

Quail 8 Highlights

NBCI Information Network Build-Out Progressing

By Tom Dailey | National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative

An exponential increase in technical resources and services for quail conservation occurred the last week of July 2017, as part of the NBCI Information Network build-out. Three products with national impact include publication of the *Proceedings of the 8th National Quail Symposium*, publication of the new e-journal *NBCI National Quail Symposium Proceedings*, and the Joint Quail Conference.

The Joint Quail Conference, held July 24-28, 2017, in Knoxville, Tennessee, included the 23rd Annual National Bobwhite Technical Committee (NBTC) meeting and the 8th National Quail Symposium (Quail 8). Hosted by NBCI, NBTC, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, and the University of Tennessee, financial contributions were also provided by the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program, United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy, Quail Forever, Texas Tech Quail Tech Alliance, Mississippi State University/Forest and Wildlife Research Center, Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch, and the University of North Texas Quail Program. Private conservation and hunting product companies also provided funding and displayed their products. More sponsor information is published on NBCI's technical web

site, www.quailcount.org. The proceedings of the NBTC meeting are published at a later date, and highlights are provided elsewhere in the Almanac.

Quail 8 is part of the National Quail Symposia Series, held every 5 years at locations around the country, and was the impetus for publication of the new technical products. NBCI began leadership of the Symposia coincident with Quail 7 in Tucson, Arizona, in 2012. The Symposia covers all wild quail in the United States, Central America, and Canada, and has long been supported by Midwestern and eastern state wildlife agency associations. In 2016, the Symposia was designated a sanctioned technical workshop by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.



Quail 8, held in the northern bobwhite range in Tennessee, provided unprecedented opportunity for professional quail enthusiasts to learn, face-to-face with other professionals, the latest in research and management findings. To quote NBCI Facebook, "Possibly the greatest collection of quail talent ever assembled in one location!" Quail 8 participants included many university students, field biologists, administrators, leading university researchers,



A group of Quail 8 attendees participate in a quail eyeworm removal workshop at UT College of Veterinary Medicine. Photo by Dr. Allison Watson.



and several scientists who are now heads of departments and institutes. Quail 8's 93 presentations included case studies of quail population response to habitat, bobwhite translocations, a workshop on eyeworms, and the future of the endangered masked bobwhite of Arizona and Mexico. Over 300 quail enthusiasts attended, from as far west as California, south to Mexico, and from most of the range of the northern bobwhite.

The Quail 8 proceedings was published to ensure that technical information shared at the conference is widely and permanently available. The proceedings included 432 pages of technical information, recognition of hosts, editors and sponsors, and Symposia Awards of Excellence for Dr. Leonard A. Brennan and Dr. L. Wes Burger. Also, In Memoriam recognition of Dr. Robert Robel of Kansas State University, which, at the awards ceremony was delivered by Dr. Nova Silvy, one of Dr. Robel's first students.

To purchase National Quail Symposium Proceedings, visit the University of Tennessee Online Marketplace at: www.secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/index.jsp. To locate previous symposia proceedings, select UTIA Publications > Wildlife and Fisheries from the homepage, or type "quail" in the search bar.

The launch of the new e-journal, *NBCI National Quail Symposium Proceedings*, was announced at Quail 8 by NBCI and University of Tennessee Libraries. The e-journal is published in an easy-to-search format, and the Proceedings serve as the "Consumer Reports" of the

quail world, with all contributions peer-reviewed. The old proceedings are coming back to life—the e-journal includes proceedings of the First and Second National Bobwhite Quail Symposia, and Quail III, IV, V, VI, and VII. Quail 8 will be published by fall 2017 and will include presentations recorded live at the 8th National Quail Symposium. *NBCI National Quail Symposium Proceedings* is part of the Digital Commons Network™ (bepress™), and is hosted by University of Tennessee Libraries.

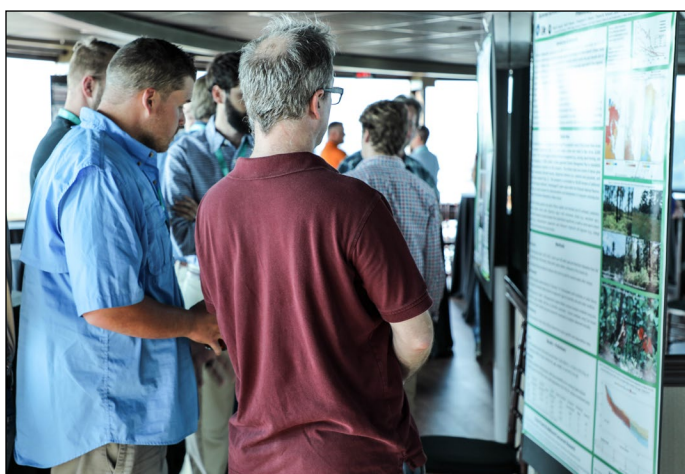
The e-journal puts quail science at the fingertips of the public. Citizen scientists can learn about quail conservation. For quail hunters, there are research publications on hunting, bird-dog efficiency, and quail behavior. To access the e-journal, visit: www.trace.tennessee.edu/nqsp/, or NBCI's technical website, www.quailcount.org.

This historic build-out of the NBCI Information Network was implemented by a small army of individuals and sponsors, recognized in the Acknowledgments section in the Quail 8 proceedings. Their contribution of time was supported by Allen Press, Inc., NBCI, NBTC Science Subcommittee, NBTC Steering Committee, Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency, and University of Tennessee—Libraries, Forest, Wildlife and Fisheries Department, and UT Information Technology Services.



**Roger Applegate addresses a crowd of Quail 8 attendees.
Photo by John Doty.**





Attendees of the Joint Quail Conference enjoying four days of networking and 93 oral and poster presentations in what is arguably the largest collection in history of quail enthusiasts, biologists, and researchers. Photos by Jef Hodges.

