



North Carolina
**WILDLIFE
FEDERATION**

Journal

WILD LIVES □ WILD PLACES

Summer 2016



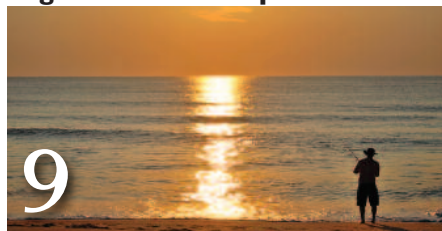
A WALK IN THE WILD
The unique personality of
NCWF's Great Outdoors University.

NCWF's National Stage



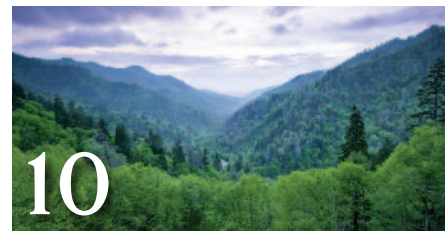
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The Old Fishing Hole

BY TIM GESTWICKI, NCWF CEO

I realize I was fortunate, in many ways, growing up. My parents were both teachers, which meant that our summers were open opportunities for the family, and mine were full of outdoors activities. While I have many fond memories of hiking, camping, and paddling, this particular memory is about growing up and fishing. It's also about early experiences that mold oneself via connecting to nature and what those connections mean later in life.

At a young age, around 8 or 9, my buddies and I had access to a pond and the desire to explore. From sunrise to sunset, most days were spent on the water. And there was plenty of it, given that this pond, actually 4 smaller interconnected ponds, was big and vast to me though it only measured 92 acres. (That's plenty of shoreline to explore, but nothing like Lake Norman and Jordan Lakes that NCWF works hard to protect now.) At that age, rowing a 12-foot aluminum boat was the best and fastest transportation for a small group of explorers. Sharing the work, taking turns at the oars, we could make it to the end of the pond in about an hour of rowing. There, the pond empties into a stream which, after meandering over rocks and through the deep woods, lets loose in a 6-foot waterfall drop into a swimming hole. We'd tie the boat up to a tree and walk down a semblance of a path around the swimming hole and down past another pool until we got to a steep rock ledge that guarded the most magical place to me—the fishing hole.

This hole rarely had any visitors. Most folks stayed up at the stream and the swimming hole, while the fishing hole took more effort to find. That gave it even more of a feel of discovery and adventure, and after downing our sandwiches and soda, we'd get down to the business at hand. We'd dig out nightcrawlers and red wigglers from the Styrofoam container and rig up our poles. This particular hole could only accommodate a few lines in the water at a time, as most of it was surrounded by steep rock embankments. But we were kings of our hole and managed to cast or drop in lines seeking brook trout. We'd fish until we were hungry, thirsty, or darkening skies threatened overhead. These were the best of times, and as years went by we graduated to a 6-horsepower Johnson outboard to make the travels to the hole quicker. We still go, along with our families, but most times we arrive by car and then mostly hang out at the big swimming hole, venturing down once or twice a summer to the fishing hole. But the memories remain. And the fact that the old fishing hole is still there, and still in a natural state, is meaningful to me and my buddies.

That spot is my favorite among many favorites. I would do anything in my power to make sure it stays this way. If development or degradation threaten that spot, I would rally my friends to the task of ensuring its preservation. It's part of my growing up, part of my being, helping to shape my character just like many places we all grew up do for each of us.

These beaches, mountains, forests, parks, fields, or backyard creeks are the places we romped in and grew up loving. Our activities gave us purpose and a real sense of being connected to the land. These early life experiences certainly resonate with us the rest of our lives as a foundation for decision-making, expenditures, and as core guiding principles. That is why our Federation is so dedicated to ensuring that the next generation has opportunities to connect with nature. Life and society are definitely different than when I was as a kid, but today we must ensure that people, especially our young North Carolinians, have strong affinities for the outdoors. If we lose these connections from outdoor experiences, we will next lose conservation-minded elected officials, voters, decision makers, and business leaders who care about stewardship, and who are committed because of their own experiences and values.

If there are no experiences other than book learning about the outdoors, we lose the commitment, the connection, the deep-in-the-bones need to support conservation. In this issue we highlight some of our outdoor programming leaders to get their take on the theme and value of getting kids outdoors, and what they are learning first-hand from the kids. We applaud and value our chapters that are sponsoring family nature outings and youth days as all these are needed to help rid the 'disconnect' too many people have with the outdoors these days.

After all, there are a lot of old fishing holes across North Carolina that need exploring. And they may one day need advocates to protect them. **NCWF**

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North Carolina WILDLIFE Federation Journal

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NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

MISSION To protect, conserve and restore North Carolina wildlife and habitat.

VISION Our stewardship will result in a North Carolina with bountiful and diverse wildlife, including all species of wild flora and fauna, that is valued by its citizens and elected officials, and sustainably managed for future generations.

Our strength is derived from values driven leadership – science-based decision making; non-partisan approach to policy; stewardship of North Carolina's natural resources; inclusivity of broad wildlife interests and perspectives; and partnering with organizations and individuals who share our vision and our passion for wildlife.

GOALS Toward that vision, we will:

POLICY AND PROTECTION – Strongly influence state and federal policy that affects wildlife and habitat in North Carolina using established conservation models to guide our positions.

NETWORK OF IMPACT AND INVOLVEMENT – Foster a diverse, robust network of chapters, members, affiliates and partners; a network fortified by a variety of wildlife and outdoor interests.

EXPERIENCE AND LEARN – Enhance and expand opportunities for youth and adults that foster awareness and appreciation of wildlife and the important role healthy habitat plays in sustaining wildlife and humanity.

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS – Sponsor and support programs for the enjoyment and conservation of wildlife and habitat, including ethical and sustainable outdoor recreation pursuits.





*School Days,
School Days,
Good Ol' Golden Rule*

**CREEK-STOMPING,
WOODS-ROAMING,
NATURE-LOVING**

School Days

*NCWF's Great Outdoors University (GoU)
connects kids to nature through outdoors trips.*

Since its inception in 2013, GoU has provided trips ranging from paddling and fishing excursions to woods and stream explorations for 30,000 kids and adults. The Federation fully realizes the importance of getting kids to put down their smartphones and tablets, pull away from the television, and get outside. And part of our success is rooted in our amazing trip leaders. These dedicated, knowledgeable staff members keep the learning fun and safe, and keep kids begging for more—more rocks to turn over, more trail snacks to share, more butterflies to follow to a greater appreciation of the outdoors. For the young people who experience a GoU adventure, our trip leaders become mentors and friends.

We thought you'd like to meet a few of them.



"We can change the world, one child at a time."

TIM LINDSTEDT

I have been with GoU for three summers now, working as a naturalist and trip leader, and I have relished everything we have accomplished from an educational aspect as well as the personal connections made with our young learners. Everyone I have worked with, from GoU staff to the many chaperones of our different partner organizations, have provided great professionalism.

My education goals have evolved since working with Mary Bures and GoU. I have found a new sense of direction in the way we connect and educate our learners of all ages. This has put me on the path of pursuing not only a Master's degree in education (which I will complete by August of this year) but also to start in October on a Ph.D. in psychology. I'll concentrate on learning and integration of specific technologies for learning. GoU has been my inspiration to continue on with this academic endeavor and to continue to work with organizations like the Boys and Girls Clubs and all of the participating organizations.

I would like to think that all the great connections we have made throughout my journey have transcended age, race and gender; that these young and older participants of the GoU programs see us as friends and people that care about them and want to see them have fun and learn at the same time. Mary Bures has really done a great thing by providing programs that not only connect children with nature but also connect people with other people with similar goals they would have never have otherwise met.

"Mr. Tim, why do you like teaching us about nature and stuff?"

"I like teaching you because you like learning."

"Yeah. And we like it because we can tell you like it so much. Thanks Mr. Tim."

That is just one of many, many connections that I have seen over time and I have always said as a motto:

"We can change the world, one child at a time."

If you can inspire one child on any one day, that may be the spark that ignites that child to be all they can be.

AUBRIE MORRIS

My interests are many. I enjoy life, and try to live to the fullest each day. I enjoy working when it doesn't feel like work. I have always found jobs that inspire, teach, and grow me as an individual. I enjoy recreational activities of all kinds—swimming, boating, fishing, hiking, exploring, and exercising. I pursued my love of nature by becoming a North Carolina State Park ranger for 10 years. I was tasked with serving and protecting a 5,200-acre tract of land. That was a portion of my life that exposed me to amazing opportunities to grow and learn. I know that I was born to lead, serve, and teach. It's my passion and desire to educate and inspire others. I want to dispel scary myths of common animals, by teaching value and usefulness for all living things. My experiences of camping, leading youth, facilitating trainings and workshops for all ages has been rewarding and memorable for me. I feel that I have touched thousands of lives over the years, and I feel just as enthusiastic about it now as I did when I started out at age 19.

I left my job as a state park ranger because I was moving to Charlotte, and when I saw a job opening for GoU I knew it was perfect. It's a chance to still pursue my passions of the outdoors, teaching, and having variety from day to day. I truly enjoy finding new places to teach, new things to discover in the woods, and seeing so many kids on a weekly basis. The sheer number of kids who are new to the outdoors and to exploring is astounding to me. I treat each child with the utmost respect, no matter how small or big the fear is. I've stayed as a GoU trip leader because I love what I do. Plain and simple. Seeing the change in a matter of hours from when they step off that bus, timid and scared, to when they step back on, educated and excited, fulfills my heart and mind. It's equal pleasure, for me and for them, I think (insert smiley face here).



"We teach respect for each other and all living things."

I've been with GoU for 4 years now, and occasionally I have seen the same kids. They remember me, I remember them, and it's a strong bond, formed by shared experiences, new adventures, and shared laughter. Hiking, talking, fishing, and bonding is pretty unforgettable, especially when it's new to them. Who can forget the first fish they ever caught? Just last week a kid said, "I've never fished before. I probably won't catch anything." Then, as he's reeling in the "big one," the sheer excitement and joy on his face was priceless. He said, "This is the best day of my life!"

As a 4-year veteran trip leader for GoU I see value in everything we do. We teach respect for each other and for all living things. We teach the participants how to focus on small things, like sound, smell, and touch. We, by example, show how to connect naturally to the things around us. We sit still and listen. We use our imaginations, and we inspire. We draw attention to the tiniest of critters that crawl, to the majestic birds of the sky. There's tremendous value in disconnecting to busy life, while reconnecting to the natural world. I personally enjoy the "sound map" activity. We all find a place to sit alone in the woods and I use a timer. For two solid minutes we are completely quiet and we only draw what we hear. After the two minutes are up we circle back up and share our drawings with one another. It's incredible what they hear in two minutes! And the artwork that follows is equally beautiful. This activity lends itself to slowing down and honing in on the things that crunch in the leaves, and call from the sky. The kids are usually mesmerized by what they hear.

For me personally, as a trip leader I have been inspired to do more. Inspired to never stop educating, laughing, exploring, and learning. It has so much meaning for me on different levels. First, I think that passing on knowledge about our natural world to our youth is critical. Inspiring others to seek out the unexplored and to be curious is very important to me. Second, touching a life, however brief it may be, is what I try to do on a daily basis. Encouraging others to wonder, seek answers, and in the end teach others is the ultimate goal for me. I encourage others to be critical thinkers and use their clues to discover the answers on their own. Providing tools like field guides, binoculars, and magnifying glasses seems to empower kids to want to learn.

I truly love working in the GoU environment. The culture and attitude of the staff is light-hearted, fun, and welcoming. Our staff genuinely cares for each other and making sure our participants get a memorable experience is top priority.



"GoU fills a niche that is missing today."

BARBARA KNIGHT

My interest in the outside started as a very young person. Thanks to my parents and especially my dad, we spent most family vacations outside camping and experiencing many of our great national and state parks. We hiked, skied, and boated. I also became interested in biking and road extensively throughout New England as a teenager. I became an advocate for environmental causes as a young teen and have continued to be a supporter of green initiatives. I see the missing link with today's youth, and I feel it is imperative to make this connection, especially with the impact of global warming, habitat extinction, and other harmful aspects to the environment. In many cases young people have never been in the woods and to see them overcome fears and concerns as well as learn by doing versus being in a closed classroom is exhilarating.

I had a second chance as a result of a lay-off to redirect my purpose to try to make an impact by becoming a GoU trip leader. I was becoming a certified Master Naturalist and met Mary Bures in the class and it led to me becoming part of her team. I truly believe this was meant to be. Reaching this age and helping them connect will make a difference. Even if we reach a handful, it's a great start!

I have seen a growing respect for nature on these trips, as well as for each other. I've seen compassion, adventure, curiosity, knowledge, pleasure, amazement, discovery, enjoyment, learning. ...

Personally, I have come full circle. My previous life was in a high-pressure corporate position and I have really gone back to my core roots. Making an impact and truly doing all the things I love to do. Sometimes I have to pinch myself and wonder: Is this real?

GoU fills a niche that is missing today. I would love to see this continue to grow in more places to continue to connect the dots. Like the Butterfly Highway, we need a GoU Highway! Mary is a great leader and has done so much to foster the relationships and continues to grow this great program. **NCWF**



Connect with GoU!

For more information on the fabulous programs offered through Great Outdoors University, connect with Mary Bures at mary@ncwf.org or (704) 332-5696.



Help Farmers, Deer, & Feed the Hungry in NC

The North Carolina Wildlife Federation's Farmers and Communities Manage Deer (F&CMD) Program has successfully demonstrated that farmers, sportsmen, and community groups can work together to reduce deer damage to crops, increase local farm and community revenue, and provide hunter-harvested venison to local food banks and shelters. High numbers of deer can contribute to excessive crop loss on farms, the spread of disease within deer populations, and deer-vehicle collisions.

With assistance from farmers, hunters, hunt clubs, civic organizations, church ministry groups, and businesses the F&CMD program has supported deer management while donating approximately 23,000 pounds of venison to feed the hungry in North Carolina communities.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to be part of a program benefiting wildlife and citizens in your local community. As the program expands its coverage and impact, we're relying on new program participants to make a difference.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

- Everyone!

WHY PARTICIPATE?

- To ensure healthy deer populations for the future
- Support sustainable use of a natural resource
- Assist with the reduction of crop damage on farms
- Support individuals and groups suffering from food insecurity
- Build community relations through giving back
- Support economic growth through agritourism

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

- Spread the word in your local community
- Host a community fundraiser for the program
- Operate a community deer donation site
- Donate legally harvested deer free and easily at participating sites
- Organize a local hunt to collect deer donations for the program
- Provide access to land for organized hunting opportunities

This program was developed by NCWF to help sustainably manage white-tailed deer, assist farmers, and feed the hungry. It is a collaborative effort with N.C. Hunters for the Hungry, with financial support from the N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission.

For more info, visit

www.ncwf.org/programs/farmers-manage-deer, call (828) 783-8013, or e-mail liz@ncwf.org.

2016 DEER DONATION LOCATIONS

Beaufort County:

OLD FORD RURITAN CLUB
48 US Hwy 171 N, Old Ford
(252) 946-3388

ACRE STATION MEAT FARM
17076 NC-32, Pinetown
(252) 927-3489

Bladen County:

CLARKTON PROCESSING COMPANY
105 N Gooden St., Clarkton
(910) 647-8191

Columbus County:

AMERICAN LEGION POST 204
486 Irvin Enzor Rd. S., Fair Bluff
(919) 630-3634

COUNTRY BOY OUTFITTERS
1702 S. Madison St., Whiteville
(910) 770-0786

Edgecombe County:

CONETOE FAMILY LIFE CENTER
Community Garden
205 Factory St., Conetoe
(252) 563-5411

Franklin County:

PEARCE'S CUSTOM PROCESSING
234 Perdues Rd., Louisburg
(919) 496-3547

Hyde County:

DARE TO HYDE
23145 US Hwy 264, Swan Quarter

Jones County:

RIVERSIDE MEATS
298 Landfill Rd., Trenton
(252) 448-4047

Pasquotank County:

FOUNTAIN OF LIFE SPORTSMAN'S MINISTRY
1367 US Hwy 17 S, Elizabeth City
(252) 562-5080

Washington County:

PLYMOUTH FOOD PANTRY
811 Washington St., Plymouth
(252) 793-4152

Wayne County:

POLLY WATSON VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPARTMENT
4825 NC Hwy 581 N., Fremont
(919) 921-0061

Wilson County:

GEORGE FLOWERS SLAUGHTERHOUSE
5154 St Rose Church Rd., Sims
(252) 237-2982

STAY PLUGGED IN TO NCWF CHAPTER EVENTS

Wondering where to purchase native plants or drop off unused pesticides and herbicides? Want to learn more about crop loss and damage or deer meat processing? Perhaps you're looking for volunteer opportunities or want to find out how to certify a wildlife habitat? All of this—and much more—is available with just a couple of key strokes or a click of a button.

Communication is key to the North Carolina Wildlife Federation's mission, and each of our 15 chapters offers an array of ways for wildlife enthusiasts to stay easily connected to their local community and get people thinking and talking about issues affecting North Carolina wildlife. Online tools, including chapter websites, e-newsletters and social media, are used to share successes, events, advice, photos, and awards, and keep locals up to date with state and national wildlife news. They also have an effective impact on the Federation's offline activities because they help supporters unite, collaborate, and take action in their own communities.

On the Piedmont Area Wildlife Stewards (PAWS) website, for example, you can learn about current wildlife improvement initiatives or check out photos of the wood duck, one of the most beautiful water birds in the region. Over on the South Wake Conservationists website is information on the annual Turtle Fest and ways to help combat hunger through hunting. Other chapter websites spotlight meetings, field trips, and other wildlife initiatives.

Meanwhile, NCWF continues to grow its online presence. More than 35,000 people are connected to our online communities and our Facebook posts reach far and wide. Some posts are fun and engaging, while others bring much-needed attention to important wildlife issues across the state. Our post on the expiration of the Land and Water Conservation Fund reached more than 117,000 people.

Whether you're an angler, backpacker, birder, hunter, photographer, hiker, or general wildlife enthusiast, everything you need or want to know about North Carolina's wildlife is available in just a few clicks. Visit www.ncwf.org to find ways you can stay plugged in. We encourage you to explore NCWF chapter websites, sign up for e-newsletters and connect on social media. (Instagrammers: Be sure to tag your wildlife photos and videos with #ncwildlifed.)

Not only will you help North Carolina Wildlife Federation continue to grow its online presence, but you can impress your friends with your vast wildlife knowledge: *Did you know that great-spangled fritillaries love butterfly weed, and that the ground skink is North Carolina's smallest reptile, and there is such a thing as an insect hotel?*

For more information on NCWF chapters, contact Chris North at chris@ncwf.org

CHECK OUT OUR CHAPTERS!

For more information on how you can participate, contact Christopher North at chris@ncwf.org.



Capital Chapter



Concord Wildlife Alliance



CROWN (Charlotte Reconnecting Ourselves With Nature)



PAWS (Gaston County Piedmont Area Wildlife Stewards)



HAWK (Habitat and Wildlife Keepers)



Lake James Area Wildlife and Nature Society



Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists



Mountain Island Lake Wildlife Stewards



Mountain WILD



PACT (Protecting, Advocating and Conserving)



PAWC (Pamlico Albemarle Wildlife Conservationists)



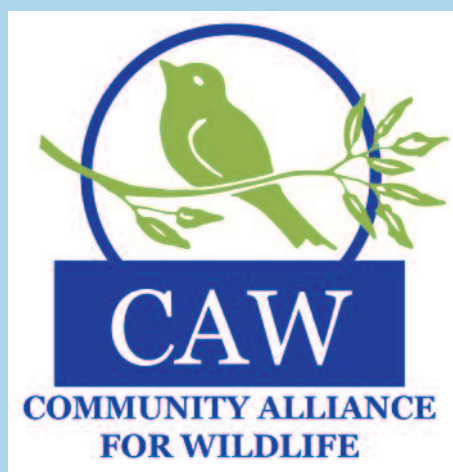
River Hawks (Wake Forest)



South Wake Conservationists



The Albemarle Conservation and Wildlife Chapter



Our newest chapter, the Community Alliance for Wildlife, is forming in the northwest Charlotte area!

We'll have more details on the group's organization and offering coming up in the next *NCWF Journal*, but for now we want to extend a big welcome to our newest NCWF family members!



CAROL BUIE-JACKSON

NCWF and NWF—A New Era of Partnership

Since its founding in 1945, the North Carolina Wildlife Federation has served as the state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation. With more than 6 million supporters, the National Wildlife Federation is the largest wildlife conservation organization in America. At the National Wildlife Federation's board of directors meeting this summer in Estes, Colorado, there was big news with a decidedly North Carolina focus.

For starters, North Carolina and NCWF now have representation for wildlife conservation at the national level after Carol Buie-Jackson, of Matthews, was elected to the National Wildlife Federation's board. Buie-Jackson, who was nominated by NCWF, was elected as Region 3 director serving North and South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. She becomes the first woman to hold the Region 3 director slot. She succeeds Dave Hargett Ph.D. of Green, SC.

"No organization in this country has the heritage of hard work—and successful initiatives—that marks the National Wildlife Federation," says Buie-Jackson. "I'm thrilled to bring a North Carolina perspective to some of the great conservation challenges of North America."

Buie-Jackson began her conservation work with NCWF after completing a Habitat Steward Training series in 2001. She was elected to the NCWF board of directors in 2008 and in 2012 was elected as its first female chair in the organization's 75-year history. Buie-Jackson is an avid birder, paddler and wildlife gardener and won the Governor's Conservation Achievement Award in 2006 as the Wildlife Volunteer of the Year. She also was one of the founders of NCWF's local chapter Habitat and Wildlife Keepers. Buie-Jackson owns Bird House on the Greenway in Charlotte.

"Carol is as dedicated to the mission of preserving wildlife and its habitat as anyone I have ever met," said NCWF CEO, Tim Gestwicki. "She brings unparalleled enthusiasm and passion to the national table and is fully committed to fostering awareness and appreciation for all natural resources."

A New Vision for NWF

It's a particularly exciting time to be a part of NWF. The organization re-established its vision and goals last year. "It is essential, given our statewide stewardship for all native North Carolina flora and fauna, and given the many challenges they face, that we unite to focus on the most important conservation issues," says John Robbins, NCWF Chair. "Our vision and goals accomplish that necessity."

At its national Annual Meeting, NWF state affiliates approved a "We Envision" statement for the National Wildlife Federation that sets a bold course for conservation in America. The vision calls for "a nation where, within a generation, wildlife populations are thriving, not declining" in a rapidly changing world. This ambitious goal would reverse the deep declines in wildlife in the U.S. by addressing critical threats, including habitat loss and fragmentation, water degradation and scarcity, climate change, new forms of pollution, and a population that primarily lives indoors in cities. A recent study estimates that world wildlife populations have declined by 50 percent since 1970, and U.S. populations almost as steeply.

"America faces a conservation crisis that our generation must confront and overcome," said Collin O'Mara, president and chief executive officer of the National Wildlife Federation. "Despite endangered species recovery success stories like the bald eagle and restoration of once-depleted game species like elk, wild turkey, wood ducks, and striped bass, thousands of other species of birds, fish, wildlife, insects and plants have been slipping through the cracks for decades, with more species of wildlife becoming at-risk each year."

This vision begins to establish a forward-looking scientific framework for improving fish and wildlife conservation in America with emphasis on linking already protected areas and addressing major ecological gaps. It also focuses on freshwater and coastal resources and recognizes how important habitat areas in agricultural regions and urban centers can be for wildlife. Importantly, the vision begins to forecast a future approach to fish and wildlife conservation in a continuously urbanizing nation experiencing the effects of climate change.

"We believe that our NCWF mission, vision and strategies are wholly consistent with this national vision and have embraced it," Robbins said. "The vision shared by Collin is really a moon shot challenge to each of us. We treasure the state's and nation's natural resources, and we must act boldly, and must convince others of the importance of those resources and the urgency of acting together, with purpose, to reverse the current course of resource degradation, habitat loss, and species extinction." **NCWF**

2016 Short Legislative Session Not Short on Hot Topics



MARINE FISHERIES

The Sound Solutions campaign had to respond to more challenges at the General Assembly this summer. Not being able to accept the new direction of the Marine Fisheries Commission, a few North Carolina senators resurrected a couple of bad ideas in the final Senate budget. These provisions dealt with changing the membership of the Commission to make it lean more towards the commercial industry's positions. Further, because of their anger with the Southern Flounder Supplement outcome, they wanted to change the supplement process (emergency management plan to deal with fish stocks in critical need) to make it more difficult for the Commission to create and pass supplements. Their actions showed a disregard for the Commission and for anything that would change the status of our fishery resources. The Marine Fisheries Commission has moved in a more conservative and sustainable management direction, and we support them in this endeavor. These Senate provisions were pulled out of the final state budget, which hopefully shows legislative leadership's support for this new resource-focused direction by the Commission.

The budget includes a one-time, non-recurring supplement of \$150,000 (note the House originally supported \$300,000 while the Senate originally included zero in its budget) to the Marine Patrol budget to allow replacement or repair of old and dysfunctional patrol vessels. This is critical given the cuts to the department in recent years. Laws and rules to manage and protect marine fisheries are only as effective as their enforcement. Over the recent years, the Marine Patrol has been diminished substantially in its ability to enforce the rules and laws designed to manage and protect our marine fisheries through personnel attrition and budget cuts. The financial needs to bring the Marine Patrol near the level required to effectively enforce the law and rules for recreational and commercial fishing activities far exceed this modest supplement, but it is a step in the right direction.

LAND

All in all it was a positive session for investments in land protection for riparian areas, working farmland, parks, and our natural resources. The year brought an \$8.6 million increase for the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, which brings the total appropriation for fiscal year 2016–17 to \$22.4 million. The Natural Heritage Program saw a \$314,726 recurring increase, which more than restores the cut to the program from last year's budget. A \$1 million increase is slated for the Farmland Preservation Trust Fund, although the funds from this increase are limited to military buffer projects. The budget maintains funding for the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund.

DEER FARMING

After all the discussion surrounding transfer of captive deer industry oversight from Wildlife to Agriculture last year, deer farmers, feeling brazen over their political success, made a play for a new tax on deer feed to promote the captive deer industry through their Association. If this unjust tax had been approved, deer hunters and others who feed wild deer would have been assessed a tax on deer feed, and that money would have gone to the N.C. Deer Farmers Association. In other words, deer hunters would be financially supporting the promotion of deer farming, a practice that jeopardizes the health of the native wild deer herd. This was an unfathomable and brazen injustice, not to mention the added taxpayer expense of collecting and distributing this tax to the Deer Farmers Association through the Department of Agriculture. Fiscal analysis showed an estimated \$69,000 or more that would become the slush fund for the association to be used at its pleasure. Thankfully, conservation legislators recognized this attempt in the House Finance Committee and were able to stop it.

WATER QUALITY

For decades, North Carolina has faced difficult challenges to the quality of the water in our freshwater streams and reservoirs and in estuaries. By the mid-1990s, large fish kills in the Neuse and Pamlico-Tar River systems were regular occurrences during summers. Jordan and Falls Lakes have been designated as impaired by the EPA. The culprit in these waters is excess phosphorus and nitrogen that feed algal blooms that deplete oxygen and kill fish. The nutrients can themselves become threats to human health in high enough concentrations. Legislation and rules adopted in the mid-1990s and since have targeted wastewater treatment plants and other dischargers. The agriculture and development industries have been required to control their runoff.

Unfortunately, the legislature and the Department of Environment Quality have repeatedly rolled back or delayed needed protections. The claim has been made that we have had nutrient controls in place for years and still our water bodies are impaired, so therefore we should repeal them. This is akin to a diabetic who has controlled his diabetes with insulin for years deciding that if the insulin didn't cure his diabetes than he might as well stop taking it.

Admittedly, controlling pollution has all the charm of staying on a diet, but North Carolina is a rapidly growing state both in population and its economy. Both depend on reliable supplies of clean water. This year during the short session, numerous and far-reaching proposals were put forward to roll back or remove requirements for buffers and other controls. Even after the clear and compelling case was made, the legislature decided to delay rules to control nutrients in Jordan Lake for the second time. And it decided to delay the clean-up rules for Falls Lake, something it has never done before. There is no effective alternative enacted. On water quality, North Carolina is moving backwards. **NC WF**



Wild on the Water

The first Saturday in June has evolved into a paddling tradition for the North Carolina Wildlife Federation. The annual Wild on the Water event attracted more than 100 paddlers and volunteers this year. They took to the water in kayaks and canoes, gathering to paddle for wildlife conservation. The event took place on Mountain Island Lake of the Catawba River as paddlers were accompanied by Federation biologists who provided information about the lake's flora and fauna and what conservation measures are taking place.

Paddlers raised money from sponsors to support their efforts and then during lunch (provided by the Common Market) incentive prizes were raffled off including a paddleboard from My Aloha Paddle and Surf and a kayak from Great Outdoor Provision Company. Some folks didn't have their own boat, but were able to paddle in boats provided by Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation.

"This was the most fun on a Saturday morning that I have spent this summer," said one participant. "I learned so much about the Wildlife Federation and wildlife and met so many great folks."

Mark your calendars for the 12th annual Wild on the Water event next year, slated for June 3, 2017.



Revisioning Public Forests



Public lands are critical to Americans and North Carolinians for many reasons, among them outdoor recreation and the ecological services that protect our water, wildlife, and air. For example, the cost of fighting wildfires consumes more than half of the U.S. Forest Service budget as well as significant monies from the Department of the Interior. Much of this money is pulled from funds allocated to the Forest Service and public land managers in other agencies for important programs including wildlife, recreation, forest, and natural resource management. This "fire borrowing" is seriously hampering the agency's ability to fulfill its duties to manage the national forests for ecological health, robust wildlife populations, and community and public benefits.

The North Carolina Wildlife Federation is currently engaged in the national forest plan revisions for the Nantahala-Pisgah forests that total 1.1 million acres in western North Carolina. Topics being hammered out with partners and stakeholders over the past three years include restoring wildlife habitat and species, providing recreation access including roads and trails, dealing with invasive species, and handling special designations such as wilderness areas. This planning process provides the best opportunity for NCWF and other interested parties to identify needs for change in management plans and provide

site-specific knowledge related to forest health, wildlife habitat, and all of the other issues facing national forests. These intense and time-consuming planning efforts can be rendered mute by an unsure funding stream due to the practice of fire borrowing. Fixing the fire borrowing problem is top priority of all organizations interested in effective management of our national forests.

There are a variety of ongoing efforts to fix the problem. The most well-developed effort is the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act of 2015 that would take the cost of fighting the most expensive large fires out of the Forest Service budget and treat them as natural disasters. NCWF sponsored a resolution titled "Federal Land Wildfire Funding Fix" at the national meeting of the National Wildlife Federation where affiliates from each state convene to make policy. Adopted resolutions as voted on by delegates become the policy and position of the NWF and guide the work of this large wildlife organization. The NCWF-submitted resolution was unanimously adopted and urges Congress and the president to work together to pass legislation ending the practice of fire borrowing and establish dedicated, reliable, and adequate source of funding sufficient to allow the U.S. Forest Service and Department of the Interior to manage wildfires without diverting money from other agency budgets.



NCWF Joins Lawsuit to Protect Yadkin River

Late in the 19th century, North Carolina passed several laws to facilitate and encourage development of hydropower generating facilities on several North Carolina rivers, including the Yadkin River. The predecessor in name to Alcoa Power Generating, Inc. used this opportunity to develop four hydroelectric generating facilities along a 45-mile segment of the Yadkin River with the understanding that the property acquired in conjunction with the development of projects would be used for the public benefit.

Alcoa operated an aluminum smelting plant on the river using power generated from hydroelectric facilities employing about 1,000 workers in the area from 1916 until 2010 when the plant was shut down and the operation moved overseas. Alcoa obtained a 50-year Federal Power Commission license in 1958 to produce electric power at its four Yadkin facilities to run the aluminum plant and to sell the surplus power on the open market.

When Alcoa applied for renewal of the power license in 2006, it asserted ownership to the lands under the lakes (High Rock, Tuckertown, Narrows, and Falls). In 2013, after Alcoa closed the aluminum smelting plant resulting in a major loss of employment for the area, the State filed suit in state court contesting Alcoa's claim of ownership. The State also opposed reissuance of the power license to Alcoa asserting that the licensee had not operated the facilities for the public benefit

as evidenced by the closure and relocation of the aluminum plant.

The case was transferred to the Eastern District of Federal Court and a trial was conducted. The Federal Judge ruled that Alcoa had shown ownership of the lands under the lakes and under the generating facilities. The State appealed the ruling to the 4th Federal Circuit Court of Appeals where it resides today.

The North Carolina Wildlife Federation is quite alarmed over the potential erosion of the public trust doctrine that would occur if the lower court ruling stands. Pursuant to that concern, NCWF filed on April 7, 2016, an Amicus Curie brief on behalf of the State's position that the land under the Yadkin River is held in public trust and cannot be owned by any private entity. Our brief points out several mistakes in the lower court's decision regarding private ownership of public trust lands. It is our position that public trust lands cannot be sold or given to any private entity, but must be held in trust and protected for the benefit and welfare of all the people of North Carolina. This concept and doctrine is the bedrock of our Constitution and Common Law which is essential to a sound conservation ethic.

Last month it was announced that Alcoa has plans to sell these hydro-generation plants to another entity for further profit from North Carolina's public trust. We are opposing this atrocity to the public trust as vigorously as possible.



to attend the

**NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S
53rd Annual
Governor's Conservation
Achievement Awards**

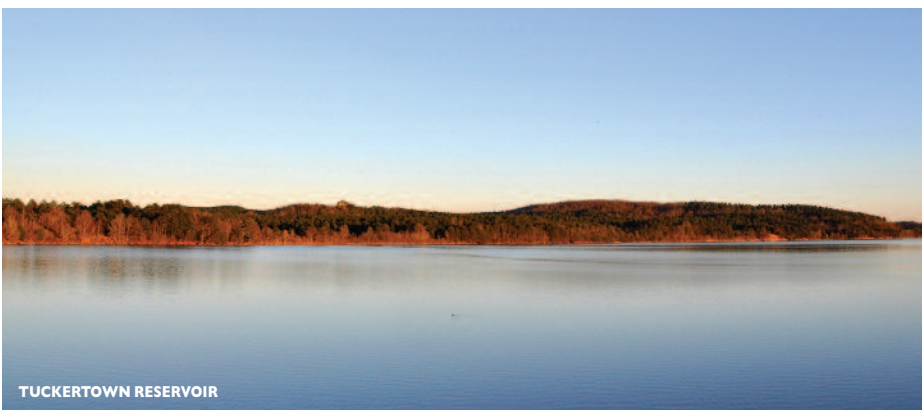
Reception & Banquet

6:00 P.M. Saturday Evening,
September 10, 2016
Embassy Suites RTP, Cary, NC

*Please join us in celebrating 53 years
of conservation excellence while we
honor the winners of the Governor's
Conservation Achievement Awards.*

These prestigious awards honor individuals, governmental bodies, organizations, and others who have exhibited an unwavering commitment to conservation in North Carolina. These are the highest natural resource honors given in the state. By recognizing, publicizing, and honoring conservation leaders—young and old, professional and volunteer—NCWF hopes to inspire all North Carolinians to take an active role in protecting the natural resources of our state.

Pre-registration required.
Register online at www.ncwf.org.
To register by phone, call (919) 833-1923.



TUCKERTOWN RESERVOIR

Save the Date GIVE THANKS *for* WILDLIFE

A fundraiser benefiting North Carolina Wildlife Federation

Join us for a wildly fun and informative evening to celebrate our state's rich and diverse wildlife and habitat, and engage with state and local conservation organizations – from birders and beekeepers to hunters and fishermen.

Event highlights:

- "Discussion centers" highlighting the mission, priorities and programs of NCWF's diverse grassroots network of local chapters and affiliates
- North Carolina wines and craft beers
- Silent auction and art display showcasing wildlife
- Live music
- Buffet and tasting stations featuring North Carolina flora and fauna

Saturday, November 19, 2016

6:30 – 9:30 PM

at Bank of America • Urban Garden • Uptown Charlotte

More details available soon at www.ncwf.org and the Give Thanks for Wildlife event Facebook page. Tickets on sale August 1. VIP packages will be available.

All event proceeds benefit the North Carolina Wildlife Federation, a nonprofit organization supporting the protection, conservation and restoration of *all* North Carolina wildlife and its habitat.

**Kick off the season of gratitude by supporting
and celebrating North Carolina's wildlife!**

Host Sponsor



Benefiting





WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY...

for Wildlife

Here are four simple ways you can leave a lasting legacy.

- Make a bequest to NCWF in your will or trust. Find out how easy it is to put wildlife in your plans.
- Realize the value of your retirement plan by making NCWF a beneficiary. You can consider full, partial or percentage options to benefit wildlife.
- Consider a gift of life insurance that your family has “outgrown” or making NCWF a partial or full beneficiary of your plan.
- Build your gift by using real estate and personal property.

If you or your attorney have questions, or would like NCWF to provide you with sample customized language for your will that is specific to your goal and interest, please contact NCWF's Development Director, Dom Canavarro. All inquiries are confidential. He can be reached at 919-833-1923, or drop him a note at 1024 Washington St., Raleigh, NC 27605.

Charlie Shaw Society



NCWRC

John Robbins, owner of Greathorn Properties in Concord, and a long-time philanthropist and sportsman is the current chair of the Charlie Shaw Society. He encourages others to join him in support of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation.



Current Members

Members in the Charlie Shaw Society are our most dedicated supporters—generous members who have made a commitment to the work and programs of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation through an annual contribution of \$1,000 or more. Gifts can be made in one lump sum or in any number of smaller contributions within a calendar year, and can be directed to any Federation program that is of interest to the donor.

To learn more about the Charlie Shaw Society and benefits of membership, please visit our website at www.ncwf.org, or Dom Canavarro, Development and Operations Director, at (919) 833-1923; dom@ncwf.org.

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Avery Bates
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Robert Berton
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AUGUST

August 25: Snake and lizard eggs of many species are hatching.

August 26: Here in the South, we're lucky to have three broods of the beautiful luna moth, and adults from the third brood are emerging now.

August 28: Eastern gray squirrels are bearing their fall litters.

August 29: Most deer have completed their antler growth, though many bucks are still in velvet.

August 30: Green salamander eggs are hatching in the southern Mountains. Goldenrod, asters, blazing star, Joe-pye weed, cardinal flower, and other late summer wildflowers are in bloom.

August 31: Bull elk are bugling in Cataloochee Valley. That unmistakable sound was absent from North Carolina for a long time, but now you can hear it again.

SEPTEMBER

September 1: Peak hurricane season begins. A good time to watch for unusual seabirds driven inland by storms.

September 4: Peak birth time for copperheads, our most common venomous snake.

September 5: Stick insects (walkingsticks) are mating.

September 6: Hellbenders are breeding in our Mountain rivers. Unlike most salamanders, these Appalachian giants spawn in the same fashion as most fishes. A male will prepare a breeding chamber under a large rock and defend it against other males. If he can convince a female to deposit her eggs beneath his rock, he will fertilize them externally and guard them until they hatch. Never move large rocks in hellbender streams; it destroys their homes and breeding habitat!

September 7: Peak abundance for the little metalmark, an uncommon butterfly of our southeastern Coastal Plain.

September 10: Wild muscadine grapes are ripe.

September 12: Whip-poor-wills and chuck-will's-widows are departing. Most will spend the winter in Mexico and Central America, but some overwinter along the Gulf Coast.

September 15: Butterfly watching in general can be mighty fine during September. Migrating monarchs—though not as common as they once were—can still be spectacular this time of year. The Blue Ridge Parkway is a good place for monarch watching. Tunnel Gap at milepost 415.6 is often an especially good spot.

September 17: BugFest, a huge annual educational expo featuring insects and other arthropods, will be held at the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh. This year's theme is ants! Visit www.natural.sciences.org.

September 19: The Diana fritillary—a rare butterfly found only in our Mountains and Foothills—is flying after its summer diapause.

September 21: Hawk migration peaks. Thousands of broad-winged hawks and other species may be seen in migration at this time of year. Mahogany Rock in Doughton Park along the Blue Ridge Parkway is an especially good spot to witness this phenomenon.

September 22: Autumnal equinox at 10:21 p.m. EDT. It's fall, y'all! Pine snake nests are hatching in the Sandhills.

September 23: In the Mountains and Foothills, bog turtle nests are hatching.

September 24: 45th annual National Hunting and Fishing Day and 23rd annual National Public Lands Day. Visit your favorite public lands, and/or take a kid hunting or fishing.

September 26: Most whitetail fawns have lost their spots.

September 28: Expect the first frosts in the Mountains. Carolina mantids are depositing their oothecae (egg clusters).

September 29: In the Mountains, most wildflowers are done for the season, but a few goldenrods, aster, and yellow ironweed are still in bloom.

September 30: Marbled salamanders begin moving to their breeding sites on rainy nights. Males usually move first. This handsome salamander was adopted as North Carolina's official State Salamander in 2013. Females lay their eggs under sheltering objects on land in or along dry woodland pools and guard them until winter rains flood the pool and hatch the eggs.

September 30-October 1: Carolina Bird Club will hold its fall meeting in Beaufort, SC. For more information, visit www.carolinabirdclub.org.

September 30-October 2: 30th annual North Carolina Seafood Festival, Morehead City waterfront. Call 252-726-6273 or visit www.ncseafoodfestival.org.

OCTOBER

October 1: Brunner's stick mantids are active and depositing their oothecae (egg clusters). These unusual native mantids of our Coastal Plain and eastern Piedmont occur only as females and reproduce parthenogenetically.

October 2: The season's last loggerhead and green sea turtle nests are hatching.

October 3: Peak surface activity for both our hog-nose snake species—the rare southern hog-nose and the more common and widely distributed eastern hog-nose.

October 5: Generally good surf fishing, especially for bluefish and red drum.

October 7-8: Draconid meteor shower peak. Just after sunset and before nightfall will be the best viewing time for this shower. Clear skies, watchful eyes, patience, and a spot as far away as possible from artificial lights are all you need for successful meteor watching.

October 8: Peak sea duck migration.

October 8-9: One of NC's older festivals, the 62nd Annual Mullet Festival in downtown Swansboro is a celebration of Mugil—an important genus of fishes both ecologically and economically. For more information, call 910-326-7370.

October 10: Tail end of migration peak for many shorebird species.

October 11: Ruby-throated hummingbirds are leaving for Central and South America. Hummingbird feeders can be taken down (but if you want to try leaving yours up, you might get a rare fall or winter visitor).