



Southeast North Carolina Red Fox Workshop

January 19 & 20, 2010

New Hanover County Cooperative Extension, Arboretum, Auditorium
6206 Oleander Drive, Wilmington

Purpose:

1. Present information regarding red fox life history; hunting and trapping regulations; recent impacts to turtle and bird resources; and current management approaches, successes, and challenges.
2. Discuss strategies for approaching public education and perception of issue, developing new management approaches, working through the ecosystem balance question, and identifying research needs.
3. Develop working groups to move forward on identified priority strategies

Agenda

Tuesday, January 19

10:30 – Registration

11:00 – Welcome and Introductions

Hope Sutton & Whitney Jenkins, NC National Estuarine Research Reserve

11:15 – The Red Fox – *Vulpes vulpes*: Clever adaptable predator of the southern coast

The natural history of the red fox: characteristics and habits, differences and similarities between red and gray foxes, and adaptation to the human environment. The native vs. non-native question and its relationship to the red fox's ecological role.

Mike Campbell, NC Wildlife Resources Commission

11:50 – The Red Fox – *Vulpes vulpes*: Clever adaptable predator of the southern coast

Predation impacts to shorebirds

Angela Mangiameli, Conservation Biologist, Audubon North Carolina

12:10 – The Red Fox – *Vulpes vulpes*: Clever adaptable predator of the southern coast

Predation impacts to sea turtles

Dr. Matthew Godfrey, Biologist, NC Wildlife Resources Commission

12:30 – Networking Lunch (provided)

1:15 – Q& A and Roundtable Discussion: The adaptable predator

Panelists: Mike Campbell, Matthew Godfrey, Adriane Michaelis (Audubon NC)

Facilitator: Joanne Harcke, NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher

2:00– Infectious diseases of the Red Fox

Diseases that pose a health risk to both humans and their pets, how the infections impact the foxes. Includes rabies and distemper and other infectious agents.

Dr. Suzanne Kennedy-Stoskopf, Research Professor of Wildlife Infectious Disease, NC State University College of Veterinary Medicine

3:00 – Break

3:15 – Legal aspects of fox removal

North Carolina’s hunting and trapping rules and statues. Pros of utilizing the trapping season (December 1 – February 28) to solve conflicts.

Colleen Olfenbuttel, Biologist, NC Wildlife Resources Commission

3:45 – *[Not Able to Attend]* Managing for the red fox on protected lands and in urban settings

Assessing a red fox population. Removal methods: trapping and selective harvesting. Options for contracting a removal effort. Determining which individuals and how many need to be removed. Preparing for a removal effort. Assessing removal and follow-up.

Josh Biesecker, Wildlife Specialist, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

4:30 – Wrap Up & Adjourn

Wednesday, January 20

8:45 – Coffee

9:00 – Managing for the red fox on protected lands and in urban settings (cont.)

Local management strategies: successes and challenges. Additional management strategies. Challenges specific to managing red foxes within municipal boundaries. [

Maureen Dewire, Director of Education/Senior Naturalist, Bald Head Island Conservancy; Katharine Womble & Jean Lynch, Fort Fisher State Recreation Area

10:30 – Humane Protection of Sea Turtle Nests

Dr. Kirt Rusenko, Marine Conservationist for the City of Boca Raton based at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center

11:00 – Break

11:15 – Managing the Red Fox at a South Carolina State Park: A Park Ranger’s Experience
Hunting Beach State Park in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina first started experiencing problems with red foxes in 1991. This case study will touch on a variety of management strategies from “ZooDoo” to welded wire mesh cages to prevent the predation of sea turtle, shorebird and seabird nests.

Mike Walker, Interpretive Ranger, Huntington Beach State Park, SC Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism

11:45 – Q & A and Roundtable Discussion: Managing the red fox

Panelists: Jeff Owen (Fort Fisher State Recreation Area), Colleen Olfenbuttel, Maureen Dewire, Katharine Womble, Jean Lynch, Kirt Resenko, Laura Simon (Field Director, Urban Wildlife Program, The Humane Society of the United States)

Facilitator: Whitney Jenkins, NC National Estuarine Research Reserve

12:30 – Networking Lunch (provided)

1:15 – Working Groups: Collaborating for a united front and looking to the future

- Group 1 - Developing a public education campaign: public perception and public education piece, defining the message and getting it across. Identifying next steps to getting public education campaign accomplished.
 - *Working group leader/facilitator: Dr. Suzanne Kennedy-Stoskopf, Research Professor of Wildlife Infectious Disease, NC State University College of Veterinary Medicine*
 - *Note taker: Whitney Jenkins, NC National Estuarine Research Reserve*
- Group 2 - Identifying needs and next steps for managers: research needs to support management efforts, long term picture of management, working with municipalities, sources of funding, identifying next steps.
 - *Working group leader/facilitator: Matthew Godfrey, NC Wildlife Resources Commission*
 - *Note taker: Joanne Harcke, NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher*

2:15 – Break

2:30 – Report out from working groups (15 minutes/group)

3:00 – Next Steps & Adjourn