

Biography of Michael A. Butler

Michael A. Butler joined the Tennessee Wildlife Federation (TWF), formerly known as the Tennessee Conservation League in April of 1996, and has served as its Chief Executive Officer since 2002. The Tennessee Wildlife Federation is the largest and oldest statewide wildlife and natural resources conservation organization in Tennessee.

Butler was born and raised in Jackson, Tennessee, and attended the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, earning a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science. This was followed by internships for The Wildlife Society in Washington, D.C. and at Delta Waterfowl's headquarters in Portage la Prairie, Canada. In 1996, he went on to earn a Master of Science in Fish and Wildlife Management from Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana, which was solely funded by the Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation of Sinton, Texas.

Upon returning to Tennessee in 1996, Butler was recruited to the Tennessee Conservation League, based in Nashville, Tennessee, as its Technical Advisor to the Executive Director. He worked in this position until being promoted to Director of Conservation Programs in 1998. He served as Director of Conservation Programs until June 2002, at which time he was appointed Chief Executive Officer at the age of 32.

In his role as CEO, Butler led the rebranding of the then 58 year old Tennessee Conservation League into today's Tennessee Wildlife Federation (TWF). Under his leadership and dedication, TWF has experienced its greatest growth in its history, seeing significant expansion in the organization's budget, staff, and programmatic and legislative outreach and impact.

Today, the Tennessee Wildlife Federation boasts a highly successful conservation policy program, the most successful youth clay target shooting sports program in the U.S., the number one

USA Shooting Certified Training Center in the nation allowing shooting sports athletes a direct

pipeline to the Olympics, a ground breaking youth hunting and fishing recruitment program, the State's only in-lieu fee program leading innovative solutions for wetland mitigation, and one of the top recognized and successful Hunters for the Hungry programs in the country.

In the arena of natural resource and conservation policy, Butler stands as a much-respected voice of reason for Tennessee's state delegation having led successful efforts to amend the Tennessee Constitution to include a personal right to hunt and fish, and has authored or co-authored dozens of pieces of legislation that have protected Tennessee's state wildlife agency, public lands which sportsmen use for hunting and fishing, and the state's wildlife, water, forests and other lands.

Butler is a member of various sportsmen and conservation groups, and serves on several conservation focused boards. He is an Eagle Scout, and in 2008 received an appointment from President George W. Bush to serve on the Board of Trustees for the Morris K. and Stewart L. Udall Foundation for Scholarship and Excellence in Environmental Policy. He is also the recipient of the Tennessee Chapter of The Wildlife Society's 2004 Outstanding Wildlife Professional of the Year award.

Butler is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys the shooting sports, hunting, fishing and spending time on his tractor working on farm projects. He currently lives in Nashville with his wife Wallis of 14 years and their three daughters, 13 year old Wesley Anne, 11 year old Campbell and 9 year old Ella, along with their Labrador Retrievers "Doc" and "Albus".