

4th Project Leaders Workshop Goals

- ❖ Connect with each other and share experiences
- ❖ Train New Leaders
- ❖ Project Review
- ❖ Skills refresher
- ❖ Updates



THE BOX TURTLE CONNECTION PROJECT LEADERS WORKSHOP

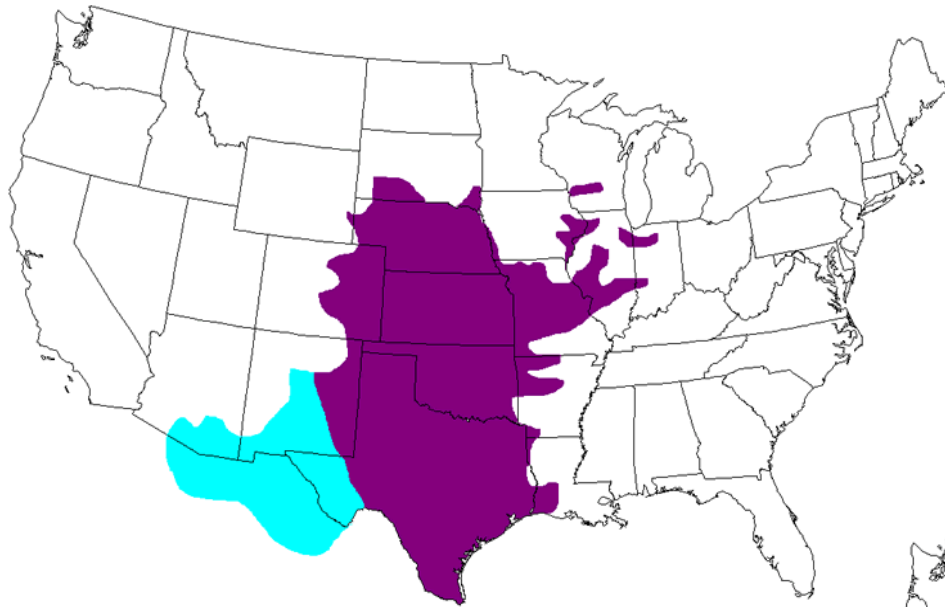


APRIL 9, 2013

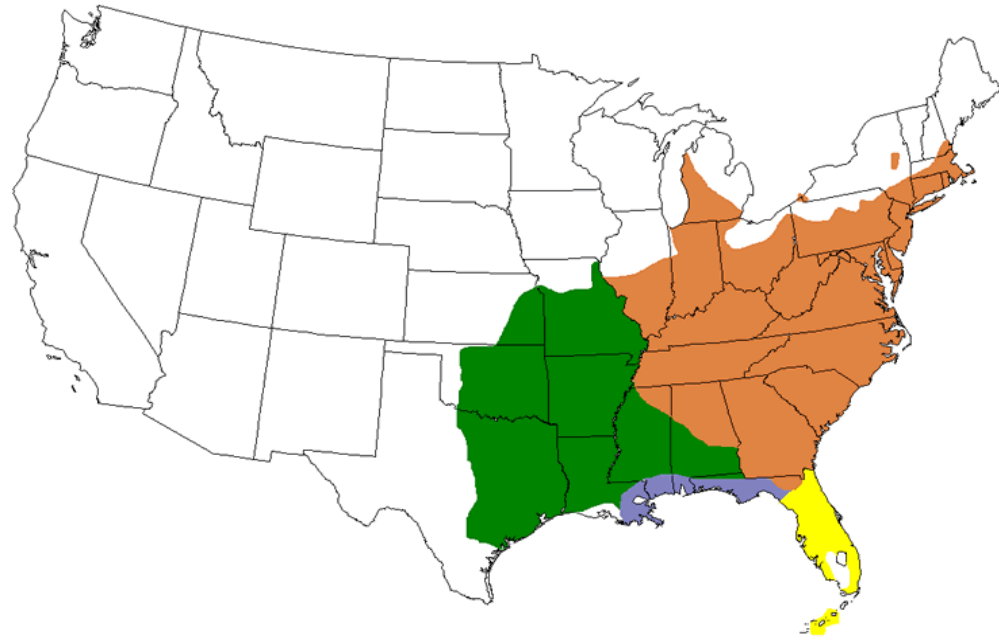
Ann Berry Somers, UNC Greensboro, Biology Department

A Project of

The Box Turtle Collaborative



Western Box Turtle
Terrapene ornata



Eastern Box Turtle
Terrapene carolina



“A land Tort which the Savages esteem above all other Torts.”



Photo by J. Rucker

Status of Box Turtles

North Carolina

- ▣ not considered Endangered or Threatened
- ▣ a **priority species** in the NC Wildlife Action Plan
- ▣ *“should be monitored to avoid continued population decline”*

IUCN

Vulnerable – likely to become Endangered unless the circumstances threatening its survival and reproduction improve

CITES

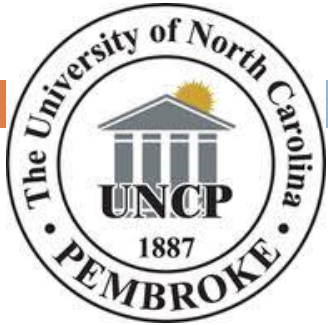
Appendix II - export permits are needed from the country of origin



***In God we trust. All others must bring
data.***

~ W. Edwards Deming

The Box Turtle Collaborative



UNCG

DAVIDSON



The Box Turtle Connection



- Gather data on populations
- Educate and engage citizens in scientific data collection

The Box Turtle Connection



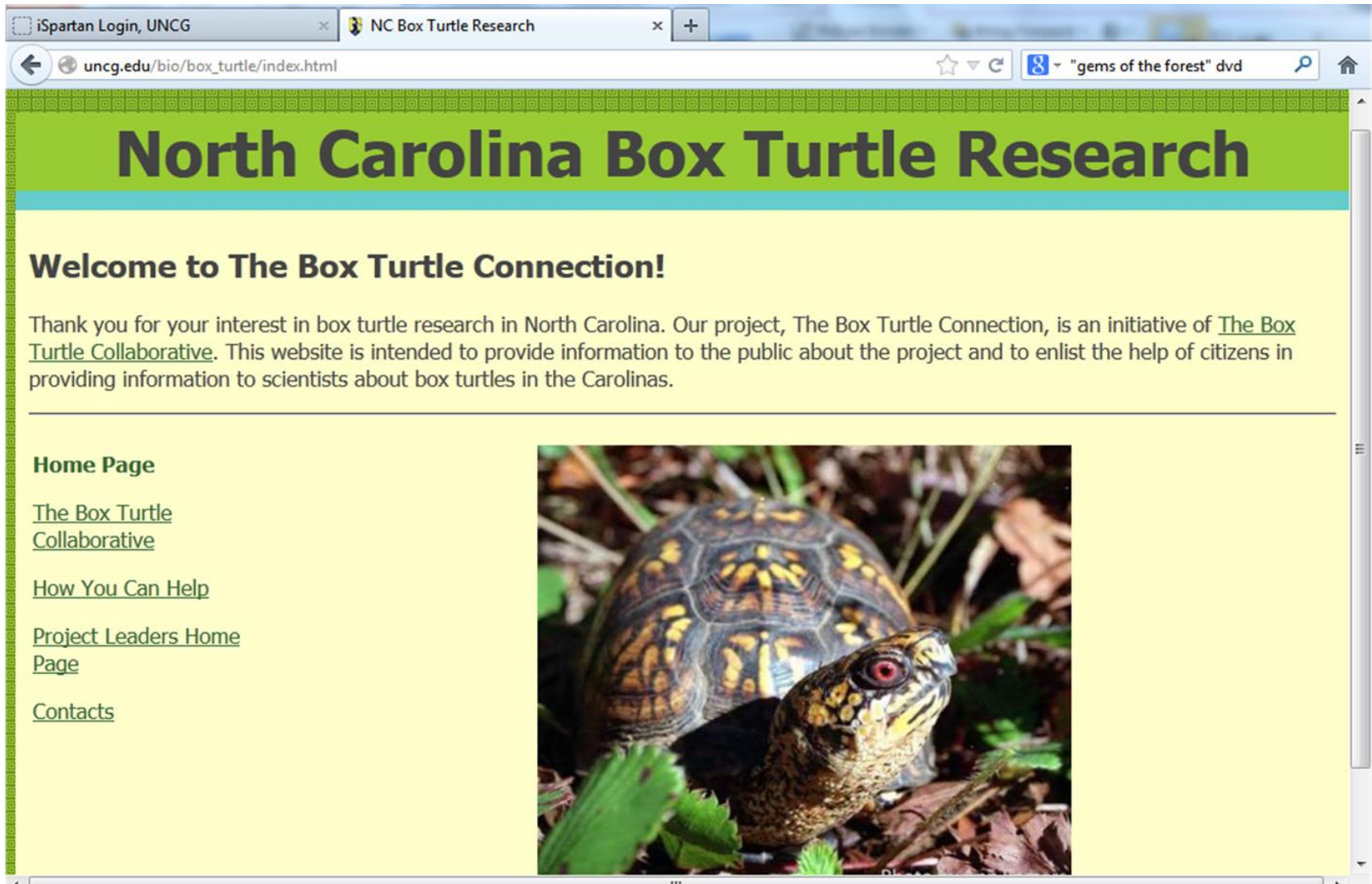
Fritz Geller-Grimm

Three Threads

- Educational
- Citizen Science
- Long-term Study

The Box Turtle Connection

Educational Thread



The Box Turtle Connection

Educational Thread



Warming up to cold blood

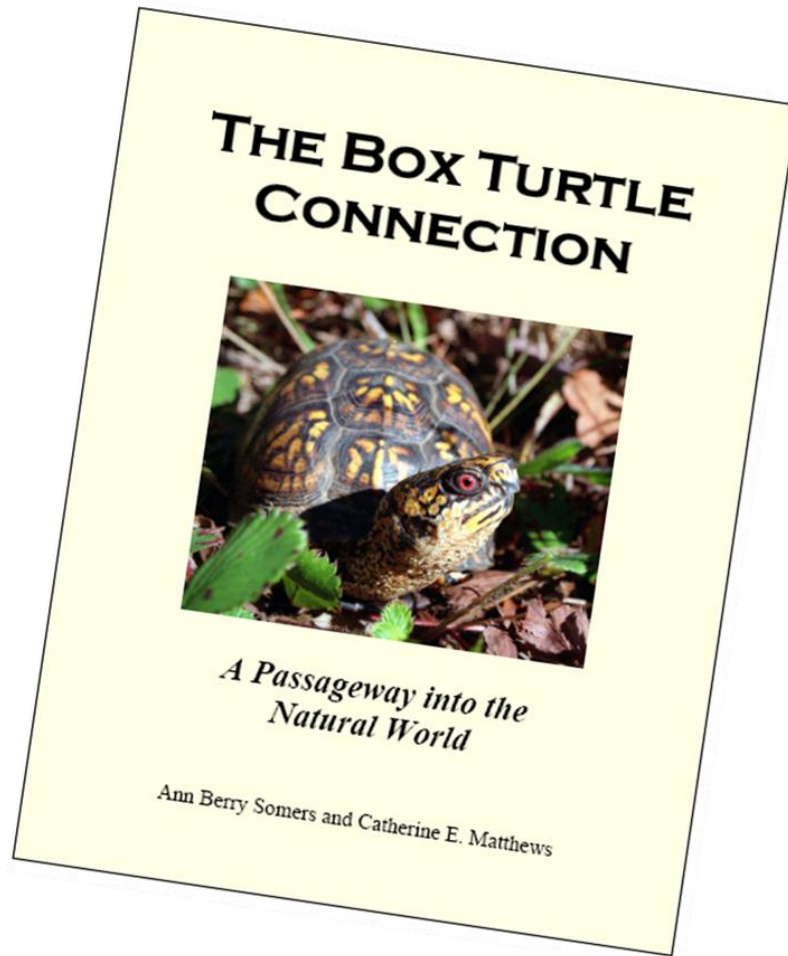
Presence at public events celebrating R&A

FREE Materials for distribution

DVD: Gems of the Forest

Box Turtle Postcard

Book: The Box Turtle Connection
(free download)



Research and Education Guide

(now in revision)

Research Guide in Use



St. Louis Dispatch, June 14, 2012

The Box Turtle Connection

**Don't Take Me Away From My Own Home
Let Box Turtles Stay Wild!**



Box Turtles Are in Trouble

Eastern Box Turtles (*Terrapene carolina carolina*) are North Carolina's state reptile. Their numbers are dwindling, in part because people move them to a new place or take them home as pets. It may be just one here or there, but the result is thousands of box turtles disappearing from their forest and field homes, forever.

They Need to Stay Wild

As far as nature is concerned, a turtle taken from the wild is "dead." It can no longer help maintain the population. "Saving" or "helping" a turtle by bringing it home or moving it to a new location in fact hurts fragile turtle populations. Moved from its home in the wild, a box turtle may sicken and die and pose a health threat to recipient populations. Turtles released into unfamiliar surroundings (sometimes called *relocation*) are often killed by predators or crushed by cars as they attempt to return to their original wild homes.



Turtles on the Road

If you see a turtle crossing the road, move it to the side that it is headed towards. Resist the urge to drive it to a "safer" place. Remember - that turtle may have been living there for decades, already knows where to find food and mates, and has a special place to hibernate or lay eggs. Watch out for vehicles when helping turtles. Don't take risks with your own life!

Help Wild Box Turtles

Adults and children can help wild box turtles. Report your turtle observations and other reptiles and amphibians to the Carolina Herp Atlas:

www.carolinaherpatlas.org



Above: Female Eastern Box Turtle by G/I Grant
Cover Photo: Male Eastern Box Turtle by J.D. Willson

The Box Turtle Connection



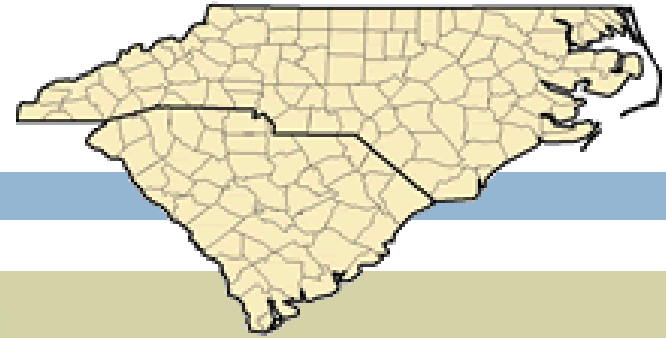
Fritz Geller-Grimm

Three Threads

- Educational
- Citizen Science
- Long-term Study

Carolina Herp Atlas

www.carolinaherpatlas.org



- Layperson contributes observations
- No minimum or maximum number (no commitment required)
- Individuals register one time
- For each record submitted
 - species, date, time of day, location
 - comment (if desired)
 - photo may be attached

DAVIDSON

Carolina Herp Atlas

Launched 2006

2006 - present

Records:	20,553
Species:	154
Photos:	5,322
Users:	1,332

Terrapene carolina = 1530

The Box Turtle Connection



Fritz Geller-Grimm

Three Threads

- Educational
- Citizen Science
- Long-term Study

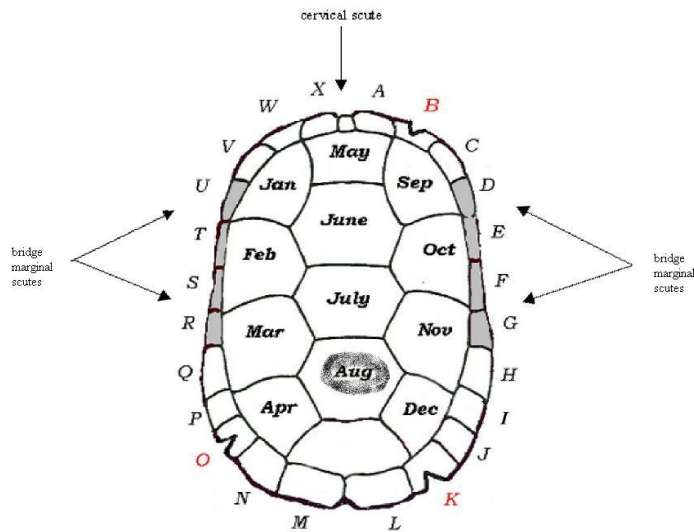


“Long term studies are expensive, daunting, and exhausting (and take a long time).”

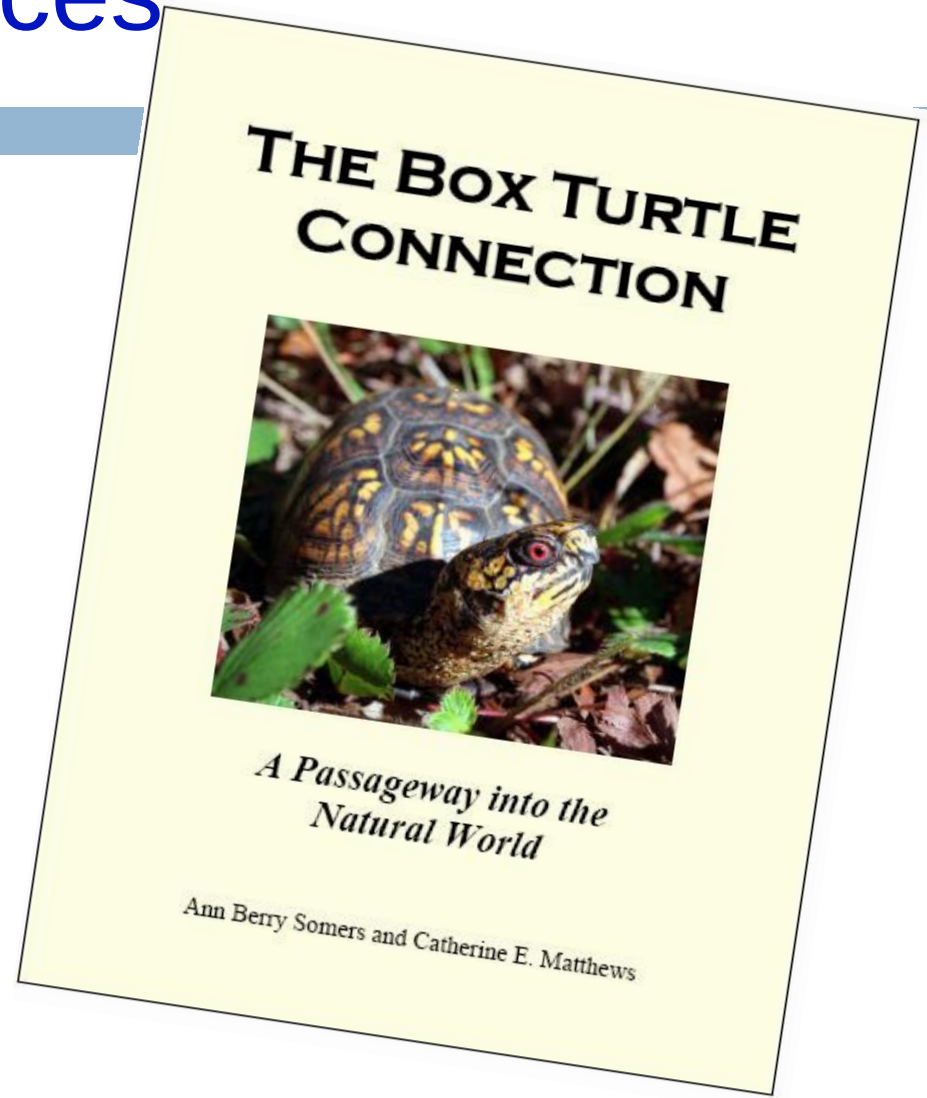
Justin Congdon
Freshwater Turtle and Terrapin Meeting
Baltimore, Maryland Feb. 2, 2013



Training Resources



How-to manual,
free download



http://www.uncg.edu/bio/faculty/Ann_Somers/lab/BoxTurtleBook.pdf

PAWS (Portal Access Wildlife System)

Password protected

PAWS Box Turtle Connection - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

ncpaws.org https://ncpaws.org/PAWS/Wildlife/CureSurvey/BoxTurtle/EffortLog.aspx

Most Visited Getting Started Latest Headlines Blackboard Learn 6-TECH Online UNCG UNCGenie UNC Greensboro Crisis I... iSpartan Approved Clickwraps

PAWS Box Turtle Connection

HOME | LOGOUT | HELP

PAWS

somersa

Box Turtle Connection

Wildlife
Box Turtle Conn.
Administration

EFFORT LOG

Select a year: 2012 [Add Effort Log Entry](#)

Select a Site: Fort Bragg

-- Select a Study Site --
CAMP CHESTNUT RIDGE
Cliffs of the Neuse State Park
Collie Farm
Dismal Swamp State Park
Dupont State Forest
Earthshine Lodge
Eno River State Park
Falls Lake SNA
Fort Bragg
Fortress of Solitude
Hanging Rock State Park
Haw River State Park
Hemlock Bluffs
Jordan Lake SRA
Kerr Lake SRA
Lake Crabtree County Park
Lake James State Park
LAKE RALEIGH WOODS
Lake Waccamaw State Park

Turtles Captured [Reports](#)

[Go To Capture Datasheet](#)



Camp Chestnut Ridge
Collie Farm
Dismal Swamp State Park
Dupont State Forest
Earthshine Lodge
Eno River State Park
Falls Lake SNA
Fort Bragg
Fortress of Solitude
Hanging Rock State Park
Haw River State Park
Hemlock Bluffs
Jordan Lake SRA
Lake Crabtree County Park
Lake James State Park
Lake Raleigh Woods

Lumber River State Park
Merchants Millpond State Park
Morrow Mountain State Park
Mountain Air
New River State Park
Peacefalls
Piedmont Camp
Piedmont Wildlife Center
Pilot Mountain State Park
Reedy Creek Nature Preserve
Sarah and Alex Project
Schiele Museum
Somers Berry Farm
South Mountains State Park
Umstead State Park

Adding today:

Greensboro Natural Science Center

NC Arboretum

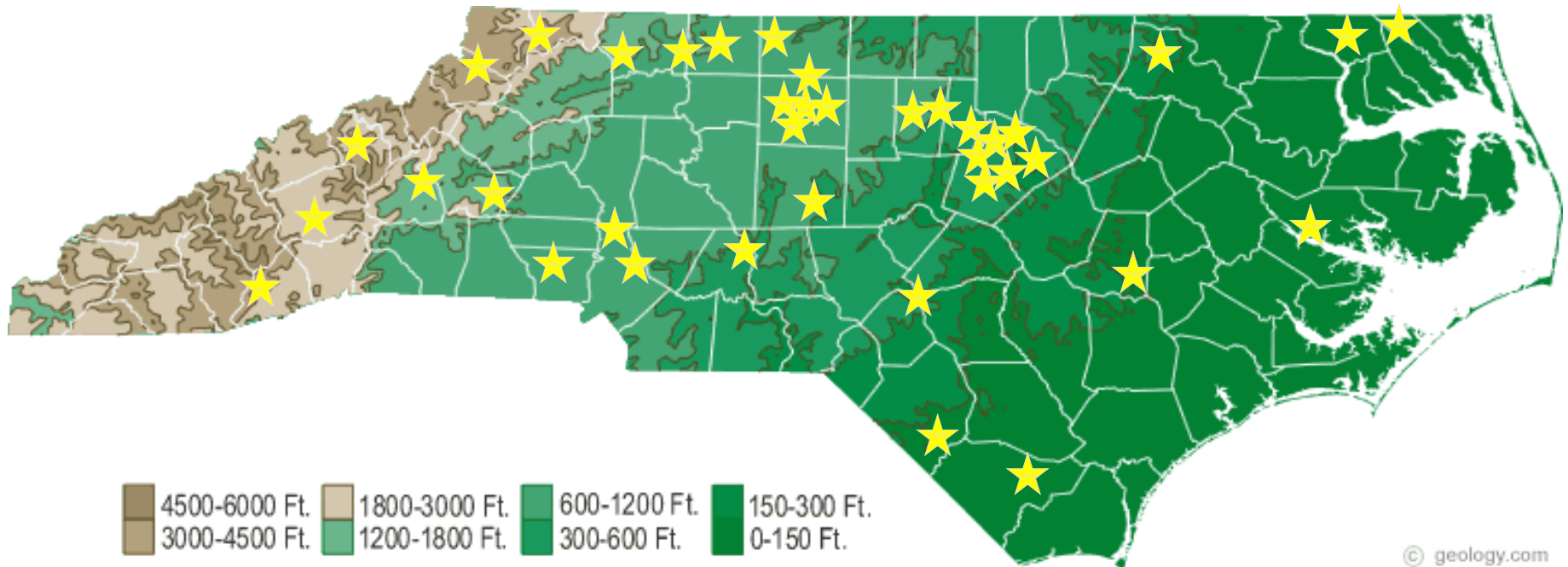
Medoc Mt. State Park

Goose Creek State Park

Mayo River State Park

WELCOME!

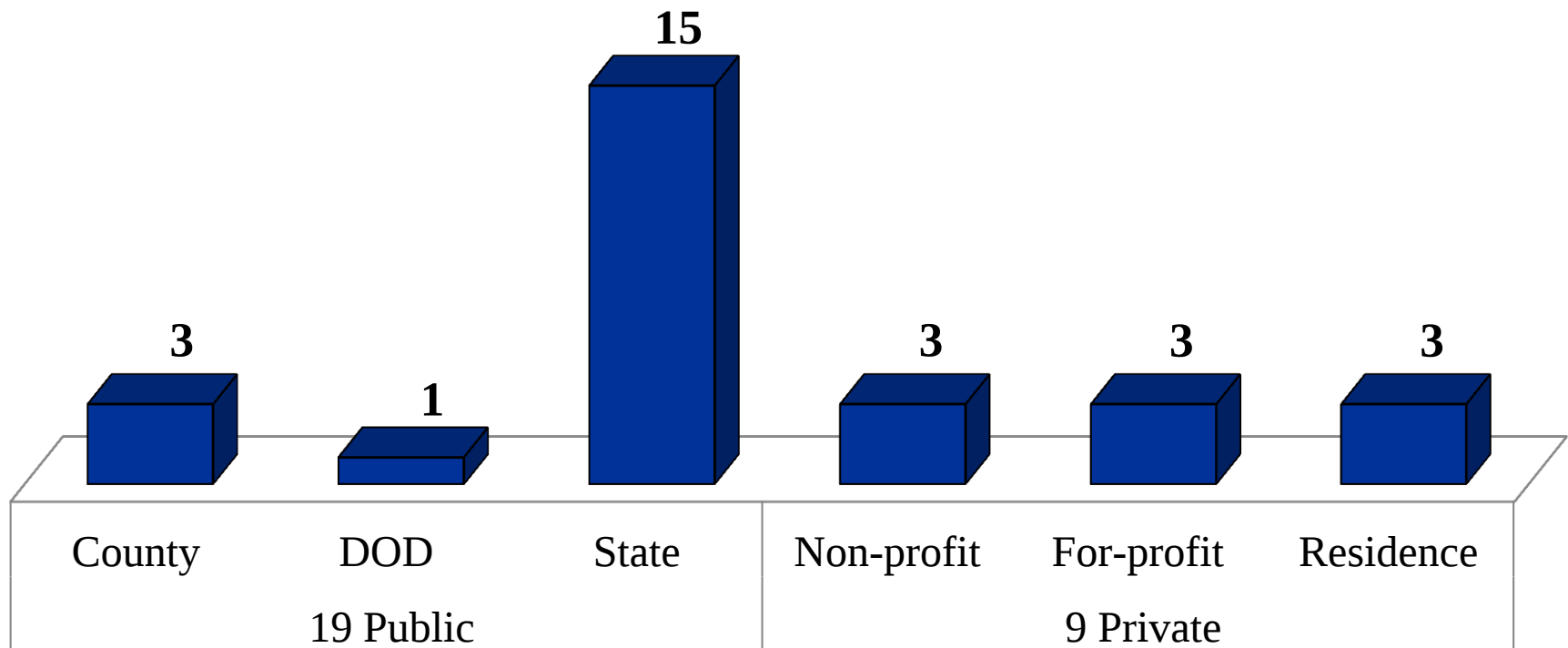
Long-term Study Thread



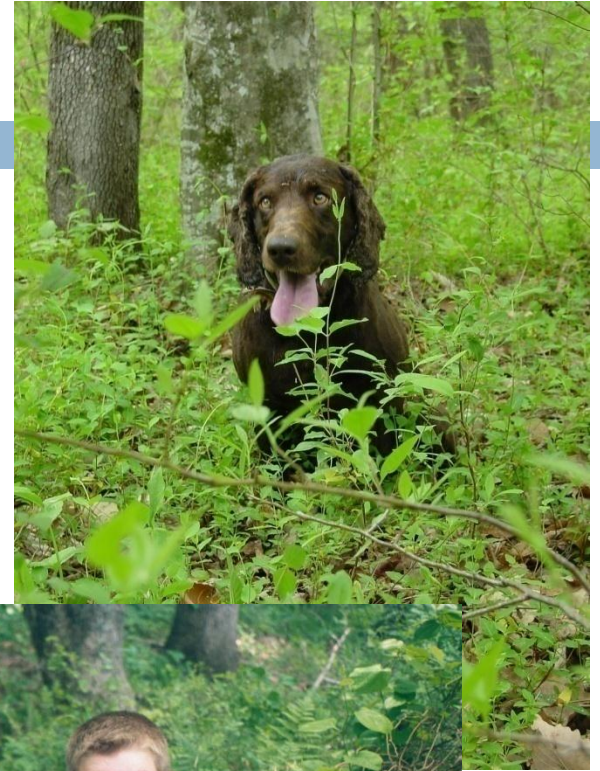
~ 44 trained Project Leaders
28 sites submitting data annually,
How many added today?

BTC Site Ownership

Total = 28



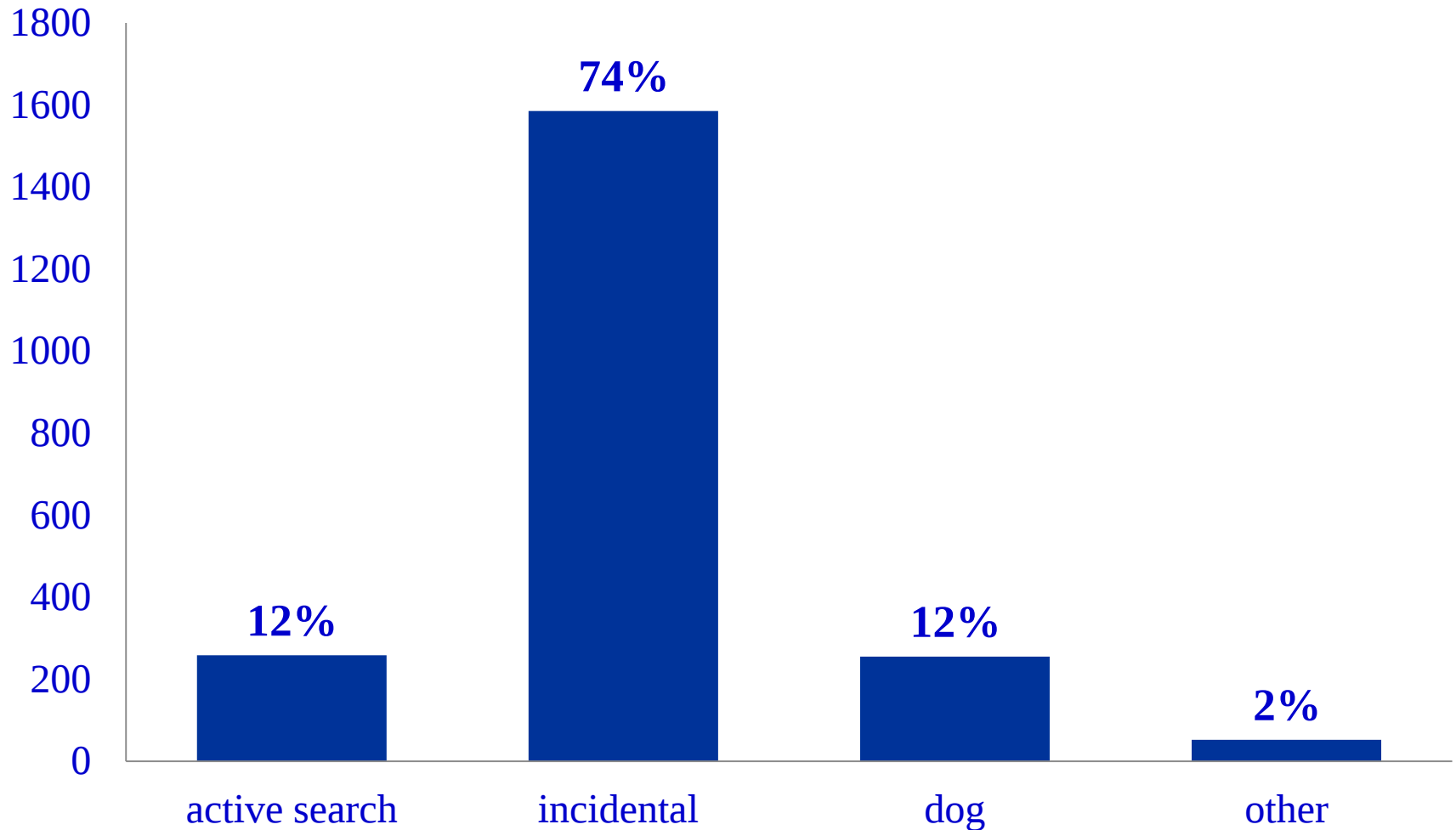
John Rucker's Boykin spaniels



Turtles encountered
opportunistically or
with canine
assistants



Turtle Detection Method



Outcomes to Date

- 2,150 entries from 33 sites
- ~ 1,700 unique, 440 recaptures
- 8,195 volunteer hrs. submitted by PLs available for State Wildlife Grants match



Wow, that's
AMAZING!

Outcomes to Date (cont.)



- All Project Leaders have science backgrounds
- 90% are collecting data on the job
- Apparent increase in job satisfaction
- Requests for new PL positions annually

Project Productivity

Carolina Herp Atlas –6 yrs

1,530 records (NC & SC)

Long Term Study – 5 yrs.

2,150 NC records

**turtles measured & permanently
marked**

Strengths



- PLs enter data online
- **Very inexpensive**
- Minimal time demands once project is underway
- Taps into existing efforts
- PLs collect data on the job
- Network overseeing BTC have worked together for years (some since 1978)

Challenges

- Project may grow too fast
- Time needed to develop website and answer emails

