TWRA's Region III John Mayer Retires After Long and Diversified Career

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Region III Administrator John Mayer has concluded a long and distinguished 34-year career with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. His service was honored with receptions at the Nashville office, the Crossville office and at a Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting.

Born in Washington, D.C. he grew up in Annandale, Va., and attended Tennessee Tech where he graduated with a degree in the wildlife field. He obtained his masters of biology degree at Tech in both fisheries and wildlife. He did his graduate research work on wild turkeys at Cheatham Wildlife Management Area.

Mayer then joined the TWRA, and during his career he held positions as fisheries tech, streams manager, regional coldwater fisheries manager, and assistant regional manager, before being named the regional manager in 2004. As the Region III manager, he was responsible for the administration of projects and programs in 24 counties in the Upper Cumberland and Chattanooga area.

John Mayer is holding one of the gifts he received during a reception at Nashville office. Pictured (from left) are Director Ed Carter, Fisheries Chief Frank Fiss, John, John's wife Cindy, and assistant directors Bobby Wilson and Michael May.

In 2018, Mayer was awarded the lifetime achievement award at the annual Tennessee Chapter of the American Fisheries Society meeting held recently. This award is presented to individuals who make a significant contribution to fisheries and the professional society.

The honor is in addition to others he received from the Agency and from various other organizations.

Holtams Retire Together After Many Years of Service to the TWRA

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency said farewell in official capacity to Raleigh and Sheryl Holtam after their many years of service.

Raleigh served the agency as editor of *Tennessee Wildlife* and handled all the graphics and layout for publications and other items. He was with the agency for 21 years.

Sheryl Holtam was the TWRA General Counsel, a role in which she was the agency's lead attorney. She became General Counsel in 2007 after joining TWRA in 1989 as an attorney.

Raleigh and Sheryl were each recognized at the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting and later at a reception in the Nashville office.

Raleigh and Sheryl Holtam each hold a plaque of appreciation in honor of their service. Planning to locate near the beach in their retirement, they are with TWRA Assistant Director Bobby Wilson (left) and Executive Director Ed Carter.

Asian Carp Harvest Incentive Program Planned

In an effort to combat the invasive Asian carp species, a commercial harvest incentive program will be developed in the fall of 2018.

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency's request for a $500,000 budget expansion from the Marine Fuel Tax Fund was approved at the May meeting of the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission. This will provide two years of funding for the program.

The TWRA, and other state and federal fish and wildlife organizations, have deemed the species as a threat to waterways. In high abundance, these fish can out-compete native fish for essential resources. Asian carp were brought to the United States for use in the aquaculture industry, and these fish then escaped into the Mississippi River. Using navigation locks to traverse dams, the fish are steadily moving about the Mississippi Basin, including the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers in Tennessee.

Along with competing with other fish species for food, it has been well-documented that Asian carp can be a safety threat to humans. They jump out of the water and have struck boaters or those on other recreational crafts or skiers.

Harvest of carp by commercial fishing is the most practical means to reduce carp abundance, and to control their movement upstream as a population, according to officials. TWRA is hoping this new commercial harvest incentive program will encourage more carp to be harvested for a variety of expanding markets.

A new commercial harvest incentive program to help in the continuing battle against Asian carp is scheduled to be launched.

New State, Possible World Record Black Crappie Caught in Loudon County

A new state and possible world record for a black crappie was caught in mid-May by angler Lionel "Jam" Ferguson from the East Tennessee community of Philadelphia. He landed the 5 pound, 7.68 ounce trophy fish in a Loudon County pond.

After a fisheries biologist visually identified the species and the weight was verified with certified scales, a small fin clip was sent for genetic testing to confirm that the fish was not a hybrid. The TWRA received the genetic testing about a month later, verifying the catch was indeed a black crappie.

The previous state record for a black crappie was 4 pounds, 4 ounces caught in Brown's Creek Lake by Clyde Freeman 33 years ago.

Ferguson's catch also qualifies as the new International Game Fish Association (IGFA) world record for black crappie. The current record of five pounds was caught from a private lake in Missouri by John Horstman in 2006. Ferguson indicated that he plans to apply with the IGFA for the new world record.

"Jam" Ferguson holds his giant black crappie caught in a Loudon County pond.

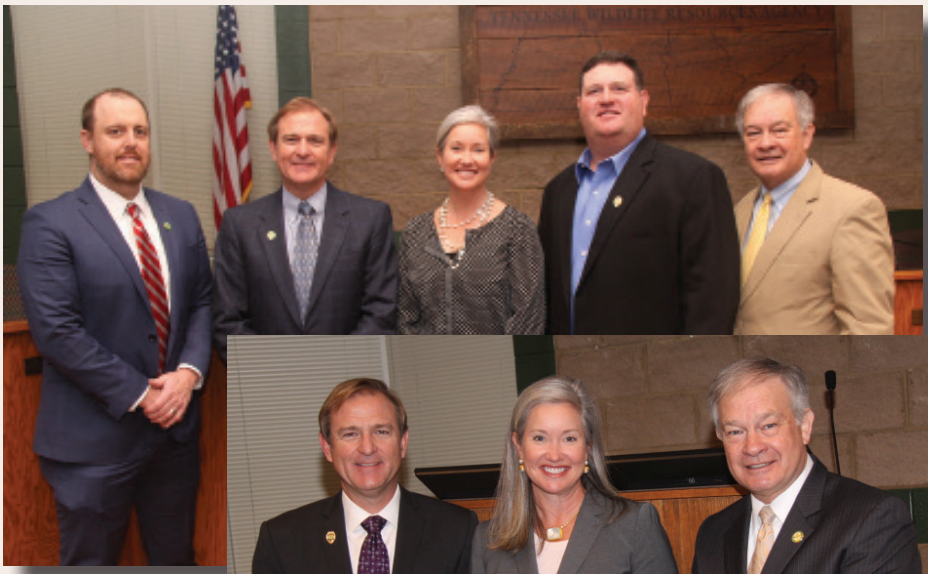
2018-19 TFWC Officers Serving, Commissioner Woodson Honored for Time as Chair

The Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission officers are now serving 2018-19 and Jamie Woodson was honored for her service as the commission's chair for the past year.

Dr. Jeff Cook was named the TFWC's chair. A resident of Franklin, he served as the group's vice-chairman in 2017-18.

Kurt Holbert, of Decaturville, is the vice chairman after serving a year as the TFWC secretary. Brian McLerran, of the Clay County community of Moss, became an officer and is serving as the TFWC secretary.

Commissioner Woodson, of Lebanon, was recognized for her leadership the past year as she presided. She was presented a plaque of appreciation and will continue to serve as a commission member.



Top: *(From left to right) Kurt Holbert (vice chair), Dr. Jeff Cook (chair), Commissioner Woodson, Brian McLerran (secretary) and TWRA Director Ed Carter.*
Bottom: *Woodson was presented a plaque of appreciation for her service as TFWC chair. She is with 2018-19 chair, Dr. Jeff Cook and Director Carter.*

Amy Spencer Named Information and Education Coordinator for West Tennessee

Amy Snider Spencer has been selected to serve as the Information and Education Coordinator in TWRA Region I.

Amy moves to the position after serving as a TWRA wildlife officer in Madison County since joining the TWRA in 2000. She was one of the original K-9 handlers for the program, which began in 2005.

In her new role, Amy will lead information and outreach efforts for the West Tennessee region, which covers 25 counties. She indicates that she "hopes to reestablish lost media connections and effectively promote the Agency's message of hunting, fishing, trapping, and boating in Tennessee.'

Throughout her career, Amy has helped promote Agency programs and provided appropriate and timely information to local club and civic organizations. She was honored for her efforts as a hunter education instructor being named the 2009 Region I Hunter Safety Instructor of the Year award.

A native of East Tennessee, Amy attended Maryville College where graduating with a B.A. degree in biology and also was a member of the volleyball team. She then attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, earning a B.S. degree in wildlife and fishers science. She worked with Tennessee State Parks following her graduation before embarking on her TWRA career. Amy and her husband, Bubba, are the parents of a 4-year-old son, Colt.

White County High School returned to the top spot in its division, while Stewarts Creek Middle School and East Lincoln Elementary School repeated as champions in their divisions at the 2018 Tennessee National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) State Championships.

White County was runner-up each of the last two years to Central Magnet High after winning state titles in 2014 and 2015. The team shot 3,339 to claim the title. Riverdale High shot 3,330 to slip past Central Magnet's 3,297 for second place. The fourth and fifth place finishers were the same as in 2017 with Oakland from Murfreesboro shooting 3,274 and Warren County totaling 3,256.

Stewarts Creek slipped past Central Magnet 3,259-3,256 for the middle school title. It was Stewarts Creek second state championship after Central Magnet won the title in 2015 and 2016. Whitworth Buchanan was third at 3,235 followed by Christiana at 3,173 and newcomer Ocoee with 3,144 to round out the top five middle school finishers.

East Lincoln won its second straight elementary division championship with a score of 3,192. Christiana, which has won the championship three of the past five years, was runner-up with a 3,126. Cleveland's Black Fox Elementary moved to third with a 3,043 after a fourth place finish last year, Buchanan was fourth at 2,919 and Dibrell finished fifth with a 2,875.

Central Magnet High School's Connor Smathers was the top overall shooter with a 293. Finishing in the top five for the boys were second place Caleb Smith (Meigs County High, 291), followed by Alex Burgess (Warren County High, 290), Cameron Dixon (White County High, 289), and Benjamin Walker (Maryville, 288).

Riverdale's Hannah Murphy was the top female shooter with a 291. Rounding out the top five girl finishers were Sara Plank (Meigs County, 290), Kiana Bauer (Stewarts Creek Middle, 288), Ashley Paseka (Riverdale, 288), Mikayla Harris (Central Magnet Middle) and Ashley Scott (Tullahoma East Middle, both with a 287).

Following the competition, team awards were presented to the top three teams in each division. Medals were presented to the top five female and male finishers in the high school, middle school and elementary school divisions. Each student shot 30 arrows, 15 from 10 meters and 15 from 15 meters with a maximum score of 300.

Sponsored by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Tennessee began NASP in late 2004 with 12 pilot schools participating in the program. More than 290 schools now participate in the program. NASP is a 2-8 week curriculum.

White County High (top) returned to the top spot in its division while Stewarts Creek Middle (middle) and East Lincoln Elementary (bottom) repeated in their divisions. Central Magnet's Conner Smathers was the top overall individual shooter and Riverdale's Hannah Murphy the top female shooter.

Austin Bornheim Named Agency Publications Editor

Austin Bornheim has joined the Agency as its new publications editor. Among his duties, Austin will serve as editor of *Tennessee Wildlife* magazine, and handle all the graphics and layout for other Agency publications and printed materials.

Austin moves into his new position after serving as sports editor of the Maryville Daily Times for the past two years. He directed a staff of two full-time writers and nine freelance writers. He had served as a sports writer for a year for the award winning newspaper before moving into the editor's role. He worked for two years in Michigan after graduating from The University of Tennessee-Knoxville, where he was responsible for designing 10 newspapers.

A native of Goodlettsville, Bornheim attended Davidson Academy. He earned his degree from The University of Tennessee in journalism and electronic media with a minor in history.

Holiday Season Not Far Away, Consider Tennessee Wildlife Subscription for a Great Gift

With the Christmas season around the corner, a gift subscription to *Tennessee Wildlife* magazine makes for a great holiday gift this year.

The quarterly magazine of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, a *Tennessee Wildlife* gift subscription for one year (four issues) is only $10, and includes the always-popular summer calendar issue. If you wish to make the gift last longer, a two-year subscription is just $17 and three years is available for the bargain price of $25. Those persons receiving a gift will be notified with a card from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

Each issue of *Tennessee Wildlife* includes feature articles relating to hunting, fishing, and boating in the state. Articles are accompanied by outstanding photography. In addition, the Insider section of the magazine highlights news and human interest items.

The calendar issue has photographs entered in the annual *Tennessee Wildlife* Photo contest. Photographers submit entries on fishing and wildlife species native to the state and fishing, boating, and hunting scenes in Tennessee.

A subscription is located on page 32 of the magainze. Subscription forms are also available on the TWRA website: www.tnwildlife.org.

Nathan Karch, Melvin McLerran Named Boating Officers of the Year

Nathan Karch and Melvin McLerran have been selected as the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Boating Officer of the Year and part-time Boating Officer of the Year, respectively.

Both officers are assigned to work TWRA Region II's District 21, a 12-county district in Middle Tennessee. District 21 contains the five major reservoirs of J. Percy Priest, Cordell Hull, Old Hickory, Cheatham and Barkley. The officers were presented their awards at a meeting of the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Karch inspected more than 2,100 boats for compliance, issued 118 court citations for violations, 30 warning citations, administered field sobriety tests to eight boat operators and made three boating under the influence (BUI) arrests. Additionally, he assisted other TWRA officers with 54 violations and helped 112 boaters on the water that required immediate assistance. Nathan was the lead investigator on four boating incidents and assisted on others.

In the area of education and outreach, Karch taught boater education classes. He has also spent his time working with numerous groups teaching boating safety, hunting safety, and providing education on the importance of our agency and its mission.

Pictured (from left) are Dr. Jeff Cook (TFWC chair), Glenn Moates (Assistant Law Enforcement chief), Nathan Karch (Boating Officer of the Year), Melvin McLerran, (part-time Boating Officer of the Year), and Ed Carter (TWRA executive director).

McLerran earned the part-time boating award for the second time in his career. His previous honor came for 2015. In his duties as a part-time officer, he inspected more than 1,200 boats for compliance, issued 118 court citations for violations, 110 warning citations.

He worked patrol at major public marine events in the Nashville area and fulfilled the need to have more enforcement presence on the lakes during hunting season when full-time officers had other duties. He also conducted and participated in public programs and participated in other public venues to promote boating safety.

Tennessee Hunting and Trapping Guide

The 2018-19 Tennessee Hunting & Trapping Guide is available as provided by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

The Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission established the state's 2018-19 and 2019-20 hunting and trapping seasons in May. The commission's actions, which include season dates, bag limits, and rules and regulations, went into effect Aug. 1. It marks the first time that the regulations will be effective for two years rather than one year.

The guide may be obtained at any TWRA regional office and anywhere state hunting and fishing licenses are sold. Also, the guide is available on TWRA's website, www.tnwildlife.org and TWRA app.

The What's New section lists changes for the upcoming year. In addition to the hunting regulations and various seasons for this year, information is also provided on TWRA firing ranges, public hunting areas, and Wildlife Management Areas.

The 2018-19 Tennessee hunting and fishing licenses are valid through February 2019. Licenses are available at any TWRA regional office, licensing agents, the TWRA website and on the TWRA app.

New Artwork Available on Collectible Tennessee Hunting and Fishing License Card

A new design featuring waterfowl and a retriever is now one of the choices available on a hard-copy hunting and fishing license from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

Beginning in 2017 when purchasing their licenses, sportsmen had the opportunity to purchase a hard-copy collector's item. The new addition is created from a painting by Tennessee artist Phillip Crowe, who has dedicated his time and art to organizations who care about wildlife.

Crowe has painted 35 state duck and conservation stamps and donated approximately $4 million in art prints and originals to various organizations. He was recently inducted into the Arkansas Waterfowl Hall of Fame and elected as a National Ducks Unlimited Trustee.

The new artwork joins one of the inaugural cards which features a leaping largemouth bass. The card portraying a trophy buck ignoring a vacant treestand is now retired. Both cards were created from artwork by another famed Tennessee artist, Ralph McDonald.

The size of a credit card, the hard-copy license costs an additional $5 above license purchases. Specific license information is printed on the back of the card.

Licenses are available at the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency regional offices, license agents, or on the TWRA website, www.gooutdoorstennessee.com , and at the TWRA "On the Go App."

The 2018-19 licenses are valid through February 2019. License sales provide the primary funding for the TWRA.

Resident licenses may be purchased by persons who possess a valid Tennessee driver's license; persons who have lived in Tennessee for 90 consecutive days with the intent of making Tennessee their permanent home (but do not hold a driver's license in another state); military personnel on active duty in this state and their immediate families, who reside with them, regardless of resident status; students who are enrolled in a Tennessee school, college, or university for at least six months. A Social Security number is required to purchase a Tennessee hunting or fishing license.

Through the internet, charges are $4.25 for licenses mailed and $3 for self-print or emailed.

In case of a lost license, duplicate licenses can be obtained from any TWRA license agent for an $8 fee. Also, valid duplicate licenses can be printed online at no cost by selecting the reprint my licenses button on the customer information screen.

Tracey Boyers Assumes Role as TWRA General Counsel

Tracey Boyers has moved into the role as the General Counsel after serving as the staff agency attorney since 2007.

Tracey has been employed as an attorney with the state of Tennessee since 1999. Prior to employment with the state, she practiced law in the private sector.

A native of Sumner County, she graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville with a degree in Journalism. She earned her law degree from the Nashville School of Law.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 22 - Oct. 26
Oct. 29 - Nov. 2

Statewide deer archery season

Oct. 13 - 26

Fall turkey shotgun/archery season. Check 2018-19 Hunting and Trapping Guide to see which counties are closed to fall turkey season.

Oct. 27 - 28

Young Sportsman Deer Hunt. The first of two hunts in 2018-19 for youth ages 6-16.

Nov. 3 - 16

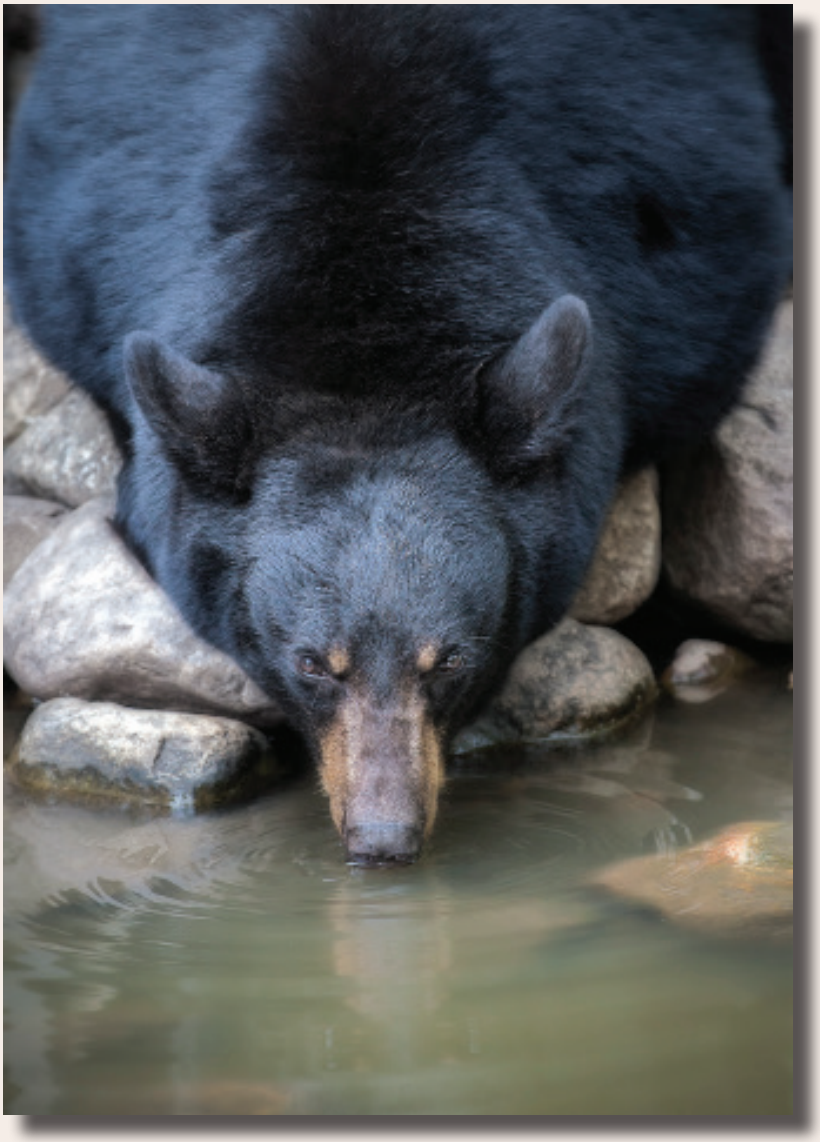
Muzzleloader/archery season

Nov. 3

Seasons for rabbit and quail open and continue through the end of February.

Nov. 9 - 11

2018 Beyond Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Muzzleloader Workshop. Annual workshop and hunt held at Buffalo Ridge Refuge attracts participants from across the state.

Nov. 17

Gun season for deer opens. Muzzleloader and archery equipment can also be used.