

2018

Keeping GEORGIA Wild AWARDS

Presented by



Caleb Eubanks, Wildlife Technician of the Year

Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division, Game Management Technician, Region 6

Caleb has a strong commitment to managing and improving wildlife habitats on Wildlife Management Areas for which he is responsible. Under his leadership, Bullard Creek WMA especially has been enlarged and enhanced to provide superior habitat and recreational opportunity. He worked with the GA DOT to add nearly 600 acres of hunting opportunity on a mitigation tract near the WMA. He initiated establishment of an improved archery range on Bullard Creek, including ensuring volunteers were in place to maintain the range. He partnered with WRD Wildlife Conservation staff to ensure roadwork needs were consistent with protection of gopher tortoises on the newly acquired Alligator Creek WMA. He actively seeks opportunities to speak to various organizations about wildlife in Georgia and to improve efficiency of staff data collection efforts related to deer, bears and alligators. Caleb is a graduate of Ogeechee Technical College and lives with his family in Collins, GA.

Greg Nelms, Wildlife Biologist of the Year

Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division, Wildlife Biologist, Region 6

Greg supervises management of 5 WMAs, including the new Alapaha River WMA. He works closely with partners to ensure the needs of priority nongame species are met while also working to assess hunting opportunities on the area and improve access. He provides data interpretation and management recommendations related to deer and bears to clubs and landowners on 45,000 acres. He analyzes data on nuisance wildlife issues and biological data from hunts and surveys of various wildlife species to assist both WRD staff and private landowners, showing particular skill at meeting unexpected data requests from headquarters in short timeframes. He coordinates population monitoring and hunt data collection for the south Georgia bear population, playing an important role in development of the 10 year bear management plan. He has actively pursued and secured eight properties for inclusion in the Voluntary Public Access program, a federal grant program that compensates landowners for allowing much needed public hunting opportunities. Greg is a graduate of the University of Georgia and lives with his family in Uvalda, GA.

Kim Piemme, Employee of the Year

Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division, Administrative Assistant, Region 2

Kim is the keystone to Region two operations, but the entire Division relies on her patient mentorship. Her organizational skills and vast institutional knowledge of WRD administrative procedures were critical to keeping the Region running during the transition to a new Region supervisor. Back to back major hurricanes and the northwest Georgia wildfires added an enormous amount of budgeting and record-keeping to her workload, yet she kept everyone on schedule and didn't miss a deadline. She went above and beyond her human resources duties to ensure 2 staff members didn't lose benefits, using her superior data management skills to resolve the inaccuracy responsible. She literally balances the Region's budget to the penny and is called upon to train new administrative budgeting staff. She is always friendly and professional to staff and customers, and willingly shares her wealth of knowledge with everyone who asks. Kim and her husband live in Lula, GA.



"The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased and not impaired in value." - Theodore Roosevelt