



## **2018 SE PARC Annual Meeting**

**“Resharpener the Tools for Amphibian  
and Reptile Conservation”**

Thank you to our  
SPONSORS

For Making This Meeting Possible



Weyerhaeuser



amphibianfoundation

• Alabama •

---

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA PRESS

# SE PARC Meetings Code of Conduct

SE PARC is committed to providing a safe, productive and welcoming environment for all meeting participants. All participants including, but not limited to, attendees, speakers, volunteers, exhibitors, PARC staff, service providers and others are expected to abide by this SE PARC Meetings Code of Conduct. In generating this document to guide personal responsibility at our meetings we have relied heavily on the code of conduct used by the Ecological Society of America, based on Favaro et al. 2016.

## **Expected Behavior**

- Treat all participants with respect and consideration, valuing a diversity of views and opinions.
- Be considerate, respectful, and collaborative.
- Communicate openly with respect for others, critiquing ideas rather than individuals.
- Avoid personal attacks directed toward others.
- Be mindful of your surroundings and of your fellow participants.
- Respect the rules, policies, and property of the meeting venue.
- Adhere to State and Federal laws, including wildlife regulations.
- Use of decontaminated equipment for any outings and use of proper decontamination protocols thereafter are strongly encouraged.

## **Unacceptable Behavior**

- Harassment, intimidation or discrimination in any form will not be tolerated.
- Physical or verbal abuse.
- Disruption of talks at oral or poster sessions.
- Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to, verbal comments related to gender, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, religion, national origin, inappropriate use of nudity and/or sexual images in public spaces or in presentations, threatening or stalking.

## **Consequences**

- Anyone requested to stop unacceptable behavior is expected to comply immediately.
- SE PARC Co-chairs or security may take any action deemed necessary and appropriate, including immediate removal from the meeting without warning or refund.
- SE PARC reserves the right to prohibit attendance at any future SE PARC meeting.

## **Reporting Unacceptable Behavior**

- If you are the subject of unacceptable behavior or have witnessed any such behavior, please immediately notify a SE PARC Co-Chair.
- Notification should be done by contacting a SE PARC Co-chair in person or you may email your concern to [separc@separc.org](mailto:separc@separc.org)
- Anyone experiencing or witnessing behavior that constitutes an immediate or serious threat to public safety is advised to contact venue security and/or local police.

Favaro et al. 2016. Your science conference should have a code of conduct. *Frontiers in Marine Science* 3:103.

# MEETING AGENDA, SE PARC 2018

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

12:00PM Registration begins (*Master Hall Lobby*; Registration will continue throughout the evening till 5:00 pm). For those arriving later please see a SE PARC representative.

*All talks throughout the meeting will be in the Master Hall unless otherwise specified*

5:00 PM Meeting Starts; Greetings & SE PARC Updates, *Andrew Cantrell & Katie Parson, SE PARC Co-chairs*

5:30 PM National PARC Update, *Priya Nanjappa, AFWA / PARC National State Agencies Coordinator*

6:00 PM Special Talk in honor of Dr. Robert Mount, *Ralph Jordan & Mark Bailey*

**6:30 PM Dinner** (provided with registration; Unicoi Restaurant)

7:30 PM Poster Session and Social

*Silent Auction Items Sign In and Photo Contest Setup!*

---

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

**7:00AM Breakfast** (not included with registration but is available onsite at the Unicoi Restaurant) and Registration Continues

---

### SESSION 1 – Keynote and Broadening the Network moderated by Andrew Cantrell

8:15AM Keynote Speaker: Tracey Tuberville, *University of Georgia, Savannah River Ecology Laboratory*

9:00AM The Gopher Tortoise Initiative: A Partnership for Conservation in Georgia, *Chris Jenkins, The Orianne Society*

9:15AM The Use of Farm Bill Programs to Conserve Species and Enhance Habitat, *Jessica McGuire, Georgia Department of Natural Resources*

9:30AM The Amphibian Foundation, an Atlanta-Based Response to Global Amphibian Declines, *Mark Mandica, The Amphibian Foundation*

9:45AM Wildlife Use of Geographically Isolated Wetlands in Forested Versus Agricultural Landscapes, *Lora Smith, Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center*

10:00AM Overview of the Department of Defense Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (DoD PARC) Program, *Chris Petersen, Department of Defense*

**10:15AM BREAK (15 min)**

---

### SESSION 2 – General Talks moderated by Andrew Cantrell

10:30AM The Impossible Salamander: Aberrant Coloration as a Result of Metal Toxicity, Crypsis, or Light Exposure, *Wendy Harmon, Western Carolina University*

10:45AM Population and Allochthony Threshold Responses of Plethodontid Stream Salamanders to Stream

Conductivity, *Jake Hutton, University of Kentucky*

- 11:00AM The 'Morph A' Problem: Alternative Reproductive Tactics in *Eurycea*, *Todd Pierson, University of Tennessee Knoxville*
- 11:15AM Habitat Suitability Model for the Cow Knob Salamander (*Plethodon punctatus*) Based on Maximum Likelihood Estimation, *Carl Jacobsen, West Virginia University*
- 11:30AM Gene Flow and Dispersal in the Gulf Coast Waterdog (*Necturus beyeri*) Within a Stream, *Jennifer Lamb, The University of Southern Mississippi*
- 11:45AM Imperiled Aquatic Salamanders in Alabama, *Jim Godwin, Alabama Natural Heritage Program*
- 12:00PM Lunch** (not provided with registration but is available onsite at the Unicoi Restaurant)

---

**SESSION 3 – Broadening the Network Symposium Part 2** moderated by Andrea Drayer

- 1:00PM Utilizing Farm Bill Programs to Advance Conservation for the Eastern Hellbender on Private Lands, *Kat Dierson, Defenders of Wildlife*
- 1:15PM Southeastern Herp Conservation Efforts at Zoo Atlanta, *Robert Hill, Zoo Atlanta*
- 1:30PM Fighting to Save the World's Most Endangered Turtles: The Turtle Survival Alliance, *Nathan Haislip, The Turtle Survival Alliance*
- 1:45PM Conserving Rattlesnakes: the Good, the Bad, the Ugly, *Tony Daly-Crews, Eastern Diamondback Conservation Foundation*
- 2:00PM The Longleaf ARC Project: Accelerating Conservation of At-Risk Species in the Longleaf System, *Brian Crawford, University of Georgia; The Longleaf Alliance*

---

**SESSION 4 – General Talks** moderated by Todd Pierson

- 2:15PM The Effects of Translocation on Gopher Frog (*Lithobates capito*) Survival and Behavior, *Anna Deyle, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission*
- 2:30PM Population Dynamics of Threatened Crawfish Frogs Informs Targets for Management, *John Maerz, University of Georgia*
- 2:45PM Establishment of the Exotic Invasive Cuban Treefrog in Louisiana, *Brad Glorioso, United States Geological Survey*
- 3:00PM Break (15 min)**
- 3:15PM Community Structure Implications for Diversity-disease Relationships, *Austin Coleman, University of Georgia*
- 3:30PM Prevalence of *Ophidiomyces ophiodiicola* in the Snake Fauna of Southern Georgia, *Houston Chandler, The Orianne Society*
- 3:45PM Evolutionary Dynamics of an Expressed Class II MHC Gene in Ranid Frog Populations Impacted by Emerging Infectious Diseases, *Alexa Trujillo, University of Central Florida*

- 4:00PM Genetic and Pathogen Drivers of a Benign Tumor Disease in Juvenile Green and Loggerhead Sea Turtles, *Anna Savage, University of Central Florida*
- 4:15PM Impacts of the Emergent Protistan Pathogen *Perkinsea* on Florida's Amphibian Communities, *Matthew Atkinson, University of Central Florida*
- 4:30PM Novel Tree Frog Survey Technique: A Clear Alternative to Traditional PVC Pipe Refugia, *Althea Neighbors, James Madison University*

---

**SESSION 5 – Speed Talks** Moderated by Todd Pierson

- 4:35PM Occupancy Modeling of Larval Eastern Hellbenders in North Carolina, *Shem Unger, Wingate University*
- 4:40PM Evaluating Snake Density Using Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) Tag Telemetry, *Wendy Leuenberger, University of Kentucky*
- 4:45PM Riverine Turtle Distribution and Abundance in the Pascagoula River Drainage, Mississippi, *Gabbie Berry, University of Southern Mississippi*
- 4:50PM Assessing the Status of Diamondback Terrapins in Northwest Florida, *Rick O'Connor, Florida Sea Grant*
- 4:55PM If you Give a Creep a Camera, *Ashley LaVere, University of Georgia*

---

**5:00PM General Business Meeting, Election for new Junior Co-chair and other positions**

**5:15PM Group Photo**

**5:30PM Task Teams & Discussion Groups meet (individual locations TBD):**

Hellbender Working Group	Diseases/Pathogens/Parasites	Invasive Species
Reintroduction/Translocation	Roads Task Force	Education and Outreach
Gopher/Crawfish Frog Complex		

**6:30PM Task Team updates**

**6:45PM Dinner** (provided by SEPARC at Unicoi Restaurant)

**7:30PM Poster Session, Social, and Photo Contest Judging** (social will mainly be in the Dogwood Room).

---

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

**7:00AM Breakfast** (not provided with registration but is available onsite at Unicoi Restaurant)

**SESSION 6 – General Talks** moderated by Katie Parson

- 8:00AM Power to the People: Conserving Gopher Tortoises in the Digital Age, *Deborah Burr, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission*
- 8:15AM Status and Spatial Ecology of the Spotted Turtle (*Clemmys guttata*) at the Southern Extent of its Range, *Jonathan Mays, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission*
- 8:30AM Status of the Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*) in the Pascagoula River Drainage,

Mississippi, *Luke Pearson, University of Southern Mississippi*

- 8:45AM Waif Tortoise Health Following Translocation, *Rebecca McKee, University of Georgia*
- 9:00AM The Impacts of High- and Low-interaction Sea Turtle Education Programs, *Katie Mascovich, University of Georgia*
- 9:15AM Conservation of the Frosted Flatwoods Salamander (*Ambystoma cingulatum*) in the Apalachicola National Forest, FL, *Pierson Hill, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission*
- 

**SESSION 7 – Speed Talks** moderated by Katie Parson

- 9:30AM Sea Turtle Nest Elevation and Hatch Success in Response to Extreme High Tide Events, *Alicia Wilson, University of Georgia*
- 9:35AM Co-occurrence and Hybridization Between *Necturus maculosus* and a Heretofore Unknown Species in the Southern Appalachians, *Stephen Nelson, Knoxville Zoological Gardens*
- 9:40AM Exploring the Microbiome: Diversity of the Microbial Community of Three Foam Nesting Frogs, Genus: *Polypedates*, Across a Developmental Gradient, *Sarah McGrath, James Madison University*
- 9:45AM Invasive City Anoles Select Cool Sites to Nest, *Sarin Tiatragul, Auburn University*
- 9:50AM Rock Iguana Conservation Efforts in the Dominican Republic, *Christopher Pellecchia, University of Southern Mississippi*
- 9:55AM Reptile and Amphibian Surveys Along a Salinity Gradient in Southern Atlantic Tidal Swamps, *Sidney Godfrey, Clemson University*

**10:00 AM BREAK (15 min)**

---

**SESSION 8 – General Talks** moderated by Jeff Hall

- 10:15AM The Right Place at the Wrong Time: Maximizing Detection in Surveys of Green Salamanders (*Aneides aeneus*), *Walter Smith, University of Virginia's College at Wise*
- 10:30AM Microhabitat Use by the Hellbender Salamander (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*) in East Tennessee, *Jeronimo Da Silva, Tennessee State University*
- 10:45AM Detecting the Presence and Abundance of Streamside Salamanders (*Ambystoma barbouri*) in Middle Tennessee Using Environmental DNA, *Nicole Witzel, Tennessee State University*
- 11:00AM Multiple Paternity within American Alligator Nests at the Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center, *Joshua Zajdel, University of Georgia*
- 11:15AM The Influence of Prescribed Fire on Site Selection in Snakes in the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem, *Jennifer Howze, Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center*
- 

**SESSION 9 Speed Talks** moderated by Jeff Hall

- 11:30AM Distribution and Status of the Western Pygmy Rattlesnake (*Sistrurus miliarius streckeri*) in Tennessee, *Shawn Snyder, Tennessee State University*

- 11:35AM A Preliminary Analyses of Landscape Ecology of the Eastern Indigo Snake (*Drymarchon couperi*) in Southwest Florida, *Matthew Metcalf, Florida Gulf Coast University*
- 11:40AM Interaction of Hydroperiod and Ranavirus Leading to Possible Amphibian Population Declines in the the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, *Davis Carter, University of Tennessee*
- 11:45AM Establishing a Timeline for Three Infectious Pathogens Affecting Anurans Within Florida, USA, *Emily Karwacki, University of Central Florida*
- 11:50AM Pathogen Surveillance in Translocated Gopher Tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*) in Northwest Florida, *Rebecca Cozad, University of Georgia*
- 11:55AM Current Distribution and Status of the Flattened Musk Turtle and Black Warrior Waterdog, *Joe Jenkins, Alabama Natural Heritage Program*
- 12:00PM Lunch** (not provided with registration but is available onsite at the Unicoi Restaurant)

---

**SESSION 10 – General Talks** moderated by Becca Cozad

- 1:00PM Placing a Region's Species on the Same Scale: a Rarity- and Traits- Based Approach Provides Inclusive Insight of Ectotherm Rarity and Risk to a Changing Climate, *Meryl Mims, Virginia Tech*
- 1:15PM USFWS National Listing Workplan and the Species Status Assessment Framework, *Kaye London, USFWS*
- 1:30PM Resharpener the Endangered Species Act: Empirical Support for the Regulatory Ban on “Mega-Petitions”, *Adam Clause, University of Georgia*
- 1:45PM Repatriating Species Where Threats Still Exist, *Nicole Angeli, Auburn University*

---

**SESSION 11 – Speed Talks** moderated by Becca Cozad

- 2:00PM Newt There It Is: Monitoring for Bsal in the South-central United States, *Lindy Muse, Cherokee Nation Businesses*
- 2:05PM Mercury Bioaccumulation and Hepatozoon spp. Presence in the Brown Watersnake (*Nerodia taxispilota*), *David Haskins, University of Georgia*
- 2:10PM Susceptibility of Species in the Subfamily Spelerpinae to *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*, *Patrick Cusaac, University of Tennessee Knoxville*
- 2:15PM Common Mudpuppy (*Necturus maculosus*) Not Common in Southern Appalachian Streams, *Kirsten Hecht, University of Florida*
- 2:20PM Recipe for Restoration: Effects of Open Canopy Litters and Supplemental Algal Wafers on the Growth and Survival of Captive-reared Dusky Gopher Frogs (*Rana sevosa*), *Jaime Smith, University of Southern Mississippi and Western Carolina University*
- 2:25PM Where are all the Baby Tortoises? Enhancing Line-transect Distance Sampling (LTDS) for Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus Polyphemus*) Populations, *Heather Gaya, University of Georgia*
- 2:30PM BREAK (15 min)**



---

**WORKSHOPS:****2:45-3:15PM Thinking outside the box; box trap building on the cheap (mini workshop; Location TBD)**

Building box traps and setting up drift fences for herpetofaunal sampling can be time consuming as well as pricey. This workshop is designed to educate about the use of alternative/recycled materials that lessen the cost of construction and lessens the weight/time for transportation and installation. We will also offer several different ways of obtaining materials cheaply or even free. This mini workshop will be open discussion and great for those builders on a budget.

**3:15PM Break (15 min)****3:40-5:00PM Genetic and genomic tools for herpetological conservation (Location TBD)**

The advent of next-generation sequencing tools has expanded the size and decreased the cost of our genetic toolbox for addressing herpetological conservation needs. Here, we give an introductory overview of molecular methods for addressing questions related to species identification, community characterization, population genetics, and phylogenetics and examine case studies from the herpetological literature.

---

**5:15PM Steering Committee and Officers meeting (Location TBD)****6:00PM Dinner** (provided with registration; Unicoi Restaurant)**7:00PM Poster Session and social, and silent auction** (mostly located in the Dogwood room).

---

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25:**

8:00 AM Breakfast (not provided with registration but is available onsite at Unicoi Restaurant)

Field trips depart at 9:00AM: Trip locations and actual times TBD.

