

Dr. Susan B. Wilde

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Dr. Susan Wilde is an Assistant Professor at the University of Georgia in the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources in Athens, Georgia. While previously employed as a research scientist within the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Marine Resource Research Institute and University of South Carolina Baruch Marine Laboratory, she was focused on merging management concerns and targeted research to optimize management in critical and immediate aquatic natural resource problems. Dr. Susan Wilde's research and teaching at UGA continues to focus on impaired aquatic systems and interdisciplinary challenges with invasive plants/animals, nutrient pollution, harmful algal blooms, emerging contaminants and their implications for fish, wildlife, and even humans depending on these valuable water resources. She discovered a new species of cyanobacteria growing on invasive aquatic plants that is producing the neurotoxin responsible deaths of bald eagles and other aquatic wildlife in reservoirs across the southeastern United States. Collaborative field and laboratory research confirmed the food chain transfer of a novel cyanotoxin from the invasive plants to the birds and fish. Recent research demonstrated that the same toxin can be transferred by invertebrates and can cause impairment and fatality in reptiles and amphibians. She is already working with reservoir managers to eliminate the hydrilla/cyanobacteria in affected reservoirs including; Army Corps of Engineer reservoirs, US Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife Refuges, municipal water supply reservoirs and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission lakes.

Dr. Wilde has a Bachelor of Science degree in Ecology, Ethology and Evolution from University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, IL, and Master of Science in Zoology and Doctor of Philosophy degree in Fish and Wildlife from the University of Georgia, Athens, GA.