



Wildlife Commission Director Urges Continued Compliance with COVID-19 Restrictions

Across North Carolina, residents are adapting to practicing social distancing and avoiding mass gatherings, including while using Wildlife Commission game lands, boat ramps, public fishing areas and other areas. Agency Director Gordon Myers urges residents to continue to comply with social distancing requirements when using Commission-related outdoor areas, particularly after the U.S. Forest Service announce it was closing specific roads, trails access, recreational areas and camping in Pisgah National Forest. These closures may result in people visiting nearby game lands, which could lead to overcrowding. **It is paramount that people visiting agency access areas continue to follow [social distancing and mass gathering requirements \[click.icptrack.com\]](https://www.icptrack.com).**



Vote to Set Season Dates for 2020-21 Migratory Game Bird Season Postponed Until May 7

Due to COVID-19 , Wildlife Commissioners have postponed their vote to set the season dates for 2020-21 migratory game bird seasons until May 7. [Listen to the Commissioner's business meeting \[click.icptrack.com\]](#).



COVID-19 Related Closures, Cancellations and Postponements

Due to the COVID-19 virus, the sales office at the Wildlife Commission's headquarters in Raleigh is closed. You are strongly encouraged to [purchase your fishing, trapping and hunting licenses \[click.icptrack.com\]](#) and to [renew your vessel \[click.icptrack.com\]](#) online. Please note the Commission's License, Vessel Registration, and Wildlife Helpline Call Centers are open from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Monday-Friday.

For the most up-to-date information regarding agency closures, cancellations and postponements, visit the Wildlife Commission's [COVID-19 webpage \[click.icptrack.com\]](#).





Mike Carraway

Be BearWise: How to Co-Exist Peacefully with Black Bears

The Wildlife Commission is offering tips on how to become BearWise now that the weather is warm and bears are on the move. If left alone, most bears that wander into a neighborhood will quickly retreat to their natural habitat, particularly if no food source is around. While bears are not inherently dangerous and are rarely aggressive toward people, biologists are urging people to be cautious and follow the [six BearWise Basics](#) [[click.icptrack.com](#)] to reduce potential conflicts and live responsibly with black bears. [LEARN MORE ABOUT CO-EXISTING WITH BEARS](#) [[click.icptrack.com](#)]





Jodie Owe

See a Snake Outdoors? Don't Panic! Get Tips on What to Do

If you see a snake while outdoors, don't panic. Leave it alone and walk away. Most snakebites occur when a person picks one up, steps on one accidentally or tries to kill one. Snakes, even venomous ones, are reluctant to bite, instead using their energy or venom to acquire food. Snakes are an important part of the ecosystem, eating mice, rats and other rodents, and serving as an important food source for animals like foxes, raccoons, eagles and hawks. [GET MORE TIPS ON CO-EXISTING WITH SNAKES \[click.icptrack.com\]](http://click.icptrack.com)





Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

Expect to See More Coyotes as Pup-Rearing Season Gears Up

Coyotes are raising their pups now so many people may see them more often, with sightings peaking in May, as coyote parents begin hunting day and night to feed their young. However, Wildlife Commission biologists say there is little to fear as coyotes rarely attack humans, although small pets, such as cats and small-breed dogs, can be taken as prey if left outside or unsupervised. [Biologists offer some recommendations for deterring a coyote from coming near you, or into your yard \[click.icptrack.com\]](#).





Colleen Olfenbut

What Happens to Orphaned Bear Cubs in NC?

An Overview of the Wildlife Commission's Black Bear Cub Rehab Program

Since 1976, the Wildlife Commission has been rehabilitating and releasing orphaned black bear cubs through the agency's cub rehabilitation program. The Commission receives orphaned cubs from a variety of circumstances from as early as late January to as late as December, with the majority arriving April through June. If the cubs are not weaned or are in poor condition, they are initially placed with one of two bear rehabilitators in the state who provide the expert care, with limited to no human interaction, until the bears are about 7–8 months old. At that age, the cubs are released into an enclosure with naturally occurring hard forest for habitat. [READ MORE ABOUT THE BEAR CUB REHAB PROGRAM \[click.icptrack.com\]](http://click.icptrack.com)





Katherine Etchis

Be Bat Friendly During Bat Pup-Rearing Season

With bat pup season starting in early May, the Wildlife Commission urges homeowners to forgo any bat eviction or exclusion in their homes until the end of July. May through July marks the time frame when female bats are raising their young — called pups. Young bats, like other mammals, depend on their mother for survival during the first few weeks of life. If a homeowner installs an eviction device or covers up the hole that bats have used to get into the house, female bats will not be able to get to their young after a night of feeding, and the young bats will starve to death. [Learn more about these important mammals and how you can be "bat friendly \[click.icptrack.com\]."](http://click.icptrack.com)





Thomas Harve

Striped Bass Season on the Roanoke River Closed April 30

The Wildlife Commission reminds anglers that the entire Roanoke River Management Area closed to striped bass harvest at 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, April 30, as scheduled by rule. The Roanoke River Management Area includes the Roanoke River and tributaries from Roanoke Rapids Lake Dam downstream to Albemarle Sound, including the Cashie, Middle and Eastmost rivers. From April 1 through June 30, anglers are required to use a single barbless hook or a lure with a single barbless hook when fishing in the upper Roanoke River. The upper Roanoke River is defined as the main river channel and all tributaries, upstream from the U.S. Highway 258 Bridge near Scotland Neck to Roanoke Rapids Lake Dam.



Wildlife Commission Warns of Fishing License Scams

The Wildlife Resources Commission is urging the public to be aware of private online websites claiming to sell North Carolina fishing licenses. Whether it be inland or coastal fishing, licenses can only be purchased online at ncwildlife.org [click.icptrack.com], by calling the agency's license department at 888-248-6834 or in-person through local [Wildlife Service](#)

[Agents \[click.icptrack.com\]](http://click.icptrack.com). The agency **does not** contract or partner with any other online vendors to sell licenses, so any purchases made through fraudulent websites could potentially result in financial losses and compromised personal data. [MORE \[click.icptrack.com\]](http://click.icptrack.com)



NWTF-NC Chap

A Collaborative Teams Set to Study Wild Turkeys in North Carolina

Biologists with the Wildlife Commission, along with National Wild Turkey Federation-NC Chapter and NCSU's College of Natural Resources, have embarked on a 3-year wild turkey study that will give them a better understanding of diseases that wild turkeys may get, as well as determine when wild turkey nesting begins in the Coastal, Piedmont and Mountains regions of North Carolina. The study also aims to determine the success of turkey nests in each region and the potential causes of nest failure; document the vegetation conditions where turkeys nest in each region, helping direct habitat management to increase nesting over time; and estimate survival rates of female and male turkeys in each region and determine the primary causes of mortality. [READ MORE ABOUT THE STUDY \[click.icptrack.com\]](http://click.icptrack.com)



Jeff Ha

Wildlife Commission Is Asking the Public to Report Pine Snake Sightings in Western North Carolina

The Wildlife Commission is asking the public to report sightings of pine snakes in southwestern North Carolina. Biologists want to learn more about the distribution of northern pine snakes, which are large, non-venomous snakes that spend most of their time underground. Spring is the best time to see one as they are more likely to be above ground this time of year, seeking mates and food, basking in the sun, or moving from burrow to burrow. They typically range between 4 to 5 feet long, although some can get as large as 7 ½ feet. They have a white, tan or yellowish background color with dark brown or black markings that begin as heavy mottling on the head before gradually becoming distinct blotches toward the tail. [LEARN MORE ABOUT PINE SNAKES AND HOW TO REPORT SIGHTINGS \[click.icptrack.com\]](https://www.icptrack.com).



NCW

Deer Harvest for 2019-20 Season Up Nearly 7 Percent from 3-Year Average

Results from the Wildlife Commission's annual deer harvest summary indicate hunters across the state reported harvesting 161,940 deer during the 2019-20 hunting season — a 6.7 percent increase compared to the average harvest the last three seasons. Of the deer harvested, 51.1 percent were antlered bucks, 4.5 percent were button bucks and 44.4 percent were does. Most deer were harvested with a gun (76 percent), followed by blackpowder (10.9 percent), bow (7.3 percent) and crossbow (5.8 percent). [READ MORE RESULTS FROM THE ANNUAL DEER HARVEST SUMMARY \[click.icptrack.com\]](https://www.icptrack.com)

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Not Detected in North Carolina's Deer Herd

As part of their annual CWD surveillance effort, Wildlife Commission biologists tested more than 2,300 deer during the 2019-20 sampling season and detected no evidence of CWD in the state's wild white-tailed deer herd. Staff collected deer tissue sample across the state from hunters, meat processors, taxidermists, road-kills, and deer showing symptoms of disease.

Agency staff kept track of each sample's geographic location and submitted the sampled tissue to Wisconsin Veterinarian Diagnostic Lab, a USDA approved laboratory, for CWD testing. [MORE \[click.icptrack.com\]](#)



Wildlife Commission Temporarily Closes Big Bradley Falls Trail on the Green River Game Land

The Wildlife Commission closed the Big Bradley Falls Trail on the Green River Game Lands through May 8, 2020 due to a significant increase in use at this area and limited adherence to social distancing protocols. Closure is necessary to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and keep people away from areas that can be potentially dangerous if overcrowded. [MORE \[click.icptrack.com\]](#)



DO YOUR PART

WHILE ENJOYING RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

PRACTICE **SOCIAL DISTANCING** TO HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COLDS, FLU AND CORONAVIRUS:

—6 ft—

- ALLOW 6 FEET BETWEEN YOURSELF AND OTHERS



- WIPE DOWN SURFACES YOU MAY TOUCH



- DON'T TOUCH YOUR EYES, NOSE AND MOUTH



- WASH YOUR HANDS

NCWILDLIFE.ORG





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