



GEORGIA

NATURAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION



ANNUAL REPORT 2021–2022



Letter from the CHAIR

Dear Friends,

We are immensely grateful for another successful and productive year at the Georgia Natural Resources Foundation. The versatility of our team never ceases to amaze me. As we entered a new phase of the global pandemic, we were excited to return to in person events and meetings. Being able to connect with my fellow Georgia Natural Resources Foundation board members, Georgia Department of Natural Resources board members and staff, and our supporters in person is something I will never take for granted.

Created in 2010, the GNRF is a Georgia non-profit corporation that supports the work of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) with funds raised through private individuals and corporate sponsors. The GNRF awards these funds directly to divisions within DNR through its directed giving and grants programs. Since the GNRF's inception, we have awarded grants and directed giving dollars exceeding \$1.3 million to DNR programs and initiatives, along with raising \$17 million through Weekend for Wildlife for wildlife conservation.

Our keystone event this year, Weekend for Wildlife, was unlike any other I have attended. Through our generous sponsors and attendees, we were able to raise over \$2 million for wildlife conservation! With the uncertainty of 2020 still lingering, we were amazed at this record-breaking fundraising number and were so glad to be able to gather at Sea Island once again.

Not only does your support provide critical funding for conservation, but we are proud of the projects we have been able to support through the grants we give to the Law Enforcement Divisions, Coastal Resources Division, Wildlife Resources Division, and State Parks & Historic Sites Division. This year, DNR's Parks Division utilized a GNRF grant to complete an ADA Accessible Kayak Launch that will open the waters of Lake Rutledge at Hard Labor Creek State Park to visitors with disabilities.

In my final term as chairman of the board, I am looking forward to continuing the great work and mission of the Georgia Natural Resources Foundation in supporting the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. I am pleased to present the 2021–2022 Annual Report to provide you, our valued partners, with a snapshot of what your generous donations and support have done to enhance the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

John D'Andrea

Georgia Natural Resources Foundation Chair

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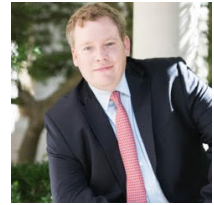
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BALANCE
SHEET
2021–2022

Balance SHEET

period ended **June 30, 2022**

	Foundation Total	Smithgall Woods Total	Weekend for Wildlife Total	Grand Total
Assets				
Cash	\$1,028,389.13	\$210,162.49	\$1,620,762.81	\$2,859,314.43
Total Assets	\$1,028,389.13	\$210,162.49	\$1,620,762.81	\$2,859,314.43
Liabilities				
Interfund Payable (Lifetime License)	\$3,932.00	-	-	\$3,932.00
Accounts Payable (Paid in July)	\$614.31	-	\$500.00	\$1,114.31
Total Liabilities	\$4536.31	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$5,046.31
Fund Balance				
Profit/(Loss) Current Year	\$1,023,842.82	\$210,162.49	\$1,620,262.81	\$2,854,368.12
Total Fund Balance	\$1,023,842.82	\$210,162.49	\$1,620,262.81	\$2,854,368.12
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	\$1,028,389.12	\$210,162.49	\$1,620,762.81	\$2,859,314.43

Statement of Revenues & EXPENDITURES

	Foundation Total	Smithgall Woods Total	Weekend for Wildlife Total	Grand Total
Revenues				
Contributions & Donations (Restricted)	\$349,909.82	-	\$1,882,791.67	\$2,232,701.49
Revenue (Admin)	\$128,472.54	-	-	\$128,472.54
Prior Year Reserves Carry Over	\$698,471.98	\$220,162.49	\$686,776.63	\$1,605,411.10
Other Intergovtl. Revenues	-	-	-	\$0.00
Transfers In	-	-	-	\$0.00
Interfund (Division WFW Reimbursement)	-	-	\$18,001.00	\$18,001.00
Total Revenue	\$1,176,854.34	\$220,162.49	\$2,587,569.30	\$3,984,586.13
Expenditures				
Supplies & Materials	\$33.69	-	-	\$33.69
MV Expense (Gas)	-	-	-	\$0.00
Other Operating Expenses	\$2,965.73	-	\$390,378.50	\$393,304.23
Freight	\$509.15	-	-	\$509.15
Print & Publication	\$91.22	-	\$985.00	\$1,076.22
Discounts Lost	-	-	-	\$0.00
Travel	-	-	-	\$0.00
Personal Liab. of Employees	\$302.00	-	-	\$302.00
Per Diem, Fees, & Contracts	\$75,937.50	-	-	\$75,937.50
Per Diem, Fees, & Contracts Exp.	\$550.18	-	-	\$550.18
Postage	338.40	-	-	\$338.40
Rents (OTRE)	\$5.00	-	\$4,658.11	\$4,663.11
Rents (OTRE Parking)	\$6.00	-	-	-
Transfers Out	-	\$10,000.00	\$571,284.88	\$581,284.88
Tuition/Scholarships	\$10,000.00	-	-	\$10,000.00
Grants to DNR	\$60,022.30	-	-	\$60,022.30
Grants to Others & Cities	\$1,342.25	-	-	\$1,342.25
Centralized ACCTG Systems Fees	\$896.94	-	-	\$896.94
SAO Teamworks Billing	-	-	-	-
Personal System	\$51.16	-	-	\$51.16
Total Expenditures	153,011.52	\$10,000.00	\$967,306.49	\$1,130,312.01
Profit / (Loss) Current Year	\$1,023,842.82	\$210,162.49	\$1,620,262.81	\$2,854,274.12



PROJECTS **FUNDED** 2021-2022

Photo: Kip Stahl/GNPA

Georgia DNR Career ACADEMY

JULY 17–23, 2022

Georgia DNR seeks to support the next generation of Georgia outdoor professionals by identifying young people who love the outdoors, allowing them to work alongside DNR professionals in the field, and helping them open doors to their future careers. From an applicant pool of more than 250, twenty-one high school students were selected for the 2022 Career Academy. They spent seven days performing hands-on work with DNR's boots-on-the-ground staff, visiting eight DNR facilities across the state. These future DNR professionals got a better sense of the work the department performs on a regular basis and built professional networks that will help them advance their educations and careers. In May 2022, the GNRF Board voted to fund this new and exciting program.

"I got to do things I never thought I would be doing. I used to wanna be a vet but coming here changed my mind. I would love to come and work for you all one day. Not only did you present these careers but also helped us find ways to pursue those careers."





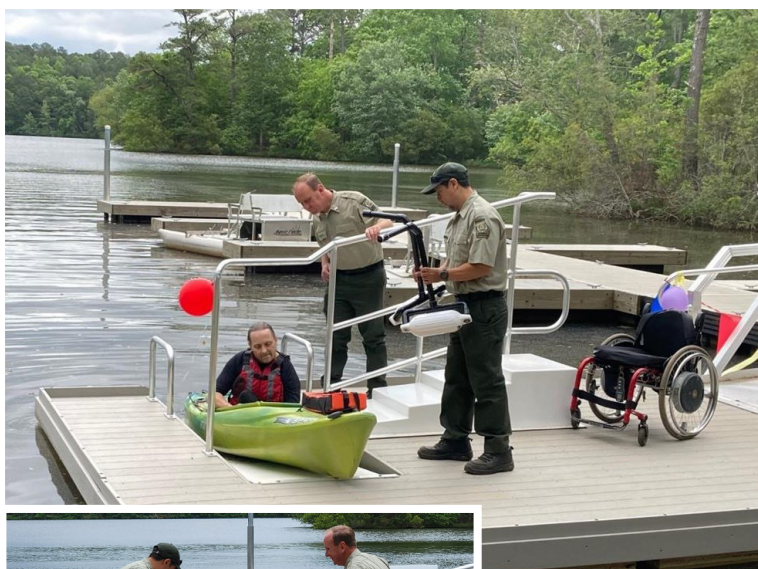
State Parks & Historic Sites

DIVISION

HARD LABOR CREEK STATE PARK ADA ACCESSIBLE

KAYAK LAUNCH

In August 2020, Kevin Stephenson and his family came to participate in one of Hard Labor Creek State Park's guided paddle programs. Kevin is an adaptive athlete, and it took three people to assist him into his kayak and launch it safely into the water. Interpretive Ranger David Guzman, who was leading the paddle, realized there could be improvements made to the accessibility of the park's water activities, not only for other people with disabilities, but also anyone who might be new to the activity.





In April 2021, the park applied for the 2021 annual Georgia Natural Resources Foundation (GNRF) grant cycle, which provided the initial \$10,000 grant. However, we quickly discovered that the launch would cost around \$23,000 with installation and shipping costs. Fortunately, the Foundation understood the importance of the project and was able to provide the remaining costs. The launch was purchased from AccuDock, shipped from Florida and the project was completed at the end of April 2022. During the construction process, Interpretive Ranger David Guzman and park maintenance staff developed a new kayak rental system that improves access to the water. Now individuals can easily maneuver the kayaks from the rack to the launch without having to carry or drag the boats to the shore.

The grand opening was on May 7, 2022. The ribbon cutting ceremony was attended by Director of State Parks and Historic Sites Jeff Cown, Region 3 Manager Ray Smith, President of Friends of GA State Parks Andy Fleming, along with many other community members and Friends of the park. Also, in attendance was Kevin Stephenson, the person who inspired the project. Kevin cut the ribbon and launched the first kayak off the platform. His demonstration showed attendees how the new dock can be used by a person with disabilities. In only a few short months, hundreds of people have utilized this new feature of the park, along with the self-service kayak rack system.

Wildlife Resources

DIVISION

The Georgia Natural Resources Foundation Grant provided funding to support Educational fishing programs at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center (CEWC)/Marben Public Fishing Area (MPFA). Fish-n-Learn Programs were hosted in October 2021 and April 2022. The fishing programs improved knowledge and skills of almost 30 anglers (children and parents). Funding from the GNRF Grant provided participants in the beginner program with everything they would need to start fishing (rods, reels, tackle boxes, hooks, bobbers, artificial baits, stringers, etc.) on Day-1. All program participants received personal training from the CEWC/MPFA teams. Fish-n-Learn 1 is the beginner's level program, geared towards the new angler. It focuses on the basics of fishing, such as: rigging line, basic knot tying, baiting a hook, casting, and cleaning a harvested fish was demonstrated in both programs. In October 2021, eight children along with their parents lodged and dined at the CEWC in October for Fish-n-Learn 1. Upon the program's completion, a survey was sent to parents requesting their feedback. Majority of the comments were positive and indicated a successful weekend. Many parents requested updates for future Fish-n-Learn programs, indicating their enthusiasm.

Fish-n-Learn 2 is the intermediate level program, geared towards those participants who have already completed level 1, or come with fishing experience and knowledge. The GNRF Grant provided tackle and rods and reels for the young anglers.

The grant was also used to purchase rods and reels and tackle in support of monthly Kids Fishing Events at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center. These events provide opportunities for hundreds of young anglers and their parents or chaperones to learn to fish in a safe and comfortable setting where fish are plentiful.



The McDuffie Environmental Education Center (MEEC) located at McDuffie Fish





Hatchery and Public Fishing area benefited from the GNRF Grant. The grant provided funds to purchase a classroom set of fishing rods and reels to be used by students participating in field trips there.

The Georgia Natural Resources Foundation grant to WRD also supported the Go Fish Education Center fishing day camps in Summer 2021. Camps will continue to use grant funds and equipment in Summer 2022. Funding allowed for the purchase of two class sets of rods and reels and equipment for campers to use during camp, in addition to one rod/reel combination for each camp participant to keep. The rod/reel combinations also included a starter tackle kit.

During Summer 2021, 60 youth from at least 5 counties attended the camps. Over 1,000 fish were caught, and one camp participant even earned a youth angler award. We offered three sessions of basic camps and one session of advanced camp in Summer 2021. This was our first advanced camp, and it was specifically designed for campers who have already attended one of our basic camps and wanted to return. Advanced camp participants demonstrated their newly gained knowledge and experience by catching significantly more fish than a typical basic camp.

The goal of our camps is to provide participants with the skills, equipment, and confidence to continue fishing into the future. Summer 2021 program evaluations indicated 97% of participants plan to fish in the future and 95% reported feeling confident about going fishing after attending this camp. These instructional fishing programs are a vital part of the Wildlife Resources Division’s angler recruitment and retention efforts.

GFEC Fishing Day Camps in Summer 2022	
Session 1	June 14–16, 2022
Session 2	June 21–23, 2022
Session 3	July 12–14, 2022 (Advanced)

Law Enforcement

DIVISION

GNRF awarded \$10,000 in FY2022 to the Law Enforcement Division for two important projects. The funding of these projects made it possible to hold the Law Enforcement Off the Pavement Awards Banquet at High Falls State Park and purchase Body Armor for the 35th Game Warden Academy Class members. These worthwhile projects make our officers safer and better by recognizing and rewarding high performing officers and providing safety gear for them to do their job every day throughout the state. The Division is appreciative of the support from GNRF to fund these projects.



Colonel Thomas Barnard and Commissioner Mark Williams with the Game Warden of the Year, John Rhodes.



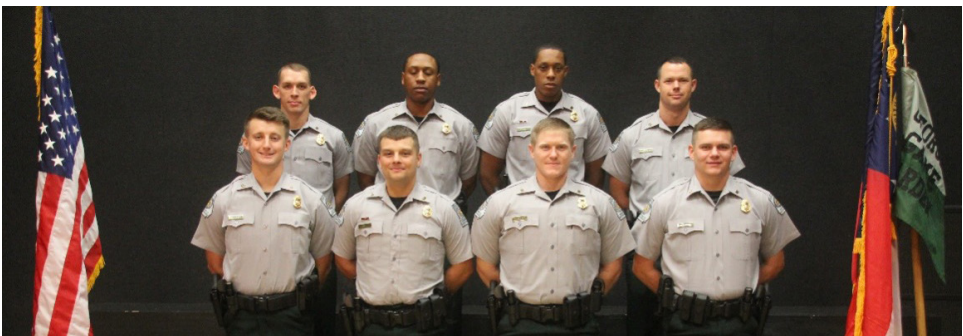
A memory table set up at the awards banquet for Captain Stan Elrod who was killed in the line of duty on September 3, 2020. The last meeting that Captain Elrod attended with fellow officers was the 2020 Game Warden Awards banquet.



Colonel Thomas Barnard gives remarks on the contributions made to the agency and profession by the award winners.



Game Warden award winners, supervisors and families socializing prior to the meal and awards ceremony.



Graduating Members of the 35th Game Warden Academy Class. The foundation award for body armor for these officers made sure they all were issued new body armor to be worn their first day in the field.

Coastal Resources

DIVISION

During 2021, the Coastal Resources Division (CRD) requested and received \$10,000 from the Georgia Natural Resources Foundation. The funds were used to for a summer intern from the Coastal College of Georgia (CCGA) and to support Coastfest 2021.

CHANDLER CALMER, 2021 CCGA INTERN (\$4,400)

Chandler Calmer was selected by CCGA faculty as the 2021 summer intern to CRD. Over a 10-week period, he assisted in collection of ground water samples and assessment of human impacts at various wetland study sites for EPA's National Wetlands Condition Assessment. Chandler is pictured below collecting samples (left) and with CRD team in the field (far right).



COASTFEST 2021 SUPPORT (\$5,600)

A prominent feature at CoastFest is the 5,000-gallon mobile aquarium known as the “Hawg Trough”. The aquarium contains several iconic species of saltwater fish, such as Red Drum, Spotted Seatrout, and Tripletail. DNR staff and volunteers explain the life history and habitat requirements of these species and provide information about the angling techniques commonly used when targeting these species, to Coastfest visitors.

Unfortunately, in-person Coastfest 2021 was canceled due to COVID concerns. The vendor allowed the deposit to roll forward to 2022 and the balance is being held by CRD for Coastfest 2022.



A photograph of a man with grey hair, wearing a grey suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a dark bow tie, standing at a dark wooden podium. He is looking slightly to his left. Behind him is a large American flag on a pole. The background is a dark blue curtain. The image has a blue tint and is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark blue rectangle. There are also solid olive green rectangular blocks in the top right and bottom left corners.

WEEKEND FOR **WILDLIFE** 2022



Weekend for Wildlife is one of the nation's most successful conservation events, raising more than \$17 million in thirty-four years to conserve Georgia's natural resources. After having a virtual event in 2021, everyone was excited to be in person at the Cloister on Sea Island in January 2022. We were thrilled to have Governor Brian Kemp and First Lady Marty Kemp, along with their family, join us for the weekend.

With the help of our sponsors and individual donors, we were able to raise over \$2 million in critically valuable support for the DNR Wildlife Resources Division's Wildlife Conservation Section, which greatly depends on fundraisers, grants and direct contributions to support its vital mission of conserving nongame species. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, 2022 was a record-breaking year! Through careful planning and a devoted team of hard-working experts, Georgia DNR has remained committed to the management and conservation of Georgia's natural resources. We are so proud to be able to support the mission of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and look forward to another successful Weekend for Wildlife in 2023.

Join Governor Brian Kemp, First Lady Marty Kemp, and the Georgia Natural Resources Foundation for the 34th annual Weekend for Wildlife, January 28–29, at the Cloister Resort, Sea Island.



Experience the Georgia coast and her bountiful natural resources on trips led by field experts. Enjoy a Friday night cocktail hour and our silent and live auctions rich in getaways, artwork, and unique finds.

Weekend for Wildlife is one of the nation's most successful conservation events, raising more than \$15 million since 2001 to conserve Georgia's prized natural resources. Through the Georgia Natural Resources Foundation,



Weekend for Wildlife is a one-of-a-kind escape to one of the world's most prestigious resorts on Georgia's Sea Island. As a guest of this magnificent two-day event, you will have the opportunity to join unique excursions led by field experts and enjoy an exciting banquet and auction featuring original artwork and exclusive treasures. As you bask in the luxurious comforts of Sea Island's amenities, you will—most importantly—serve as luminaries to the stewardship of Georgia's natural resources.



THANK YOU



January 28–29

2022

EVENT & SPONSORSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES



SAVE THE DATE

FOR THE 34TH ANNUAL
WEEKEND FOR WILDLIFE

January 28–29
2022



DONORS 2021-2022

Photo: Kip Stahl/GNPA

\$200,000+ Donors

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