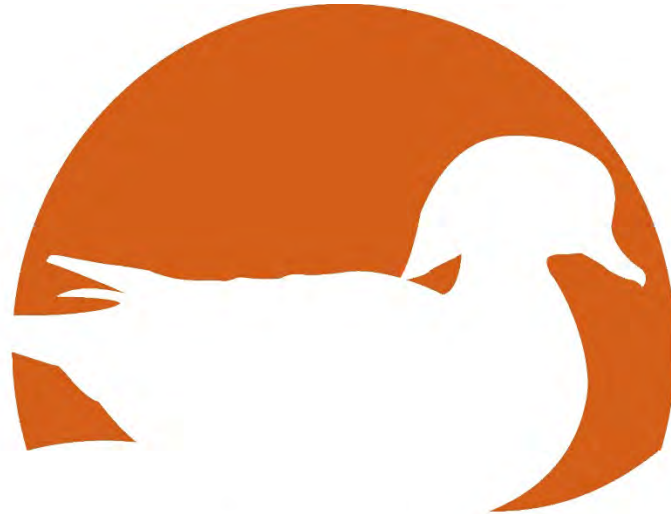


CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

ENDOWED CENTER OF WATERFOWL & WETLANDS CONSERVATION



James C. Kennedy
WATERFOWL &
WETLANDS CENTER

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences

Annual Report
August 8, 2014 – July 31, 2015
James C. Kennedy Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation Center

A New Director

After a national search for a director of the James C. Kennedy Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation Center, Dr. Richard Kaminski began work June 1, 2015. Dr. Kaminski brings a wealth of expertise and knowledge to the Center, and was the former James C. Kennedy Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation Endowed Chair at Mississippi State University, where he was a faculty member since 1983. Dr. Kaminski's bio-sketch appears on the new Kennedy Center website, which will be launched in the coming weeks.



"I am deeply honored to serve as Director of the new Kennedy Center and immensely indebted to Mr. Jim Kennedy for his commitment and contributions to waterfowl and wetlands science and conservation by endowing programs like ours at Clemson University. We will fulfill our vision to lead in science and education to conserve south Atlantic coastal ecosystems."

Overview

Through the generosity of Mr. James C. Kennedy, the James C. Kennedy Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation Center (hereafter, Center) of Clemson University was established in August 2014 to train and educate current and future waterfowl and wetlands conservationists, managers, and scientists to promote health and viability of waterfowl and wetland-associated species for future generations. Because of strong teaching, research and outreach programs in wildlife conservation and existing public and private-sector partnerships, Clemson University and its Belle W. Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Sciences near Georgetown, SC were selected as institutional sites for the new Kennedy Center.

The program is collaborating with Mississippi State University's James C. Kennedy Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation program, which focuses programs and efforts primarily along the Mississippi and Central Flyways. The Center is located at Clemson's Baruch Institute for Coastal Ecology and Forest Science (BICEFS) located outside of Georgetown, SC adjacent to Winyah Bay. An additional field station is located at Nemours Wildlife Foundation and near Mr. Jim Kennedy's Clarendon Farms, both in the ACE Basin near Beaufort, SC.

Advisory Committee

In September 2014, an advisory committee was formed to provide the Director with input and oversight of the endowed program. The committee is composed of representatives of state and federal agencies, conservation organizations, and landowners and managers involved in waterfowl and wetland conservation. A list of committee members can be found in Appendix 1. The committee has met twice since the Center's inception (November 24, 2014 in Charleston, SC; July 16, 2015 at the Center).

James C. Kennedy Undergraduate Interns for Waterfowl and Wetland Conservation (Kennedy Undergraduate Interns)

Beginning in January 2015, 14 Clemson undergraduate students (Appendix 2) were selected to become Kennedy Undergraduate Interns and serve as the basis for developing a mentoring program for undergraduate students who aspire to be tomorrow's waterfowl and wetlands biologists, managers, scientists, and educators. Dr. Greg Yarrow, Chair of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Conservation, working with the Department's aquatic research scientist Jeremy Pike, served as instructor to provide oversight and mentoring of the students following the highly successful Creative Inquiry Program for undergraduate students at Clemson University (<http://www.clemson.edu/academics/programs/creative-inquiry>). Future responsibilities for oversight and mentoring of Kennedy Undergraduate interns will transition to the Center's Director and graduate students working in the field.



Kennedy Interns Mady Thatcher and Sylvan Jennings collect invertebrates at Clarendon Farms.



Kennedy Interns Arthur Amick and Carley Colefield also collecting invertebrates at Nemours Wildlife Center.



Kennedy Interns Matthew Marbert, Lollice Courtney, and Charles Gallman work with Aquatic Scientist Jeremy Pike (center).



Kennedy Interns sampling invertebrates at Yawkey Wildlife Center.

Each week during the semester, the instructors met with student interns to increase their knowledge of waterfowl and wetlands conservation, especially as it relates to South Carolina. Students were also made aware of the Kennedy endowment to Clemson for waterfowl and wetlands conservation, the components of the endowment, and their roles as interns.

To address one of the research needs identified by the Center's advisory committee, students spent Spring Break collecting invertebrates in impoundments across the coast of South Carolina from Winyah Bay to the ACE Basin. These areas are some of the most important waterfowl habitat remaining in South Carolina and contain intensely managed coastal impoundments formed from remnant rice fields created centuries ago. These managed impoundments are a vital source of invertebrates and plant food for migrating and wintering waterfowl, yet few studies have focused on invertebrate communities in these managed impoundments.

The goal of the interns' field research was to obtain baseline estimates of invertebrate abundance, biomass, and composition in differently managed wetlands. The students used sweep nets to collect aquatic invertebrates from three different impoundments types, managed for different salinities. A total of 12 wetlands were sampled at three different sites: Yawkey Wildlife Center in Georgetown, SC; Clarendon Farms in Beaufort, SC; and Nemours Wildlife Foundation in Yemassee, SC. Samples continue to be processed at the Clemson University aquatic lab according to the impoundment where they were collected. The data will be used to guide future management of these impoundments.

The interns collectively developed, wrote, and submitted a poster abstract of their work to the 2015 Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. The poster was selected for presentation to waterfowl biologists, managers and scientists from across North America at the conference. From all interns, the Director will select the most outstanding undergraduate student who will be named a Kennedy Undergraduate Scholar and present the poster at the TWS meeting.

Teaching, Research, and Outreach Priorities

The Director, working with input and consultation of the advisory committee, has identified teaching, research, and outreach priorities for the Center during its inaugural year. The Director's prospectus is presented as Appendix 3.

Post-Doctoral and Graduate Students

Currently, the Center is advertising a post-doctoral or Ph.D. student position to conduct research and provide technical support for graduate and undergraduate students working in the field and for waterfowl management training and outreach activities. The position will report directly to the Director. The Center is also seeking 2 M.S. students to conduct some of the research described in Appendix 3. One M.S. student will conduct research on aquatic invertebrate communities in differently managed wetlands and will utilize base-line data collected by the Kennedy interns as a foundation for additional research.

Developing and dissemination of scientific and laymen's publications and presentations will be a part of outreach efforts. Forums, conferences, and workshops will also be a part of outreach efforts. We are considering hosting a symposium for graduate students from the Kennedy and other endowed waterfowl and wetlands university programs across the United States in the next several years.

The Center is also helping sponsor the upcoming 7th North American Duck Symposium and Workshop February 1-5, 2016 in Annapolis, Maryland. The symposium will bring together researchers, government, non-government conservation organizations, and industry representatives to address shared priorities for waterfowl and wetland science and conservation. The Director is serving on the scientific and steering committees of NADS 7, as he and Dr. Brian Davis (Mississippi State University) were co-organizers of NADS 6 in 2013.

Presentations

Kaminski, R. M. 2015. Vision and mission of James C. Kennedy Waterfowl & Wetlands Conservation Center. Presentation to Kennedy Center Advisory Committee, Belle W. Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science, Georgetown, SC, 16 July 2015.

Kaminski, R. M. 2015. Vision and mission of James C. Kennedy Waterfowl & Wetlands Conservation Center. Presentation to the public conservationists, Hobcaw House, Belle W. Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science, Georgetown, SC, 16 July 2015.

Kaminski, R. M. 2015. Vision and mission of James C. Kennedy Waterfowl & Wetlands Conservation Center. Presentation to Pate Foundation, Pawleys Island, 17 July 2015.

Kneece, M., C. Shipes, B. Davis, E. Wiggers, and R. Kaminski. 2015. Annual Ecology and Management of Mottled Ducks in the ACE Basin, South Carolina. Presentation to Kennedy Center Advisory Committee, Belle W. Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science, Georgetown, SC, 16 July 2015.

Publications

Davis, J.B., J.N. Straub, G. Wang, R.M. Kaminski, and B.D. Leopold. 2015. Simulations of wood duck recruitment from nest boxes in Mississippi and Alabama. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 79:907-916.

Fleming, K.S., R.M. Kaminski, M.L. Schummer, K.D. Nelms, G.N Ervin, and T. Tietjen. 2015. Species richness and density of wintering ducks on Wetlands Reserve Program easements in Mississippi. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 39:310-318.

Hagy, H., and R.M. Kaminski. 2015. Determination of foraging thresholds and effects of application on energetic carrying capacity for waterfowl. *PLoS ONE* 10: e0118349.

Lancaster, J.D., J.B. Davis, R.M. Kaminski, A.D. Afton, E.J. Penny. 2015. Mallard use of a managed public hunting area in Mississippi. *Journal of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies* 2:281-287.

Marty, J.R., J.B. Davis, R.M. Kaminski, M.G. Brasher, G. Wang. 2015. Waste rice and natural seed abundances in rice fields in the Louisiana and Texas Coastal Prairies. *Journal of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies* 2:121-126.

Shipes, J.C., J.B. Davis, E.P. Wiggers, W.E. Mills, R.M. Kaminski, M.R. Kneece. 2015. Annual habitat selection by mottled ducks in coastal South Carolina. *Journal of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies* 2:268-273.

St. James, E.A., M.L. Schummer, R.M. Kaminski, E.J. Penny, L.W. Burger. 2015. Effect of weekly hunting frequency on rate of ducks harvested. *Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management* 6:247-254.

Partnerships

Clemson University's Baruch Institute and the Center currently have partnerships with Ducks Unlimited, Inc.; South Carolina Department of Natural Resources; South Carolina USGS Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit; U.S. Forest Service Restoring and Managing Longleaf Pine Ecosystems Unit; U.S. Forest Service Center for Forest Disturbance Science; U.S. Forest Service Upland Hardwood Ecology and Management Unit; National Council for Air and Stream Improvement Inc. ; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Atlantic Coast Joint Venture; USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service; USDA Wildlife Services; The Nature Conservancy; National Park Service; Nemours Wildlife Foundation; Lowcountry Open Land Trust; Belle W. Baruch Foundation; National Wild Turkey Federation; Quality Deer Management Association; Upstate Forever; South Carolina Forestry Commission; South Carolina Forestry Association; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Sustainable Forestry Initiative; Yawkey Foundation; other universities; and a multitude of landowners and conservation organizations.

Appendix 1. James C. Kennedy Waterfowl and Wetlands Center Advisory Committee, Clemson University

1. Breck Carmichael, Special Assistant to the Director, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202; 803-734-3941.

Breck represents SCDNR, is the current Chair of the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Management Board, and also currently serves on the Atlantic Flyway Council.

2. Jamie Dozier, Project Leader, Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, 1 Yawkey Way South, Georgetown, SC 29440; 843- 546-6814

Jamie represents both Yawkey Wildlife Foundation and SCDNR and is a key partner representing the Winyah Bay Focus Area, and with Baruch Institute for Coastal Ecology and Forest Science, and serves as the northern center for the KWWEF.

3. Dr. Ernie Wiggers, CEO Nemours Wildlife Foundation, 161 Nemours Plantation Rd, Yemassee, SC 29945 ; 843-986-2568

Ernie represents the Nemours Wildlife Foundation and is a key partner representing the ACE Basin Focus Area, and with BICEFS, and serves as the southern center for the KWWP. Much of the current waterfowl research is being conducted at Nemours.

4. Dr. Skip Van Bloem, Director, Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science, Georgetown, SC 29442; 843-546-1013 x 230

Skip represents Clemson's Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science composed of faculty, staff and students and which will be the home for the KWWEF Director/Coordinator.

5. Jason Ayers, South Carolina Coastal Program Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Charleston Ecological Services Field Office, 176 Croghan Spur Road, Suite 200, Charleston, SC 29407; 843-727-4707 (ext. 220)

Jason coordinates the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's coastal programs in South Carolina.

6. Craig R. LeSchack; Director, Conservation Programs – Southeast; Ducks Unlimited; Southern Region; South Atlantic Field Office; 3294 Ashley Phosphate Rd., Suite 2-A; North Charleston, SC 29418; (843) 745-9110

Craig coordinates all programs for Ducks Unlimited in the Southeast.

7. Dr. Patrick Jodice; Leader, South Carolina Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit; Clemson University; Clemson, SC 29634; 864-656-6190

Pat has expertise in water bird research and conservation, and teaches and directs graduate students at Clemson University.

8. Jason Hewett, Manager, Clarendon Farms, 80 Clarendon Plantation Drive, Beaufort, SC 29906 (843) 846-9496

Jason manages Clarendon Farms Plantation for Mr. Jim Kennedy.

9. Derrell Shipes ;; South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202; 803-734-3938

Derrell is Chief of Statewide Programs for Research and Surveys for SCDNR.

10. Craig Watson, South Atlantic Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Charleston Ecological Services Field Office, 176 Croghan Spur Road, Suite 200, Charleston, SC 29407; 843-727-4707 (ext. 304)

Craig is South Atlantic Coordinator for Atlantic Coast Joint Venture

11. Dean Harrigal, Waterfowl Biologist, SCDNR, 585 Donnelley Drive, Green Pond, SC 29446; 843-884-2525

Dean is responsible for coordinating SCDNR's coastal waterfowl programs.

12. Travis Folk; Wildlife Biologist, President of Folk Land Management Inc., 3515 White Hall Road, Green Pond, SC 29446. 843-844-2290

Travis has extensive expertise and experience in practical and applied wildlife management, particularly waterfowl ecology and management.

13. R.K. (Kenny) Williams, Regional Biologist (Retired), Ducks Unlimited, Inc.; Land Management Consultant, Williams Land Management Co., Owner, Georgetown, SC.

Kenny has extensive, long-term experience managing and restoring impoundments and coastal wetlands for waterfowl and other wetland wildlife all along the South Carolina coast. He continues to remain active consulting and preparing baseline biological assessments for conservation easements by Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Kenny has extensive expertise and experience in applied waterfowl ecology and management.

14. Jim Clark, Managing Consultant, Bordeaux-Clark Group, Inc., Private Land Managers, Weehaw Plantation, Georgetown, SC 843-344-2245
15. Dr. Greg Yarrow, Chair and Professor, Department of Forestry and Environmental Conservation, 261 Lehotsky Hall, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634; 864-656-7370.

Serving as technical advisors:

Dr. Thomas Rainwater, Wildlife Research Coordinator and Kennedy Center Science and Outreach Collaborator. Belle W. Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science and Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center, Georgetown, SC 29442

Dr. Rainwater is collaborating with Dr. Kaminski and other scientists in wetland wildlife research. He is a wildlife ecologist with special interests and expertise in alligators and other reptiles and wildlife.

Tim Jones, USFWS Science Coordinator, Nelson Lab Room 209; 11410 American Holly Dr. Laurel, MD 20708. 301 497-5674.

Tim currently serves as Science Coordinator for the USFWS and also is a member of the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture for conservation of native bird species in the Atlantic Flyway.

Appendix 2. Kennedy Undergraduate Interns

1. Nicholas Masto, Spartanburg, SC
2. Matthew Marbert, Bradley, SC
3. Stephen Clements, Mt. Pleasant, SC
4. Mary Wilkinson, Georgetown, SC
5. Madeline Thatcher, Bluffdale, UT
6. Carley Cofield, Goose Creek, SC (Summer 2015 Intern on Clarendon Farms)
7. Jacob Lazarus, Myrtle Beach, SC (Summer 2015 Intern on Clarendon Farms)
8. Chase Cross, Sumter, SC
9. Charles Gallman, Gastonia, NC
10. Sylvan Jennings, Johns Island, SC
11. Lollice Courtney, Conway, SC
12. Adam Brown, Lexington, SC
13. Arthur Amick, Batesville, SC
14. Joel Turner, Sumter, SC

Appendix 3. The Director's Prospectus.

TEACHING, RESEARCH, AND SERVICE PLANS, 2015-2016:

JAMES C. KENNEDY WATERFOWL AND WETLANDS CONSERVATION CENTER

By

Richard M. Kaminski, Ph.D.

Director, James C. Kennedy Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation Center

This draft prospectus outlines initial envisioned activities for the Director of the James C. Kennedy Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation Center (hereafter, Kennedy Center) and the Kennedy Center's program. It provides vision and mission statements and an action plan for teaching, research, and service during fiscal year 2016.

Vision: Lead in science and outreach to sustain waterfowl and wetlands of South Atlantic Coastal Ecosystems and train future waterfowl and wetlands ecologists and managers.

Mission: Teach, conduct research, and provide outreach to fulfill vision of Kennedy Center.

Teaching

The waterfowl ecology and management course at Clemson University has not been taught for a decade or longer. I have agreed to resurrect and teach this course during fall semester 2015. Based on my experience in teaching this course at Mississippi State University (MSU) for over 30 years, I believe the course should be split-level and thereby available to junior and senior undergraduates who have had one or additional courses in ecology and graduate students. When the waterfowl course at MSU was only available to graduate students, generally only my graduate students and other management-oriented students enrolled in the course. That restriction yielded too few student credit and contact hours and precluded aspiring juniors and seniors from enrolling. Thus, we converted the course to split-level and attracted 15-25 total students. Availing this course to juniors and seniors enabled them to compete vigorously for seasonal waterfowl and wetlands technician positions across the United States and Canada. I did not reduce the rigor of either course when converted to split-level, because only scholarly undergraduates enrolled in the course.

I also instructed wetlands ecology and management at MSU; it also was offered in fall semesters alternating with the waterfowl course. Ideally, students would enroll in the wetlands course to gain background in the wetlands discipline, then follow the next year with the more specific course in waterfowl. I understand that wetlands courses are taught at Clemson; thus, I'd be delighted to partner and team-teach a wetlands course that does not conflict in fall with the waterfowl course. Dr. William Conner currently teaches a spring break course in wetlands. We

have conversed and discussed expanding this course to a semester long course (3 credits) and engaging other Clemson faculty with wetlands expertise to team teach with us.

Research

Research by the Director of the Kennedy Center and associated graduate students and post-doctoral research associates will focus on waterfowl and other waterbird ecology and management. Ultimately, I desire to collaborate with Clemson and partnering scientists (Dr. Thomas Rainwater and others yet to be determined) within South Carolina and beyond with a goal of developing a pre-eminent research program addressing questions and needs related to sustaining Atlantic Coastal and other wetland systems in the face of climate change, sea level rise, and other environmental and human-related dynamics (e.g., coastal urban and residential developments). Additionally, landscape and other relevant ecological theory will be integrated with applied science aspects of the program.

We are fortunate to have an advisory board for the Kennedy Center. We will be most attentive to the board's beliefs for needed research and outreach. Nevertheless, we will explain and justify other research that Dr. Rainwater and I deem prudent for scientific and conservational advancements and sustainment of Atlantic coastal systems.

The board met initially in November 2014 and identified possible initial research pursuits, including continued research on mottled ducks, aquatic invertebrates in managed wetlands, habitat availability aligning with needs of the South Atlantic Migratory Bird Initiative (SAMBI) of the Atlantic Joint Venture of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and other emerging needs of SAMBI, industry, developers, and partnering research sponsors. The Kennedy Center Advisory Board met with the Director and other partners in July 2015 to discuss initial research thrusts for fiscal year 2015. The Kennedy Center undergraduate student interns from Clemson University collected aquatic invertebrate samples from differently managed wetlands in the ACE Basin during spring break 2015. The samples are being processed, and data from them will provide important baseline information for continuation of this study by Mr. Beau Bauer, Wildlife Biologist, Nemours Foundation, for his M.S. degree from Clemson University.

Additionally, the Director has had conversations with Darrel Shipes and Dean Harrigal, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. The Director expressed an interest to Shipes and Harrigal in developing aerial line transect surveys of waterfowl and other wetland wildlife visible from fixed-winged aircraft during surveys. Mr. Shipes encouraged the Director to develop a research proposal and budget for support from SCDNR and other partners for implementation and evaluation of these surveys. The goal of such surveys is to long-term monitor waterfowl and other wildlife spatio-temporal distributions and abundance and species diversity amid climate and other natural and human changes. The Director has submitted a research prospectus for implementation of aerial transect surveys in South Carolina to SCDNR (Messrs. Shipes and Harrigal), Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (Craig LeSchack), Nemours Foundation (Dr. Ernie Wiggers), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Jason Ayers, Dean Demarest, Tim Jones, and Craig Watson). The Advisory Board and Director discussed the proposed aerial transect survey research at the July 2015 meeting. There was a consensus for need to implement these surveys, with follow-up

discussion and identification of focal areas for installation of transects along the South Carolina coast. The follow-up meeting was scheduled for August 5, 2015 as part of the ACE Basin Task Forces meeting at Nemours Foundation.

The research prospectus explained that we had designed, implemented, and evaluated these surveys in the Mississippi (Pearse et al. 2008; *Journal of Wildlife Management*), and our approaches have been adopted by Arkansas, Louisiana, and Missouri. To my knowledge, no states currently in the Atlantic Flyway conduct systematic, rigorous aerial transect surveys that can yield precise estimates of waterfowl abundance (i.e., CVs \leq 15%) and associated habitat use (Pearse et al. 2012; *Wetlands*). The Director has advertised for a Ph.D. student or post-doctoral scientist to conduct this work and seek collaborative sponsorship from SCDNR, DU, FWS, SAMBI and affiliates, Kennedy Center, and other partners. These systematic surveys are paramount to long-term monitoring and documenting avian and other wildlife use of Atlantic coastal ecosystems through time and relate patterns of seasonal and yearly wetland use to habitat composition, weather, sea level elevations, limnological characteristics, human occupation, and other proximate and ultimate factors. Analyses of these data will explain variation in habitat use by birds and other wildlife and guide habitat conservation planning and development of wetland-upland complexes for coastal wildlife. Additionally, these surveys will color depict on a website the spatio-temporal abundance of waterfowl during the hunting season for information and use by waterfowl hunters and other enthusiasts (e.g., <https://www.mdwfp.com/wildlife-hunting/waterfowl-program/aerial-survey-reports.aspx>).

A landscape scale, comprehensive study of South Atlantic Coastal Systems is needed to understand drivers and sustain the system amid the aforementioned natural and human dynamics. I would like to invite Clemson and other university/agency/organization colleagues to form a research team that would develop a proposal for submission to the Natural Science Foundation's Science, Engineering and Education for Coastal Sustainability (SEES; https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=504816). According to the SEES website, the SEES program supports research addressing sustainability of coastal systems: "...coastal sustainability relies on broad and intimately interconnected areas of scholarship about natural and human processes. Coastal SEES projects will be expected to lead to generalizable theoretical advances in natural sciences and engineering while, at the same time, integrating key aspects of human processes required to address issues of coastal sustainability." Given the diverse expertise of Clemson and other faculty and scientists of the envisioned research team, I believe we can develop a competitive research proposal for SEES funding. Support from the Kennedy Center and Tom Yawkey Foundation, existing ecological and environmental data of Clemson and Baruch scientists, and proposed aerial transect survey data should leverage well to attract NSF funding. The expertise for the assembled team would define the focal areas of proposed research and monitoring. We will devise a plan with Drs. Van Bloem and Yarrow to invite colleagues to be participants in this research team during fall 2015 in preparation of submission of a proposal to NSF in 2016.

Outreach

We will convene a Waterfowl and Wetlands Management workshop in fall 2015 at the Baruch Institute and selected off-site management demonstration sites. The planned date for the workshop is 30 October 2015. The workshop would target public and private-sector audiences and convey science-based management practices for fresh- and brackish water wetlands and associated waterbirds and aquatic invertebrates. An agenda (following) has been drafted with involvement of collaborators and presenters including to date, Rick Kaminski, Thomas Rainwater, Jack Whetstone, Susan Guynn, Kenny Williams, Bob Perry, Mike Prevost, Dick Yetter, and representative from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to explain regulatory processes of wetland development and restoration.

Website

Mr. Peter Togel of Clemson University has developed a website for the James C. Kennedy Waterfowl & Wetlands Conservation Center. It will be launched in August 2015. The URL for the site will be: <http://www.clemson.edu/cafls/departments/kennedycenter/>

WATERFOWL AND WETLAND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

DATE: Friday, 30 October 2015; 08:00 a.m. to ~5:00 p.m.

WHERE: Clemson University's, Belle W. Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science, Georgetown, SC (Hwy 17 between Georgetown and Pawleys Island, SC)

HOST: James C. Kennedy Waterfowl & Wetlands Conservation Center

AGENDA

08:00-08:45 Annual Ecology and Needs of Waterfowl: Principles and Strategies of Management, with Focus on winter (Dr. Rick Kaminski, Kennedy Center)

08:45-09:15 Permits for Wetland Restoration and Management (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; presenter TBA)

09:15-09:30 BREAK

09:30-10:00 Management of freshwater wetlands (e.g., moist-soil; Bob Perry, SC DNR)

10:00-10:30 Management of brackish wetlands (Kenny Williams and Mike Prevost, Waterfowl/Wetland Biologists)

10:30-11:00 Management of brackish/saline wetlands (Kenny Williams and Mike Prevost)

- 11:00-11:30 Farm Bill conservation programs benefiting waterfowl and wetlands management (Dick Yetter, NRCS)
- 11:30-12:00 Management of alligators and other herptiles (Dr. Thomas Rainwater, Yawkey Foundation)
- 12:00-12:30 Questions/Answers/Discussion
- 12:30-13:00 Travel to field demonstration sites; box lunch provided en-route to sites.

Field Demonstration Sites

1. Rice Hope Plantation – freshwater wetland management
2. Annandale Plantation – brackish wetland management
 - On-site discussion of wetland herbicide and fisheries best management practices – Dr. Jack Whetstone, Clemson Extension Specialist
 - Return to Baruch Institute by ~ 5:00 p.m.