



NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE UPDATE

Deer Hunters: Be Aware of Your Surroundings

As [deer hunting season](#) continues around the state, the Wildlife Commission's [Home From the Hunt](#) campaign reminds hunters to be aware of their surroundings and positively identify their target before pulling the trigger. The four primary rules of firearms safety are:

- Always point a firearm in a safe direction.
- Treat every firearm as if it were loaded and never assume a firearm is unloaded.
- Keep your finger out of the trigger guard and off the trigger until ready to shoot.
- Be sure of your target – and what's in front of and behind it.



Be Safe. Be Seen.

Hunters wear orange and so should you! For safety's sake, all game land visitors are encouraged to wear fluorescent orange in the form of a hat, or a vest for increased visibility during the hunting seasons. [Read applicable rules, regulations and other guidelines before heading in the woods and fields.](#)



Chuck Whitm

Seeing — or Hearing — More Coyotes this Fall? Here's Why.

According to the Wildlife Commission, if you're seeing — and hearing — more coyotes this fall, it's probably because young

“teenaged” coyotes are leaving their parents’ territories to find a mate and establish a territory of their own. Young coyotes can travel remarkable distances — upward of 300 miles — before settling into their own territory, so they’re more likely to be noticed by people. But seeing one is no reason to be alarmed. [What you should do when you see a coyote.](#)



Lori William:

Wildlife Commission Continues to Seek Hellbender Sightings

The Wildlife Commission is asking the public, in particular anglers, to report any sightings of hellbenders (water dogs) to the agency. Hellbenders are found in fast-moving, clean mountain streams. Anglers fishing these streams are most likely to come across one of these giant, aquatic salamanders that average about 16 to 17 inches in length. Reported sightings help agency biologists understand better where they are located and how their populations are faring. [MORE](#)



More ForestHer Workshops Scheduled for November

Women landowners and natural resource professionals interested in learning more about management and conservation of private lands are invited to attend one of three ForestHer NC workshops, which will be held across the state in November. The workshops will run from 9:00 a.m. until 4 p.m. and cost \$25 per person. Pre-registration is required. Lunch and continuing education credits (Continuing Forestry Education, Environmental Education and The Wildlife Society) are provided. [Dates, locations and registration](#)





Grouse Hunters: Submit Samples of Blood and Feathers

The Wildlife Commission is seeking assistance from grouse hunters this hunting season with its West Nile Virus Disease sampling and Avid Hunter Surveys. Grouse hunters are asked to submit samples (blood and feathers) from their harvested birds to test for West Nile Virus. Recent research suggests that ruffed grouse are routinely exposed to West Nile Virus, and it appears this exposure could cause declines in ruffed grouse populations. Hunters who would like sampling packets mailed to them should contact merril.cook@ncwildlife.org at 919-707-0075.





Katherine Etchls

Landowners Can Help the Wildlife Commission Monitor Bats

With white-nose syndrome (WNS) continuing to take a deadly toll on bats in North Carolina, biologists with the Wildlife Commission are conducting long-term monitoring surveys on caves and mines across the state. Landowners who have a cave or mine on their property that they'd allow biologists to survey are asked to email katherine.caldwell@ncwildlife.org an agency mammologist who studies bats. WNS is a disease that has killed millions of bats in the eastern United States — and thousands of bats in North Carolina — since it was first detected in New York 13 years ago. [Read more about white-nose syndrome in bats and how you can help the Wildlife Commission help bats.](#)





NCWF

Bear Hunters: Participate in our Bear Cooperator Program

The Wildlife Commission is asking hunters who harvest bears this season to participate in its Bear Cooperator Program by pulling both upper premolar teeth and mailing the teeth to the agency in an envelope mailed earlier this month to all bear e-stamp holders. Information from the teeth help agency biologist monitor bear populations, make management decisions and evaluate the impact of bear harvest. Teeth from all bear ages are needed. Those who participate receive a free bear cooperator hat and age report. [MORE](#)





USFWS



John MacGregor



Eric Kil

Wildlife Commission Seeking Jawbones and Carcasses

The Wildlife Commission's Furbearer Team is seeking lower jawbones from trapper-harvested bobcats and otters, as well as spotted skunk carcasses. Data gleaned from the teeth collected from jawbones will help biologists determine the age and gender structure of the harvest, while spotted skunk carcasses will be used for genetics and locations to increase biologists' knowledge of this elusive furbearer species. Cooperators will receive the ages of their animal and a cooperator patch. For more information, visit [Furbearer Cooperator Program](#) or email casey.dukes@ncwildlife.org.



Other News and Events

[Black Bear Boating Access Area in Marion Closed until Early November for Renovations](#)

[Free November Workshops in Brevard](#)

[Free November Fly-Tying Course for Beginners in Fayetteville on Nov. 9](#)

[Free November Wildlife Programs in Corolla](#)



[Buy a License](#) • [Go Hunting](#) • [Go Fishing](#) • [Go Boating](#) • [Get Outside](#) • [Learn More](#)
[Subscribe to *Wildlife in North Carolina* magazine](#)

[Manage Your Subscription](#)

Email correspondence to and from this sender is subject to the N.C. Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties.