



North Carolina  
**WILDLIFE  
FEDERATION**

# Journal

WILD LIVES □ WILD PLACES

Winter 2017



2016  
ANNUAL  
REPORT



## Coalescing Around Conservation

BY TIM GESTWICKI, NCWF CEO

Have you ever caught a liberal striped bass or watched a conservative white-tail deer browsing in a field? What about seeing a Republican monarch butterfly or a Democratic wood duck? Me neither. Wildlife don't have party affiliations, nor should party politics play into wildlife and habitat conservation. When it comes to wildlife policy, maybe, just maybe, the divisive atmosphere of our state and federal political processes could and should unite.

Last year saw nasty, contentious campaigns and newly elected state and federal administrations. With this changing of the guard, what will the future look like for wildlife policy? Will the Roy Cooper campaign promise to reform North Carolina's marine fisheries be followed? Will President Trump stand by his statements that federal public lands are to be valued and not divested? Or will special interests and party politics win out to the detriment of our public trust resources? Regardless there will be challenges and opportunities that we will be ready to fight and seize.

In every area of the country, conservation matters, if you are an avid birder, gardener, hunter, angler, paddler or camper. Since conservation of our mutually-owned air, waters, and lands benefits us all regardless of political persuasion, socio-economic background, race, religion, and gender, perhaps agreement in common sense protections, access and management can be where uniting can exist. Certainly there are other struggles such as protection from terror, jobs, education and health. But having clean waters and air, safe and secure places for kids to play outside in nature, economic benefits of parks, and greenways and places to enjoy resource-based recreation will be valued by all. Attempts to diminish those rights and resources in the General Assembly or Congress should not be tolerated by any citizen.

In fact, solutions to health, the economy, and education are achievable through united conservation efforts and should be a source of patriotism for all of us. We believe not in staunch opposition but rather in developing solution-based strategies and we view all as having a stake in conservation. Farmers want good crop production and we want to see pollinator habitat restored. Hotel operators at the coast want to see their rooms filled to capacity, and we want to see marine fisheries rebound. Health care providers want to see costs go down, we want to see kids outside. The list goes on.

I am pleased to say that we are making progress and having impacts even in challenging times. Last year exhibited how the Federation works, even in a period of extreme polarization. As you can see in this annual report, we stuck to our mission work guided by our core values—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. Our programs for pollinators, connecting kids to nature, managing deer and feeding the hungry, and gardening for wildlife were absolutely off the charts in their impact in 2016. I am proud of the folks on our team for their efforts on these signature programs.

As we head into 2017, it has never been more important in our 72-year existence for us to be good at what we do, and recognize that our successes are simply not possible without every member of our wildlife family—board, staff, chapters, funders, members. We look back fondly to 2016, as we prepare to rally and coalesce around conservation this year. 



## STAFF

Tom Bean, *Director of Government Affairs*  
Mary Bures, *Manager, Great Outdoors University*  
Dom Canavaro, *Development & Operations Director*  
Autumn Chappell, *Membership & Volunteer Coordinator*  
Tim Gestwicki, *Chief Executive Officer*  
Angelique Hjarding, *Director, Pollinators and Wildlife Habitat Programs*  
Richard B. Hamilton, *Camouflage Coalition Coordinator*  
Dan Harris, *Marketing Manager*  
Fred Harris, *Natural Resource Specialist*  
T. Edward Nickens, *Communications Editor*  
David Knight, *Policy Consultant*  
Chris North, *Conservation Coordinator*  
Liz Rutledge Ph.D., *Wildlife Specialist*  
Greta Salem, *Office Manager*  
Jennifer Mihills, *NWF Regional Representative*

## OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. Bob Brown, *Chair*, Cary  
Billy Wilson, *Vice Chair*, Mooresville  
Scott Fletcher, *Vice Chair*, Huntersville  
Pinkney Bynum, *Treasurer*, Charlotte  
Ann B. Somers, *Secretary*, Greensboro  
G. Richard Mode, *NWF Affiliate Representative*, Morganton  
John Robbins, *Immediate Past Chair*, Concord

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jennifer Alligood, Pantego  
Carol Buie-Jackson, Matthews  
Kelly Darden, Greenville  
Sterling Freeman, Durham  
John Fuller, Hickory  
John Hair, Charlotte  
Phil Hinton, Sunbury  
John Hislop, Hubert  
Steve Jester, Charlotte  
Joyce Shepherd, Charlotte  
Erin Singer McCombs, Asheville  
Lloyd 'Jock' Tate, Southern Pines  
Norwood West, Warsaw

## PRESIDENTS EMERITUS

Alan D. Baker, Huntersville  
Dr. John Benbow, Concord  
C.B. Brown, Burlington  
John Crutchfield, Huntersville  
Bill Kane, Cullowhee  
Dale Mosteller, Lincolnton  
Terry Pratt, Merry Hill  
Gary Shull, Vale  
Bryan Upchurch, Raleigh  
Harry Wilfong, Newton

## DIRECTOR EMERITUS

Mike Thomas, Crouse

## GENERAL CORPORATE COUNSEL

Robinson Bradshaw & Hinson

## MARKETING / COMMUNICATIONS

Walker Marketing, Inc.

## DESIGN / PRINTING

Designed by: Kimberly KC Schott, Red Gate Design  
Printed by: Progress Printing, Lynchburg, VA  
Published by: North Carolina Wildlife Federation

## ABOUT THE COVER

*Cover photograph* Black bears in North Carolina's coastal plain have rebounded—proof that wildlife can thrive in partnership with human populations. / WerksMedia, Thinkstockphotos.com. All other photos, unless noted, are courtesy of NCWF.

## CONTACT

NCWF Raleigh office: (919) 833-1923  
1024 Washington Street, Raleigh, NC 27605  
NCWF Charlotte office: (704) 332-5696  
1346 St. Julien Street, Charlotte, NC 28205.

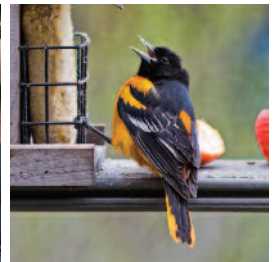


# North Carolina WILDLIFE Federation Journal

WILD LIVES □ WILD PLACES

Winter 2017

Official publication, North Carolina Wildlife Federation (Affiliate of National Wildlife Federation)



## 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.



# POLICY & PROTECTION



GOODLUZ / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

## GENERAL CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

Among the many policy issues undertaken such as hydropower dam relicensing, protecting conservation incentive programs in the Farm Bill, clean energy promotion, and restoring natural flows to the Roanoke River, NCWF worked tirelessly in 2016. We fought back successfully on attempts to eliminate vegetated buffers along rivers, and thwarted an end run by North Carolina deer farmers who attempted to appropriate deer hunters' funds to promote the captive deer industry by trying to introduce a new tax on deer feed to promote their industry through their Association. Hard work led to successfully increasing gamelands and park funding in North Carolina.

## » WILDLIFE SPECIES «

**Black bear** North Carolina black bear populations have steadily increased over the years, with the largest black bears in North America residing in the state's Coastal Plain. NCWF opposes the use of bait to harvest bears and continues to urge the Wildlife Resources Commission not to allow and or extend any allowance of taking black bear with the use of non-processed food (bait).

**Elk** Tens of thousands of residents and tourists travel each year to western North Carolina to view our majestic elk. Unfortunately, recent experiences have occurred in which farmers have killed elk without clear evidence that the animals were committing significant property damage. Killing elk for property damage is threatening the sustainability and expansion of the elk herd and hampering efforts to open

“Strongly influence state and federal policy that affects wildlife and habitat in North Carolina using established conservation models to guide our positions.” *from NCWF Strategic Plan*



limited hunting. NCWF works for the strongest possible measures to protect the restored elk herds from killing by individuals under current depredation law, and encouraged the Wildlife Resources Commission to seriously consider non-lethal alternatives to address elk issues.

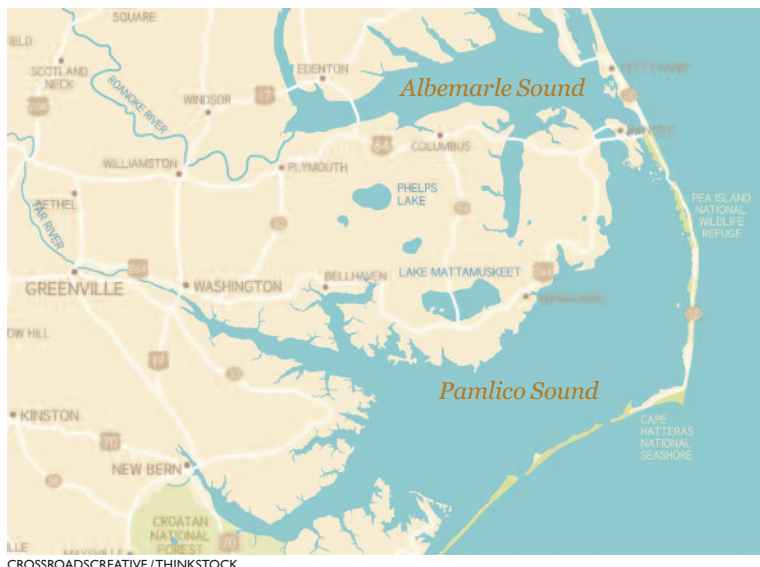
**American Alligator** NCWF opposed the opening of an alligator season noting that science does not conclude that alligators are well suited for a general harvest season at this time. Depredation permits are available for problem alligators.

**Red Wolf** From gunshot mortality and skeptical landowners to pullbacks by the Fish and Wildlife Service on management, the endangered red wolf faced a challenging year. The population data clearly show that red wolves remain critically endangered in the wild and need Endangered Species Act protection and recovery efforts. The wild population in eastern North Carolina has now fallen to an estimated 45 individuals, and a current proposal to shrink the red wolves' habitat range and remove those remaining from the wild is neither justifiable nor consistent with the Endangered Species Act. NCWF has fought long and hard on behalf of science-based management of the red wolf, especially in 2016. Those efforts put this apex predator species on the road to recovery. Much has been learned that should be applied to updating and continuing recovery efforts, instead of halting proven progress.



Red Wolf

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



CROSSROADSCREATIVE / THINKSTOCK

## » MARINE RESOURCES «

The North Carolina coast is home to roughly 2.5 million acres of estuarine waters, 1.5 million of which are within the Albemarle-Pamlico Sound. It's here where hundreds of species of fish and other marine life grow and feed until old enough to venture to the ocean or migrate along the coast. Along with our *Sound Solutions* campaign NCWF worked on behalf of marine species.

- ▶ Important forage fish like **river herring** and **shads** are severely depleted and in dire need of conservation and management throughout their range. Restoration of these stocks is important to anglers, cultural traditions, and the diverse assemblage of fishes and other animals that depend on them for food.
- ▶ Another fish species NCWF is working on is **menhaden**, a fish still on the road to recovery. Menhaden are commercially harvested for fish oils, vitamins, and pet food, and a plan for sustainable menhaden fishing will lead to sustainable recreational fishing and sustained economic benefits.
- ▶ NCWF celebrated the announcement last year that critical offshore habitat for endangered North American **right whales** was increased. Additionally, impacts from offshore energy production and dredging will have to be lessened so the species can migrate up and down the Atlantic coast and have safe calving areas like those off North Carolina's coast.



- ▶ Another great marine victory was the removal of the Atlantic Program Area (which includes North Carolina) from **offshore oil and gas leasing** by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Administration. NCWF's work continued throughout 2016 weighing in on environmental concerns regarding seismic blasting permitting and offshore wind lease sitings. NCWF also co-sponsored a National Wildlife Federation report *Changing Tides: How Sea-level Rise Harms Wildlife and Recreation Economies along the U.S. Eastern Seaboard*.
- ▶ NCWF worked to address excessive fishing mortality on **striped bass** in the Tar and Neuse rivers that is preventing that fishery from becoming sustainable. Recent conclusive genetic information shows that striped bass in these rivers are experiencing mortality from direct fishing harvest, by-catch, release injury, and illegal catch and sale in excess of the level required to reach and maintain sustainability. NCWF is working with NCWRC who realizes corrective measures are needed but must be made in conjunction with the Division of Marine Fisheries.

#### » MIGRATORY BIRDS «

From building and erecting hundreds of nesting boxes to advocating for important coastal bottomland forests, NCWF's work for avian species was front and center in 2016.

- ▶ NCWF's **certified wildlife habitat** programs blossomed last year and migratory birds benefitted greatly. By landscaping for wildlife with native trees and shrubs, erecting nesting boxes and putting up feeders and birdbaths, North Carolinians restored and enhanced tremendous acreage for wildlife supporting birds during migration and during nesting periods. NCWF and NWF signed the first MOU in the country to establish a joint certification program for habitats providing food, water, cover and places to raise young. For more information, visit <http://www.ncwf.org/programs/certified-wildlife-habitat/>
- ▶ NCWF filed comments to the Federal Highway Administration and N.C. Department of Transportation seeking a Supplemental Environmental Impact Study pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act for the proposed **Mid-Currituck Bridge**, which

would span 7 miles between the town of Aydlett on the North Carolina coast with Corolla on the Outer Banks. At a half-billion dollars, the bridge would cross Currituck Sound, including Maple Swamp, and have significant impacts on the environment. Draining and fill of wetlands will directly reduce habitat for waterfowl and their food sources. Runoff from the bridge will pollute the waters used by waterfowl, fish and other species. Increased traffic that will accompany the bridge will increase bird-vehicle collisions, and increased noise and visual disturbance is likely to disrupt waterfowl and potentially cause sensitive species to abandon the area.

#### » PUBLIC LANDS «

Public lands belong to all Americans. We depend on our national forests, parks, wildlife refuges and other federal lands to provide fish and wildlife habitat and access to places to hunt, fish, and enjoy the outdoors. America's public lands also sustain our economy by supporting an outdoor recreation industry that generates \$646 billion in economic benefit annually and supports 6.1 million jobs. The new year began with an illegal armed occupation of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon, which was accompanied by outrageous, almost rabid attacks on our public lands. The occupation followed multiple unsuccessful state-level and Congressional efforts to privatize public lands, which are currently accessible to everyone in America, including broad directives to transfer federal lands to state or local control, sell federal lands to private interests, or otherwise liquidate the national interest in federal land management. The Republican Party's 2016 platform actually adopted the full-scale disposal of federal lands and endorsed the forfeiture of public lands to the states.

NCWF fought back through running newspaper ads and radio pieces touting the values of public lands. We also sponsored a public lands video, "This is Your Land." To see the video, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXBxSc6pdfM>

We successfully joined in blocking a direct attack on the President's authority to designate national monuments under the Antiquities Act, a law created by President Theodore Roosevelt, one of our nation's greatest hunter-birder-conservationists. And we hailed the establishment of the



most national parklands established in one year, including marine lands in Hawaii and great forest lands in Maine. On the home front, NCWF successfully joined with Land for Tomorrow to secure much increased natural resource funding for parks, farmlands, and gamelands.

#### » WILDLIFE IN OUR FORESTS «

Tireless work on the 1.1 million acres in western North Carolina national forests was the focus for the Federation in 2016. Our goal was a new forest management plan that focuses on all wildlife species. Balancing needs for wilderness areas and early growth ecosystems and the respective species these habitats support is the crux of our objectives.

The backlog of maintenance on National Forest trails has resulted in less than 25 percent of Forest Service trails being maintained to standard, which leads to a loss of access, increased public safety concerns and degraded water quality.

NCWF supported the **National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act**, which became law giving the Forest Service additional tools to work with volunteer groups, removing roadblocks to training and coordinating efforts to help return the trail system for access to enjoy National Forests.

NCWF had to weigh in with elected officials keen on interfering with professional forest agency processes and worked to solve the ongoing problem of underfunded forestry budgets. A key area of effort for NCWF in solving the agency budgetary constraints was with firefighting. The cost of fighting wildfires now consumes more than half of the U.S. Forest Service's budget. Much of this money is pulled from funds allocated to the Forest Service for other 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. **WF**



© CAN STOCK PHOTO / DELMAS LEHMAN

*Baltimore Oriole*



# SIGNATURE PROGRAMS



“ Sponsor and support programs for the enjoyment and conservation of wildlife and habitat, including ethical and sustainable outdoor recreation pursuits.”  
*from NCWF Strategic Plan*

## » BUTTERFLY HIGHWAY «

In February of 2016, NCWF launched *The Butterfly Highway: A Roadmap for Pollinator and Wildlife Conservation*. The Butterfly Highway is a statewide community-based environmental restoration initiative with the aim of restoring native pollinator habitats to areas impacted by urbanization across North Carolina. From backyard “Pollinator Pitstops” to large-scale roadside habitat restoration, the project is working to create a network of native flowering plants to support butterflies, bees, birds, and other pollen and nectar dependent wildlife. In the last year pollinator pitstops were installed across the state in partnership with Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation, City of Concord, Cabarrus County, Duke Energy, Charlotte Water, Martin Marietta, North Carolina’s Electric Cooperatives, and TIAA. And we are just getting started.

- ▶ Planted 4,000 native plants in community gardens, schoolyard gardens, and other public spaces
- ▶ Helped to plant 30 acres of seed to convert non-native grass areas to pollinator habitat
- ▶ Received over \$70,000 in foundation grant money for projects to establish new pollinator habitats in Mecklenburg County and at Lake James State Park
- ▶ Registered more than 1,300 new pollinator pitstops, conserving more than 1,400 acres for pollinators
- ▶ Presentations to community groups and organizations across the state including NCWF chapters, Master Gardener groups, and the North Carolina Vegetation Management Association
- ▶ Bird House on the Greenway and Honeybee Real Estate held fundraisers that included pollinator plant sales and a silent auction for the Butterfly Highway and raised over \$5,000
- ▶ NCWF chapter leaders took the pledge to become Butterfly Highway Ambassadors at the 2016 NCWF Annual meeting
- ▶ Hosted two interns in the summer of 2016. One was through the Z. Smith Reynolds Non-Profit Internship program and the other through UNC-Asheville.
- ▶ Butterfly monitoring project launched.
- ▶ Won the Society for Conservation Biology Brandy Award for Conservation Marketing Excellence



## » SOUND SOLUTIONS CAMPAIGN «

In 2016, the Sound Solutions campaign moved into a very active, high-profile implementation phase. Our primary focus is the tremendous amount of “bycatch” from large shrimp trawlers. (“Bycatch” are those fish caught that aren’t being targeted or intended to be caught. With shrimp trawling, bycatch tends to be juvenile fish.) In the fall of 2016, the Federation “petitioned” the Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC) to begin a **rule-making process to change the regulations** concerning the protection of juvenile fish in North Carolina waters.

The foundation of the proposed rules is to protect all fish nursery areas in state waters by designating them as such, with certain restrictions on the methods and gear that can be used in these areas. The filing of this petition was the outcome of a year of preparation and planning of how to move forward to protect juvenile finfish. These rules will have the most impact on large shrimp trawlers, since the science shows these trawlers are creating the most bycatch and causing the most destruction to our state’s fish nursery areas.

Certain management strategies will be imposed on shrimp trawling, such as decreasing the head-rope length of nets down to 90 feet from the currently allowed 220 feet; only daytime trawling allowed; a limit on how many days a week trawling is allowed; and the creation of a shrimp harvest season.

This decision by the MFC will go a long way toward determining whether North Carolina’s fish stocks, in particular weakfish, spot, and croaker, get back on a sustainable path.

- ▶ We were disappointed that a judge allowed an injunction by a commercial trade group to halt the Flounder Supplement’s 2016 implementation. NCWF worked hard on this issue. A judge will decide whether or not to allow the full implementation of the supplement.
- ▶ During the 2016 election year we had the opportunity to **educate candidates** on the condition of the state’s marine fisheries. Both gubernatorial candidates showed support for conservation and sustainability of our fisheries. Governor Cooper released a position paper with a strong stance on fisheries conservation.

Former Governor McCrory made positive appointments to the MFC immediately before the election. Further, at the N.C. General Assembly (NCGA), we were successful in securing more **state funding for the marine patrol to help with enforcement, and for oyster restoration.**

With our increased influence at the NCGA, and in continuing with the multi-faceted approach of Sound Solutions, the Federation joined a coalition called **NC Sound Economy (NCSE)**. NCSE is focusing on a comprehensive update of the Fisheries Reform Act of 1997, and will put forward legislation during the 2017 legislative session to ensure that conservation is the paramount consideration of our state’s fisheries management.

- ▶ Lastly, but very importantly, the Federation has brought on Dr. Louis Daniel, former director of the Division of Marine Fisheries, as a science advisor. He is an experienced and respected scientist, who knows the state of marine fisheries in North Carolina as well as anyone. Dr. Daniel helped establish the science baseline for the Petition and other technical guidance, and has coordinated with N.C. State University on a Coastal Recreational Fishing License grant application. This grant application is part of an effort to educate recreational anglers on ethical fishing practices through seminars and videos. This undertaking is another example of our belief that both recreational anglers and commercial fishermen are part of the solution for a sustainable fishery in North Carolina.



*Shrimp boats on North Carolina coast*

ISTOCK.COM / COASTALPICS

## SIGNATURE PROGRAMS



### » FARMERS MANAGE DEER «

Have you herd about “doe-nating?” We hope so. The N.C. Wildlife Federation’s Farmers and Communities Manage Deer (FCMD) program wrapped up an excellent year of farmer assistance, species management, community service, outreach, events, and venison donation to the hungry. The Federation’s program encouraged hunters to harvest deer to manage population numbers in areas where farmers experience heavy crop damage due to deer browse. Local management of deer is not only beneficial to the health of the deer population but it also provides a healthy source of protein for those in need. This past year, community groups across numerous counties worked to support the cause.

Lumber River Outdoors in Columbus County hosted the 2016 Women In the Wild event where female hunters learned about deer management and hunting techniques in hopes of harvesting deer to help local farmers and feed the hungry. Lumber River Outdoors was started through the FCMD program and continues to educate and give back to the community through hunting and land management.

In addition to the donations during deer hunting season, the FCMD program relies on monetary donations from individuals and community organizations to process deer that are harvested and distributed locally. In 2016, Soul Hunters sportsman ministry group in Elizabeth City, along with the Fair Bluff and Wilson Rotary Clubs, showed their support by providing funds for deer processing in their communities. Every donation of \$50 provides approximately 40 pounds of ground venison to those in need.

Also in Wilson County, deer program participants from New Hope Missionary Baptist Church and First Baptist Church in Wilson stocked the freezers of six local food distribution organizations, providing more than 3,000 pounds of venison.

### Looking Forward 2017

The FCMD program will enter the next two years of program expansion across the state with continued support from the N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission. This expansion will provide hunters with additional locations where they can donate deer free-of-charge, further expanding the range of agricultural land positively impacted through deer management. The three new deer donation sites available for the 2017 hunting season will be located in Harnett, Wayne, and Jones Counties. As the program acquires new processors and donation sites, we will continue to assist landowners needing assistance with crop damage from deer. Thank you to all who made this program a success in 2016!

The Farmers and Communities Manage Deer program is a sponsored project of the N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission and a collaborative effort between the NCWF, NC Hunters for the Hungry, hunters, farmers, and local community groups. If you would like to help support the program or receive information, please send an e-mail to [liz@ncwf.org](mailto:liz@ncwf.org), call (919) 833-1923, or check out our webpage at <http://www.ncwf.org/programs/farmers-manage-deer>. **NC WF**



REBECCA SCOTT

*N.C. State University’s Ag Institute students and Dr. Liz Rutledge, NC Wildlife Federation staff, assisted hunters with the donation process over the two-day event.*

For the second year in a row, the Pollocksville Volunteer Fire Department in Jones County teamed up with the Federation’s program to collect donated deer at its Annual Big Game Hunt. Once again, the event offered participating hunters the option to donate their extra harvests to feed the hungry in local communities. Of the 67 deer that were harvested from a five-county area during the two-day hunting event, 33 were donated to the program, providing approximately 1,300 pounds of ground venison.



# EXPERIENCE & 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.”

*from NCWF Strategic Plan*

In 2016, NCWF's Great Outdoors University (GoU) experienced significant growth. GoU is our flagship effort to connect people and nature through a conservation-based experiential education program. GoU brings outdoor adventures to kids of all ages who have limited opportunities to explore and make discoveries about the natural world. GoU ignites curiosity, excitement, and awe in ways that encourage continued learning and stewardship.


In 2016, GoU celebrates having provided these opportunities to more than 13,873 participants through engagement in 140 programs and 10 events and Family Fun Days. GoU also launched our first two GoU Junior Naturalist Club Sites. Our newest program offerings include:

**Botany Bonanza** Experience a *Botany Bonanza* as you explore the fascinating and marvelous diversity of plants that are vitally important for life and what they need to survive.

**Farm to Table** Experience a delectably delicious and nutritious adventure on the farm and explore how various produce is grown.

**Insectapalooza** Explore the most diverse and important animals on land—the marvelous world of insects and discover more about their characteristic traits, varied habitats, food sources and jobs.

**Nature's Energy** Get energized outside exploring *Nature's Energy* looking up, down and all around as you discover many various sources of potential and kinetic energy.

GoU cannot adequately thank our terrific supporters including Duke Energy Foundation and Women's Impact Fund. We also want to thank all of our partners, a list that has grown to more than 27 participant partners and 25 destination partners, including Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation, UNC-Charlotte Botanical Garden, Elma C. Lomax Farm, Dale Earnhardt Leadership Campus, Rescue Ranch, and EnergyExplorium. 



# NETWORK OF IMPACT & INVOLVEMENT



## » LOCAL CONSERVATION LEADS THE WAY «

NCWF Chapters had a couple of anniversaries to celebrate in 2016. Last year was the 10th anniversary for Habitat and Wildlife Keepers, and the group celebrated by inviting authors, television personalities, and scientists to speak, and by hosting Kids in Nature Days, hikes, festivals, and many other community events. This is a segment from the chapter's 10th Anniversary Edition of its newsletter.

*"We've had speakers from all across the state and the country. Experts in their fields. Passionate about what they do. From bats to bears, from salamanders to barred owls, from chickens to pig farmers. We have had community leaders from Matthews and Mecklenburg County address issues or concerns. We've held worm workshops, work days on the greenway, nature exploration for kids and habitat installation and weeding in the gardens at Squirrel Lake Park.*

*We have gotten to know our members like family. We have watched your children grow up. We have visited your homes and gardens. We have listened to your joy at spotting a new fawn, and listened to complaints about deer eating your hostas.*

*We have become part of the community and the community is a part of us."*

2017 also begins the celebration of the Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists 10th year. Julie Higgie, the chapter's long-time secretary said it best in the chapter newsletter *Inland Sea Chronicle*.

*"It all started with osprey nesting platforms, shoreline plantings and a dream of uniting the Lake Norman community with a passion to conserve wildlife and its habitat. As the Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists stands on the threshold of its 10th year of operation,*

“ Foster a diverse, robust network of chapters, members, and affiliates—a network fortified by a variety of wildlife and outdoor interests.” *from NCWF Strategic Plan*



*I feel awed by the accomplishments and the continuing commitment of our Officers, Board of Directors, sponsors and, of course, our committed volunteers out in the field who stand in the mud planting buttonbushes, removing litter and erecting nest boxes.*

*We are so fortunate that the core group of community leaders and nature lovers who met back in 2007 to form the foundation of our North Carolina Wildlife Federation chapter, and call it Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists, was able to create such a winning formula that we have achieved instant name recognition throughout the region. We work hand in hand with town halls, chambers, churches, schools, scouts and other groups in four counties. We achieve our goals and then raise the bar!"*

2016 also saw the Federation chapter network grow with the inclusion of the Community Alliance for Wildlife. This group of environmentally-minded residents' mission is to protect, conserve, and restore wildlife and its habitat in the communities in and around Charlotte. They establish healthy habitats for their families and wildlife while providing opportunities for community capacity building, environmental education and job training.

We welcome them to our statewide network of wildlife enthusiasts working for wildlife and habitat conservation. Our network of wildlife chapters is critical to delivering shared mission and goals. Chapters bring to bear the Federation's strengths of education, advocacy, grassroots mobilization, outdoor activities and policy expertise.

#### » GIVE THANKS FOR WILDLIFE «

NCWF hosted a major fund-raising event in Charlotte on November 19, 2016. Titled "Give Thanks for Wildlife," the content-rich and fun evening included a wildlife art display and silent auction with more than 50 pieces of art. The display was enhanced by the presence of two skilled artists, Walter Stanford and Mataya, who painted live while engaging our guests.

The Carolina Raptor Center and N.C. Falconers' Guild brought raptors, including an increasingly rare barn owl, to the delight of everyone attending. The raffle was fun and prosperous. The music and the locally grown and harvested food was beyond awesome. And famed author Doug

Tallamy and cohort Larry Mellichamp hosted discussion centers and signed books. Our chapters and affiliates hosted discussion centers as well, all of which were well attended. We were proud to partner with these groups to demonstrate the growing network of impact and involvement of NCWF. Many thanks to the chapter members, staff, and board who made the event a success.

And a huge thanks to our sponsors who enabled this event:

#### HOST SPONSOR

US Trust at Bank of America

#### PLATINUM SPONSOR

Holly and John Robbins

#### GOLD SPONSORS

Blumenthal Foundation

Duke Energy

#### SILVER SPONSORS

Bob Critz, Attorney

Barefoot Wine

Buddy Kirk

John Bishop

Billy Wilson

Elliott Davis, CPAs

Niblock Homes

Reventure Park

Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists

#### BRONZE SPONSORS

Julie Jones, Realtor

Visiting Angels

Howard and Margaret Irvin

Susan and Roy Goode

Ridgeline Development Corporation

Holiday Marina

Lancaster Dock

Wild Birds Unlimited

Concord Wildlife Alliance

#### OTHER SPONSORS

Bill and Ann Cannon

Tom Palmer

D9 Brewing Company

Cabarrus Brewing Company

**Thanks also** to key raffle donors, including Great Outdoor Provision Company, Birdhouse on the Green, Phil Hinton, Kristine Goodyear, John Benbow, N.C. Falconers Guild, Honeysuckle Hill Bee Farm, Heirloom Restaurant, and Lynn Tesh.

#### » WELCOME NEW AFFILIATES IN 2016 «

Many wildlife groups and organizations across the state help comprise NCWF's grassroots network for conservation. Federation affiliates range from youth and adult groups to statewide organizations and local chapters or extensions of national or statewide organizations and associations.

Audubon North Carolina

Cabarrus County Beekeepers

Carolina Farm Stewardship Association

Carolina Wetlands Association

Catawba Lands Conservancy

Delta Waterfowl Lake Norman chapter

Land Trust for Central Carolina

Leopold Wildlife Club (NCSU)

NC Falconer's Guild

NC Wildlife Art Society

Rocky River Trout Unlimited

Soul Hunters

Trout Unlimited North Carolina Council

## Celebrating Our Donors



## Together, we are strong.

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.

NCWF thanks our thousands of members and contributors who entrust their dollars to the Federation, and choose to work for wildlife through NCWF's programs and initiatives.

### \$50,000+

Duke Energy Foundation  
Foundation for the Carolinas  
Fred and Alice Stanback

### \$25,000 - \$49,999

Anonymous  
Lake Norman Wildlife  
Conservationists  
NC Tobacco Trust Fund  
Commission  
Women's Impact Fund  
Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation

### \$10,000 - \$24,999

Duke Energy  
EarthShare of North Carolina  
The Glass Foundation  
Graham County Land Co, LLC  
National Wildlife Federation  
Karen Redfern and Joye Thomas  
John and Holly Robbins  
The Burt's Bees Greater  
Good Foundation

### \$5,000 - \$9,999

Bank of America Charitable  
Foundation  
Camp Younts Foundation  
Gaston County PAWS  
Brigid Hogan  
Jordan Lumber Supply  
Perry Patterson and  
Joel Leander  
North Carolina Electric  
Membership Corporation  
Patrick O'Leary  
Piedmont Natural Gas  
Mark and Jane Ritchie  
Wilson Family Foundation

### \$2,500 - \$4,999

Tom Angelo  
Avery Bates  
Berico Fuels, Inc.  
Blumenthal Foundation  
Roger and Sally Dick  
Carol Buie and Jay Jackson  
NC Chapter American  
Fisheries Society  
Piedmont Financial Trust  
Company  
TreesCharlotte  
Valley Proteins

### \$1,000 - \$2,499

Arts and Science Council  
Barefoot Wine  
Ben Barker  
Robert Berton  
Frank Bragg  
Robert Brown  
Mollie Brugh  
Richard and Maria Buchsbaum  
Pinkney Bynum  
Glenn Campbell  
Maurice and Addria Capps  
Concord Engineering  
and Surveying  
Concord Wildlife Alliance  
Bob and Judy Critz  
John and Pam Crutchfield  
Jerry Davis  
Leah L. Dey  
Alexander Dickey  
Elliott Davis Decosimo  
Ray and Judy Felton  
Scott and Ann Fletcher  
John Fuller  
Carol Gestwicki  
Tim and Karen Gestwicki  
Stephen Graf  
H.W. Culp Lumber  
John and Lisa Hairr  
Daniel Harris  
Fred Harris  
Robin Hayes  
Phil Hinton  
John Hislop  
Honeybee Real Estate  
Hygeia Marketing Corporation  
INCS  
Joe Kelleher  
Kirk Palmer and Thigpen  
David Knight  
Thomas Long  
Niblock Development Corp  
Parker Poe  
Leonard Fumi and Lucy  
Quintilliano  
Resource Institute, Inc  
ReVenture Park Investments  
Tom and Gwynn Sheffield  
C Hamilton Sloan  
Rick Smith  
Jack and Jenny Spruill  
Bill and Nancy Stanback  
Brad and Shelli Stanback  
Bill Staton  
SunTrust Foundation  
Victoria Sutton  
Town of Matthews  
U. S. Trust

Vulcan Materials Foundation  
Dewey Wells  
Billy Wilson

### \$500 - \$999

Russellene Angel  
Scott and Sarah Avett  
Backwater Environmental  
William Brown  
Marie Brown  
Pam Byrd  
Susan Cameron  
Marvin and Mary Chaney  
Columbia Forest Products  
Janice Crawford  
Developmental Disabilities  
Resources  
Richard Ellington  
Paul Foos  
Luz Frye  
Goode Properties  
Jason Goodyear  
Great Outdoor Provision Co  
Susan Harris Hileman  
Howard Irvin  
John Crosland, III Charitable  
Foundation  
Brian Johnson  
Julianna Jones  
Roseann Keatley  
George and Judy Lockhart  
W Daniel Martin III  
Mast General Store  
Jennifer McCabe  
Renee McGinnis  
Richard and Julia Mode  
Andy Nassef  
NC League of Conservation  
Voters  
North State Environmental Inc.  
O.B. Builders  
Ridgeline Corp  
River Works  
Ann Berry Somers  
Alberta Starnes  
Frank Stroupe  
John Teeter  
Visiting Angels  
White Owl Parts Co  
Chris and Heather Zajac

### \$300 - \$499

Jennifer Alligood  
Harry Angel  
Daniel Bolick  
Robert Boswell  
John Canup  
David Corlett

Cornerstone Financial Partners  
Cornelia DeVries  
Rod Evans  
Hain Ficken  
Peter Gilchrist  
Jill Gurak  
Nancy Huettel  
Joel James  
Kim McCulloch  
Microsoft Matching  
Gifts Program  
John and Sarah Neal  
William and Virginia Niblock  
Barbara Norris  
Paula Orr  
William Parker  
Pfizer Wildlife Team  
Peter Pickens  
Buddy Ritch  
Gary Rogers  
David Scott  
Barbara Sebastian  
Wesley Starr  
Josh and Anna Stein  
Dianne Thomas  
UNC Greensboro  
Alvin Volkman  
Tom and Lynn Vorys  
Phyllis West

### \$150 - \$299

Jerry Abee  
Margaret Accuff  
Donald Adair  
Kimberly Adkison  
Albemarle Conservation  
and Wildlife Chapter  
Janet Andersen  
Ian and Maeve Archibald  
Richard Askew  
H. Ballard  
Allen Basala  
Charles Bastian  
Trinity Bauer  
Walter Bennett  
Imelda Bernardo  
Wilbert Blackman  
Ross Boyer  
Kevin Boyle  
Cedric Britt  
Victoria Brown  
Edwin Bryan  
Graham Burkheimer  
John Burton  
Nena Cahill  
Bill and Ann Cannon  
Joseph Capozzi

Larry L. Capps  
Carolina Farm Stewardship  
Association  
Carolina Thread Trail  
Jane Carroll  
George Carroll  
Albert Catlett  
Betty Lou Chaika  
Patricia Chamings  
City of Rockingham  
Daniel and Kathleen Clarke-  
Pearson  
Voigt Cobb  
Steven Cohen and Dawn  
Dolson  
D. Scott Corbett  
Donna Creed  
Jasmin Daniels  
James Deal  
Mahlon Deloatch  
Frank Diehl  
Lee Dunn  
Jesse Eichenbaum  
George Eidam  
Rebecca Elderkin  
Lynn Eskridge  
Stephen Ezzo  
Nancy Falter  
Barbara Ferreira  
Donald Fletcher  
Ellen Ford  
Marquitta Franklin  
Sterling Freeman  
W. Erwin Fuller  
Kristine Goodyear  
Kevin Gorham  
Karl Gottschalk  
Kathleen Gray  
Gina Griffin  
Jo Harashima  
Carter Heyward  
Joseph Hightower  
Mindy Hiteshue  
Jack Hobson  
Judge Holdford  
Bennett Hollenberg  
William Holman  
Kim Hombs  
Nancy Hooks  
Paul Hoover  
Richard Hopper  
Stephen Hux  
IBM International Foundation  
Anthony Jones  
Jeremiah Joseph  
Mark and Jeannine Julian  
Joseph Kahn  
Bill Kane

Thomas Keller  
Carolyn Kerber  
Donna King  
Connie Klein  
Robert Kruger  
David and Debbie Lassiter  
James Lavery  
Herbert Lawton  
Becky and Dick Leach  
Mickey Lee  
Linda Leighty  
Tim Leonard  
Michael Linville  
Marvin Maddox  
James Mallinson  
Valerie McDonnell  
Ellen McKinnon  
Jane McNair  
Jonathan Miller  
Evelyn Mills  
Theresa Morr  
Brannon Riddick  
Dennis Riddick  
Frances Musser  
Mary Myers  
National Audubon Society  
NC Council Trout Unlimited  
F. Neal  
Janet Nelson  
Nancy Neuffer  
Mark Norcross  
Jimmy North  
Stacey and Wanda Ohm  
Oncology Specialists of  
Charlotte  
Edith O'Rear  
Gerald Otteni  
Paul Pagliughi  
George Parker  
Betty Parker  
Laura Pearce  
Anne Pechmann Mitchell  
Wade Penny  
Clifford Perry  
Thomas Pilbeam  
Charles Pimble  
Jane Plough  
Patsy Poe  
Teresa Polson  
Elizabeth Potter  
Vernon and Della Powell  
Raleigh Garden Club  
Robert Reed  
Arthur Rice  
William Richardson  
Heather Riley  
Jim and Linda Rostan

John Rusher  
Jim Russell  
Shelly Ryder  
Robert and Denise Salta  
Wilbur Sawyer  
Richard Schreiber  
Jay Scroggins  
Robert Shuford  
Sierra Club - Harvey Broome  
Group  
Michael Smith  
Edwin Smith  
Harold Smith  
Rosalie Snook  
Southern Nash High School  
Harold Soutier  
Judson Spalding  
Arthur and Barbara Spencer  
Bobby and Jane Spivey  
Thomas Stafford  
Beverly Stevens  
Valeria Stevenson  
Vonda Stroupe  
Edward Sucky  
David Swarner  
William Swick  
Jock and Kathryn Tate  
Kathryn Taylor  
The Charlotte Woman's Club  
The LandTrust for Central  
North Carolina  
John Thompson  
Edward Tolson  
Steven Tracy  
Gregory Underwood  
Martin van Cleeff  
John Vaughan  
Mary Vidaurri  
Lawrence and Carla Vitez  
Clay Walker  
Mary Ann Walton  
Ellen Wells  
James Wells  
Wildlands Engineering, Inc.  
William Wilkinson  
Paul Williams  
Leroy Williams  
Shelley Williamson  
June Winston  
Margrit Witt  
Griselle Woodward  
David Younts  
Robert Zucker





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](http://www.ncwf.org), or Dom Canavarro, Development and Operations Director, at (919) 833-1923; [dom@ncwf.org](mailto:dom@ncwf.org).

Tom Angelo  
Ben Barker  
Avery Bates  
Robert Berton  
John Bishop  
Frank Bragg  
Robert Brown  
Mollie Brugh  
Richard and Maria Buchsbaum  
Pinkney Bynum  
Glenn Campbell  
Maurice and Addria Capps  
Bob and Judy Critz  
John Crutchfield  
Jerry Davis  
Leah Dey  
Roger and Sally Dick  
Alexander Dickey  
Helen Eggers  
Ray and Judy Felton

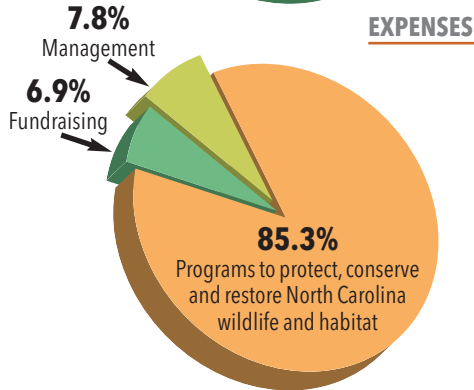
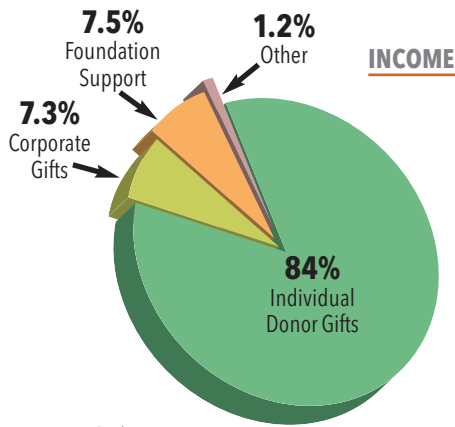
Scott and Ann Fletcher  
John Fuller  
Carol Gestwicki  
Tim and Karen Gestwicki  
Stephen Graf  
John and Lisa Hairr  
Fred Harris  
Daniel Harris  
Susan Harris Hileman  
Robin Hayes  
Phil Hinton  
John Hislop  
Brigid Hogan  
Carol Buie and Jay Jackson  
Steve Jester  
Joe Kelleher  
David Knight  
Harry Lancaster and Jane Henderson  
Thomas Long

Richard and Julia Mode  
Patrick O'Leary  
Perry Patterson and Joel Leander  
Leonard Fumi and Lucy Quintilliano  
Karen Redfern and Joye Thomas  
Mark and Jane Ritchie  
John and Holly Robbins  
Stuart Ryman  
Tom and Gwynn Sheffield  
C Hamilton Sloan  
Rick Smith  
Jack and Jenny Spruill  
Bill and Nancy Stanback  
Brad and Shelli Stanback  
Fred and Alice Stanback  
Bill Staton  
Victoria Sutton  
Dewey Wells  
Billy Wilson

## NCWF FINANCIAL REPORT 2016

North Carolina Wildlife Federation  
1024 Washington Street  
Raleigh, NC 27605

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
PPCO



### ASSETS

**TOTAL ASSETS December 31, 2016: \$5,095,915**

## NCWF appreciates the Foundations who supported our work in 2016

- **Z Smith Reynolds** for operational support
- **The Glass Foundation** support for large scale pollinator habitat restoration at Lake James State Park and equipment for youth education
- **Duke Energy Water Fund** conservation of the Little Tennessee River
- **Burt's Bees Greater Good Foundation** restoring pollinator habitat
- **Habitat Enhancement Program** to benefit fish, wildlife and habitat along the Catawba-Wateree River
- **Duke Energy Foundation** support for The Butterfly Highway and Great Outdoors University
- **Women's Impact Fund** support for Great Outdoors University
- **Pew Charitable Trust** menhaden conservation work
- **NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission** Communities and Farmers Manage Deer program support
- **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation** pollinator restoration

