



North Carolina
**WILDLIFE
FEDERATION**

Journal

WILD LIVES ■ WILD PLACES

Winter 2015



2014
ANNUAL REPORT



Time for **COMMON-SENSE CONSERVATION**

by Tim Gestwicki, Chief Executive Officer

We've seen this before. 2014 was marked with attacks on hallmark natural resource laws, investments, and basic tenets of common-sense conservation. Wetlands protections were weakened, public lands were minimized, and bedrock agencies like the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were forced to focus on defense of their work and diminishing budgets instead of protecting public trust resources. Across the board, from the commercialization of white-tailed deer to industrial fishing, public trust resources were under attack in 2014. We've seen this before, and through it all, NCWF stood strong as a champion for wildlife and those who value wild places and outdoor experiences.

Now it's time to get back to sensible, responsible common-sense conservation in the General Assembly, in Congress, and in public actions and values. Towards that end, NCWF will work to ensure that the commercialization of our wildlife resources does not permeate North Carolina. We will work for appropriate investments in water and land infrastructures. We will work for wildlife-friendly energy by supporting renewable energy. We will work to ensure that our waterways and drinking water sources are not fouled, that our working farms remain just that, and that all creatures are given due consideration.

Our bottom line is that NCWF will champion all the public trust resources of this state, from the greatest to the least and from the iconic to the forgotten. We will remind decision makers of their duties to uphold the laws that protect natural resources for all. For those not sure what that means, the Public Trust Doctrine is the keystone legal component of fish and wildlife conservation in the United States. It legally mandates that fish and wildlife resources are held in trust by the government for the benefit of the present and future generations of all citizens; and that states hold natural resources in trust for the people and cannot alienate the trust. Furthermore, we will bring to bear the principles of the North American Model of Fish and Wildlife Conservation that holds that our fish and wildlife legally belong to all Americans, and that they need to be managed scientifically in a way that their populations will be sustained forever.

It's as straightforward as it is common sense.

This year-in-review of the NCWF *Journal* highlights a lot of exciting efforts and results and lots of work to be done in 2015.

And we have great reason for optimism. NCWF has all the ingredients for success: An all-star staff that is indefatigable in its commitment to the work at hand, an expert and engaged board of directors, a grassroots network that is the envy of the nation, a clear plan to succeed, a terrific working partnership with the National Wildlife Federation, generous and dedicated supporters, and a doubled-down commitment to engage youth, diversify, build our grassroots, and focus intently on wildlife, wildlife, wildlife.

The keys to our success will be based on our core values that drive the mission and work of NCWF: Science-based decision-making, a non-partisan approach to policy, a commitment to the stewardship of natural resources, and partnering with like-minded organizations and individuals. Our common-sense vision will be that our stewardship will result in a North Carolina with bountiful and diverse wildlife, including all species of wild flora and fauna, which is valued by its citizens and elected officials, and sustainably managed for future generations.

NCWF takes seriously our responsibility to serve as stewards of North Carolina's wildlife and natural resources. Our stewardship responsibilities extend both to our fellow wildlife species as well as to future generations, neither of which can speak for themselves.

We look forward to a great year. And we look forward to looking back on 2016 as the year we led others—in the General Assembly and beyond—to embrace our brand of common-sense conservation. **NCWF**

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Cover photograph: Eastern box turtle. All photos, unless otherwise noted: canstockphoto.com, istockphoto.com or courtesy of NCWF.

CREDITS

Design: Kimberly KC Schott, Red Gate Design
Printing: Progress Printing, Lynchburg, VA



North Carolina WILDLIFE FEDERATION *Journal*

WILD LIVES ■ WILD PLACES

Winter 2015

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

NCWF Mission The mission of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation is to be the leading advocate for all North Carolina wildlife and its habitat.

LOOKING BACK,



MOVING *forward*



GOALS Recognizing that wildlife includes all species of wild flora and fauna, the goals of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation are:

- To advocate the conservation and enhancement of all wildlife and its habitat.
- To advocate ethical and biologically sound hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities.
- To advocate education, for children and adults, that increases public awareness of wildlife, its dependence on habitat, and the importance of both to human existence.
- In affiliation with our member organizations, to communicate, cooperate, and partner with the North Carolina General Assembly, state resource agencies, corporations, and other interested groups to advance the well being of wildlife and its habitat.
- In affiliation with the National Wildlife Federation, to support national and international issues of mutual interest.

Published by the North Carolina Wildlife Federation. Raleigh office: 1024 Washington Street, Raleigh, NC 27605; (919) 833-1923. Charlotte office: 2155 McClintock Road, Charlotte, NC 28205; (704) 332-5696; www.ncwf.org.

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2014

ANNUAL REPORT

LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD. There is so much to do, so many issues to monitor, so many causes to support, that maintaining perspective is a significant challenge for an organization such as the North Carolina Wildlife Federation. That's what makes an Annual Report, and this particular Annual Report, such a valuable document. Once a year we climb a hill to look back at the road we've trod. And this year, we're pairing that point of view with a look forward to the challenges that remain. The present provides a vantage point from which to view the past, certainly. But it should also provide a sweeping, inspiring view of the future—of the work that remains, and of the successes that are out there and ready to be realized. Thanks for being our partner on this challenging, rewarding, and ultimately promising road.

January

2 NATURAL FLOW

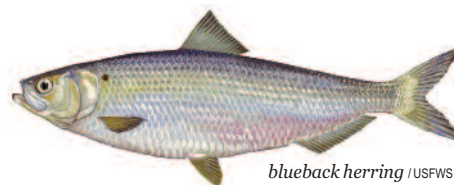
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is nearing completion of a multiyear study called a Section 216 Review of river flows on the Roanoke River designed to identify environmental problems caused by the current flow regime that floods the river and its floodplain for prolonged periods of time adversely affecting farming, timber production, and fish and wildlife habitat. NCWF is an active member of the Conservation Partnership including state and federal agencies, universities, and nongovernmental organizations that has participated in the review and petitioned for changes to river flows to reduce adverse effects of flooding. The Partnership is supporting the study alternative that would amend the water release curve to more closely reflect the historical flow regime of the river before impoundment and has asked the USACE to implement this alternative. ▼



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14 HERRING PLAN

NCWF prepares comments in support of N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries draft amendments to the river herring plan that would eliminate the discretionary harvest season, implement a rule in joint and coastal waters to prohibit the possession of river herring greater than six inches while fishing or boating, and remove alewives and blueback herring from what is known as the "mutilated fish rule." ▼



blueback herring / USFWS

31 DON'T SPOIL OUR ISLANDS

NCWF comments on the Integrated Dredge Material Plan for Morehead City and Beaufort Inlet. The organization voices concerns over the environmental impacts of depositing dredged material at or adjacent to Shackleford Banks, part of Cape Lookout National Seashore. ▼



4 DOWN ON THE FARM

The federal farm bill passes. NCWF worked hard for its passage, which included more than \$57 billion of funding for conservation programs and ensures that popular and effective farm bill conservation programs will continue into the future. A major highlight of the bill is the way it links conservation compliance and crop insurance, ensuring that in exchange for receiving crop insurance premium subsidies, farmers will have to practice basic soil and wetland conservation measures on environmentally sensitive land. The inclusion of this important provision is a huge win for wildlife; not only does it save taxpayer dollars from being used to subsidize harmful practices, but it helps prevent the destruction of millions of acres of wetlands and the erosion of millions of tons of soil. Other highlights of the bill include: an innovative regional conservation partnership program to protect critical areas of conservation need, an increase of potentially millions of dollars of funding to help farmers create wildlife habitat on working lands, mandatory funding for on-farm renewable energy programs, and continued funding for successful conservation easement programs.

February

1 PARKS CHIEF RETIRES

Longtime director of N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation, Louis Ledford, retires. Ledford is the 2010 NCWF Conservationist of the Year.

3 ASH ISSUES

39,000 tons of coal ash and 27 million gallons of ash pond water are released into the Dan River from Duke Energy basin. This environmental disaster leads to coal ash basin management and cleanup taking center stage as 2014's most pressing environmental issue. ▼

DAN RIVER BASIN ASSOCIATION



15 DON'T WAIT FOR LAKE RULES

Resolution adopted by NCWF in support of Jordan Lake. The Federation urges that rules creating the Jordan Lake Water Supply Nutrient Strategy should not be delayed due to the urgency of addressing deteriorating water quality in Jordan Lake. This drinking water reservoir is under intense pressure for watershed development with potentially disastrous impacts to natural resources and recreational values.

March

1 CAMO HERO

NCWF's Camo Coordinator, Dick Hamilton, is honored by N.C. Bowhunters Association as "Conservationist of the Year."

23 CLEAN WATER ACT SUPPORT

NCWF launches a year-long clean water campaign to uphold the Clean Water Act. The rulemaking process will clarify and strengthen the Army Corps of Engineers and Environmental Protection Agency regulatory definitions of "waters of the United States." A successful rulemaking process can provide clarity about the specific waters covered by the Act—clarity that is badly needed by land owners, developers, conservationists, and state and federal agencies alike. NCWF mounted a massive outreach and advocacy campaign in support of the rules including radio, television, print media, postcard comments, sportsmen group sign-on letters, and federal lobbying efforts for the North Carolina delegation. The proposal clarifies which waters are—and which are not—protected by the Clean Water Act. It will protect many streams and wetlands that are currently in legal limbo. Weakened stream and wetland protections at the federal level leave these waters more vulnerable to adverse impacts from development and discharges of pollutants that could result in changing water temperatures, increased erosion and sedimentation, changing nutrient levels, lowering water quality, and degrading critical and unique fish and wildlife habitats. The dredging and filling of these waters also reduces their flood storage capacity and increases flooding and flood damage downstream.



Captive Deer Farms and CWD

Cervids are hooved ruminant mammals whose males usually have antlers and include white-tailed deer and elk. Cervids are the host animal for a disease-causing agent that can lead to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), which has not yet been detected in North Carolina herds.

CWD can devastate wild populations of deer, however, and NCWF, led by its Camo Coalition

under the direction of coordinator Richard B. Hamilton, mounted an ongoing effort that focused on the management of captive deer and elk, expansion of captive deer farms in North Carolina, and legal issues surrounding the fencing of wild animals—a public-trust resource of the State.

In 2014, NCWF participated in a Captive Cervid Task Force that was charged with reviewing the current safeguards and vulnerabilities in North Carolina to cervid diseases, both in captive facilities and in the wild. The Federation successfully worked to keep a House provision to transfer control and management jurisdiction of captive deer farms from the Wildlife Resources Commission to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. NCWF rallied partner groups and sportsmen to oppose new rules to allow expansion of captivity licenses for white-tailed deer and elk.

Moving forward, NCWF will work to protect the state's Public Trust Doctrine from being weakened in 2015. North Carolina does not need to relax regulations governing the issuance of new captivity licenses for white-tailed deer and elk, nor does the state need to allow the sale of captive deer and elk to fulfill the demand of fenced shooting preserves for paying customers in places like Texas. NCWF feel strongly that the commercialization and exploitation of public trust resources is extremely damaging to professional, science-based wildlife management of our native deer herds. ▼



April

3 NO HOG HAVEN

The Agriculture Department announces a \$20 million effort to reduce the increasingly expensive damage caused by wild hogs in rural areas. Under the new program, which was proposed in last year's budget request by the Obama administration, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service will work directly with states to manage populations and test for diseases such as swine fever. Hog damage in North Carolina is significant to native flora and fauna. ▼



16 SALTWATER ADVOCATE

David W. Knight joins the Federation staff. Knight, who worked as a lobbyist for the Federation in the late 1990s through the mid 2000s, tackling such issues as a salt-water recreational fishing license. He is the Federation's policy consultant focused on marine resources. ▼



May

1 GROWING FAMILY

NCWF welcomes two new affiliates: N.C. Hunters for the Hungry and N.C. Falconers Guild. Affiliates of NCWF range from local rod and gun clubs and garden groups to statewide conservation groups. They comprise NCWF's grassroots strength.

3 MODEL BEHAVIOR

National Wildlife Federation Annual Meeting resolutions are adopted. NCWF co-sponsors one critical resolution titled, "Public Trust Doctrine and the North American Model of Fish and Wildlife Conservation." The keystone component of fish and wildlife conservation in the United States is the Public Trust Doctrine that legally mandates that fish and wildlife resources are held in trust by the government for the benefit of the present and future generations of all citizens. The North American Model of Fish and Wildlife Conservation operates under two basic principles: First, that fish and wildlife legally belong to all Americans, and second, that they need to be managed scientifically in a way that their populations will be sustained forever.

29 MOLE SUPPORT

NCWF opposes proposal by N.C. Pesticide Board to declare the eastern and hairy-tailed moles as pests, thereby allowing the use of poisons to kill these two native, insectivorous species.

June

7 PADDLE-PALOOZA

NCWF celebrates its 10th Annual Catawba Canoe and Kayak-a-thon. ▼



9-11 ALIEN INVADERS

In Washington, D.C., NCWF testifies against use of invasive plants for biofuel as part of the National Environmental Coalition on Invasive Species. Our effort was to encourage agencies to be more proactive to reduce the risk that federally incentivized biofuel feedstocks become invasive. Victory was gained as the Department of Energy ultimately issued language to exclude potentially invasive plants for approval: "Projects may not cultivate any feedstock that is invasive or noxious or species or varieties of plants that credible risk assessment tools or other credible sources determine are potentially invasive."



Little Tennessee River Partnership

The Little Tennessee River system supports almost 50 species of native fishes and about 10 species of freshwater mussels, which make it one of our country's more species-rich aquatic systems. Fishing and other recreational activities along the river contribute greatly to the economy of the area. The river is widely recognized as one of North America's premier biological and

cultural treasures. The Little Tennessee River Native Fish Conservation Partnership was initiated by NCWF in 2013 to conserve this resource.

During 2014 we expanded our membership and now have as partners more than 40 governmental agencies, conservation organizations, and corporations working together to designate and manage the river as a Native Fish Conservation Area. We developed three focus areas within which our work will concentrate, and established a working group to identify and accomplish objectives for each work area.

The Assessment Group is considering a watershed-wide barrier assessment to study road culverts, small dams, and other barriers that can restrict or prohibit movements of fishes within streams. The On-The-Ground Group is concentrating on restoration of biological communities in the system and on protection and management of riparian areas. The Outreach and Communications Group is to develop audio-visual resources that highlight the diverse aquatic resources of the Little Tennessee River system, their value to the region and actions needed to conserve them. This group will also enhance educational opportunities for youth and adults to gain better understanding and appreciation of the river's resources.

In 2015 we will continue assessing the conservation needs of the river's aquatic resources, initiating projects to address critical needs, and informing the public about the system's resources and our partnership's work to address those needs. A designation ceremony will be planned during the year to officially proclaim the Little Tennessee River as a Native Fish Conservation Area. ▼





Farmers Manage Deer Program

Sponsored by the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission, this program was implemented in 2012 to reduce crop loss resulting from deer browse on North Carolina farms while providing food for needy individuals in local communities. Hunters take doe deer on private farmlands during the deer season and donate the meat to the N.C. Hunters for the

Hungry program. All deer meat processed through the program is returned to food banks and other non-profit agencies for distribution in the communities where the deer were collected.

For 2015, the program will be expanded and have a new name: Farmers and Communities Manage Deer. This community-focused model relies on organizations such as churches, civic groups, and local corporations to coordinate local participation and host deer drop-off donation centers each fall. In 2015, we will expand the current deer donation areas by placing stationary coolers at selected certified meat processors. Distribution of these coolers to motivated community groups will reduce the distance hunters have to travel to donate deer meat. Current areas of program expansion include Wilson, Nash, Edgecombe, Beaufort, Bladen, Columbus, and Pasquotank County.

If you or a civic organization you are involved in would like to participate in the Farmers and Communities Manage Deer Program, please send an e-mail to liz@ncwf.org or call (828) 783-8013.

And we would like to recognize Kevin Keyzer as our 2014 Distinguished Community Champion for his on-going support and dedication to this program, which could not be a success without such outstanding individuals. Thank you! ▼



24 SOCIAL MEDIA DARLING

NCWF Facebook page reaches 22,000 likes.

29 MONROE BYPASS

NCWF joined with the Clean Air Carolina and the Yadkin Riverkeeper to file a lawsuit challenging the N.C. Department of Transportation's latest inadequate review of environmental impacts from the controversial \$850 million Monroe Bypass toll highway. The project would have massive environmental impacts throughout Union County, impacting many acres of wetlands and forests as well as several miles of streams, including some which serve as habitat for endangered species.

This challenge is the latest round in NCWF's fight against the toll road. NCWF won its first challenge in 2012, when a federal court struck down NCDOT's earlier attempt at environmental review, ruling that the agency failed to provide an honest evaluation of the project's impacts. The court ordered NCDOT to go back and transparently re-evaluate the project.

Since that ruling, NCWF and attorneys at the Southern Environmental Law Center have followed NCDOT's reevaluation, finding that once again NCDOT has failed to provide a truthful picture of the project. Instead, the agency has continued to intentionally mislead the public about the project's purpose and impacts on the environment and local communities. In public, NCDOT has touted the toll road's supposed transportation benefits and glossed over any adverse environmental or community impacts. Buried in its review, however, NCDOT makes clear that improving existing congestion is not the agency's intent nor the project's expected result. NCWF and its partner groups think there are better, cheaper, and less environmentally destructive solutions to the transportation problems facing Union County. We've worked with local residents and transportation experts to encourage NCDOT to consider specific alternatives that would actually improve travel for local drivers in Union County. NCDOT has ignored these alternatives so far, but we hope that by filing the lawsuit these low-cost solutions will get a proper review.



July

7 WILDLIFE FRIENDLY ENERGY ▲

NCWF peer reviews, co-sponsors and releases in North Carolina the NWF report *Catching the Wind: State Actions Needed to Seize the Golden Opportunity of Atlantic Offshore Wind Power*. Meanwhile, North Carolina rises to #2 in the country for new solar power growth.

17 LEGISLATIVE MUSCLE

NCWF participates in a Waterways for Wildlife fly-in event in Washington, DC.

23 HALF-CENTURY ANNIVERSARY

50th Anniversary of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). This landmark program sets aside a small portion of revenues from federal oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf. It involves no taxpayer dollars, but is set to expire in 2015 unless Congress takes action. N.C. Senator Richard Burr is a leading champion of LWCF. NCWF joined Senator Burr and Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell at a reception and celebration of 50 years of LWCF on the Blue Ridge Parkway. ▼

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GoU: Branching Out and Growing

Great Outdoors University (GoU) connects kids with nature in life-changing ways. Children and youth experience a living laboratory outdoors filled with inspiration and wonderful surprises, where hands-on discoveries can be made and learning is fun. The value of this kind of program to a child's overall health is supported by educators and pediatricians and is well documented by recent studies. GoU empowers kids to discover nature in ways that invite them to explore, engage their senses, follow their curiosity and share their sense of wonder about the natural world.

2014 brought a year of successes for GoU including:

- A winning display in partnership with the Green Teacher Network awarded at the Southern Spring Show.
- Recipient of a top grant of \$25,000 from The North Face.
- Selected as one of the top non-profit honorees in Charlotte by Playing for Others.
- Eight new participant partners and seven new destination partners established.
- GoU welcomed 5 new Advisory Council Members to the team: Alen Baker, John Benbow M.D., Scott Geyer, Ph.D., Krissie Newman and Dianne Thomas.
- A total of 7943 participants were served by GoU through 71 daytrips and 8 events.
- GoU partnered/participated in events with Habitat and Wildlife Keepers, Piedmont Area Wildlife Stewards, Catawba River STEM Festival, UNC Charlotte, Childhood Obesity Summit, Vulcan and McDowell Nature Preserve.

2015 Goals include:

- Provide 85 day trips.
- Work with GoU chapter liaisons and committees in the greater Charlotte region to host at least 5 family fun days/events.
- Increase participant, destination, and community partnerships.
- Develop a prototype GoU Junior Naturalist Club.
- Develop a prototype GoU Faith Community Programs.
- Partner with additional chapters outside of the greater Charlotte region to host family fun days/events.
- Expand the GoU volunteer network.



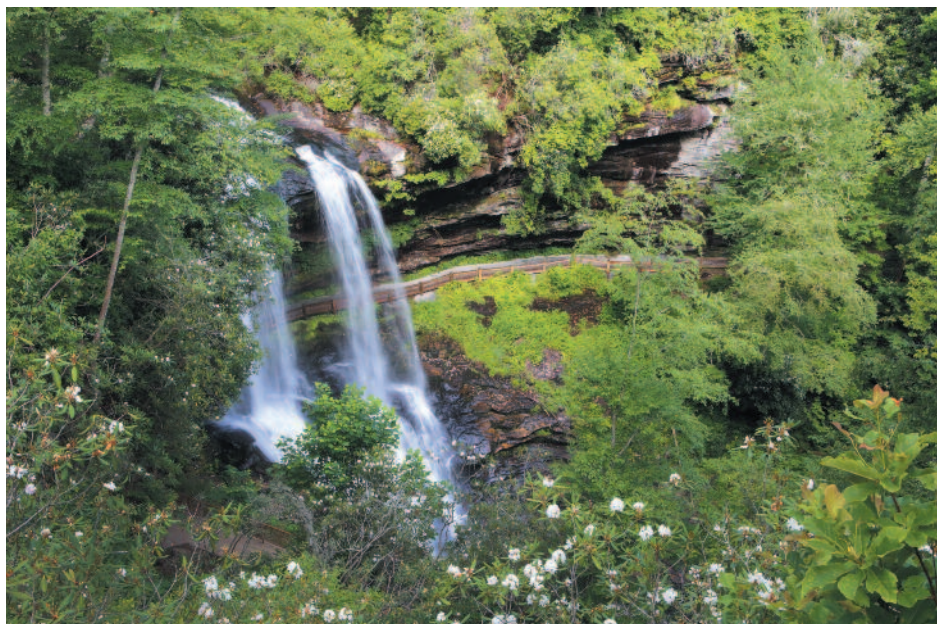
Nantahala-Pisgah Management Plan

NCWF is participating at a high level in the revision of the forest management plan for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests, the guidelines of which will determine how 1.1 million acres of public lands in western North Carolina will be managed for the next 15 years. This plan revision is a major rewrite of the 1987 management plan using new science and addressing new concerns about how these public lands are managed.

The Federation team is led by past president emeritus, Bill Kane; affiliate representative G. Richard Mode; and CEO Tim Gestwicki. They have attended public meetings with the U.S. Forest Service and monthly meetings with two planning groups comprised of numerous partners of NCWF and other interested stakeholder groups. NC Camo Coalition coordinator Dick Hamilton, natural resources specialist Fred Harris, and NCWF VP Dr. Robert Brown have vetted all input into the Forest Service based on the latest wildlife and aquatic biology science.

To date the NCWF team has tendered detailed comments evaluating the current plan and stating issues of concern. NCWF comments have revolved around natural resource and wildlife habitat restoration, management processes that will create a healthy forest for a diversity of wildlife, access for outdoor recreation, and aquatic species enhancement and protection.

In 2015, NCWF will monitor the development of the next draft of the plan. We will attend the next round of public hearings and continue to meet with partners and other stakeholders. We will analyze the next draft of the plan along with draft management alternatives and a draft Environmental Impact Statement. A final revised plan will be released in 2016. ▼



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29 POWERFUL ARGUMENTS

NCWF provides testimony at carbon rules hearings in support of the EPA Clean Power Plan for carbon sequestration and reduction.

August

5 NEW CHAPTER FOR 2014

Concord Wildlife Alliance launches as a new chapter of the Federation.

11 SALT-FRESH PARTNERSHIPS

After lobbying for its passage in the General Assembly, NCWF urges Governor McCrory to move forward on Joint Enforcement Authority (JEA) for marine enforcement in the state. JEA will make it less necessary for federal fisheries officers to patrol state waters because our own Marine Patrol will have authority and resources to enforce federal laws in state waters. Every coastal state has a JEA with NMFS except North Carolina. Other states enjoy financial benefits from their JEA. North Carolina could claim about \$500,000 in federal money every year, funds that could be used to equip and support our Marine Patrol.

14 PUBLIC LAND DEFENDER

NCWF participates in a national press event, along with former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, to defend and support investing in public lands. ▼



15 OFF-BASE ON OFF-SHORE

The Federation opposes the Obama Administration's southeastern Atlantic offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling plans. The administration sets out where it plans to offer leases and eventually allow drilling on the outer continental shelf.

18 HOT AND GETTING HOTTER

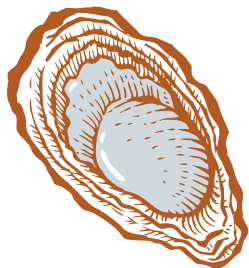
NCWF holds a press conference for the release of *Ticked Off: The Outdoor Experience and Climate Change*, which details how climate change has provided stressful new changes for the outdoor world. Citing the best available science, the report goes on to explain how climate change is already increasing numbers of mosquitoes, ticks, poison ivy and other annoying pests and plants, making the outdoor experience less enjoyable.

21 SHORT ON GOOD NEWS

After 163 days, the General Assembly adjourns its "short" session. Its efforts roll back wetlands protections and regulatory protections for natural resources and include attempts to commercialize North Carolina's public trust resources. Coal ash and fracking for natural gas are among the main issues. One bright spot was a provision that increases penalties for poaching Venus' flytraps from a misdemeanor to a felony crime. These rare carnivorous plants are found in a few locations in eastern North Carolina.

27 SHELLFISH FUTURE

NCWF opposes expanded oyster dredging season. The Federation requests no increase to oyster dredging, and requests that the MFC work to include a modern aquaculture plan. After the plan is formulated, the MFC should implement that plan by seeking appropriate funding from the legislature and governor for modern oyster aquaculture training and support for our fishermen. Such a program will not only protect our wild oyster habitat, but will also provide an economic stimulus for fishermen and markets. NCWF requests that oyster dredging be phased out as part of this aquaculture plan. ▼



Protecting Marine Resources

In 2014, NCWF embarked on a campaign to reform marine resources conservation in North Carolina, an effort that carries into 2015 as the Federation's marquee initiative called Sound Solutions.

Our state is blessed with a unique barrier island system and an inshore marine ecosystem of vast expanse, having the largest sounds on the East Coast behind only the Chesapeake. These sounds and the rivers, creeks, and inlets that feed them and their surrounding wetlands are the lifeblood of the nurseries for shellfish, finfish, and numerous wildlife species including endangered and threatened species. Recognizing inconsistencies with science-based management of the state's marine resources, NCWF launched a campaign comprised of education, awareness, and actions to make significant changes.

- NCWF's video, *Net Results: the Dark Side of Inshore Shrimp Trawling*, exposed the major bycatch and waste of non-targeted marine species including juvenile weakfish, spot, and croaker.
- The Federation authored and released a feature article in spring titled *Unintended Consequences* that brought to bear the sobering facts on inshore trawling impacts to the environment and resources.
- NCWF hired a policy consultant to lend expertise to NCWF's campaign.
- Federation officials spent the year meeting with commercial fishermen, seafood dealers, fishing guides, scientists, and other stakeholders to gather feedback, data, opinions, and recommendations from experts on the issues, challenges at hand and possible solutions. There has been and remains a large divide between commercial and recreational angling interests. NCWF is approaching this issue in a holistic manner with three foundational tenets: environmental, fisheries management, and fishing gear/methods.
- NCWF's Camo Coalition sponsored four marine fishery summits involving major marine fisheries conservation groups and knowledgeable individuals to discuss changes to marine fisheries programs and possible approaches.

North Carolina's marine resources are a public trust resource, and as such must be protected and sustained for use and enjoyment by all citizens. NCWF holds firmly to the position that North Carolina must change its approaches to the protection, management, and conservation of its marine resources. To prompt and support state agencies and officials to a greater commitment to action on behalf of marine resources and fisheries management, NCWF is committed to working for greater environmental protection of our estuarine areas, reforming marine fisheries management and oversight, and refining fishing methods and gear types. NCWF holds that all of these components are critical for the long-term stewardship of our marine resources and will work towards that end in 2015 with its Sound Solutions campaign.



September

2 MARCH OF THE MONARCHS ▲

Monarch butterfly migration peaks in North Carolina. Current Monarch butterfly counts are the lowest on record.

10 ELK OPPORTUNITY

NCWF begins working with The Conservation Fund, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and Wildlife Resources Commission to identify lands for protection in Haywood County adjacent to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park as part of a collaborative effort to increase habitat opportunities for elk and for outdoor recreation opportunities. ▼



22 EAGLE EYES

NCWF joins with NWF in urging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to prepare a full environmental impact statement to analyze available data on bald and golden eagle populations, the effectiveness of current conservation efforts, and the potential impacts of USFWS actions with respect to its management of eagles, especially with regards to wind energy sites.

October

6 BRAIN TRUST

Martha "Liz" Rutledge Ph.D. joins the Federation staff as a wildlife specialist, adding another scientist to the Federation's team.

14 BEAUFORT COUNTY BEGINNING

Pamlico Albemarle Wildlife Conservationists holds its first chapter formation meeting in Beaufort County.

21 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

NCWF's natural resource specialist Fred Harris is presented the C.W. Watson Award at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) annual awards banquet. The C.W. Watson Award is the most prestigious award given by the SEAFWA directors.

26 GETTING THE WORD OUT

Walker Marketing, Inc. joins NCWF, providing its award-winning marketing, public relations, and advertising expertise to NCWF conservation campaigns.

November

1 CASTING FOR HISTORY

NCWF becomes a founder of the Fly Fishing Museum of the Southern Appalachians, located in Cherokee. ▼



3 PROTECTING PUBLIC LANDS

The Federation provides comments to the U.S. Forest Service opposing its proposal to authorize access that involves new road construction and use of existing roads to landowners of a private tract of land that is surrounded by Forest Service lands and associated pristine aquatic ecosystems located on the Valley River Mountains rim above Fires Creek in Clay County.

12 DEER FARM FIASCO

NCWF, urging federal assistance on Chronic Wasting Disease concerns from deer farming in North Carolina, joins with NWF and other affiliates on a sign-on letter to U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Vilsack. Federal rules make it easier to expand captive cervid farms and relax rules and guidance on interstate transfer.

13 WAKE CHAPTER TAKES ROOT

A new chapter of NCWF launches in Holly Springs. Welcome to the South Wake Conservationists!

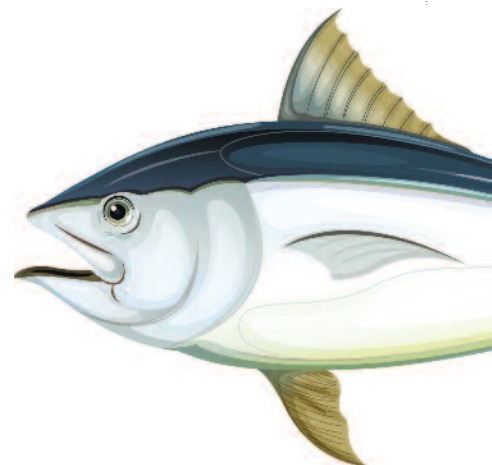
30 TRAWL TROUBLE

NCWF weighs in on the Division of Marine Fisheries' Shrimp Management Plan. Calling the plan inadequate, NCWF recommends tighter protections on by-catch, trawl times, sizes of nets used, and cites the plan for a lack of meaningful management tools to lessen shrimp by-catch.

December

1 BIG NEWS FOR BLUEFINS

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) releases implementing regulations for Final Amendment 7 to the 2006 Consolidated Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan. The rules are very positive for the U.S. Atlantic bluefin tuna fishery and includes a suite of management measures that work together to protect areas of high bluefin abundance, significantly reduce and control incidental catch of bluefin overall, and improve data collection and monitoring of the U.S. Atlantic bluefin fishery. NCWF has worked on this issue of bluefin tuna conservation for many years. ▼

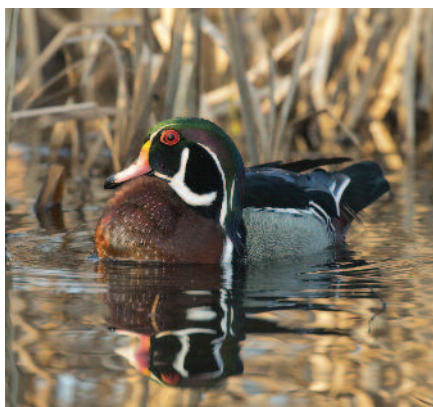


2 HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) turns 44 years old. President Richard Nixon proposed and signed an executive order establishing the EPA on December 2, 1970.

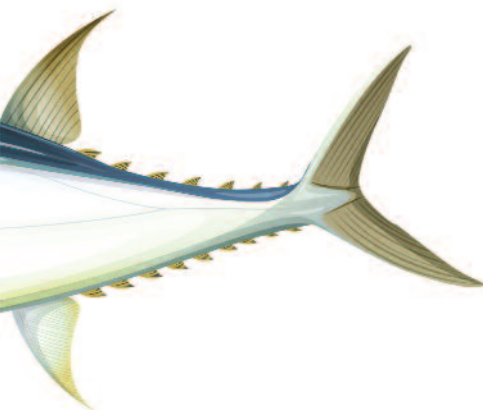
4 MORE DOLLARS FOR DUCKS

The Federal Duck Stamp Act of 2014 is enacted, which raises the price of a federal Duck Stamp from \$15 to \$25 starting with the 2015 waterfowl hunting season. This will channel millions of dollars toward wetlands and other waterfowl habitat conservation projects. It was the first stamp increase since 1991 and was widely supported by sporting groups including NCWF. ▼



5 TURTLE TROUBLE

NCWF supports listing the common snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*) and the spiny softshell turtle (*Apalone spinifer*) with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora in order that trade and harvest data will be collected. Fueled by demands in Asian markets, turtle harvesting is rapidly increasing.



USFWS

22 WRANGLING OVER WOLVES ▲

Red wolves are in the news throughout the year. NCWF fully supports new rules proposed by the Wildlife Resources Commission (as part of a court-ordered settlement agreement) to prohibit all nighttime hunting of coyotes in the counties of Dare, Tyrrell, Hyde, Beaufort, and Washington. This region is the only place where red wolves roam wild. We supported this change on the basis that eliminating nighttime hunting of coyotes will eliminate the killing of red wolves by mistaken identity at night while coyote hunting. While the possibility of killing a red wolf in the daytime by mistaken identity still exists, distinguishing a coyote from a red wolf is clearer in daylight. NCWF also supported the proposal to list the red wolf (*Canis rufus*) as state-listed threatened. Listing as threatened will give red wolves protection under state law in addition to federal law. The Federation supports all these changes as necessary and appropriate to allow the management of coyotes and to protect red wolves. A determination on the future of the red wolf program by the USFWS is expected in 2015. ^{NC}WF

CHECK OUT OUR CHAPTERS!

Our wildlife chapter activities are endless and provide something for everyone.

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)



F.I.S.H. (Fayetteville Increasing Sustainable Habitat)



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)



South Wake Conservationists



The Albemarle Conservation and Wildlife Chapter

Celebrating Our DONORS

Thanks to our thousands of members and major donors who provide the financial backbone of a healthy advocacy organization. NCWF thanks all those contributors who entrusted their dollars to the Federation, and chose to work for wildlife through NCWF's proven programs and initiatives.

\$25,000 +	Alexander Dickey	Stacey and Wanda Ohm	\$150 - \$299	Charles Gregg	Martha Parsons	Julie Taber
Anonymous	James Doyle	Trudy Parker	Diane Adams	Henry Grossberg	Anne Pechmann Mitchell	Kathryn Taylor
Foundation for the Carolinas	Paul Foos	Robert Segal	Adams Beverages of NC	Frances Hall	Wade Penny	Ronald Taylor
NC Tobacco Trust Fund	Carol Gestwicki	Ann Somers	Nancy Agsten	Larry and Mary Hammontree	Clifford Perry	Caroline Taylor
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\$10,000 - \$24,999	Susan Harris Hileman	Patti Wheeler	Peggy Baum	Richard Hisler	Kenneth Pollard	Steven Tracy
EarthShare of North Carolina	Phil and Bessie Hinton		Larry Bennett	Jack Hobson	Joe Ramsey	Martin Van Cleeff
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National Wildlife Federation	Innovative Network	Jennifer Alligood	Imelda Bernardo	Emily and F.H. Hohenschutz	Joseph Richardson	Kevin and Jill Walker
North Carolina Soybean	Computer Solutions	Walter and Robin Brown	Robert Black	Ina Holland	Brannon Riddick	Wanda Smith & Associates
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John and Holly Robbins	Lawrence Kimbrough	Cornelia DeVries	Cedric Britt	Sheila Hume	Jim and Linda Rostan	Barbara Wilkerson
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\$2,500 - \$4,999	\$500 - \$999	Shelly Ryder	Charlotte-Mecklenburg	Jeffrey Meyer		
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	Robert Cheek	Alberta Starnes	Jack Dellinger	Conservation Club		
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Maurice Capps	Thomas Long	Phyllis West	Ray and Judy Felton	F. Neal		
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Association of North Carolina	Mast General Store		Jeffrey Fink	Janet Nelson		
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Foundation Inc.	Turkey Federation		W. Erwin Fuller	William Parker		
Jerry Davis	North State Environmental		S. Hewitt Fulton	Tonya Parks		
Leah L. Dey						

SPECIAL THANKS

to these folks for offering
extraordinary in-kind and volunteer
services over the past year:

Magnolia Coffee

Walker Marketing

Jonathan Dry

Rescue Ranch

Tammy Whaley

Birdhouse on the Greenway

Meredith Holt

Joy James, PhD(ASU)

Carolina Raptor Center

FINANCIAL REPORT 2014

RECENT AUDITED EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN:

PROGRAM	87.6 %
MANAGEMENT	6.5 %
FUNDRAISING	5.9 %

INCOME 2014:

Chapters and Affiliates	1.3 %
Corporate Gifts	4.6 %
Event Registration	0.6 %
Foundation Gifts	18.3 %
Individuals	57.4 %
Interest and Investment	3.2 %
Memberships	13.3 %
Memorials	0.4 %
Rent	0.9 %
TOTAL	100 %

EXPENSES 2014:

Contract Labor	24.3 %
Insurance	2.1 %
Operational Expenses	50.1 %
Postage and Delivery	2.5 %
Printing and Reproduction	8.0 %
Professional Fees	1.3 %
Special Projects Materials	8.6 %
Travel	3.1 %
TOTAL	100 %

TOTAL ASSETS: December 31, 2014 \$1,693,523



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

for Wildlife

Consider NCWF in your planned giving.

For more information, contact Dom Canavarro at
1024 Washington St. Raleigh, NC 27605
dom@ncwf.org / (919) 833-1923

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.

Alen Baker
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Robert Brown
Mollie Brugh
Pinkney Bynum
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Addria and Maurice Capps
John Crutchfield
Jerry Davis
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THE Season

Jeff Beane's GUIDE TO
NATURAL NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina Wildlife Federation
1024 Washington Street
Raleigh, NC 27605

insert
progress
indicia

MARCH

March 14: Reptile and Amphibian Day will be held at the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences in downtown Raleigh. This huge educational event is free to the public. This year's theme is crocodilians. For more information, contact: miranda.dowdy@naturalsciences.org.

March 15: Eastern cottontails are bearing their spring litters.

March 16: Woodcock are nesting.

March 18: Hardwood trees have begun to develop leaves in the Piedmont.

March 19: Bachman's sparrows have begun singing.

March 20: Spring begins with the vernal equinox at 6:45 p.m. EDT. Trout lilies, bloodroot, and several other early spring wildflowers are already in bloom.

March 21: Oconee bells are in bloom.

March 22: First luna moth broods are emerging.

March 23: Chimney swifts and common nighthawks are returning. First tiger swallowtail broods are emerging.

March 24: Fox pups are being born.

March 25: Yellow-throated warblers and other early spring migrant songbirds are arriving.

March 26: Blue toadflax is in bloom.

March 28: Shorebird migration peaks along the coast. Pea Island, Ocracoke, Lake Mattamuskeet, and Portsmouth Island provide good shorebird viewing.

March 29: Brown-headed nuthatches are nesting.

March 30: Bluets and several violet species are in bloom. Southern cricket frogs are calling in the Coastal Plain.

March 31: Whip-poor-wills and chuck-will's-widows have begun calling.

APRIL

April 1: Palamedes swallowtails are flying. White-eyed vireos are returning.

April 2: Ruby-throated hummingbirds are returning.

April 3: Dwarf iris is in bloom.

April 5: Eastern bluebirds begin laying eggs.

April 6: Beaver kits are being born.

April 7: Fowler's toads begin calling.

April 9: Spicebush swallowtails are flying.

April 10: Green frogs and northern cricket frogs begin calling.

April 11: Eastern redbud is in bloom.

April 12: Lupines are in bloom in the Coastal Plain and Sandhills.

April 13: Orchard orioles are returning.

April 14: Our state frog—the Pine Barrens treefrog—has begun calling. This uncommon frog breeds in bayheads and seeps in portions of our Sandhills and Coastal Plain.

April 15: Yucca giant-skippers are flying in the Sandhills. This rare butterfly's larvae feed on yucca. The adults have one of the shortest flight periods of all our butterflies.

April 16: Red-tailed hawks are nesting. Hardwood trees have begun to acquire leaves in the Mountains.

April 20: Bobwhite and wild turkeys begin nesting. Ruffed grouse are drumming.

April 21: Eastern bluebird eggs are hatching. Mayapple is in bloom.

April 21-25: 64th Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage at Great Smoky Mountains National Park. For information, visit www.springwildflowerpilgrimage.org.

April 22: Earth Day. Many activities celebrating life on Earth will take place this week. Contact your favorite environmental organization to find out what's happening near you.

April 23: Dwarf crested iris and Virginia iris are in bloom.

April 24: Ospreys are nesting. Yellow pitcher plants are in bloom.

April 25: Annual Greening Up the Mountains Festival, Sylva, NC. For information, call 828-586-1577.

April 26: Clapper rails are nesting. Bowfin are spawning.

April 27: American bullfrogs have begun calling over much of the state. Foam flower, Solomon's seal, and false Solomon's seal are in bloom.

April 28: Peak bloom for our state flower—flowering dogwood—over much of the state. Many sunfish species are spawning.

April 29: Showy orchid and lady's-slippers are in bloom.

April 30: Yellow-bellied sliders begin nesting. Raccoon kits are being born.

MAY

May 1-2: Carolina Bird Club's annual Spring Meeting will be held in Clemson, SC. Visit www.carolinabirdclub.org for more information.

May 1-3: The 2nd North Carolina Congress of Herpetology, featuring a joint meeting of the North Carolina Herpetological Society (NCHS) and the North Carolina chapter of Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (NCPARC) will be held at the North Carolina Zoo near Asheboro. For more information, contact bryan.stuart@naturalsciences.org or jeff.hall@ncwildlife.org.

May 3: Striped bass spawning runs peak on the Roanoke River. Ruffed grouse are nesting. Fire pink is in bloom.