

LaDerrius K. Hannah (The Jones Center at Ichauway), Justine L. Smith (The Jones Center at Ichauway), Gail Morris (The Jones Center at Ichauway), Mike Conner (The Jones Center at Ichauway)

Effects of Human-Made Forest Clearings on the Movement Behavior of a Cryptic Ambush Predator (*Crotalus horridus*)

Ziv M. Moench (Georgia College & State University), Christine Mutiti (Georgia College & State University), Amber Stubbs (Georgia College & State University), John R. Powers (Georgia College & State University), Morgan Thompson (Northern Arizona University), Dominic L. DeSantis (Georgia College & State University)

Quantifying Effects of Field Observation on the Behavior of Secretive Species: Case Study with Timber Rattlesnakes (*Crotalus horridus*)

Ozzy Price (Georgia College & State University), Amber Stubbs (Georgia College & State University), John Powers (Georgia College & State University), Ziv Moench (Georgia College & State University), Dominic L. DeSantis (Georgia College & State University)

Participants in the GATWS Annual Meeting can potentially receive continuing education credits for the SAF Certified Forester program or TWS Certified Wildlife Biologist program. See the registration desk for more information about how to document your attendance for these programs.