



Delayed Harvest Trout Waters Open Oct. 1

The Wildlife Commission will implement [Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations](#) on 34 trout waters in 20 western North Carolina counties on Oct. 1. Under Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations, no trout can be harvested or possessed from these waters between Oct. 1 and one half-hour after sunset on June 1, 2018. No natural bait may be possessed, and anglers can fish only with artificial lures with one single hook. [MORE](#)

Wildlife Commission Offers Outdoor Events on Sept. 23 to Celebrate National Hunting & Fishing Day

This Saturday, Sept. 23, the Wildlife Commission is hosting or supporting six family-friendly events to celebrate National Hunting and Fishing Day. The events, most of which are free, focus on activities that highlight the state's rich hunting, fishing and wildlife conservation heritage. Activities and exhibits vary for each event; however, all provide opportunities for participants to improve their outdoor skills and increase their knowledge of wildlife in the Tar Heel state. [MORE](#)



Youth Deer Hunting Day Set for Saturday, Sept. 23

The Wildlife Commission has set Saturday, Sept. 23, as a Youth Deer Hunting Day. On this day, youth 17 and younger may use any legal weapon to hunt deer, either male or female, and are not required to be accompanied by an adult if they have completed a hunter education course. The Youth Deer Hunting Day provisions apply to both private and public lands. [More regulations and information](#)



Hunters: Practice Tree Stand Safety During Hunting Season

Before heading to the field or the woods, hunters should take simple precautions when using a tree stand to prevent injuries and ensure they return home safe. The Wildlife Commission recommends hunters:

- Check stand for damage to belts, chains, bolts and attachment cords before use.
- Use a full-body safety harness properly every time.
- Bring an emergency signal device, such as cell phone or whistle.
- Maintain three points of contact when climbing up or down a stand.

[More recommendations](#)



Wildlife Commission Moves to Real-Time Reporting of Big Game Harvests

Big game hunters must report all their deer, black bear and turkey harvests by phone at 800-I-GOT-ONE (800-446-8663), online at ["Report a Harvest"](#) or at a participating [Wildlife](#)

[Service Agent location](#). The Commission is no longer offering big game harvest reporting through Wildlife Cooperator Agents using paper record sheets. [MORE](#)



Wildlife Commission Staff and Hunter Safety Educator Honored with Governors Conservation Achievement Awards

Two Wildlife Commission staff members and a hunter safety educator were honored at the 54th annual Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards banquet on Sept. 9 in Cary. The N.C. Wildlife Federation presents the awards to people who have demonstrated a commitment to conservation of the state's natural resources.

Wildlife Enforcement Officer of the Year: Branden D. Jones, Denton

Master Officer Jones is the epitome of a wildlife officer. A hardworking and dedicated officer, Jones excels in his investigative work being particularly good at detecting egregious acts that jeopardize the state's natural resources or threaten public safety. While investigating a poaching ring, he uncovered a massive drug lab. He, along with other law enforcement agencies, arrested the suspects, who have since been indicted on numerous felony charges.

Wildlife Conservationist of the Year: Jeff Hall, Greenville

Hall is coordinator of the Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation program as a biologist with N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, and served as president of the N.C. Herpetological Society. Respected for his work on ephemeral pool creation for Carolina Gopher frogs and bog turtle swamps, and for research on the last remaining populations of eastern Diamondback rattlers in the state, Hall also excels in leading citizen science research.

Hunter Safety Educator of the Year: Joe Darden, Fayetteville

Joe Darden has instructed tirelessly through the years amassing over 2,500 volunteer hours teaching hunter education courses and related events. Darden is recognized as a pioneer and champion of hunter education, setting a remarkable example of dedicated volunteer service.

[MORE](#)



Stop by Wildlife Commission's Exhibit at N.C. State Fair in Raleigh from Oct. 12-22

The Wildlife Commission will have its annual exhibit at the N.C. State Fair in Raleigh, which is scheduled for Oct. 12-22. Take your best shot at the air rifle range, get a close-up view of some native songbirds and learn about game lands and how a controlled burn benefits wildlife and habitats. Pick up a free Henslow's sparrow button (right) at the Wild Store and purchase a matching sparrow t-shirt funded by Neuse Sport Shop of Kinston, with all proceeds going to the Wildlife Diversity Program. [MORE](#)



Rabies-Infected Deer Found in Cherokee County

After the Wildlife Commission recently confirmed a rare case of rabies in a deceased deer in Cherokee County, the agency is asking hunters who encounter a deer exhibiting disease symptoms or who come across a dead deer with no hair on its head (a common sign in rabies-infected deer) to call the Wildlife Commission at 866-318-2401. The agency also is advising hunters to take precautions when handling harvested deer. [MORE](#)



Wildlife Commission Proposes Changes to Youth Wild Turkey Season, Taxidermy and Falconry Rules

The Wildlife Commission is accepting public comments through Oct. 31, 2017 on proposed changes to the following regulations: A proposed technical change to the Spring Youth Only Wild Turkey Season would remove the requirement that the licensed adult accompanying youth during this season, be at least 21 years of age. Proposed changes to falconry regulations would update references to federal regulations, clarify existing requirements, and incorporate technical changes to the text of the rules. A proposed change to taxidermy

rules would allow taxidermists to accept wildlife killed accidentally or found dead. [Read full text of all proposed rule changes.](#)



Fall Hunting Guide Now Available

The 2017 Fall Guide features a story on how shooting preserves figure in the upland bird hunting landscape. There is also an in-depth profile of the Sandhills Game Land and a feature on that often forgotten game animal, the gray squirrel. The fall guide is one of two special publications you can receive by subscribing to the agency's award-winning magazine, *Wildlife in North Carolina*. [Learn more.](#)



2018 Wildlife Calendar

Get Your Wildlife Calendars Before They're Gone!



The 2018 Wildlife Calendar is now on sale. The calendar, which makes an excellent holiday gift, features outstanding wildlife art with profiles of each artist, fishing days with moon phase information, and more. Only \$9 each — get yours before they're gone! [Visit N.C. Wild Store.](#)

 NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION



Other News and Events

[Wildlife Commission Offers Free Wildlife Programs in Brevard in October](#)

[BLOG: Midge Research Could Help Track the Spread of Hemorrhagic Disease](#)

[BLOG: Shooting Sports Workshop for Women Only Offers Free One-on-One Instruction](#)