



WILDLIFE VIEWING AND NATURE TOURISM WORKING GROUP

Chair: Shelly Plante (TX)

Vice Chair: Deniz Aygen (ID)

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

10:15am – 12:15pm

Agenda

- 10:15am Call to Order/Review Agenda/Work Plan Review
- 10:20am Multi-State Conservation Grant Update – Increasing access for wildlife-related recreationists with disabilities: Case studies from state wildlife agencies – *Shelly Plante, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (on behalf of Ashley Dayer, PhD, and Freya McGregor, The Dayer Lab, Virginia Tech)*
- 10:25am WVNT Working Group-North American Waterfowl Management Plan
Human Dimensions and Public Engagement Team: Engaging Birdwatchers, Wildlife Viewers, and Others in Conservation Action for Waterfowl and Wetlands through Wetland Recreation – *Deniz Aygen, Idaho Fish and Game*
- 10:30am Key Wildlife Watching Findings from the 2025 National Participation Tracker – *Kristy Griffith, NORC at the University of Chicago*
- 11:00am Strategies for Connecting with Broader Audiences – *Jordan Sanford, Pennsylvania Game and Fish Department*
- 11:25am Using Signature Events to Grow Nature Tourism: Lessons from 30 Years of the Great Texas Birding Classic – *Shelly Plante, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department*
- 11:50am 7th Wildlife Viewing and Nature Tourism Academy
February 27-March 3, 2028, in Shepherdstown, WV (National Conservation Training Center)
www.wvntacademy.com
- 11:55am Fall Webinar Series
- 12:00:pm WVNT Updates from States/Organizations – Roundtable Discussion
Come prepared to share any milestones, successes, innovative projects, or questions your organization wants to share or discuss with colleagues

Ongoing communication tools

Webinars, Facebook Group, Monthly Calls

12:15pm Adjourn