

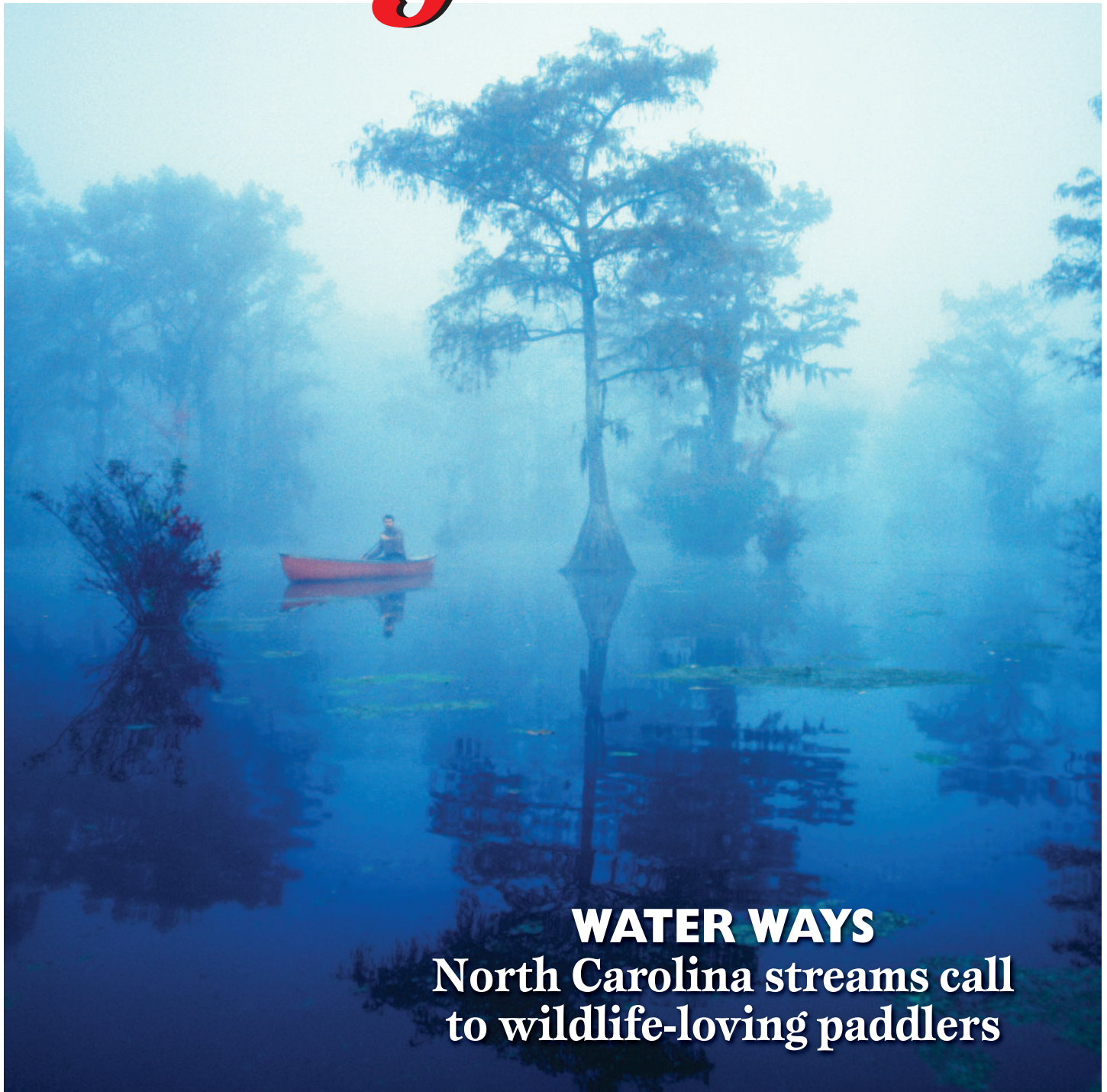


North Carolina  
**WILDLIFE  
FEDERATION**

# Journal

WILD LIVES □ WILD PLACES

Fall 2014



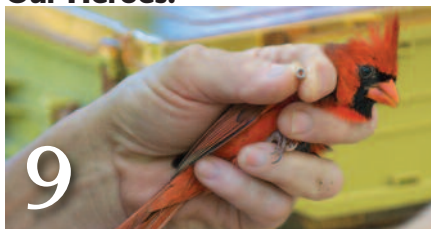
## **WATER WAYS** North Carolina streams call to wildlife-loving paddlers

### **The Big Deal About Shrimp**



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# Our Heroes

by John Robbins, Board Chair

Thanks to you, the North Carolina Wildlife Federation is in a good place. Membership is growing rapidly. Our chapter network is flourishing. With your support, an effective, dedicated staff and board lead the organization in a time of financial strength, having rebounded from a tough recessionary period.

At the same time, we face huge challenges on virtually every habitat front, to species of all types, in a weakened legal and regulatory environment. The progressive degradation of wildlife and habitat is truly frightening. We are at a crossroads; what I believe is the most critical time ever for North Carolina wildlife.


As we face mounting challenges for our wildlife and its habitat, it is helpful to reflect on times of challenge in the past. While there is cause for concern today about the impact of misguided development, resource degradation, and resultant species decline and extinctions, history shows that we should never quit.

The late 19th century was a period of daunting environmental challenges. Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir, and others were the conservation heroes of that time. Imagine fighting those conservation battles. There were very few protected lands. There were not many examples of the right way to do things. There were few organized groups such as NCWF to mobilize for the fight. And there were not even laws and regulations to help fight the battle. We despair at what has happened to the environmental protections under law and regulation in North Carolina, but our woes pale in comparison to what those conservation heroes faced.

There is reason for hope and confidence that we can make things better, and much better. We have our conservation heroes today, right here at "your" NCWF. We have leaders who have fought the good fight and who have had material impact for decades. That list includes:

- ★ Richard Mode, an inspiration to so many in his passion, articulate appeals, unwavering commitment and willingness to go beyond.
- ★ Dick Hamilton and Fred Harris, scientists and former heads of the Wildlife Resources Commission, who have foregone retirement to continue to fight for wildlife.
- ★ John Hislop and Kelly Darden, board members who fight tirelessly and passionately for our precious marine resources.
- ★ Jennifer Alligood, another board member who has successfully helped lead many battles to protect the fabulous wildlife refuges of eastern North Carolina.
- ★ And Tim Gestwicki, who knows no bounds in his fearless efforts and impact as our CEO, and as one of the top conservation leaders in the state.

We recently held the annual Awards Banquet, celebrating this year's conservation heroes. If ever there was cause for hope and inspiration that our vision will be achieved, it was observing and listening to those heroes. The passion, dedication and effectiveness of these people are tremendous. I could feel the intense energy and optimism in that banquet hall. In pursuit of our vision, the heroes list also includes the chapter leaders who nurture and grow this terrific grassroots organization and give the NCWF leadership the power and credibility of a strong voice in all things that affect North Carolina wildlife and their habitats. We believe that the recent growth of chapters and members is a reflection that the people of North Carolina strongly feel the need for change; for achievement of our vision.

As a result, my heroes list includes you, the real power of NCWF to get things done. You speak out individually and in groups to voice your concerns about the condition of our wildlife and habitat protections. You improve and certify your yards to show others how wonderful a wildlife friendly home can be. And you lead by example and action in many other ways. Thank you for that voice and activism. Thank you for making NCWF what it is. And thank you for being someone who cares. 





# North Carolina WILDLIFE FEDERATION **Journal**

WILD LIVES □ WILD PLACES

Fall 2014

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

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The state's rivers, lakes, and streams offer an accessible window to the natural world.

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

**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.

# 9 TOP RIVER TRIPS FOR WILDLIFE

by Erin Singer McCombs, NCWF board member and Associate Director of Southeast Conservation, American Rivers

My favorite paddle trip is usually the last river I was on, so it's no small feat to whittle down the best canoe or kayak trips in North Carolina for experiencing wildlife. North Carolina boasts 17 river basins. Rivers such as the Little Tennessee flow into the Mississippi River and ultimately into the Gulf of Mexico, while others open into the Atlantic Ocean like the Neuse. The amazing diversity of our rivers is one of the many reasons North Carolina is such a great place to experience wildlife and wild places. I hope this list will inspire you to connect with nature in your backyard or in another part of our state.

## 1

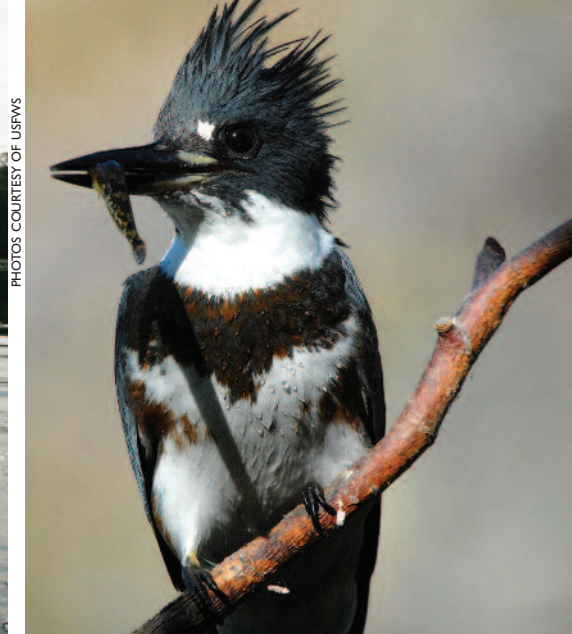
### FRENCH BROAD RIVER

With headwaters nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, the French Broad River quietly flows through Brevard, then into Asheville, allowing for a serene paddle where you might catch a river otter at play or even glimpse a white squirrel. This section is great for canoeing, fishing, tubing, and stand-up paddle boarding. My favorite section stretches from Hominy Creek into Asheville. The river is flanked by the Biltmore Estate and the largely undeveloped land supports a diversity of wildlife. As the river nears Marshall, the whitewater section begins, if you intend on watching wildlife you might think about switching to a raft as the river rolls toward Hot Springs. "The majestic views of rocky outcrops and the sparkling roar of the French Broad River rolling through rural Madison County warms my soul and calls me back year after year," says Michelle Pentecost, NCWF board member, of the French Broad River near Hot Springs. Beavers, great blue heron and deer can be seen in and along the river and anglers can try for the celebrated muskellunge, or "muskie," but smallmouth bass fishing is the most popular. Birders will delight in spotting migrant warblers, wood ducks, kingfishers, and other species. The best way to experience wildlife on this river is by spending a few days on it. The French Broad River Paddle Trail allows the adventurous to camp for multiple days along banks of the French Broad River from the headwaters to the Tennessee state line. For more information, head over to [www.wnca.org/paddle](http://www.wnca.org/paddle).

RIVER OTTER







PHOTOS COURTESY OF USFWS

PADDLING THE ALLIGATOR RIVER

BELTED KINGFISHER

## 2 LITTLE TENNESSEE RIVER

A gem in the heart of Western North Carolina, the Little Tennessee River is a hotspot for biodiversity and the best way to see it could be with a mask and snorkel. You might think you're snorkeling around a tropical coral reef when you see all the colorful fish schooling in the crystal clear waters. Most people experience rivers from above by fishing or floating (both excellent ways to enjoy this river), but when you get to experience the river from underwater it reveals an entire new world of colorful fish, freshwater mussels, and even the giant salamander called a hellbender. This special river, full of rare species, is getting some extra attention by NCWF and partners by having it designated as a Native Fish Conservation Area. "This designation will bring greater attention to the diverse array of native fishes inhabiting the river and will help ensure their survival," says NCWF natural resource specialist Fred Harris.

## 3 NEW RIVER

The lazy headwaters of the eventually mighty New River begin right here in North Carolina and are an excellent place to tube, canoe, camp, and fish. A favorite of Appalachian State University students for tubing near Boone, this river is also great to canoe. This river is hailed as one of the oldest rivers in the world. Geologists estimate the New has been flowing for between 10 million and 360 million years. Bucolic landscapes make for great wildlife habitat along the banks of this river, so bring your binoculars in addition to your fishing gear. A wide variety of songbirds, wood ducks, kingfishers, and red-winged blackbirds inhabit the banks. Further downstream from the Boone area, New River State Park offers canoe-in camping so you can experience this wild place during longer trip. My favorite section to camp starts at the Wagner put-in and flows to the Virginia state line. More information on camping at [www.ncparks.gov](http://www.ncparks.gov).

## 4 LUMBER RIVER

A Wild and Scenic designated river in south-central North Carolina, the Lumber River offers great swamp and eastern hardwood habitats. With 24 canoe put-ins at road crossings, there is ample opportunity to see a wide variety of wildlife like deer, mink, ducks, and even alligator, rare at this latitude. For birders, the uppermost section of the river offers the opportunity to see the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. Many other rare species can be found here such as pine barrens treefrog, river frog, and the giant yucca skipper. Novice paddlers will find the lower sections to be more accessible, as the upper section requires advanced skill to navigate around the fallen logs and other obstructions. While these logs and sandbars may make it harder to paddle, they do create important habitat for a number of species, as many an angler can attest. If hunting is your interest, the Lumber River offers deer and squirrel hunting opportunities with three boating accesses managed by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission for this purpose. Other hunting lands, like the nearby Sandhills Game Lands and Bullard and Branch Hunting Preserve, offer further opportunities. Make sure to also keep your eyes open for fossils and artifacts, as river banks are a great place to find these ancient treasures.





VIEWING FALL COLOR FROM WATER LEVEL

## 6

**MERCHANT'S MILLPOND**

Merchant's Millpond offers spectacular wildlife sightings in the 760-acre millpond, which has been impounded for almost two centuries. "For those who have never experienced eastern North Carolina blackwater paddling it's hard to describe the experience. One word comes to mind though and that word is enchanted," says Tim Gestwicki, CEO of NCWF. Mature stands of bald cypress trees adorned with Spanish moss create habitat for bats, frogs, migrating birds, turtles, snakes, ducks, river otters, and many more. Bowfin, a top predator in the millpond, are a unique sight for those anglers willing to face their sharp teeth. Plenty of other game fish await anglers in this unique black-water system. A great way to experience Merchant's Millpond is in a canoe. Winding through floating duckweed, water ferns, and yellow cow lily, a paddle here is an experience not to be missed.

## 7

**LAKE WACCAMAW**

A unique natural body of water in southeastern North Carolina, Lake Waccamaw is a large Carolina bay, named for the species of bay plants found nearby like sweet bay and red bay. Some say this lake may have been formed by meteorites. Many rare plants and animals are found here in large part because the limestone rock in the area neutralizes the otherwise acidic water creating suitable habitat. The Venus-hair fern, green-fly orchid, seven-angled pipewort, narrowleaf yellow pondlily and water arrowhead, are all on the state's rare plant species list, and can be found at Lake Waccamaw. Several fish, mussels and snails found nowhere else on earth live here, including Waccamaw darters, Waccamaw fatmucket, and the Waccamaw siltsnail. After a paddle around the lake, you should make sure to check out the nearby Green Swamp preserve where you can see three different carnivorous plants in the beautiful fire-dependent pine savannas.



## 8

**NEUSE RIVER**

Downstream from Raleigh, the Neuse River becomes free-flowing and offers large flatwater sections of river suitable for all types of vessels. An excellent river to experience the striper run, the Neuse is home to several species of fish that spend part of their time in the ocean and the other part in freshwater like shad, herring, and American eel. Near the mouth of the Neuse, the river changes from fast-moving to slow-moving estuary habitat before joining the Tar and Pamlico Rivers in Pamlico Sound. Exploring estuaries is an amazing experience and best done in a kayak. Estuaries are important and productive nurseries for almost all coastal game fish as well as birds, oysters, and countless other species. Anglers, birders, and just the curious will be pleased with a paddle in the Neuse. The beauty and productiveness of this river showcased in its estuary is an adventure worth taking.

## 9

**HITCHCOCK CREEK**

Flowing from the coastal plain westward into the piedmont, an unusual orientation for a North Carolina stream, the Hitchcock Creek Blue Trail near Rockingham offers 14 miles of entry-level paddling in a wide variety of habitats, including a white cedar forest. The town of Rockingham worked with the national non-profit American Rivers group to remove Steele's Mill dam, an obsolete dam no longer serving its intended purpose of powering a cotton mill. The dam removal alone was a great win for the community, but the benefits did not stop there. American Rivers continued to work with Rockingham to develop a Blue Trail, a waterway adopted by a local community that is dedicated to improving family-friendly recreation such as fishing, boating, and wildlife watching, and conserving land and water resources. This Blue Trail is an excellent example of a community embracing its natural infrastructure to stimulate the local economy, encourage physical fitness, improve community pride, and make rivers and communities healthier in the wake of the loss of water powered mills. The Hitchcock Creek Blue Trail offers a great opportunity to explore the unique floodplain forests. To make it easy, a few outfitters have popped up to help outfit you for your adventure. The mountain laurel was blooming and the birding was great while I kayaked there in May for the ribbon cutting of the paddle trail. Want to know more about Blue Trails? Check out [www.bluetrailsguide.org/](http://www.bluetrailsguide.org/)

**YOUR HOMETOWN STREAM**

Do you know what river lies closest to your home? Can you imagine the wildlife you might see there? Is it the same stream that supplies your drinking water? While it's fun to plan trips to the far-flung corners of North Carolina, there are plenty of opportunities to see wildlife closer to home. While you're planning a trip to one of these wildlife wonder, make up your own list and make sure to add a hometown paddle trip. For more information on the river basins in North Carolina, check out the fantastic river basin publications here: <http://www.eenorthcarolina.org/riverbasins.html>. <sup>NC</sup>WF

AMERICAN ALLIGATOR



WOOD DUCK

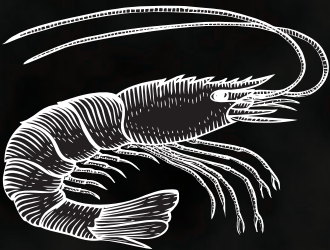




# save our SOUNDS

# save our SEAFOOD

*Why NCWF is taking the lead on efforts to reform coastal fisheries.*



**B**y now most of our supporters have seen the video, *The Dark Side of Inshore Trawling* in NC, that the Federation underwrote exposing the problem of high rates of bycatch caused by the shrimp trawling industry in North Carolina's inshore waters. If not, take a few minutes to watch it at [www.ncwf.org/conservation-priorities](http://www.ncwf.org/conservation-priorities). Or maybe you learned of the issue from our spring Journal piece, "Unintended Consequences." The Federation is taking this issue head-on. We believe that unless significant changes are made to the method of shrimp trawling in North Carolina waters, some of our most important fish stocks may not be able to recover to sustainable levels.

Bycatch concern, however, is not the only issue contributing to the decline of fisheries stocks in our inshore waters. Environmental pollution and ineffective management of our fisheries by state government are also affecting the ability of our state's fish stocks to sustain themselves. Our citizens, including both the commercial and recreational fishing industries, as well as seafood consumers, are feeling the adverse impacts of this depletion of our inshore fisheries and waters.



# COMMITMENT to change

Based on the Division of Marine Fisheries 2014 stock status report, it is clear that the long-term sustainability of many of our fisheries stocks is in jeopardy. Many of our most recognized types of fish are considered "depleted," including southern flounder, gray trout, speckled trout, and the Albemarle Sound's river herring. Atlantic croaker, spot, inshore striped bass, Atlantic menhaden, and American shad stocks are listed as of "concern." These fish stocks have traditionally been major sources of food, forage for gamefish, and sportfish for our citizens.

While other organizations have worked on protecting marine fisheries, the Federation comes to this arena from a unique angle. NCWF believes that fisheries resources management must be implemented with conservation and sustainability of the resource as the top priority. Rules and regulations must not be crafted to help any single stakeholder over another. The decades-long debate must get beyond the simplistic commercial interests vs. recreational interests arguments. To accomplish a resources-focused outcome, the state must change how it manages this natural resource.

The Federation did not unilaterally determine that fisheries management change must occur. Our staff and board members spoke to stakeholders who are part of both the commercial and recreational industries. We met with marine scientists, government officials, and business people whose livelihoods depend directly on the consumer's demand for seafood. This outreach approach allowed us to hear many voices and opinions, and confirmed what the current data is showing—that our fisheries management has to change or our fisheries could be facing declines that would leave the stocks on an unsustainable footing.

Further, NCWF is not determining by itself the best way to change the current approach to marine fisheries management. We continue to reach out to the stakeholders cited above. From this consultation and research, the Federation does believe that we have to tackle this problem with a three-pronged approach. We will make specific recommendations on how the state must increase its protection of the water bodies that make up our inner coast, and as importantly, those water bodies that flow into these sounds. Second, the state must regulate changes to the fishing gear used in some types of commercial fishing and reconsider where certain fishing practices are allowed. Last, it is time for fisheries managers to rethink how they oversee and regulate marine fisheries in North Carolina.

There is no time to lose with our beleaguered marine resources, and that is why the Federation is taking a lead role in bringing these issues to the public's attention and taking a lead role in recommending specific public policy changes. The Federation looks forward to working with all of its members, supporters, and partners on this endeavor. When we are successful, North Carolina will be on track to having sustainable, thriving fish populations that will benefit all North Carolinians into the foreseeable future.

NCWF's board of directors has identified marine resources as a top priority for action.

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.

To this end, NCWF will:

- provide strong sustained leadership and sound strategy in efforts for change
- engage a top-notch team of policy, legal, science, and public relations experts
- establish a special fund to help underwrite NCWF's campaign for marine resources management reforms

NCWF has a strong track record of success tackling complicated land and water management issues. We invite you to support our efforts in three easy ways. Simply write "marine resources" in the memo on your check, and mail it with the envelope in this Journal). Or visit [www.ncwf.org](http://www.ncwf.org), or call NCWF development director Dom Canavarro at (919) 833-1923.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VISITNC.COM







*GoU had a busy summer in the field. From fishing days to stream explorations, GoU helped more than 1,500 kids get outside to enjoy nature.*

# Great Outdoors University is a Winner!



NCWF's Great Outdoors University (GoU) had a very busy and successful year getting kids outside and for being recognized for its efforts. In April, The North Face issued an open call to organizations nationwide to apply for one of 25

2014 Explore Fund grants of up to \$25,000. A commitment to connecting more people to the outdoors was the main requirement. When the application deadline hit, nearly 400 non-profits and community organizations had applied, including NCWF's GOU.

The North Face chose 10 final organizations and invited its community to vote on Facebook for the organization of their choice. After more than 25,000 votes, GoU was honored to receive a top grant of \$25,000! NCWF thanks all the folks who voted and who

support the efforts to get kids outside and connected to nature. In addition to The North Face grant news, GoU was selected as one of 12 non-profits in Charlotte to be honored by Playing for Others (PFO) through its HeARTbeat program in 2014.

PFO is a non-profit that works to empower teens to make a significant difference with their lives, and for the rest of their lives. Jen Band, PFO's executive director, said, "the PFO teens work to learn firsthand about the mission, vision and the powerful work being done by GoU in our community. Our teens discover a passion for nature, education, leadership and more than they did not know they had. We are grateful to celebrate the impact our non-profit honorees like GoU have in our community, and all the people who help to make this work happen."

**Your  
donation  
can help  
connect  
kids to  
nature!**

**If you want to impact Connecting Kids to Nature we have an exciting opportunity. Now thru the end of the year, your donation to NCWF's Connecting Kids to Nature through our GoU program will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$30,000 thanks to a generous challenge donor.**

**Put GoU in the memo of your check or call Autumn at (919) 833-1923.**





# GOVERNOR'S CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards Program celebrates what is most inspiring about working for wildlife—the people who dedicate time and resources to fight for habitat, public access, and environmental education. At the gala awards ceremony in September, NCWF highlighted those individuals and organizations that build coalitions and bring people together to find common ground and share common goals and work for wildlife wherever, whenever, everywhere, all the time. The Federation honored those folks who want to change their world for the better, and who have already changed their world for the better. These are the people and organizations who have risen to the task of saving our best and our last and our least. Congratulations!

**North Carolina Conservation Hall of Fame • Fred Stanback (Salisbury) •** Fred Stanback has provided a foundation of philanthropic support, selfless leadership, and moral grit that has undergirded many of North Carolina's most important conservation advances of the last half-century.



*From left to right: Newly elected NCWF chair John Robbins, Fred Stanback, chair Carol Buie Jackson, and immediate past chair John Crutchfield.*

**Conservationist of the Year • Jean Beasley (Topsail Island) •**



Jean Beasley runs a sea turtle hospital called the Karen Beasley Rescue and Rehabilitation Center with zero state and federal funding, yet over the years the facility has treated hundreds of sea turtles. Its volunteers have spent 1000s of hours monitoring beaches for nesting turtles. And Beasley has inspired 1000s of beach-lovers

with a message that we must care for the natural resources we love so much. Just last year the hospital moved to a new 13,000-square-foot location in Surf City, where its state-of-the-art medical facilities can handle even more patients.

**Wildlife Conservationist of the Year • Robert Curry (Raleigh)**

**Sportsman of the Year • Bryan Perry (Zebulon)**

**Land Conservationist of the Year • Jamin Simmons (Fairfield)**

**Water Conservationist of the Year • Roger Dick (Albemarle)**

**Conservation Communicator of the Year • Joe Albea (Winterville)**

**Youth Conservationist of the Year • Rachel Hopkins (Raleigh)**

**Natural Resource Scientist of the Year • Dr. Chris Moorman (Raleigh)**

**Environmental Educator of the Year • Dr. Shaefny Grays (Raleigh)**



*Left to right: Mary C. Watzin, dean of the College of Natural Resources at N.C. State University; Dr. Chris Moorman, Natural Resource Scientist of the Year; Dr. Shaefny Grays, Environmental Educator of the Year; Dr. Bob Brown, NCWF board member and former dean of the N.C. State University's College of Natural Resources.*

**Legislator of the Year • Representative Chuck McGrady (Hendersonville)**

**Municipal Conservationist of the Year • City of Jacksonville**

**Wildlife Volunteer of the Year • John R. Spruill (Hampstead)**

**Hunter Safety Educator of the Year • Stony Rushing (Wingate)**

**NCWF Chapter of the Year • Habitat and Wildlife Keepers (Matthews)**

**NCWF Affiliate of the Year • North Carolina Hunters for the Hungry**

**Conservation Organization of the Year • Quality Deer Management Association**

**Business Conservationist of the Year • The Webb Farm (Ellerbe)**

**Wildlife Enforcement Officer of the Year • Master Officer Robert Newsome (Marion)**



*Wildlife Enforcement Officer of the Year, Master Officer Robert Newsome, has logged 30 dedicated years with the Wildlife Resources Commission.*

**Marine Fisheries Enforcement Officer of the Year • Sgt. Carter Witten (Havelock)**

## Thanks to Our Sponsors

These generous sponsors are the underwriters of the Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards program. Each is a strong voice for wildlife and a champion for our conservation heroes

<b>Platinum:</b>	Duke Energy Envirolink Jordan Lumber Piedmont Natural Gas Touchstone Energy
<b>Gold:</b>	NC League of Conservation Voters NC Museum of Natural Sciences John & Holly Robbins Uwharrie Capital Corp.
<b>Silver:</b>	Coastal Conservation Association EarthShare NC John & Pam Crutchfield Culp Lumber SunTrust Quality Deer Management Association
<b>Bronze:</b>	John & Bess Fuller Northstate Environmental R.A. Jeffreys Distributing



# Meet Your Federation Leaders



**Carol Buie Jackson** recently completed her term as the Federation's chair of the board, the first female to hold the top board position in the organization's history. Buie Jackson moves into the Immediate Past Chair position and remains on the board where she will be joined by current board members and recently elected officers.



**John Robbins, chair.** (Concord) Robbins is a passionate conservationist, outdoorsman, and family man. He earned a B.A. in Economics from Macalester College in 1972, and an MBA from the University of Rochester Graduate School of Management in 1974. He was with Accenture, a global management consulting, technology and outsourcing leader, for 28 years before retiring in 2002 as a managing partner and chief operations officer of Accenture's five global market units. After retirement, Robbins formed a successful real estate development firm, Greathorn Properties, Inc., that does business in the Charlotte and Big Sky, Montana, markets, emphasizing wildlife-sensitive development. His Woodlands at Davidson project is a model of such an approach. In addition to his role at NCWF, Robbins is a board member and treasurer of Worldwatch Institute in Washington, DC, and is active with other conservation organizations including Environmental Entrepreneurs. He is also a member of the board of directors of Uwharrie Bank.



**Kelly Darden, vice-chair.** (Greenville) A graduate of Johnson C. Smith University and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Darden holds degrees in Business Administration and Language

Arts/Communication Skills. He and his co-host held the distinction of being the first African-Americans to launch and host a nationally televised outdoor show. Outdoor Moments aired for seven consecutive seasons (2000-2007) on the Outdoor Channel. An accomplished outdoorsman who has hunted and fished both nationally and internationally, his show aired to over 30 million households nationwide including Canada and portions of Mexico. He has also been the featured guest on other national outdoor television shows, and is a nationally published outdoor writer. Darden has been featured in newspapers across the nation, as well as serving as a special guest on many radio programs addressing varied topics regarding the outdoors and wildlife. Darden currently serves on the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries Commission.



**Robert Brown, Ph.D., vice-chair.** (Cary) Brown grew up hunting, fishing, and boating in central California. He attended the University of California at Davis and received a B.S. in animal nutrition from Colorado State University. After a tour with the U.S. Marines in Vietnam, he obtained a Ph.D. in animal nutrition and physiology at Pennsylvania State University. He was a professor and senior research scientist at Texas A&M-Kingsville and the Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute. His teaching and research on nutrition and physiology of many wildlife species resulted in over 140 publications and three edited books. He served as head of the Departments of Wildlife and Fisheries at Mississippi State University and at Texas A&M. Brown is a past president of The Wildlife Society and is a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve. He is active in the Boy Scouts and the Boone & Crockett Club. He retired as dean of the College of Natural Resources at N.C. State University.

## Agreement in Limbo?

One of the few bright spots in the last legislative session was a provision that NCWF strongly supported in the budget act giving the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) authority to enter into a Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). This JEA provides support for enforcement of federal fishing laws and rules in North Carolina's jurisdictional waters by our Marine Patrol. Currently, very limited enforcement of these rules takes place in these offshore waters. This scarcity of enforcement has a serious negative impact on marine fisheries in North Carolina waters. Expanded enforcement authority and action that will come with JEA are important, as is the supplemental federal funding, which would amount to about \$500,000 per year for the state.

*At press time, North Carolina is the only coastal state that has not taken advantage of a joint state-federal agreement to improve enforcement of marine fisheries laws and rules. No state has ever failed to renew the agreement because of the obvious and significant benefits.*

## Wildlife Scientist Joins NCWF Staff

**D**r. M.E. "Liz" Rutledge has joined the NCWF staff as its wildlife specialist. Rutledge will be the lead for the Federation's Farmers and Communities Manage Deer project as well as working with rural landowners, sportsmen groups, and agency partners. She'll also conduct wildlife research and extension work. Rutledge has a Master of Science degree in Natural Resources/Assessment and Analysis Option, and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology. Rutledge worked at Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge and has practical field experience in beaver trapping, bobcat telemetry research, and reptile/ amphibian surveys. She's held teaching assistantships covering forest wildlife management, forest ecology, wildlife science, and natural resources conservation. "We are delighted to have Liz on our wildlife team," says the Federation's Dick Hamilton. "Liz brings a strong scientific and experiential background to the work she will undertake for us."





# Remembering a Giant

John Franklin Lentz was a pioneer and a giant figure in the field of fish and wildlife conservation in North Carolina. Lentz earned the respect and admiration of his fellow conservationists through his unselfish work and dedication to the principle of science-based management and regulation of the fish and wildlife resources of the state. Any detractor to this principle learned quickly that Lentz would not bend to political pressure or for personal gain.

He was a member of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation beginning in 1959 and was elected the organization's president in 1981. Lentz was named the North Carolina Conservationist of the Year in 1988, and was installed in the North Carolina Conservation Hall of Fame in 1999. He served as the Region III director of the National Wildlife Federation from 1985 until 1995, covering the Carolinas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

"John Lentz epitomized everything good about our organization," said CEO Tim Gestwicki.

Lentz was Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan's appointee to the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission from 1987 to 1989. He was Gov. Jim Hunt's appointee to the Commission from 1993 until 1999, during which time he served as chairman from 1993 to 1997. He was reappointed by Gov. Hunt to the Commission from 1999 to 2005.

Lentz was the director of the North Carolina Forestry Association from 1983 until 1990, and was chairman of the North Carolina Forestry Council. He was an early member of the state chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. Lentz was an ardent and excellent turkey hunter and enjoyed taking other hunters afield, especially on his wildlife-managed farm near Ellerbe.

In 2000, Lentz received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, one of the highest honors given to a citizen of North Carolina. He was recognized as the News & Observer's Tar Heel of the Week in May 1989 for his conservation efforts, and in 1995 was presented the North Carolina Partner-in-4H award, the highest honor given by 4-H. In 1997, the Wildlife Resources Commission honored Lentz by renaming the Hunter Education Complex at Millstone 4-H near Ellerbe as the John F. Lentz Hunter Education Complex. Lentz also was a founder of the Sandhills Rod and Gun Club, a long-time Federation affiliate.

"John never had a negative personal comment about anyone, even those who had not yet seen the light," said Dick Hamilton, NCWF's Camo Coordinator, who was the executive director of the Wildlife Commission when Lentz served. "But I have seen a stern look on his face that readily showed disappointment when the right course of action was not followed. John was everyone's best friend and never retreated from helping others even when it inconvenienced his plans."

John Franklin Lentz's commitment and involvement to improve fish and wildlife populations and their habitats shape the model for us all to follow. His accomplishments and legend will live on in our memories and his absence around the conference table and in the turkey woods will be conspicuous.

## NCWF Scholarship Recipients

Each year, the North Carolina Wildlife Federation provides scholarship grants of \$1,000 each to students enrolled and attending an accredited North Carolina college or university full-time. These students are majoring in the areas of wildlife, fisheries, forestry, conservation or environment science. The NCWF scholarship program has a five-decade history, helping hundreds of North Carolina students pursue their dreams of studying and working in the conservation field. Here are this year's recipients:

**Julia Livermore** (Durham) • Livermore is working on her Master's degree in coastal management at the Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment. She is studying forage fish policy decisions among the eight regional fishery management counsels. Livermore wants to conduct research to inform policymakers about what is going on ecologically and to do all she can to prevent further anthropogenic ecosystem destruction.

**Sydney Anderson** (Durham) • An environmental studies major at UNC-Asheville concentrating in sustainable agriculture, Anderson desires to assist breaking down the invisible borders that define food deserts in a sustainable way by applying permaculture techniques, including pesticide-free, herbicide-free, and GMO-free practices to community and family gardens. Her aspiration is to preserve and create a cleaner, healthier place for all living creatures to reside.

**Peter Blum** (Winston-Salem) • Blum is seeking his Ph.D. in biology at UNC-Greensboro. His experiences working on the Kingston coal-ash spill project led him to appreciate the assessment of man-made environmental impacts and the resolution it brings to the affected parties. He is studying to become an environmental consultant.

**Madison Lytle** (Wilmington) • A junior at UNC-Wilmington majoring in marine biology, Lytle has learned through her internships that there is a deficit of valid and reliable information regarding the environmental consequences of hardened shoreline stabilization. She wants to become an integral part of the conservation and protection of aquatic ecosystems.

**Courtney Anderson** (High Point) • Anderson is a senior studying environmental biology and environmental studies at UNC-Greensboro. She believes there is nothing more satisfying than working and living in nature and nothing more gratifying than sharing that experience. Courtney has taught K-12 students about herpetology and her goal is to share her passion about the natural environment by becoming a biology professor.

**John Miller** (Durham) • Miller is a graduate student at Duke University seeking his Masters in environmental management. He believes that society does not have to view tradeoffs between the environment and the economy as a zero-sum game and his goal is to protect freshwater habitats and educate the public about why they are so important. Miller is researching ephemeral stream networks in the North Carolina Piedmont. This scholarship is granted in conjunction with Rocky River Trout Unlimited.

**Emily Blanchard** (Durham) • Blanchard is working towards her Masters in ecosystem science and conservation at Duke University. She is currently conducting scientific research on coexistence strategies. Blanchard feels that is her calling to put her experiences and skills together to find, create, and promote innovative solutions to our human-wildlife conflicts.

## 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](mailto: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

## NCWF CHAPTERS TAKE IT OUTSIDE

An annual rite of fall are chapter programs geared towards kids and families. These groups work hard to connect local communities with the natural world. Here are a few chapter events for across the state:



**Kids in Nature Day a Success!** The sounds of laughter and excitement filled the air during the Kids in Nature Day at Squirrel Lake Park in Matthews. This event, enjoyed by more than 300 kids and their families, was sponsored by Habitat and Wildlife Keepers (HAWK). There was plenty of fun for everyone to experience together including geocaching, nature hikes, stream exploration, bird walks, fishing, nest box building, nature crafts, snakes, turtles, animal skulls to explore, an opossum release, scavenger hunts and more.

Everyone had a great day. Kids were thrilled at catching their first fish, of seeing a great blue heron catch a fish, watching bullfrogs in the stream and the 3-month-old baby opossums released after being rescued and rehabilitated. One of the adult volunteers, Jay Jackson, who helped the kids bait their hooks, cast lines and reel in their fish, also had the time of his life. "Oh my gosh, it was the best," Jackson said. "I have no idea how many fish we caught, but seeing all those kids catching their first fish, you have no idea how special that was."



**Gaston County Youth Day.** The Gaston County Piedmont Area Wildlife Stewards (PAWS) had its annual Youth Day on September 27 at Wood Duck Farm in Gastonia. More than 200 kids attended. This event was for all youths ages 6 to 16. The event was an introduction to a variety of outdoor activities that included fishing, horseback riding, archery, rock wall climbing, skeet shooting, bounce house, slingshot shooting, and mule cart rides. The Gastonia Young Guns staff supervised the skeet shooting and Ducks Unlimited was having a Greenwing membership display and sign up. The event was free including the hot dog and hamburger lunch.



Here with NCWF's Fred Harris is 11-year old Josh Villa from Fayetteville, the proud winner of a comprehensive unified lifetime fishing license donated by the N.C. Wildlife Federation.

**2014 Wildlife Expo.** NCWF and the Fayetteville Increasing Sustainable Habitat (FISH) chapter participated in a Wildlife Expo at the John E. Pechmann Fishing Education Center in Fayetteville. More than 300 youth enjoyed a day of outdoor activities and demonstrations that included kayaking, archery, reptile identification, fly-casting, and fishing in several well-stocked ponds. Almost everyone caught fish, including several youngsters who enjoyed their first fishing experience. At the conclusion of the day's events, several raffle prizes were awarded including a comprehensive unified lifetime fishing license donated by the N.C. Wildlife Federation. **NCWF**



## Where There's A Will There's A Way ... *for wildlife*

Since Duane and I moved from the crowded suburbs of Tampa, Florida to Chatham County in 2006, we've never looked back. Enjoying the outdoors has become our way of life—whether hiking at one of the area's many scenic parks or in our own back yard where Eastern Box Turtle have started their life journey for two years running. We love the natural, open spaces in North Carolina and want to do our part to protect and preserve these wildlife-rich places for generations to come. That's why we included NCWF in our will. —Shelly and Duane Ryder

It's easy to put NCWF in your will. For confidential info, please contact Development Director Dom Canavarro at 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](http://www.ncwf.org), or Dom Canavarro, Development and Operations Director, at (919) 833-1923; [dom@ncwf.org](mailto:dom@ncwf.org).

Joe Albea  
Alen Baker  
John Benbow  
Frank Bragg  
Robert Brown  
Mollie Brugh  
Pinkney Bynum  
Susan Cameron  
Maurice and Addria Capps  
John Crutchfield  
Jerry Davis  
Roger and Sally Dick  
James Doyle  
Carol Gestwicki

Tim and Karen Gestwicki  
Joan Gillings  
Stephen Graf  
John Hairr  
Fred Harris  
Susan Harris  
Carole Hart  
Phil and Bessie Hinton  
John Hislop  
Diane Honeycutt  
Carol Buie and Jay Jackson  
William and Deborah Jarman  
Lawrence Kimbrough  
Jeffrey Martin

Richard and Julia Mode  
Scott Morris  
Perry Patterson  
Greg Pechmann  
Michelle Pentecost  
Mark & Jane Ritchie  
John and Holly Robbins  
Tom Schmitt  
Jack and Jenny Spruill  
Fred and Alice Stanback  
Bill Staton  
Victoria Sutton  
Joye Thomas and Karen Redfern  
Patti Wheeler

# THE Season

Jeff Beane's GUIDE TO  
NATURAL NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina Wildlife Federation  
1024 Washington Street  
Raleigh, NC 27605

insert  
progress  
indicia

## DECEMBER

**December 14–January 5:** Annual Christmas Bird Counts are held around the state. For information on how to participate in the world's largest wildlife survey, contact your local Audubon chapter or the Carolina Bird Club.

**December 16:** Tiger and Mabee's salamanders begin breeding with the first heavy rains. These uncommon and declining species depend on a few remaining ephemeral ponds in the Sandhills and Coastal Plain.

**December 17:** Black bears begin their winter dormancy, but they may be active during warm periods in winter. In the large coastal refuges, where food is abundant, bears may stay active virtually all winter.

**December 19:** Peak migration for snow geese and Canada geese.

**December 21:** Here comes another winter! Solstice is at 6:03 p.m. EST.

**December 25:** The leaves of most herbaceous plants have been killed by frosts, but patches of Christmas fern still add festive green splashes to the forest floor.

**December 30:** Hummingbirds seen in North Carolina during winter are often vagrant individuals of species other than our usual rubythroats. Report winter hummingbird sightings to [susan@ncaves.com](mailto:susan@ncaves.com) or 910-949-3207.

**December 31:** Huge flocks of yellow-rumped warblers can be seen in the red-cedar and wax-myrtle thickets along our coast. Check flocks carefully for stray warblers of other species that may occasionally overwinter.

## JANUARY

**January 1:** Your New Year's resolutions should include spending more time outdoors.

**January 2:** Watch for rare visits from winter finches like red crossbills, evening grosbeaks, and common redpolls.

**January 3–4:** Quadrantid meteor shower. Peak viewing will be between midnight and dawn, but a near-full moon will decrease meteor visibility. Pick a spot away from city lights and hope for a clear sky.

**January 6:** Most butterflies have migrated, hibernated, or been killed by freezing temperatures, but on warm January days, especially in the Coastal Plain, lingering adults of a few species, including monarch, red admiral, American lady, variegated fritillary, and common buckeye, may be seen flying.

**January 8:** Harbor seals, and occasionally other seal species, may be seen along our coast in winter, more regularly in recent years. Oregon Inlet is a good place to see these small marine mammals, either swimming or hauled out on spoil islands.

**January 10:** Peak migration for mallards and black ducks.

**January 12:** Great horned owls are nesting.

**January 14:** Some small mammals sleep most of the winter away in their warm burrows, but shrews are still active in underground tunnels or beneath the snow. Because of their high metabolism, these tiny predators must eat more than their weight in insects and other food daily to survive.

**January 15:** Peak waterfowl populations along the coast; Pea Island and Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuges are particularly good waterfowl viewing areas. Swan Quarter and Cedar Island ferries provide good viewing opportunities for sea ducks. The spectacular flocks of snow geese overwintering at Pungo and Mattamuskeet should not be missed.

**January 16:** Mourning doves begin courtship flights.

**January 17:** Black bear cubs are being born.

**January 20:** Deer begin shedding their antlers.

**January 22:** Most flycatchers and other highly insectivorous birds overwinter in the tropics, but the eastern phoebe sticks around all year, switching its diet to berries supplemented with whatever insects it can find on warmer days.

**January 16:** The enormous flocks of red-winged blackbirds overwintering along our coast are an impressive sight. The large coastal refuges, like Pocosin Lakes, Alligator River, and Mattamuskeet are good spots to view this spectacle.

**January 25:** Watch for humpback whales and other marine mammals along the coast.

**January 30:** Wood frogs breed during winter rains. Like many winter-breeding amphibians, these handsome terrestrial frogs, found mostly in the mountains and foothills, have anti-freeze in their blood.

**January 31:** Chorus frogs have begun calling: upland chorus frogs in the Piedmont; Brimley's, southern, and ornate chorus frogs in the Coastal Plain; and spring peepers over much of the state.

## FEBRUARY

**February 1:** Spring waterfowl migrations begin.

**February 2:** Groundhogs are still hibernating, so you may not see one looking for its shadow (though it might be possible on a warm day).

**February 3:** Atlantic sturgeon are migrating to their upriver spawning areas.

**February 6:** Jupiter will be at its closest approach to Earth, and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. This is the best time to view the giant planet and its moons.

**February 7:** The Neuse River waterdog, a large, permanently aquatic salamander found only in the Neuse and Tar river systems, is most readily encountered during this time of year.

**February 11:** Gray squirrel litters are being born.