

# **THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEER REDUCTION PROGRAM**

In 1996, the deer reduction process was begun in Pennsylvania by Bryon Shissler (an independent natural resources consultant) and Dan Devlin and James Grace of DCNR. As described previously in this website, by the year 2000 DCNR had enrolled in Shissler's Green Certification program (a process that demanded deer reduction), and Gary Alt had been assigned to implement deer reduction.

Witnessing the imminent decline of the deer herd in 1999, Audubon Pennsylvania (Cindy Dunn and Timothy Schaeffer, each successive Executive Directors of Audubon who now are employed as executives in DCNR and the Fish and Boat Commission, respectively) assumed an opportunistic role and began a series of aggressive actions to exacerbate herd reduction and advance Audubon's biodiversity agenda. By 2000, Audubon was joined by the few individuals in PGC and DCNR who were the original designers and who remain active proponents of the deer reduction program.

Following are those few original designers of DCNR's Green Certification process and the associated deer reduction program.

## **Bryon P. Shissler**

On or about 1995, Scientific Certification Systems, Inc. (SCS) of Oakland, California was approved to represent the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) of Bonn, Germany toward advancing FSC's "Green Certification" program. By 1996, Bryon Shissler had been certified to represent SCS in the Green Certification process as its Appalachian regional auditor. As such, Mr. Shissler proposed a pilot-year study to DCNR's Bureau of Forestry to determine if DCNR should become America's first enrollee in FSC's Green Certification program. At a 1996 workshop in Harrisburg, although other states chose not to participate in the Green Certification program because they claimed that it was a subjective process that was not based on sound forest ecology, DCNR chose to enroll. At that time, Mr. Shissler selected deer reduction as the criterion for which DCNR would be judged in achieving Green Certification, and assumed the role of auditor. Thus, Mr. Shissler was the original designer and founder of the deer reduction program. To date, Bryon Shissler has continued to be a dominant proponent of the deer reduction program.

## **Dan Devlin**

In 1996, DCNR's James Grace and Dan Devlin approved of DCNR's enrollment into the Green Certification program, and worked with Bryon Shissler in adapting the program to meet DCNR's needs. Along with Bryon Shissler, Dan Devlin has continued to date to be a dominant proponent of the deer reduction program as well as Audubon's ecosystem management philosophy.

### **Calvin DuBrock**

Ultimate approval for the deer reduction program was granted in 1998 by Calvin DuBrock and Vernon Ross of the PGC. At that time, Calvin DuBrock created the Deer Management Section and assigned Gary Alt as the Section's supervisor. In 1998, he was instrumental in creating the Deer Management Working Group, and in selecting Scot Williamson of the Wildlife Management Institute as its chairman. Scot Williamson and other members of the Group (including Bryon Shissler, Susan Stout, Cindy Dunn, and Ben Moyer) worked with DuBrock and Gary Alt from 1998-2000 in designing the new deer reduction program. In 1999, Mr. DuBrock was a main speaker at the Audubon-sponsored reduce-the-deer-herd conference in Harrisburg.

### **Gary Alt**

By 1999, Gary Alt had become the PGC's voice for their new deer-reduction program. He was the principal PGC implementer of the program, and along with Bryon Shissler and Timothy Schaeffer, remains as a dominant proponent of the deer reduction program.

### **Scot Williamson**

As previously described, in 1998 Scot Williamson was selected to serve as Chairman of the Deer Management Working Group, and as such, was the responsible party who designed the deer reduction components of PGC's new deer management program. He recommended deer reduction through increased antlerless allocations, the concurrent buck/doe season, DMAP, and the change from the county-based management system to Wildlife Management Units. In 1999, Williamson was a main speaker at the Audubon-sponsored reduce-the-deer-herd conference where he advocated deer reduction. In 1999, former PA Representative David Levdansky awarded Scot Williamson \$95,000 to conduct an audit of the PGC's deer reduction program. In so doing, Rep Levdansky had selected the designer of the deer reduction program as its auditor – a blatant conflict of interest and possible violation of state ethics law. This audit has proven to be a fraudulent, and therefore irrelevant, process, and a waste of taxpayer dollars.

Including the above founders of the deer reduction program, key participants, as acknowledged by Audubon and DCNR, who were instrumental in accomplishing the statewide reduction of the deer herd toward achieving DCNR's Green Certification and Audubon's ecosystem management plan are listed in the following table. In addition, a second table lists those 13 individuals who are considered to be the principal architects of the plan according to the degree of their involvement in the Audubon/DCNR/PGC deer-reduction process.

# **ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT / DEER REDUCTION TEAM**

## **KEY PARTICIPANTS AS ACKNOWLEDGED BY AUDUBON AND DCNR**

### **AUDUBON-RELATED PRINCIPALS**

- Roger Earl Latham, Project Leader
- Bryon P. Shissler, Co-Leader
- Marrett D. Grund, Co-Leader
- Timothy D. Schaeffer, Co-Leader (Now PFBC)
- Cindy Adams Dunn (Now DCNR)
- Scot Williamson (WMI)
- Mary Ann Fajvan
- Ronald R. Freed
- Jan Beyea
- Stephen B. Horsley
- Ann Fowler Rhoads
- Ben Moyer

### **FROM DCNR**

- Dan Devlin, Forum Sponsor
- Roy Brubaker, Forum Organizer
- Sara Nicholas, Forum Co-Organizer
- Merlin Benner
- Paul Troutman
- James Bailey
- E. Michael Blumenthal
- Mark W. Diebler
- James R. Grace
- Thomas J. Hall

### **PGC STAFF ACKNOWLEDGED BY AUDUBON**

- Gary Alt
- Calvin W. DuBrock
- Christopher S. Rosenberry
- Vernon R. Ross
- Robert C. Boyd
- Benjamin C. Jones

### **LEGISLATIVE AGENT**

- PA State Rep. David K. Levdansky, D-39, Elizabeth

### **OTHER SELECT AUDUBON FORUM PARTICIPANTS**

- Susan L. Stout (USFS)
- Kip P. Adams (QDMA)
- Patrick H. Brose (USFS)
- Todd Ristau (USFS)

## **PRINCIPAL ARCHITECTS OF THE ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT / DEER REDUCTION PROGRAM**

From the previous table which lists the key participants of the ecosystem management/deer reduction program (as acknowledged by Audubon, DCNR, and related documents), only thirteen (13) people emerge as the principal architects of this agenda – those people whose names have been repeatedly documented as promoting a reduction in the state's deer herd. According to documentation, therefore, it is these 13 people who have been the principal architects in the design and orchestration of the PGC's deer management program, and who, along with other key participants, are responsible for the demise of Pennsylvania's deer herd during the past decade. Again, based on Audubon-related documentation, the names of the principal architects include:

### **(1) Audubon-Related Principal Architects**

- Roger Earl Latham: principal author of Audubon's 2005 362-page ecosystem management/reduce-the-deer master plan; and co-organizer and report editor of DCNR's 2009 49-page ecosystem management/deer reduction plan.
- Bryon P. Shissler: member of the pre-2000 Deer Management Working Group; a main speaker at Audubon's 1999 Harrisburg conference to reduce the deer herd; member of Audubon's 2005 Deer Management Forum and co-author of Audubon's 362-page ecosystem management/deer reduction master plan; co-organizer of DCNR's 2009 ecosystem management/deer reduction forum; and co-author of the Pinchot Institute's 2009 report toward certifying the PGC's deer management program.
- Marrett D. Grund: member of Audubon's 2005 Deer Management Forum and co-author of Audubon's 362-page ecosystem management/deer reduction master plan; reviewer and conferee of DCNR's 2009 ecosystem management/deer reduction plan and forum; and co-author (with Bryon Shissler) of the Pinchot Institute's 2009 report toward certifying the PGC's deer management program.
- Timothy D. Schaeffer: former Audubon Pennsylvania Executive Director who, along with Rep. David Levdansky, proposed the perceived-to-be-fraudulent 2007 deer audit to Rep. Ed Staback; reviewer of Audubon's 2005 362-page ecosystem management/deer reduction master plan. He is now an executive in the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.
- Cindy Adams Dunn: member of the pre-2000 Deer Management Working Group; a main speaker at Audubon's 1999 Harrisburg conference to reduce the deer herd; former Audubon Pennsylvania Executive Director; member of Audubon's 2005 Deer Management Forum and co-author of Audubon's 362-page ecosystem management/deer reduction master plan. She is now an executive in DCNR.
- Scot Williamson, Wildlife Management Institute: member of the pre-2000 Deer Management Working Group and 1998 speaker to the PGC's BOC regarding deer herd

reduction; a key speaker at Audubon's 1999 Harrisburg conference to reduce the deer herd whose speech was entitled *What can be Done? What is being Done?*; 2009 WMI auditor of the Levdansky deer audit.

- Susan L. Stout, U.S. Forest Service: member of the pre-2000 Deer Management Working Group; key speaker at Audubon's 1999 Harrisburg conference to reduce the deer herd; member of Audubon's 2005 Deer Management Forum and reviewer of Audubon's 362-page ecosystem management/deer reduction master plan; participant in 2-hour television panel discussion promoting PGC's deer reduction program.
- Ben Moyer, Outdoor Writer, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: member of the pre-2000 Deer Management Working Group; key speaker at Audubon's 1999 Harrisburg conference to reduce the deer herd; member of Audubon's 2005 Deer Management Forum and reviewer of Audubon's 362-page ecosystem management/deer reduction master plan; frequent newspaper columnist supporting PGC's deer reduction program.

## **(2) DCNR Principal Architect**

- Dan Devlin: co-author (along with three employees of The Nature Conservancy) 2004 publication entitled "System Design and Management for Restoring Penn's Woods" – a state master plan for creating a centuries-long-old-growth forest on over 500,000 acres of Pennsylvania state forests through the drastic and permanent reduction of the deer herd; the sponsor of DCNR's 2009 ecosystem management/DMAP deer reduction forum and corresponding 49-page report.

## **(3) PGC Principal Architects**

- Calvin W. DuBrock: key speaker at Audubon's 1999 Harrisburg conference to reduce the deer herd; acknowledged by Audubon as a participant of Audubon's 2005 Deer Management Forum and in Audubon's 362-page ecosystem management/deer reduction master plan; Gary Alt's direct supervisor; Christopher Rosenberry's direct supervisor; Chief of the Game Commission's Wildlife Research and Management Division who is responsible for the PGC's deer reduction program.
- Gary Alt: keynote (dinner) speaker at Audubon's 1999 Harrisburg conference to reduce the deer herd; principal designer and public promoter of the PGC's deer reduction program; acknowledged in Audubon's 2005 362-page ecosystem management/deer reduction strategic plan as key to the success of their deer reduction agenda.
- Christopher S. Rosenberry: acknowledged as a participant of Audubon's 2005 Deer Management Forum and acknowledged as a participant in Audubon's 362-page ecosystem management/deer reduction master plan; principal member of DCNR's 2009 ecosystem management/deer reduction forum and co-author of the associated 49-page report; current director of the PGC deer reduction program.

#### **(4) Legislative Facilitator/Audubon Agent**

- Rep. David K. Levdansky (D-39), Elizabeth: co-sponsor with Timothy Schaeffer, former Audubon Pennsylvania Executive Director, of the perceived-fraudulent 2007 deer audit; responsible for awarding this predesigned audit to Scot Williamson of WMI; advocate of the elimination of the PGC's Board of Commissioners.