



## **Wildlife Commission Sets Regulations for 2018-19 Seasons**

The Wildlife Commission voted yesterday to adopt rules related to wildlife, fisheries, and game lands management for the 2018-19 seasons. The effective date for these changes is Aug. 1, 2018. Wildlife Commissioners carefully weighed public comments regarding the cultural and traditional impacts of proposed deer season changes, as well as biological information, and adopted modified rules. [MORE](#)



## **2017 Striped Bass Season on Roanoke River Opens March 1**

The Wildlife Commission will open the entire Roanoke River Management Area to striped bass harvest from March 1 through April 30. The daily creel limit within the Management Area is two striped bass per angler. The minimum length limit is 18 inches, and no striped bass between 22 and 27 inches can be possessed at any time. Only one striped bass larger than 27 inches can be included in the daily creel limit. [MORE](#)



## **Hatchery Supported Trout Waters Closed to Fishing March 1 until April 7**

The Wildlife Commission will close approximately 1,000 miles of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters to fishing one-half hour after sunset on Feb. 28 and reopen them at 7 a.m. on April 7. While fishing is closed, Commission personnel will stock all Hatchery Supported Trout Waters in preparation for opening day. [MORE](#)



## **Wildlife Commissioners Sign Resolution on Sunday Hunting of Migratory Birds**

The N.C. General Assembly, through Session Law 2017-182, granted the Wildlife Resources Commission authority to promulgate rules legalizing hunting on Sunday for wild animals (including migratory birds) and upland game birds. In addition, the law also directed the Commission to “complete a study that includes, but is not limited to, examining biological and resource management impacts, economic impacts, and social impacts associated with hunting migratory birds on Sunday.” To complete this study, the Commission contracted with Responsive Management to determine the economic and social impacts while Commission biologists evaluated the biological and resource management impacts. The results of the study were presented to the Commission on Feb. 27. After reviewing the study, the Wildlife Commissioners adopted a resolution, which directs agency staff to examine in greater detail the social, economic and biological impacts of Sunday hunting on migratory birds before taking any additional actions. [Read the full resolution here.](#)





## **Wildlife Commission Approves Coyote Management Plan**

The Wildlife Commissioners approved the Coyote Management Plan at their board meeting in Raleigh today. The 200-page plan provides biological information on coyotes in North Carolina, identifies concerns about coyotes, outlines the challenges of coyote control and provides strategies to minimize impacts of coyotes. The plan also outlines statutory changes that will improve coyote management, identifies known knowledge gaps and research needs and recommends new biological and social strategies to address coyote management issues. [Download the Coyote Management Plan](#) (PDF)



## **Wildlife Commission Holds First National Archery in the Schools Program Tournament**

On Saturday, Feb. 17, the Wildlife Commission held its first in-person National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) Tournament in Winston-Salem. NASP is a program offered to physical education classes for grades 4 through 12, with core content covering archery history, safety, technique, equipment, mental concentration, physical fitness and self-improvement. [MORE](#)



## **Wilmington Man Wins *Wildlife in North Carolina* Photo Contest**

An aerial photograph of a salt marsh in New Hanover County took top honors in the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's annual *Wildlife in North Carolina* photo competition. Kevin Nestvogel, of Wilmington, shot his grand-prize winning photo using a drone. Nestvogel's photo, along with the other prize-winning photos, will

be on exhibit at the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, starting Feb. 24. [MORE](#)



## **Terry Sharpe and N.C. State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation Receive Small Game Award**

Terry Sharpe, of Ellerbe, and the N.C. State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation received the Lawrence G. Diedrick Small Game Award at the Wildlife Commission's board meeting in Raleigh today. The award recognizes individuals and organizations whose actions significantly and positively impact any of North Carolina's small game populations (bobwhite quail, ruffed grouse, squirrel, rabbit). [Read more on their contributions.](#)



## **Wildlife Commission Seeks Public Comment through March 15 on Draft Game Land Management Plans**

The Wildlife Commission is accepting public comments through March 15 on draft management plans for five game lands: Bertie County; Cape Fear River Wetlands in New Hanover and Pender counties; Cold Mountain in Haywood County; Neuse River in Craven County and Van Swamp in Beaufort and Washington counties. [MORE](#)





## Space Still Available for Wild Turkey Hunting Seminars Starting March 1

The Commission and the [National Wild Turkey Federation](#) are offering 11 free turkey hunting seminars across the state in March. To help increase new hunter recruitment, each hunter who attends is encouraged to bring along someone who has never hunted before. Each seminar is open to all ages and skill levels, and [pre-registration is required](#).

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## Beyond BOW Holds Women-Only Fly-Fishing Workshop on March 10

The Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program is offering a women-only fly-fishing workshop on March 10 at the John E. Pechmann Fishing Education Center in Fayetteville. This workshop provides a thorough overview of fly-fishing, including casting and fly-tying. Following classroom instruction, participants will have the chance to try out their new skills in the Center's stocked fishing ponds. [Pre-registration is required](#).

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## Get Your Birding On and Help Us Celebrate "The Year of the Bird"

It's 2018 – 100 years since the passage of one of the most important bird-protection laws in history – the [Migratory Bird Treaty Act](#). To celebrate this milestone, National Geographic, Audubon and others have declared this year

["The Year of the Bird,"](#) and the Wildlife Commission encourages you to get outside and see if you can spot a few birds that call the Tar Heel state home only in the winter. You better hurry before they're gone! [MORE](#)



## Other News and Events

[Wildlife Commission to Participate at Dixie Deer Classic, March 2-4, in Raleigh](#)

[Wildlife Commission Offers Free Fishing Programs in Fayetteville](#)

[Wildlife Commission Offers Free Workshops in Brevard](#)

[Wildlife Commission Offers Free Wildlife Programs in Corolla](#)



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