

Karen Alexy Waldrop

Ducks Unlimited, Inc. 1 Waterfowl Way Memphis, TN 38120

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Karen Waldrop serves as Chief Conservation Officer for Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU) and operates as a strategic leader and member of DU's executive leadership team. Karen received her Ph.D. in Wildlife Biology/Forest Sciences from Clemson University and both her M.S. in Wildlife Biology/Forest Resources and B.S. in Forest Resources from University of Georgia.

Prior to joining DU, Karen served as the Deputy Commissioner for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. She also has years of professional experience with waterfowl and migratory bird conservation and served as Kentucky's representative to the Mississippi Flyway Council. In addition, she serves as an Executive Council member of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Wildlife Biology/Forest Resources; May 2004

Clemson University, Clemson, SC

Dissertation Title: Meningeal worm (*Parelaphostrongylus tenuis*) and ectoparasite issues associated with elk restoration in southeastern Kentucky

Master of Science, Wildlife Biology/Forest Resources; December 1999

University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Thesis Title: Investigations of signpost communication in a wild population of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)

Bachelor of Science, Forest Resources; December 1996

University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Concentration: Wildlife Biology

Associate of Arts; June 1992

Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Chief Conservation Officer

(November 2019 – present)

Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Responsible for Ducks Unlimited's national and international conservation programs including science and habitat conservation operations and the work of four regional offices focused on conservation delivery.

Deputy Commissioner

(September 2014 – November 2019)

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources -

Provide policy and guidance relating to the coordination and evaluation of major programs and activities involving Fisheries, Wildlife, Information and Education, and Marketing Divisions.

Responsible for establishing policy and priorities for the divisions, working with staff on formulating long-range plans and research needs for wildlife and fisheries management.

Primary duties also include serving as Department liaison on legislative matters and overseeing the regulatory process for the agency.

Wildlife Division Director

(February 2007 – September 2014)

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources -

Responsible for administering and overseeing statewide and regional programs for the Wildlife Division, including game species, migratory birds, furbearers, endangered species, and land management. Responsibilities included long-range planning and policy development for the Division, indirect supervision of approximately 145 employees, and Division budget development and oversight. Recommended and advocated for statutory, regulatory, and policy needs for the Division at Fish and Wildlife Commission meetings and Legislative Committee meetings.

Wildlife Research Program Coordinator

(March 2005 – January 2007)

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources -

Responsible for coordinating research projects for the Wildlife Division and evaluating the progress of essential research within the department. Served as a research liaison between KDFWR and universities and other research-oriented entities to facilitate research and evaluate the progress of research activities. Worked with universities and conservation organizations on producing sound study designs and conducting research projects.

Post-doctoral Scholar

(May 2004 – March 2005)

Department of Forestry, University of Kentucky -

Conducted research project on the effects of meningeal worm on elk calf survival and population growth of Kentucky's elk herd. Supervised 6 interns and technicians during field research and data analysis. Responsible for grant writing, publishing scientific manuscripts, and presenting research findings at professional meetings.

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES

North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) Committee Representative

Executive Council member

Mississippi Flyway Council (2007 – 2019) - Chair (2015 – 2016)

White-nose Syndrome Executive Committee Chair (2013 – 2019) – National WNS Committee

National Conservation Leadership Institute Alumni Association (President – 2010-2013)

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Committees/Working Groups –

Bird Conservation Committee - Leadership

Chair of Resident Game Bird Working Group

Vice-chair of Science and Research Committee

Chair of Harvest Information Program (HIP)

Vice-chair of Leadership/Professional Development Committee

Serve on Wildlife Resources Policy, Fish and Wildlife Health, Bird Conservation,
and Invasive Species Committees

Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Committees –

Conference Committee Chair (2014 – 2019)

Awards Committee (2010 – 2019)

Wildlife Resources Committee (Chair 2008 – 2014) (Advisor 2014 - 2019)

HONORARY AND PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

National Conservation Leadership Institute Alumni Association (Graduated – 2009)

The Wildlife Society

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Waldrop Resume

Golden Key National Honor Society
Alpha Epsilon Lamda, Graduate School Honor Society
Sigma Xi, Scientific Research Society
Xi Sigma Pi, Honor Society of Forestry
Gamma Sigma Delta, Honor Society of Agriculture
Quality Deer Management Association
Ducks Unlimited
National Wild Turkey Federation
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Selected as the National Conservation Leadership Institute's (NCLI) Who's Who – Inaugural edition (2015)
Dwight A. Holder Award (Clemson University) – for outstanding work and sustained achievement that foster understanding, wise use, and conservation of natural and cultural resources (2014)
University of Georgia's Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources Young Alumnus of the Year Award (2008)
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Outstanding Conservation Partner (2007)
R. Ed Pittman Annual Agricultural Fellowship – awarded to students possessing characteristics of scholarship, leadership, character, and dedication to agriculture (August 2003)
Douglas R. Phillips Award – in recognition of professionalism and service to Clemson University and the community (May 2003)
Clemson University's 2003 Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award (1st recipient of award)
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Budweiser Conservation Scholarship (May 2002)
Clemson University Outstanding Graduate Student Researcher Award (2001 – 2002)
Millhaven Fellowship, Clemson University, Department of Forest Resources (July 2002)
R.C. Edwards Research Fellowship, Clemson University (October 2001)
University of Georgia Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award (Spring 1999)
Stoddard-Burleigh-Sutton Award for Excellence in Conservation, Univ. of Georgia (Spring 1998)
E.E. Provost Scholarship (Spring 1996)
Superior Pine Products Scholarship (Fall 1995)
Hope Scholarship (1994 – 1996)