



WILDLIFE DIVERSITY PROGRAM MANAGERS 2025 Annual Meeting-Agenda (Draft 5.0)



Date: February 10-14, 2025

Meeting Location: Lake Guntersville State Park, Alabama
1155 Lodge Drive, Guntersville, AL 35976

Important Contacts:

Mark Humpert at mhumpert@fishwildlife.org (cell/text 202.384.8169)
Traci Wood at traci.wood@dcnr.alabama.gov (cell/text 334-328-4455)
Lake Guntersville State Park: 256-571-5440

Meeting Purpose: Discuss issues important to fish and wildlife diversity conservation, develop solutions/actions to address problems/needs, and promote learning and networking.

Audience: State/Territorial/DC Wildlife Diversity Program Managers, their staff, and invited partners.

Meeting Site: The meeting will be held at [Lake Guntersville State Park](#) along the banks of the Tennessee River in Northeast Alabama. The resort-style park includes 6,000 acres of natural woodlands, 6 miles of hiking and biking trails, a zipline, beach complex, and outdoor nature center.

Lodging: Traci has secured a block of rooms at Lake Guntersville State Park. The name of the room block is Wildlife Diversity Program Managers (Code 52560). Please make lodging reservations at [Reservations | Alapark \(reseze.net\)](#) no later than January 11th, 2025 if you plan to attend the meeting. Lodging booked after this date is subject to best available rates only. *If you need lodging outside of the Monday-Thursday room block, make your reservation by calling the SP at 256-571-5440 and they will do their best to accommodate you.*



The view from Lake Guntersville State Park

Lodging Rates

Cabin (2 bedroom): \$167/night [Cabins | Alapark](#)
Chalet (2 bedroom, pet friendly): \$151/night: [Chalets | Alapark](#)
1 Queen: \$100/night [Lodge Rooms | Alapark](#)
2 Queen: \$131/night
Check-in time is 4:00PM and checkout time is 11:00AM.

Meeting Registration: The registration cost for the meeting is \$200/per person payable by check to the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The registration fee includes meeting room rental, morning and afternoon break food and beverages, boxed lunch and entrance fee for the field trip, some transportation, and other costs. Checks can be brought to the meeting and receipts will be provided onsite when payment is made. If you cannot pay by check, contact mhumpert@fishwildlife.org. Please use this [LINK](#) to register for the meeting no later than noon ET January 11th, 2025.

Travel: Lake Guntersville State Park is located at 1155 Lodge Drive, Guntersville, AL 35976. If traveling by air, best options are Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport ([BHM](#)) in Birmingham, AL or Huntsville International Airport ([Home - Huntsville International Airport \(flyhuntsville.com\)](#)). BHM airport is ~90 minutes (75 miles) from the meeting site, and HVS is

~70 minutes (51 miles). Although no transportation can be provided to and from the airport and meeting site, we will try and facilitate carpooling prior to the meeting for those who need it.

About Guntersville & Surrounding Area: Guntersville (population ~8,000) sits on the banks of the 69,100-acre Guntersville Lake, an impoundment of the Tennessee River and the largest lake in Alabama. The lake is maintained and managed by the Tennessee Valley Authority. Guntersville is named for the great-grandfather of American humorist Will Rogers. The average high temperature for February is 55°F, average low temperature is 36°F, and average monthly precipitation is ~5 inches.

Activities you might want to participate in include the following:

Geocaching is a great family activity to do in an Alabama State Park! [Geocaching | Alapark](#)

Multi-Use Trails [Multi-use Trails | Alapark](#)

Screaming Eagle Zip-Line [Zipline Canopy Tours | Alapark](#)

Birdwatching [Guntersville Eagle Map.cdr \(alapark.com\)](#)

What to Bring: There will be several opportunities to travel offsite so bring comfortable walking/hiking shoes, sunscreen, hat, binoculars, insect repellent, rain gear, and layers in case of cold weather. The dress code for the meeting is casual to business casual.

Logistics: While in Alabama, we will be on Central Time. Meals will be available onsite. We will need to give the SP an estimate on numbers for all meals so please indicate which meals you plan to take at the SP in the registration form.

Traci's Favorite Local Restaurants:

Top O' The River [Top O' the River](#)

Julia's [Julia's Mexican Restaurant, Guntersville - Menu, Reviews \(255\), Photos \(61\) - Restaurantji](#)

Crawmamma's [Restaurant | Crawmama'S Steaks & Seafood | United States](#)

Rock House [Rock House Eatery](#)

Explore downtown Guntersville!

Zipline the Screaming Eagle! [Zip Line Lake Guntersville State Park - Screaming Eagle](#)

Visit the Guntersville Museum [Local Attraction | Guntersville Museum | Guntersville](#)

Hit the nearby trails! [Trails in Alabama State Parks | Alapark](#)

MEETING AGENDA

Monday February 10

Travel Day: We will have a table for check-in near the meeting space. If you arrive early, spend time hiking or socializing with colleagues. Evening sunsets, on the Lodge's back porch facing the Tennessee River, are stunning. Dinner is on your own on Monday.

Tuesday February 11 (Day 1)

Session Theme: Welcome

7:00am (CT)-Breakfast in Dining Room

7:45am-Settle in and networking

8:00am-Welcome-Chuck Sykes, Director of Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division & Former President of AFWA & Alabama State Parks Spokesperson (TBD)

8:20am-Review agenda, Announcements & Meeting Expectations-Traci Wood, AL WFFD & Mark Humpert, AFWA

8:30am-Attendee Introductions

Introduce yourself (name, title, agency/organization) and answer the following question: *My time here this week will have been well spent if I.....*

9:00am-Opening Plenary-The Future of Wildlife Diversity Conservation-Judy Camuso, Director Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife & President of AFWA and Ron Regan, Executive Director of AFWA

10:00am- Break

Session Theme: Crafting a Vision of Wildlife Diversity for the Future

Session Facilitator: TBD

Task Recorder: TBD

10:15am-Creating a Shared Vision for future Success of Wildlife Diversity Conservation

- The purpose and application of the Wildlife Diversity Visioning Process
- Results of the Visioning Survey
- Process for creating a vision
- Q&A
- Visioning Exercise

11:45pm-Lunch & Networking in Dining Hall

12:45pm-Listening Session (identify elements of a shared vision of success)

2:15pm-BREAK

2:30pm-Wildllife Diversity Visioning – Breakout Groups

- What are the obstacles to wildlife diversity conservation?
- What strategies are needed to overcome obstacles?

4:00pm-Report Back and Open Forum

5:00pm- Review & Wrap-up

5:15pm-Adjourn Day 1

6:00pm-Dinner

7:30pm-Optional Evening Gathering in the Lounge

Wednesday February 12 (Day 2)

7:00am (CT)-Breakfast

8:00am-Housekeeping, Recap & Reflection from Tuesday, Review Agenda-Traci Wood, AL Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries & Mark Humpert, AFWA

Theme: Profile of Alabama's Fish & Wildlife Diversity

Session Facilitator: *Traci Wood* **Task Recorder:** *TBD*

8:30am- Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center (AABC) – Paul Johnson, AL Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries

9:15am- Reintroduction of the Eastern Indigo Snake onto Conecuh National Forest – Traci Wood, AL Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries and Jim Godwin, Alabama Natural Heritage Museum

10:00am- Alabama Bald Eagle Success & Golden Eagle Research – Carrie Threadgill & Mercedes Maddox, AL Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries

10:45am- Red Hills Salamander Recovery – Amy Silvano, AL Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries

11:15am-Overview of the Cathedral Caverns State Park [Cathedral Caverns State Park | Alapark](#))-Traci Wood, AL Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries

11:45pm-Depart for Field Trip (Boxed Lunches Provided)

1:00pm-Cathedral Caverns Tour Begins

2:30pm-Time to Explore in Groups or on your Own

3:30pm-Depart Cathedral Caverns

4:30pm-Return to Lake Guntersville SP

5:00pm- Dinner

6:30pm- A Display of Alabama Wildlife: Marianne Gauldin, Alabama Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries

Thursday March 13 (Day 3)

7:00am (CT)-Breakfast

8:00am-Housekeeping, Recap & Reflection from Wednesday, Review Agenda-Traci Wood, AL Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries & Mark Humpert, AFWA

Session Theme: Preparing for the 3rd Generation of the State Wildlife Action Plans

Session Facilitator: *TBD* **Task Recorder:** *TBD*

8:15am - Alabama State Wildlife Action Plan Revision – Traci Wood, AL Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries; Kelly Homan & Katie Lawson, Auburn University

8:30am – SWAP Updates & Discussion

- SWAP Review Guidance and Process-Paul VanRyzin, FWS HQ & Chris Burkett, FWS R4 (invited) (20 min)
- Making your State Wildlife Action Plan Accessible-Speaker TBD (20 min)
- Incorporating Fish & Wildlife Health into your SWAP-Ellen Hayes, SEAFWA Regional Wildlife Health Coordinator (20 min)
- Survey of Geospatial Needs for NASA-Jen Newmark, WMI (invited) (20 min)
- National SGCN Database-Speaker TBD (20 min)

- Addressing Prescribed Fire Regulations by EPA-Traci Wood, Alabama Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries (20 min)

10:30am-BREAK

10:45am-SWAP Updates Discussion cont'd

- SWAP & Landscape Conservation-Gordon Myers, AFWA (invited) (30 min)
- SWAP Rollout, 20th Anniversary, & Messaging-Speakers TBD (30 min)

11:45am- Lunch & Networking in Dining Hall

12:45pm-Topics TBD/Breakout Group Time

3:00pm- Break

3:15pm- SWAP Dashboard Deep Dive-Rafa Gonzalez, FWS

5pm-Dinner

7:30pm-Optional Evening Gathering in the Lounge

Friday February 14 (Day 4)

7:00am (CT)-Breakfast

8:00am-Review agenda, housekeeping, Thursday recap-Traci Wood, AL WFFD & Mark Humpert, AFWA

Session Theme: Wrapping Up and Prioritizing 2025 Work

Facilitator: TBD Task Recorder: TBD

8:30am-Parking Lot Items & Time for Additional Discussion-TBD

10:00am-Break

10:15am-Review and Approve Action Items-Mark Humpert, AFWA

11:00am-Discuss Next Meeting Site and Date-Mark Humpert, AFWA

11:45am-Closing Remarks & Adjourn-Traci Wood, AL WFFD & Mark Humpert, AFWA

12:00pm- Lunch own your own

1:30pm-5:00pm-Optional Field Trip (Motus Station & Birding; Mercedes Maddox, Alabama Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries)