

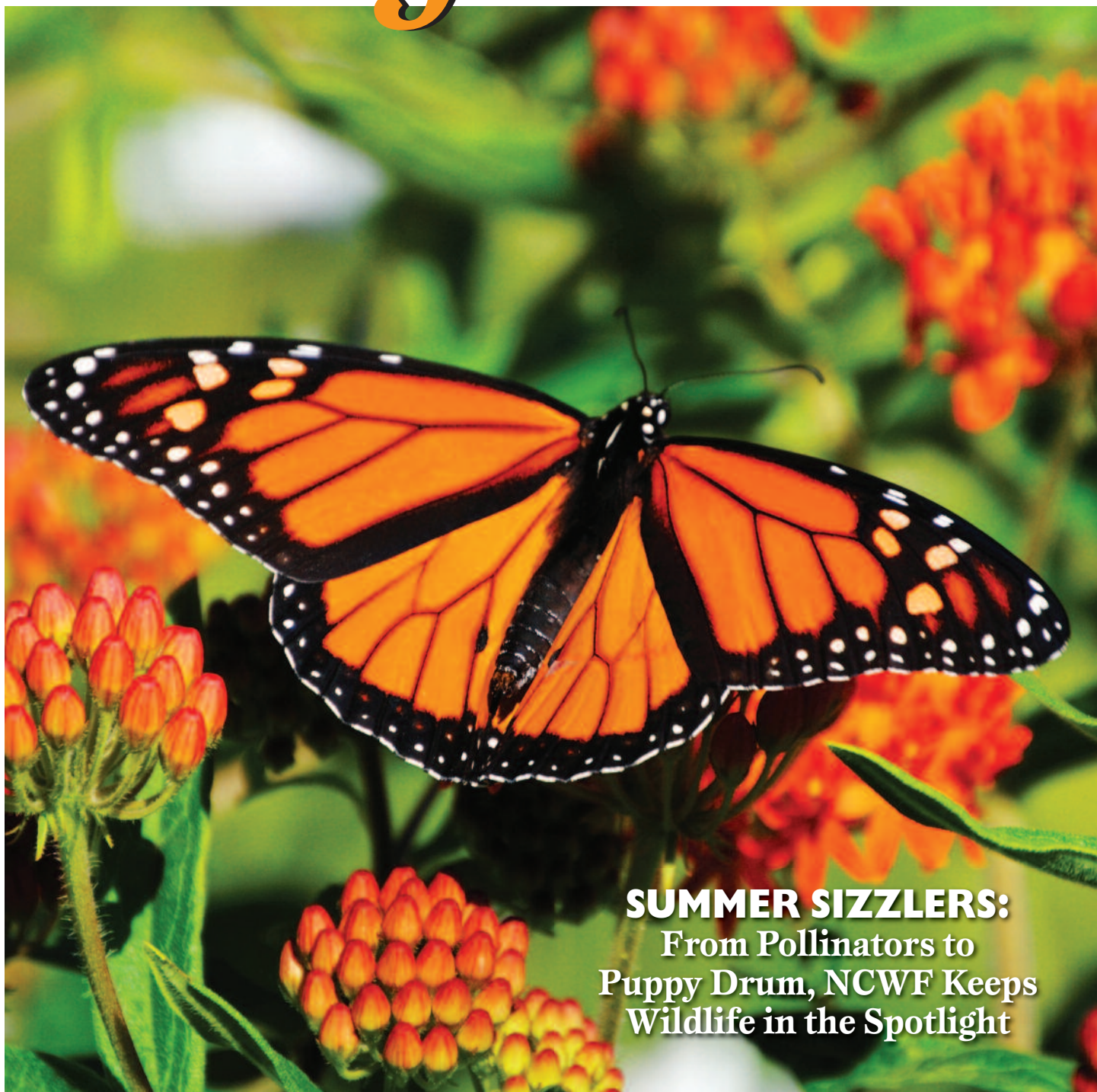


North Carolina  
**WILDLIFE  
FEDERATION**

# Journal

WILD LIVES □ WILD PLACES

Summer 2015



**SUMMER SIZZLERS:**  
From Pollinators to  
Puppy Drum, NCWF Keeps  
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## WANTED: Common Sense Conservation

BY TIM GESTWICKI, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Summertime is often when we sit back and enjoy lightning bugs, the sounds of cicadas and crickets, and sip lemonade. Summertime also brings back fond memories of being out of school, swimming, and sometimes the ice cream man. I find myself relishing the memories of days gone past when conservation was not divisive, but more a way of life, one shared by sportsmen, conservationists, and elected officials, regardless of party.

Unfortunately, that was then and this is now as the basic fundamentals of conservation are regularly under attack, and politicians defy solution-based principles and common sense safeguards for natural resource infrastructure. River buffers, marshes, and isolated wetlands are in the crosshairs in Raleigh and Washington, D.C., and federal land sell-off proposals are gaining serious traction. Commercial interests using subterfuge language such as “job creators”—commonly tossed around in the topics of deer farming and industrialized fishing—are winning while the handcuffing of agencies charged with managing natural resources is more and more common. Eroding the pillars of a healthy economy and quality of life that have been the cornerstones of North Carolina is not just a threat, it is a reality in the Old North State. The steady erosion of the fabrics that bind the state’s conservation heritage is moving at a rapid and historic speed. Many of us are asking: What happened to common sense?

Let’s get back to basics. Intermittent streams and isolated wetlands are crucial for flood control, water filtration, and habitat for wildlife. Marshes and natural riparian buffers are the cheapest, most effective means to protect water quality critical to our state seafood industry at a time when our oyster population is only at 1 percent of its historic levels and many fish species are critically depleted.

Agencies with professional biologists and scientists should be allowed to do their jobs, plain and simple. Compare that premise to legislation introduced in the General Assembly that included language that literally forbade the N.C. Marine Fisheries director or the Department of Environment and Natural Resources “from entering into a joint enforcement agreement (JEA) with the National Marine Fisheries Service.” Expanded enforcement authority and action that will come with JEA are important, as is the supplemental federal funding that would amount to about \$600,000 per year. Our Marine Patrol is underfunded and understaffed for the important jobs they are called upon to perform, which is essential for the welfare of the state. These new funds would put fuel in patrol boats that are sitting idle now. 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. Further examples of meddling include passing legislation to protect opossums by suspending specific wildlife violations for a certain time period, and depriving the Marine Fisheries Commission of its ability to adjust management plans quickly to respond to changing conditions.

Habitat is the currency for conservation, yet serious attempts are underway in Congress to transfer our Western federal public lands to the states which may then liquidate, dispose, or sell those public lands. On the other side is the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) which has created and helped protect some of the finest recreational, historic, and public places across the country. And all without using a single taxpayer dollar as LWCF is funded by a small portion of the revenues derived from offshore oil and gas development. Senator Burr of North Carolina understands that spending LWCF revenues on their intended conservation purposes makes good fiscal sense and is a leading champion of LWCF. Too many, however, are not and need to be on board with this common sense approach for vital investment in safeguarding and enhancing the economic asset that our federal, state and local public lands represent.

Fortunately, aside from regulatory attacks, our investments in land, water, parks and farmland preservation are increasing this session from recent dismal lows. And even though the total natural resource trust funding amounts to 0.238 percent of the overall North Carolina appropriations spending, it is common sense conservation moving in the right direction and deserves all due recognition and appreciation.

NCWF will work ever harder to hold the fort in this common senseless legislative arena and will need your support more than ever. We will bring to light the egregious over-reaching and ludicrous assassinations on the rules, constitution, and agencies at work for the people of North Carolina and the public trust resources that belong to us all. While agencies may be handcuffed over political retribution, NCWF will stand loud and proud to defend their charge and the general statutes governing the state’s natural resources while pointing out the insanities that are taking place in the political sphere. President Theodore Roosevelt, the “wilderness warrior,” once famously stated that “a vote is like a rifle; its usefulness depends upon the character of the user.” Taking a little liberty with this statement and substituting the word common sense for character may be all that needs to be said right now. **NCWF**

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## ABOUT THE COVER

Cover photographs A little pollen here, a little pollen there: pollinators provide a foundation for conservation. Loggerhead sea turtle, NOAA. All others, unless noted: stock or courtesy of NCWF.

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# North Carolina WILDLIFE FEDERATION Journal

WILD LIVES □ WILD PLACES Summer 2015

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NCWF programs link farmers, communities, and charities.

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## NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

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

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

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

**GOALS** Toward that vision, we will:

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

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

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

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

# the POLLINATOR PUZZLE



by Angelique Hjarding, NCWF Pollinators and Habitat Program Coordinator

Everywhere you turn you can't help but hear the buzz about butterflies and pollinators. In particular, there has been a lot of attention about creating habitats and gardens to help the Monarch butterfly, whose population has decreased more than 80 percent. This decline is primarily attributed to a loss of habitat, and especially a decline in milkweed plant species, which is a required plant for the survival of the Monarch caterpillar. As a part of this, NCWF is supporting the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge and we encourage you to create a new or enhancing an existing pollinator garden in your yard that includes native milkweed and other native flowering plants.

It's critical to protect our pollinators because most plants, including a majority of our fruits and vegetables, require pollinators to carry pollen from one plant to another. For example, if your cucumber flowers don't get pollen from another cucumber plant, they will either produce tiny inedible cucumbers or won't produce any at all.

Even though it is now mid-summer there are still many ways you can ensure your yard, patio or container garden is friendly for Monarchs and other pollinators. By making your yard a safe and welcoming space for pollinators you in turn make it a safe space for all wildlife.

## USE ALTERNATIVES TO PESTICIDES.

Chemical pesticides may seem like the easiest approach to killing wasps, evicting fire ants or ridding your yard of poison oak. For most of these there are safer, pesticide-free alternatives. All insecticides are non-selective and even if you only mean to kill a wasp you could end up killing beneficial insects such as butterflies and bees. Roundup and other herbicides can also affect pollinators by killing off essential nectar plants such as clover.

If fire ants have invaded your yard, pour hot water over the mound. The water does not have to be boiling hot and it may take 3 to 4 applications to kill the colony, using 3 to 4 gallons per application. Warning: Hot water may cause severe burns if spilled and it will also kill any nearby grass or shrubs.

Having trouble with mosquitos? Try planting mosquito-repelling plants around your outdoor living space such as garlic, citronella, basil, rosemary and catnip. These work great in containers and some even attract pollinators.

Both poison oak and ivy spread by seed and through an underground root system. The most effective way to remove the infestation is by pulling out the plants roots and all. You can also starve the root system by cutting plants that are climbing trees at the base. It may take several rounds but eventually the roots will die. You can also smother them by covering the area with a thick plastic sheet that is anchored by dirt along the edges. Make sure to use plastic that won't break down through exposure to sunlight.

## PLANT NATIVE FLOWERS.

It's not too late to plant flowers for the fall. You can directly plant seeds of quick-growing native flowering annuals like cosmos, sunflowers and daisies to add an extra bit of color to your fall garden. These plants also provide late-season pollen and nectar sources. Bringing native plants to the garden is especially important because they are specifically designed to support wildlife native to the same region. Ornamental exotic plants may not be able to provide enough nectar or pollen or may even be inedible to caterpillars.

## PLANT AN HERB GARDEN.

Even if you don't have a lot of space, you can always plant a container herb garden. Ignore kitchen wisdom and let basil and other herbs go to flower. It is amazing how many pollinators one

or two flowering herb plants can bring. Other good choices are oregano, lavender, cilantro and thyme. All of these can be grown from seeds planted directly in soil.

### BE A CITIZEN SCIENTIST.

You can help keep watch on our native pollinators through several citizen science projects. Bumble Bee Watch ([www.bumblebeewatch.org](http://www.bumblebeewatch.org)) asks participants to photograph bumble bees and upload the photos to their website. The Monarch Larva Monitoring Program ([www.mlmp.org](http://www.mlmp.org)) asks volunteers to collect data on Monarch populations and milkweed habitats.

### BE A MESSY GARDENER.

A messy garden is the best habitat for native pollinators. Many bee species are solitary ground-nesters and dig their nests in bare soil, which can be difficult to get to if mulch is in the way. Ground-nesting native bees are not aggressive and are beneficial insects to have in your yard. Even the more aggressive social insects such as yellow jacket wasps are important pollinators that also prey on other insects in our gardens keeping nature in balance. For species that like to nest in cavities, leave dead trees and fallen logs for nest sites and minimize pruning of pithy shrubs such as hydrangea. You can also buy or build bee houses and shelters to add to your garden.

### MAKE A BUTTERFLY SPA.

Make a butterfly spa. Butterflies love water but they only want it deep enough to wade in like a shallow puddle. They are also attracted to certain minerals such as those found in sand. To make a butterfly spa, take an old plate, pie dish or shallow ceramic bowl and sink the dish into the ground in a sunny spot in your garden or place it on your patio. Add sand or dirt to the bottom with enough water to make a small mud puddle. Place marbles or flat stones in the dish for the butterflies to land on. Add water daily to keep the sand or dirt constantly damp.

### START PLANNING FOR FALL.

Fall is the best time to add trees and flowering shrubs to your garden. While your garden is in bloom it is also the best time to start planning what you want to add next year. This way you can visualize where to bring in perennials to diversify your garden as well as spot good places for annuals and new trees and shrubs.

This is also a perfect time to start seeds for perennials for next spring. You can transplant the seedlings in the fall to overwinter and create a bright and colorful spring to attract early pollinators. Pick native wildflowers because they are better adapted to the North Carolina climate than exotic plant species. They require less maintenance and are more attractive to native pollinators.

### BUY NEONICOTINOID-FREE PLANTS AND SEEDS.

Researchers have found a possible link between neonicotinoid insecticides and the decline in honey bee populations. The long-term effects of this class of pesticides is still unknown but it is currently recommended to avoid using plants treated with neonicotinoids in butterfly and wildlife gardens. Many commercial nurseries

use these to control pests in their greenhouses so ask before you buy. Home Depot has agreed to label all plants treated with neonicotinoids. Their labels are typically found behind the plant identification stake.

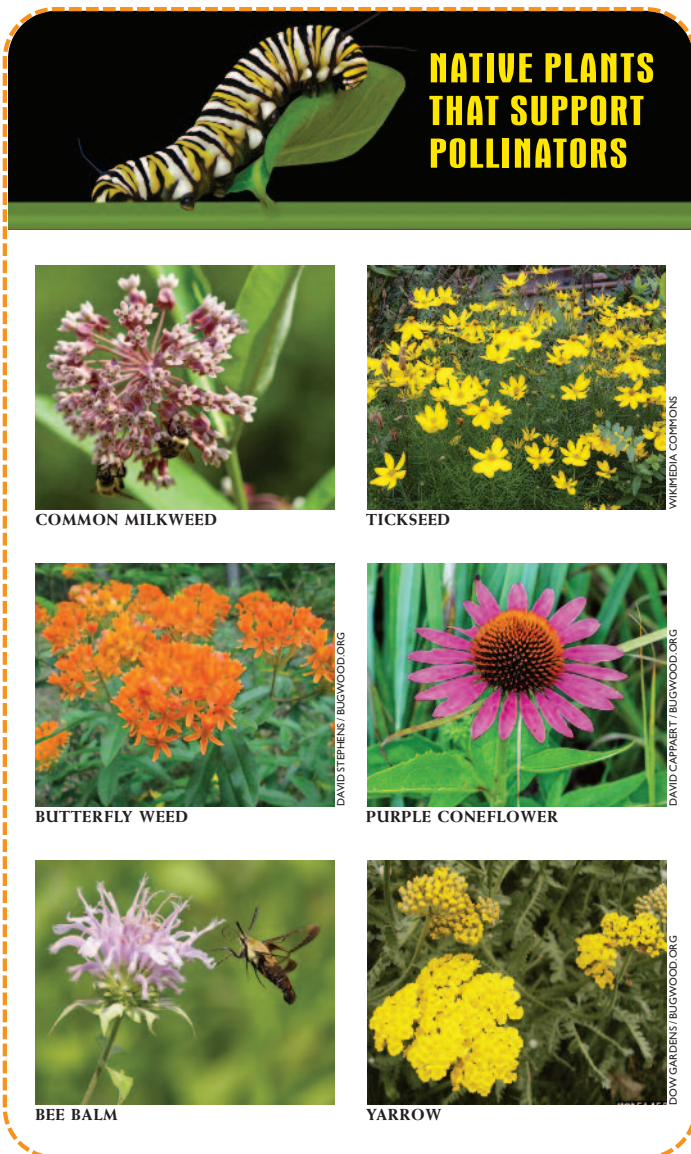
### DITCH THE BUTTERFLY BUSH.

Despite its name, the Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*) is a non-native invasive species imported from China. It can spread in your garden, pushing out important native species that are an essential part of the food chain. Butterfly bush may provide some nectar for butterflies but it doesn't support other native species. Consider replacing them with plants that can host caterpillars such as spice bush, oak trees or Joe Pye Weed.

### CERTIFY YOUR BACKYARD AS A WILDLIFE HABITAT.

Follow these tips and you're most of the way there! All of the components of creating a certified wildlife habitat (food, shelter, water and a place to raise young) are also important to making your yard a safe and welcoming space for pollinators.

For more information on NCWF's pollinators program, contact Angel Hjarding at [angel@ncwf.org](mailto:angel@ncwf.org); 704-332-5696. 





# NCWF DEER programs

## *A Community Approach*

by Dr. M.E. "Liz"  
Rutledge, NCWF  
Wildlife Specialist

**NCWF's Farmers & Communities Manage Deer (F&CMD)** program has been gaining community support for the 2015 deer season, which is good news for all stakeholders: farmers, hunters, and local communities alike. The program reduces crop damage through the harvest of deer by hunters and provides processed venison through the N.C. Hunters for the Hungry network. Thousands of meals of high-quality, all-natural and sustainable protein have been donated for meals to the hungry, and many rural areas have noted the economic benefits of having deer hunts on local farm land as additional funds are spent on gas, groceries, lodging, and at restaurants and other local attractions. The success of the F&CMD program has relied heavily on involvement from hunters, farmers, food banks, church groups, and many others wanting to make a difference in their community.



LUMBER RIVER OUTDOORS 2014 DEER CAMP PARTICIPANTS SUPPORT CONSERVATION.

Please support the F&CMD program and help the hungry by donating a deer at the following locations in 2015.

**Beaufort County** Old Ford Ruritan Club will be collecting deer at 48 US Hwy 171 N in Washington. Call Jeff Mault at (252) 946-3388 for more information.

**Columbus County** In western Columbus County, deer donations will be collected by American Legion Post 204, off of Hwy. 904, just south of Fair Bluff. Call Roger Strickland at (919) 630-3634 for more information. In the heart of Columbus County, deer donations will be collected at Country Boy Outfitters in Whiteville. Call Allan Blackman at (910) 770-0786 for more information.

**Edgecombe County** Deer can be donated at the Conetoe Family Life Center Farm on Hwy 42 in Conetoe. Call Donna Latimer at (252) 258-5176 for more information.

**Statewide** Deer can also be donated at each participating N.C. Hunters for the Hungry processor. Eastern North Carolina processors can be found in Franklin, Wilson, Beaufort, Jones, Bladen, and Pender counties. A complete list of processors can be found at [www.nchuntersforthehungry.org](http://www.nchuntersforthehungry.org).

**What Else You Can Do to Help** If you would like to help feed hungry people in your community and are interested in sponsoring a community deer drive or hosting a permanent stationary cooler for deer donation in the Columbus/Bladen, Wilson/Edgecombe/Nash, or Beaufort County areas, please email [liz@ncwf.org](mailto:liz@ncwf.org) or call (828) 783-8013. Also, groups or individuals can participate by providing financial support to N.C. Hunters for the Hungry to help offset deer processing costs. To help make deer donation easier, a mobile cooler can be rented free-of-charge to groups who would like to hold deer donation events for the F&CMD program during deer season. Please harvest a deer in the 2015 season, donate it back to your community through N.C. Hunters for the Hungry, and inspire others to do the same. <sup>NC</sup> <sub>WF</sub>

## Community Spotlight:

### LUMBER RIVER OUTDOORS, COLUMBUS COUNTY

Lumber River Outdoors (LRO) has embraced the F&CMD program and continues to make a difference in the community. LRO got its start through the F&CMD program and is not only harvesting doe deer early in the fall for deer management purposes (which are donated to feed the hungry), but the group invests in the future. LRO has been instrumental in taking youth on mentor-guided deer and turkey hunts during the 2014 and 2015 seasons to carry on the tradition of hunting and educate youth on the conservation and management of natural resources in North Carolina. In addition to obtaining knowledge on safe hunting practices, many of the children opted to donate their deer to help feed the hungry. Beyond supporting youth hunts, LRO has kept the opportunity and tradition of hunting available to all citizens within the community through "deer camps" devoted to first-time hunters. These camps incorporate quality deer management techniques, which help to educate future hunters on deer management and ensure that deer populations are maintained in a healthy and sustainable way.



**N.C. HUNTERS FOR THE HUNGRY MOBILE COOLER IS AVAILABLE FOR LARGE GROUP DONATION EVENTS.**



# SOUND SOLUTIONS

PROTECTING, CONSERVING AND RESTORING NORTH CAROLINA'S MARINE RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE



**T**he North Carolina Wildlife Federation has undertaken a critical, years-long initiative to address the challenges, failures, and opportunities of managing North Carolina's marine resources. This campaign has involved scores of conversations, and dozens of meetings, to produce a blueprint for the near-term future of the state's saltwater fisheries and habitats. The campaign is called Sound Solutions, and as the name suggests, it calls for concrete, specific actions that will result in both immediate and long-term conservation of the cultural, recreational, ecological, and economic benefits that a healthy coastal ecosystem will provide. Here is our plan.

## PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

### *Greater environmental protection of our sounds and estuarine areas*

■ **HABITAT PROTECTION.** Protection of North Carolina's sounds and estuaries is the most important action the state can take to preserve and sustain our coastal habitat. The North Carolina coast has been devastated by exploitative development and the resulting pollution and sedimentation of our inshore waters. NCWF has held numerous interviews and conversations with commercial fishermen and other coastal stakeholders, each affirming the urgency of this issue and expressing concern over the loss and deterioration of aquatic habitat. There are numerous non-regulatory actions that the state can take immediately to help protect the aquatic habitat in our sounds and estuaries.

The Department of Environment & Natural Resources (DENR) created the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP) after extensive input from stakeholders and experts. The plan provides a roadmap on how to conserve and protect North Carolina's coastal and estuarine habitats. Recently, the CHPP Advisory Committee met for the first time in three years to determine how to proceed with the Plan. *NCWF supports moving forward with the implementation of the CHPP, without delay.* It is just the type of comprehensive, inclusive, science-driven plan in which all citizens may actively participate.

*The State and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) must streamline the "Living Shorelines" permit process.* This strategy promotes keeping shorelines natural and connected to the aquatic ecosystems. Another effort is the promotion of low impact development, in which storm water is kept on private property, reducing runoff of sediments and other pollutants.

Funding for protection of our valuable and important natural spaces has decreased markedly in the last few years. *Within state government, there exist many mechanisms through which natural resource protection could be funded.* These include the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, the Parks & Recreation Trust Fund, and the Waterfront Access & Marine Infrastructure Fund. The North Carolina General Assembly must fund these programs at appropriate levels to adequately protect the state's coastal uplands and wetlands.

■ **OYSTER RESTORATION.** By the late 1900s, the ecosystems supporting oyster reefs became polluted by chemicals and sedimentation, which coupled with unsustainable harvest, led to the decimation of the oyster population. Oysters are not only valuable commercially, but play a vital role in water quality maintenance through their tremendous filtration capacity.

The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) and other stakeholders are using various tactics to promote the restoration of oyster populations, including placing cultch planting, building reefs, and ensuring greater protection of existing reefs through the creation of a sanctuary system. *NCWF supports this work and is committed to partnering on these efforts.* Mariculture is a burgeoning industry in North Carolina that needs more attention by state government. There are two bills currently pending before the General Assembly that deal comprehensively with oyster restoration. *The General Assembly should pass legislation that promotes these ideas and provide funding to help jumpstart this initiative.*

### *Reforming marine fisheries management and oversight*

■ **FISHERIES MANAGEMENT.** The Fisheries Reform Act of 1997 (FRA) is nearly two decades old, yet the goal of long-term fisheries sustainability has not been realized. Further, because of its slow and rigid fisheries management process, many think the FRA should be reviewed and rewritten to make it more nimble, efficient, and focused on resource conservation. One of the most important parts of the FRA addresses management and oversight of commercial and recreational fishing practices through individual species stock management. NCWF believes it is time to review whether the fundamental approach of single stock management is still the best one for North Carolina.

One approach that has been applied elsewhere is the ecosystem-based management system, which takes into account the whole aquatic ecosystem, rather than singling out individual fisheries for stock management. In doing so, this management system considers the contributions all shellfish and finfish species make to the sustainability of the ecosystem. *Whether or not the ecosystem-based approach is determined to be the most appropriate model for North Carolina, the FRA must be reviewed in a comprehensive manner to address its failure to adequately protect marine resources and reach its conservation goals.*

■ **QUOTAS.** Quotas or Total Allowable Catch systems (TACs) have been instituted in other states, as well as in certain federal fisheries. Quota systems complement all management approaches, especially ecosystem-based models, by giving special attention to certain fish of significance. Scientific analysis and data would inform how a certain ecosystem should be managed as a whole, with individual fisheries management based on the overall status of that ecosystem. TACs would only apply to target species and stocks requiring special attention within an ecosystem.



NOAA



USFWS



NOAA

DMF should select this subset of fisheries for TACs, and require real time electronic harvest reporting in those fisheries. The Division should then maintain an advisory system in which fishermen can formally participate in the establishment and management of the quotas for the relevant fisheries in which they participate. Based on participant input and rigorous data analysis, DMF would institute the specific quotas for the fisheries within the ecosystem.

■ **NURSERY AREA DESIGNATION.** Protecting nurseries will help ensure that more fish populations survive early development and grow and thrive to stock recruitment. Currently, the nursery area boundaries designated by the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC) are drawn too narrowly to adequately protect important finfish and shellfish species within our sounds and estuaries. For example, the most productive nursery areas for weakfish are excluded from the current nursery area boundaries. MFC should use the best available science to designate critical nursery areas for all commercially and recreationally important fish species.

■ **LICENSE & PERMIT FEES.** NCWF believes the current licensing and permitting system should be revamped immediately. Fisheries management is grossly underfunded, and many of the existing fees are inadequate and unsustainable to support management needs. A few egregious examples include the 10-day temporary recreational licenses, certain commercial licenses, such as the non-residence commercial license, and the various free permits. Further, certain licenses, such as the recreational-commercial gear license, should be eliminated, as license holders are using them for unintended purposes. The license fee structure and permit system should be re-examined and brought in line with those of other states, so the licenses and permits can sustain the management and enforcement of the fisheries for which they allow access.

■ **LAW ENFORCEMENT.** NCWF believes one of the most significant changes that should occur for the protection of resources is increasing the severity and penalties of relevant offenses. A beneficial step would be to make all “resource harming”

violations Class 2 misdemeanors for the first offense and Class 1 misdemeanors for repeat violations within a two-year period. Further, there needs to be a statutory minimum penalty for all criminal offenses, as well as expansion of civil penalty authority for DMF.

To ensure enforcement is carried out adequately, DMF must have more financial and human resources. Marine patrol has fewer than 60 officers, and is required to cover thousands of miles of coastal water, potentially interacting with over a million commercial and recreational anglers. One immediate step that should be taken is for the Governor to sign the JEA between DMF and the National Marine Fisheries Service, thereby providing hundreds of thousands of federal dollars to equip marine patrol with the resources it requires to do its job effectively.

### *Refining fishing methods and gear type*

■ **BYCATCH REDUCTION.** It has been estimated that for every pound of shrimp harvested in North Carolina sounds, over four pounds of finfish are caught and discarded as bycatch. The amount of bycatch in the North Carolina shrimp fishery is unsustainably high and unacceptable. Many measures have reduced bycatch in other states, including reduced head rope length, shortened trawl time, designated harvest seasons and scientifically proven bycatch reduction devices (BRDs). No other state on the East Coast allows shrimp trawls in its inshore waters, and Gulf Coast states only allow small trawls in their coastal waters. MFC allows combined head ropes as long as 220 feet in most inshore waters. NCWF believes MFC should limit the combined head rope lengths on shrimp trawls to 90 feet for all inshore waters.

MFC recently passed an Amendment to the Shrimp Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) requiring the use of a second BRD on all shrimp trawls in North Carolina. NCWF implores the Fisheries Director to issue the proclamation requiring the use of a second BRD by June 1, 2015.

The Amendment also calls for the testing of BRDs on shrimp trawls in order to find a device, or a combination of devices, that achieves 40 percent reduction of bycatch in the shrimp fishery. The proclamation and the BRDs testing are crucial to reducing



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bycatch in our shrimp fishery: MFC adopted no other strategies to reduce bycatch in state waters through the Amendment to the shrimp FMP. DMF must conduct an expedient and comprehensive study on the variation of effective BRDs. Many studies have occurred on this issue nationally, with much data and analysis on hand. Further, DMF has interacted with scientific experts who can advise the process. **NCWF urges DMF to make recommendations based on results from the BRD testing so that recommendations may be implemented by the 2017 shrimping season.**

■ **GILL NET CHANGES.** The southern flounder stock is in jeopardy in North Carolina, and DMF has expressed its concerns about the grave risk to the stock. Through a Supplement to the FMP, MFC must now decide what percentage of total catch reduction to commit to until the FMP Amendment is approved. NCWF believes the catch must be reduced by at least 40 percent to ensure a viable spawning stock and sustain adequate recruitment for future harvest.

NCWF believes the best way to achieve this is to reduce the use of large mesh gill nets. Gill nets have historically accounted for the majority of the southern flounder harvest in North Carolina. They also catch and kill numerous other fish, marine mammals, sea turtles, and birds that get caught in the nets, resulting in a higher bycatch ratio than pound nets. Because of the extensive use of large mesh gill nets, North Carolina has been required to enter into an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for the protection of sea turtles and sturgeon. It has taken an immense amount of time and effort by DMF to implement these federal requirements.

**Due to the evidence indicating overwhelming resource and financial cost to the State caused by large mesh gill nets, NCWF urges MFC to eliminate the use of unattended large mesh gill nets, and limit yardage for other gill nets (small mesh and runarounds) to 200 yards.** In association with this reduction, NCWF supports the concept of the State assisting gill netters in transitioning to other fishing methods. The reduction of gill net use and transition to other methods will not only improve the fisheries overall, but will help sustain the North Carolina commercial fishing industry. **NCWF**

# Annual Meeting

## North Carolina Wildlife Federation Annual Meeting & Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards

*Please join us in celebrating 52 years of conservation excellence while we honor the winners of the Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards and the 2015 Conservation Hall of Fame Inductee.*

### Reception and Banquet

6:00 P.M. Saturday Evening, September 12, 2015  
Embassy Suites RTP, Cary, NC

### Annual Meeting Speakers Include:

**David Mizejewski**. The media personality, author, blogger and a naturalist with the National Wildlife Federation hosted and co-produced Backyard Habitat on Animal Planet, a television series airing from 2005-08 that showed people how to transform their yards and gardens into thriving habitats.

**Kim DeLozier**. Kim retired from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 2010 after 32 rewarding years of service in wildlife management, and currently works for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation as Conservation Program Manager for Eastern US.

### To Register Online:

Go to [www.ncwf.org](http://www.ncwf.org). To register by phone, call (919) 833-1923.

### Embassy Suites RTP 201 Harrison Oaks Blvd. Cary, NC

Embassy Suites RTP has offered rooms for \$92/night. The rooms will be available until our group block is sold out. Contact the hotel at (919) 677-1840 and ask for the N.C. Wildlife rate.



## Great Outdoors University Wins Grant

NCWF has received a high-impact grant from the Women's Impact Fund for our Great Outdoors University of Greater Charlotte Program (GoU). The grant-in-aid is for two years.

"We are very grateful for this opportunity to expand our Connecting Kids with Nature program," said Mary Bures, manager of the Federation's Great Outdoors University. "This will enable us to provide more children and youth with unique opportunities to experience a living laboratory outdoors filled with inspiration and wonderful surprises, where hands-on discoveries can be made and learning is fun."

"We are thrilled to be awarding this grant," said Deborah Majewski, chair of the Women's Impact Fund Grants Committee. "The experience of leading the Grants Committee this year gave me the opportunity to learn more about the compelling needs in our area and nonprofits doing the important work of meeting those needs. Our hope is that this award will help North Carolina Wildlife Federation's Great Outdoors University Program both achieve their mission and strengthen our entire community."

The Women's Impact Fund has emerged as one of the largest women's collective giving groups in the country. The fund has made 54 grants totaling more than \$4 million.

Since 2013, the North Carolina Wildlife Federation's Great Outdoors University (GoU) has been providing meaningful, life-changing outdoor experiences for children. GoU is a conservation-based experiential education program designed to bring life-changing experiences to kids ages 6-18 who have limited opportunity to explore the natural world. GoU takes a collaborative approach leveraging the existing services of our partners, and augmenting them with NCWF's strong network of wildlife professionals. 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 invites them to explore, engage their senses, follow their curiosity and share their sense of wonder about the natural world. For more information, contact Mary Bures at [mary@ncwf.org](mailto:mary@ncwf.org).



## Warning: Southern Flounder Decline

Since the Sound Solutions campaign unveiled its policy recommendations in May, NCWF has been working hard to educate the public and government officials on why these recommendations will benefit the state. Further, we have started implementing these recommendations through the appropriate avenues and channels. Unfortunately, members of the legislature, supported by commercial fishing interests, would like to move North Carolina in a risky and detrimental direction.

The Department of Environment & Natural Resources, its Division of Marine Fisheries, and the marine fisheries regulatory oversight body, the Marine Fisheries Commission, all contend that the state's southern flounder population is in crisis. In the spring of this year, DMF presented to MFC the dismal status of the southern flounder, and MFC then determined that the stock was in such peril that emergency measures must be taken.

There has been a significant coast-wide, multi-decade decline in overall flounder recruitment and abundance, and even more disturbing is the fact that this decline has been greater in juvenile fish. The percentage of immature fish present in the harvest has been too high, therefore leading to unsustainable harvest levels. As part of the Sound Solutions recommendations, NCWF recommended that there must be at least a 40 percent reduction in southern flounder catch, and most of this reduction should come from the gill net fishery.

MFC initiated the emergency process, called a Supplement to the Fisheries Management Plan, which allowed the commission to put in management measures quickly to protect the existing flounder stock. Unfortunately, legislative language was introduced at the General Assembly that would intervene in this executive branch process, and not allow the Supplement process from proceeding to an outcome. The Federation has had to involve itself at the legislature and attempt to convince certain members that this intervention is a bad way to proceed.

At press time, we do not know how this situation will unfold, but it goes to the fact that our campaign, while we intend for it to be a forward-looking, multi-dimensional effort, at times we will have to play defense at the General Assembly. It also goes to the point that the Federation will have to be at work over the long-term for the Sound Solutions campaign to be successful.

## NCWF and Wildlife Habitat Restoration

The Catawba River runs for more than 220 miles in North Carolina, and includes seven reservoirs that teem with fish and wildlife. Thanks to grants-in-aid from the Habitat Enhancement Program fund, a fund established to benefit fish, wildlife and habitat along the Catawba-Wateree and its tributaries in North and South Carolina (part of the Comprehensive Relicensing Agreement), NCWF and its chapters in Lake James, Wylie, Norman and Mountain Island Lake have been able to really make a difference for wildlife.

Some of the projects established include:



**Buttonbush plants.** Planting buttonbush plants on an island to slow erosion and provide habitat for wildlife. Its flowers benefit hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees, and its seeds are an important food source for wood ducks, mallards, and migratory teal. In addition, these native plants protect shorelines from erosion and help filter pollutants.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



**Osprey platform.** More than 60 osprey platforms have been deployed by barge to provide a safe place for young to be raised and prevent raptors from nesting near power lines and lake markers.



**Nesting boxes.** These provide safe breeding areas for wood ducks, prothonotary warblers and brown-headed nuthatches, a high-priority species for conservation in the Piedmont region.



**Fish reefs.** Hundreds of tons of rock are deployed, and this addition of structure to the lake bottom is an effective means of habitat enhancement in reservoir systems. By adding vegetation and rock reefs, we are providing much-needed habitat for fish such as largemouth bass to increase densities and improve fishing.

Basking platforms for turtles as well as bass spawning benches are part of this large-scale, comprehensive wildlife habitat effort. According to NCWF's Chris North, these project are win-win situations for volunteers and for members of the public that have a vested interest in improving lake habitat "This is a wonderful cooperative project that will benefit local anglers, birders, and help get people outdoors and connected to nature," North said.

## NCWF Senior Advisor Named

Dale Caveny has been named a new senior advisor for the Federation. Dale served with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's Division of Law Enforcement for 29 years, retiring as chief of the division in 2014. He is a fellow with the National Conservation Leadership Institute and a peer coach/instructor with the National Association of Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs Leadership Academy. Both NCLI and NACLEC are committed to working within the conservation community to develop transformation leaders who continue to promote conservation in a changing world.

Dale and his wife Amy reside in Alleghany County near the Blue Ridge Parkway. There they enjoy a wide array of outdoors activities including hunting, fishing, hiking and paddling. Dale works with the Blue Ridge Business Development Center and assists with economic development efforts in Alleghany County. "Dale's experience and commitment to conservation and enforcement of flora and fauna public trust resources will serve NCWF and all conservationists well," stated NCWF CEO Tim Gestwicki.



## CHECK OUT OUR CHAPTERS!

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)



PAWC (Pamlico Albemarle Wildlife Conservationists)



South Wake Conservationists



The Albemarle Conservation and Wildlife Chapter

## RESTORING WILDLIFE HABITAT COMMUNITY BY COMMUNITY

North Carolina now has six communities certified as Community Wildlife Habitats by the National Wildlife Federation. This spring, Charlotte and Concord joined the elite list, designated the newest certified communities thanks to two local NCWF wildlife chapters: CROWN, or Charlotte Reconnecting Ourselves with Nature, and Concord Wildlife Alliance.

Community Wildlife Habitat is a national recognition program with more than 80 neighborhoods, towns, counties, and cities that recognize and celebrate community-wide efforts for green buildings and landscapes. These cities also work to improve air and water quality, to restore vital wildlife habitat, and to improve the health and well-being of inhabitants, one property at a time. Communities register to participate and take actionable steps to make a difference for the wildlife and environment. Although these actions are important for today, they also impact future generations of citizens that will live, work, and play in the community.

Charlotte is the third-largest city in the nation and the largest city east of the Mississippi River to be certified, with more than 900 certified habitats found in homes, schools, businesses, parks, and places of worship. It took more than a year of planning and thousands of volunteer hours. "The certification is an accumulation of a lot of people's efforts," CROWN President Ernie McLaney said. "Even though it's a lot of work, it doesn't feel like work. This is a passion for so many of our volunteers."

The city of Concord became the fastest municipality in North Carolina to achieve the certification. Concord's certifications include more than 200 homes, various workplaces, public spaces, schools and additional habitats from other property types such as places of worship.

"You just can't put a price on it. It's so important," said Concord mayor Scott Padgett. "This is really about nature and what we can do to preserve it and save it for future people."

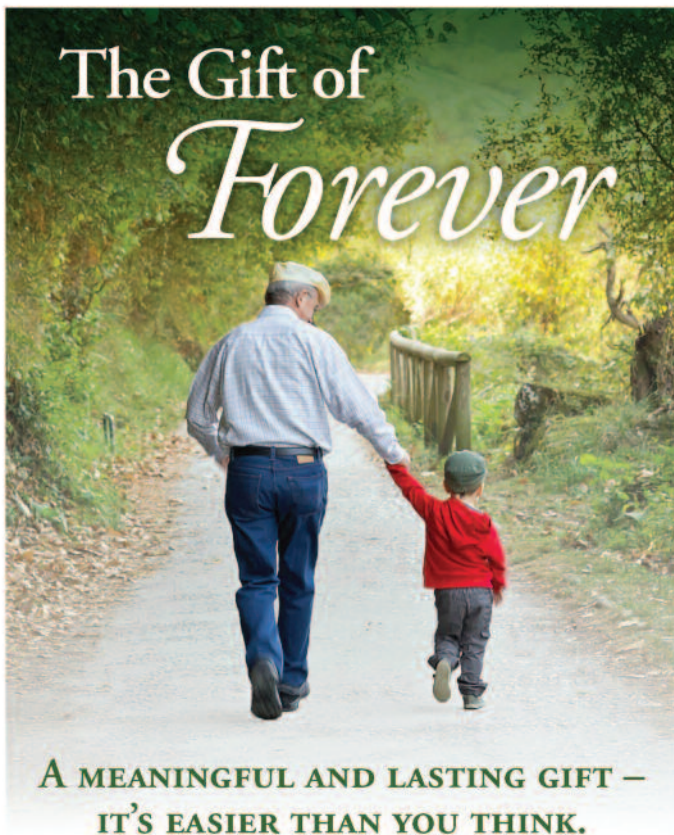
NCWF's local wildlife chapters encouraged the planting of native plants for wildlife to thrive, from birds and insects to mammals and reptiles. The chapters demonstrated that simple steps like adding bird feeders and planting native plants can make a big difference.

Other communities certified in North Carolina include Lake Norman, Matthews, Montreat, and Weaverville. Each community has different certification requirements based on population. NCWF hopes that these new designations encourage people in Charlotte, Concord and other communities all over the state to keep providing food, water, cover, and places to raise young that will enhance the wildlife habitat and increase wildlife populations. "This is a huge accomplishment," said Tim Gestwicki, NCWF CEO, "and it sets the stage that any city and municipality can do this and be part of the solution in a nonregulatory manner to really make a difference for local wildlife."

*If you and your community would like to start a local wildlife chapter and work towards certifying your community as a Community Wildlife Habitat, contact Chris North, NCWF Conservation Coordinator, at 704-332-5696 or [chris@ncwf.org](mailto:chris@ncwf.org).*

NCWF





**Y**ou can leave a powerful legacy for the wildlife and wild places you love. Naming NCWF in your will or estate plan will make a true difference for wildlife and habitat for generations to come.

**ADD NCWF TO YOUR WILL OR LIFE INSURANCE POLICY.**

Many of our members have added NCWF to their will or life insurance policy by simply designating a dollar amount or a percentage. No matter the amount, such a gift enables future generations to enjoy North Carolina's magnificent wildlife and stunning wild places.

**ESTABLISH A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY.** Create income for you or a loved one today, and leave a legacy forever. This option provides a guaranteed fixed income for life and substantial tax savings. (Age and income requirements apply.) Given the volatility of today's markets, an NCWF annuity adds financial security and an investment in the future of wildlife.

**THE FIRST STEP IS EASY.** Call, email or drop a note to development director Dom Canavarro, for a confidential and personal proposal that meets your family's needs. Contact Dom at 1024 Washington St., Raleigh, NC 27605; dom@ncwf.org; or (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.

Tom Angelo  
Alen Baker  
John Benbow  
John Bishop  
Frank Bragg  
Robert Brown  
Mollie Brugh  
Pinkney Bynum  
Susan Cameron  
Maurice and Addria Capps  
John Crutchfield  
Jerry Davis  
Leah Dey  
Roger and Sally Dick  
Alexander Dickey  
James Doyle

Helen Eggers  
Paul Foos  
Carol Gestwicki  
Tim and Karen Gestwicki  
Stephen Graf  
Fred Harris  
Susan Harris Hileman  
Carole hart  
Robin Hayes  
Phil Hinton  
John Hislop  
Diane Honeycutt  
Jane Isbey  
Carol Buie and Jay Jackson  
Lawrence Kimbrough  
Jeffrey Martin

Richard and Julia Mode  
Patrick O'Leary  
Perry Patterson  
Michelle Pentecost  
Mark and Jane Ritchie  
John and Holly Robbins  
Tom Schmitt  
Rick Smith  
Jack and Jenny Spruill  
Fred and Alice Stanback  
Bill and Nancy Stanback  
Bill Staton  
Victoria Sutton  
Joye Thomas and Karen Redfern  
Dewey Wells

# THE Season

Jeff Beane's GUIDE TO  
NATURAL NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina Wildlife Federation  
1024 Washington Street  
Raleigh, NC 27605

insert  
progress  
indicia

## AUGUST

**August 21:** Late summer wildflowers in bloom in the mountains include Blue Ridge catchfly, mountain angelica, and virgin's bower.

**August 22:** Peak hatching for loggerhead sea turtle nests.

**August 25:** The eggs of many snake and lizard species are hatching.

**August 26:** The third luna moth broods of the season are emerging.

**August 28:** Gray squirrels are bearing their fall litters.

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

**August 30:** Green salamander eggs are beginning to hatch.

**August 31:** Goldenrod, asters, blazing star, Joe-pye weed, cardinal flower, and other late summer wildflowers are in bloom over most of the state.

**September 1:** Peak hurricane season is beginning. Watch for unusual seabirds driven inland by storms.

**September 4:** Peak birth time for copper-heads, our most common and widely distributed venomous snake.

**September 5:** Stick insects (walkingsticks) are mating.

**September 6:** Hellbenders are breeding in our mountain rivers. In most salamanders, males produce a sperm capsule called a spermatophore that is picked up by the female, but hellbenders spawn in the same fashion as most fishes, with males externally fertilizing the eggs.

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

**September 10:** Wild muscadine grapes are ripe. Peak flight periods for several butterflies of both common and uncommon species, including Gulf fritillary; cloudless sulphur; little yellow; and Aaron's, Dion, Long-tailed, and Yehl skippers.

**September 12:** Whip-poor-wills and chuck-will's widows are beginning to depart for their wintering grounds.

**September 14:** Butterfly watching is great during September. Migrating monarchs can be particularly spectacular this time of year. The Blue Ridge Parkway is a good place for monarch watching, and Tunnel Gap at milepost 415.6 can be an especially good spot.

**September 19:** BugFest, a huge annual educational expo featuring insects and other arthropods, will be held at the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences in downtown Raleigh. This year's theme is cicadas! For more information, visit [www.natural.sciences.org](http://www.natural.sciences.org).

**September 20:** The Diana fritillary—a rare butterfly found only in our mountains and foothills—is flying.

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

**September 22:** Pine snake nests are hatching in the Sandhills.

**September 23:** Autumnal equinox at 4:22 a.m.

**September 24:** Bog turtle nests are hatching.

**September 25:** Most whitetail fawns have lost their spots.

**September 26:** National Hunting and Fishing Day and National Public Lands Day. Visit your favorite public lands, or take a kid hunting or fishing.

**September 28:** Expect the first frosts in the mountains. Carolina mantids—one of our two native mantid species—are depositing their oothecae (egg clusters).

**September 29:** Marbled salamanders begin moving to their breeding sites on rainy nights. Males usually move first. This salamander was adopted as North Carolina's official State Salamander in 2013. Females lay their eggs under sheltering objects on land in or along dry

woodland pools and attend them until winter rains inundate the pools and hatch the eggs.

**October 1:** In the Coastal Plain and eastern Piedmont, walkingstick mantids are active and depositing their oothecae (egg clusters). These unusual native mantids occur only as females and reproduce parthenogenetically.

**October 2:** The last of the season's loggerhead sea turtle nests are hatching.

**October 2-4:** October is seafood month. The 29th annual North Carolina Seafood Festival will be held on the Morehead City waterfront. For information, call 252-726-6273 or visit [www.ncseafoodfestival.org](http://www.ncseafoodfestival.org).

**October 4:** Peak surface activity for both our hognose snake species—the rare southern hognose snake and the more common and widely distributed eastern hognose snake.

**October 5:** Fall runs of bluefish and red drum mean good surf fishing.

**October 8:** Peak migration for many of our sea ducks.

**October 8-9:** Draconid meteor shower. Evening and nightfall should be the best viewing times.

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

**October 10-11:** 61st Annual Mullet Festival, downtown Swansboro. Admission is free. For more information on North Carolina's second-oldest festival, call 910-326-7370 or visit: <http://www.emeraldisle-swansboro.com/mullet-festival.html>

**October 11:** Ruby-throated hummingbirds are leaving for Central and South America. Hummingbird feeders may be taken down.