



Celebrating 75 Years of Conservation

This year the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission will celebrate its 75th anniversary. Since 1947, this agency, and its employees, Commissioners, volunteers, partners and leaders, have made an incredible impact on wildlife conservation in North Carolina.

Accomplishments range from being the first state agency to establish a state-specific [endangered species list](#), to bringing the [wild turkey](#) population back from the brink, to creating a wildlife endowment fund with [lifetime licenses](#) and offering [greater accessibility](#) to wildlife-associated recreation — we are proud of our impact and look forward to more success.

Throughout the year we will reflect on our 75 years of existence through stories told in this e-newsletter, on our social media platforms (#75wildyears) and in our redesigned magazine, [Wildlife in North Carolina](#). Please follow along, and thank you for your continued support.



Sincerely,
Cameron Ingram
Executive Director

[75 Years in Wildlife - Photo Gallery](#)



Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Hyde County

A Northern shoveler has tested positive for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Hyde County. The wild duck was harvested by a hunter, and the sample was collected on Dec. 30, 2021. Officials at the Wildlife Commission have jumped into action in collaboration with the United States and North Carolina Departments of Agriculture, reminding hunters to follow best practices when handling waterfowl after harvest.

[Read More](#)



A Must-Read Magazine for the Avid Outdoor Enthusiast

[Wildlife in North Carolina](#) magazine began as an eight-page pamphlet published in 1937 entitled *Wildlife Management in North Carolina*. It has since evolved and is regularly found on coffee tables and in classrooms statewide. This month we launched a sleek new design, with more stunning photography and additional wildlife content. Make it your New Year's resolution to:

- [Read](#) the free articles
- [Watch](#) the Wild & Tasty recipe video and give it a try!
- [Subscribe](#)!



Public Comment Period Ends Jan. 31

The public comment period for the proposed changes to the [2022-2023 inland fishing, hunting, trapping, game land regulations and other regulated activities](#) will close Jan. 31 at 11:59 p.m. Comments can be submitted [online](#), by [email](#) and by mail.

Details on the proposed regulations are available on our [website](#). To view a pre-recorded overview of proposed changes, click the video link below (17 min.).

[Overview of Proposals](#)



Youth and Veterans/Military Waterfowl Days

Feb. 5 and Feb. 12 are [Youth](#) and [Veterans/Military](#) Waterfowl Days. Both categories of hunters must follow the rules and regulations established for those days as outlined in the [2021-22 North Carolina Regulations Digest](#).

Note: The same bag limits during the regular waterfowl season apply. Taking of Canada geese in the NE Hunt Zone is allowed with [valid permit purchased](#) prior to Jan. 31.

[Waterfowl Rules and Regulations](#)



2021 Official Black Bear Harvest Summary

Results from the 2021 annual bear harvest summary are now online and show that hunters statewide recorded the second highest harvest total on record at 3,659 bears — a 2% decrease from the previous season. The Coastal Bear Management Unit (BMU) harvest increased by 6% from 2020 with a record total of 2,371 bears. The Mountain BMU experienced a 14% decline, largely due an abundance of acorns compared to 2020.

[Read 2021 Summaries](#)



Give Local This Tax Season

As you file your North Carolina income taxes this year, please consider donating any portion of your refund to the [N.C. Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Fund](#). Enter the amount of your contribution on line 30 on your

tax form **or** click “yes” when prompted when filing electronically. Your participation is crucial in securing adequate funding for research, conservation and management of our most vulnerable species.

[Give Direct](#)



2022 Wildlife Diversity Award Nominations Close Jan. 31

Nominations for the 2022 [Thomas L. Quay Wildlife Diversity Award](#) will be accepted through Jan. 31. This award honors an individual who has made significant, long-standing commitment to, and demonstrated leadership in promoting conservation of nongame species and their habitats in North Carolina.

[Submit a Nomination](#)



New Access Area for Disabled Anglers & Boaters

A new wheelchair lift was recently installed at the Oak Island Boating Access Area in Southport. Expanded access to disabled sportsmen and women is a priority of the agency. To learn more about outdoor opportunities for the disabled community, visit:

[Disabled Sportsman Opportunities](#)



The parking lot at Lake Waccamaw BAA in Columbus County increased to 61 trailer spaces (3 ADA) and 15 single car spaces (1 ADA).

Expanded Parking at Boat Access Areas

In December, the Wildlife Commission's Engineering Division completed parking expansion projects at two [Boating Access Areas](#) (BAA).

- *Lake Waccamaw BAA, Columbus County* - The asphalt lot increased parking to 61 trailer spaces (3 ADA) and 15 single car spaces (1 ADA).

- *Straits Landing BAA, in partnership with Carteret County* - Facility capacity is now 95 trailer spaces (4 ADA) and 32 single car spaces (2 ADA).

[BAA Locator](#)



Conservation Area at King's Bridge

King's Bridge Wildlife Conservation area is now open to the public for fishing, birding and other wildlife observation. [Conserving Carolina](#) transferred the 87 acres of land located off NC Highway 191 to the Wildlife Commission last summer. Nestled along the French Broad River, the plot will be conserved as a high-quality wildlife habitat that will benefit both terrestrial and aquatic species.

[Read More](#)



Stop Feral Swine

January through March is the best time of year to trap feral swine, as scarce late-winter food makes baited traps much more appealing for this intelligent but destructive species. Find guidance on effective trapping methods, especially whole-group trapping, at www.ncferalswine.org. Landowners in Anson, Davie, Haywood, Montgomery and Randolph counties can apply now to borrow a corral trap.

[Learn More](#)



Last Call for Photos!

Wildlife in North Carolina's Photo Competition closes Jan. 31 at 5 p.m. Amateur and professional photographers who subscribe to the magazine may submit entries. The grand prize includes \$200 and your photo featured on the July/August 2022 cover of [*Wildlife in North Carolina*](#). Competition rules are available [online](#).

[Enter a Photo](#)



Welcome the Class of 2022!

This month, 18 wildlife law enforcement recruits from across the country began Wildlife Basic Training. Our program has been regarded as one of the top training systems in the country since inception in 1950. Recruits engage in over 1,100 hours of instruction over 29 weeks, including North Carolina Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET), driving, boating, swimming, firearms, TASER, ASP, fish identification, waterfowl identification, constitutional law, and game and fish law.

Best wishes to the class of 2022!



Classes, Workshops & Programs

Feb. 8, [Advanced Conservation Data for Green Growth](#) webinar, 10 – 11 a.m.

Feb. 8, [Turkey Hunting webinar series #1: Biology, Regulations, Where to Hunt and Scouting](#), 7 – 8 p.m.

Feb. 9, [Turkey Hunting webinar series #2: Firearms, Ammo, Clothing and Equipment](#), 7 – 8 p.m.

Feb. 10, [Turkey Hunting webinar series #3: Techniques and Strategies](#), 7 – 8 p.m.

Recorded [Understanding our Wild Life](#) webinar series, posted Dec. 16:
[Genetic Applications for Conservation and Management](#)

Ongoing classes:

[John E. Pechmann Fishing Education Center](#), Fayetteville



What's in Season:

Check out our Regulations Digest [online](#) to see what you can hunt, fish and trap this time of year. Be sure to check dates carefully for your region.

In-Season:

- [Canada Geese](#) (resident population zone)
- [Common Snipe](#)
- [Dove](#)
- [Duck](#)
- [Inland Fishing](#)
- [Light Geese](#)
- [Tundra Swan](#) (permit only)
- [Woodcock](#)
- Small game and other species: [Bobcat, Grouse, Opossum, Pheasant, Quail, Rabbit, Raccoon & Squirrel](#)

[Buy or Renew a License](#)



Species Spotlight: Groundhog

Feb. 2 is Groundhog Day - a day in which all eyes are on this cute critter as it awakes from hibernation and predicts an extended winter or early spring. As the largest member of the squirrel family, the [groundhog](#) is commonly seen standing upright, often standing guard at their burrow. However, groundhogs are adept climbers and may be observed on fence posts or in trees.

The groundhog, also known as the woodchuck, constructs its burrow in pastures, wooded areas, and along streams and roadway. Its range has expanded to nearly the entire state since 1985. Learn more at the species profile below.

[Groundhog Profile](#)



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