



Wildlife Commission Adopts Regulations for 2020-2021 Seasons

The Wildlife Commission voted on Feb. 27 to adopt rules related to the agency's regulations related to wildlife management, inland fisheries and game lands for the 2020-2021 seasons. The Commission adopted all [44 proposals presented at public hearings](#) in January, though several were modified before adoption. The effective date for these changes is Aug. 1, 2020. [MORE](#)





Thomas Harv

Striped Bass Season Opens on the Roanoke River 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](#)





Thomas Harv

Hatchery Supported Trout Waters Closed to Fishing Feb. 29 - April 4

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission will close approximately 1,000 miles of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters to fishing one-half hour after sunset on Feb. 29 and reopen them at 7 a.m. on April 4. While fishing is closed, Commission personnel will stock all Hatchery Supported Trout Waters in preparation for opening day. [MORE](#)





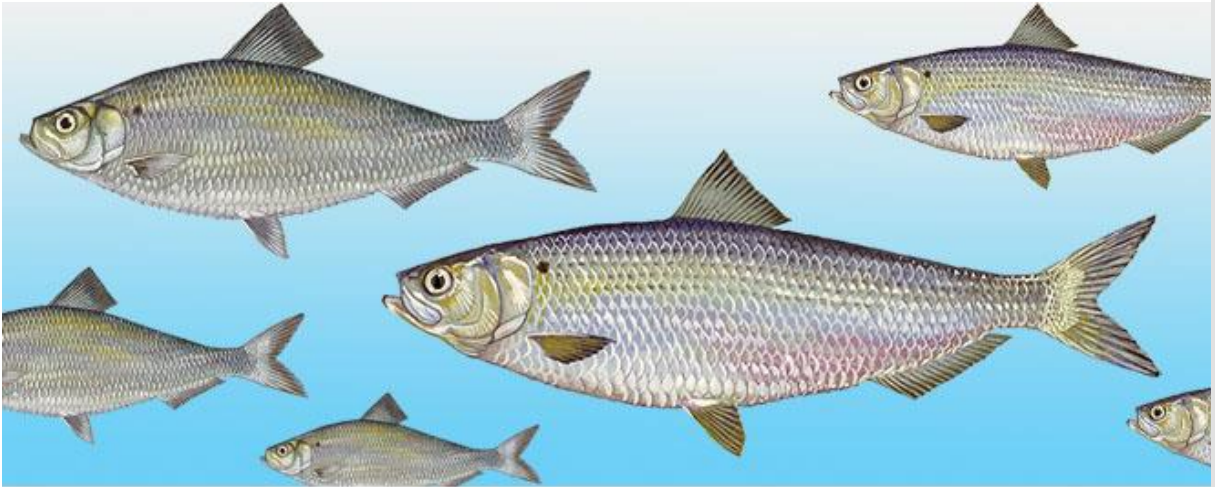
Thomas Harv

Public Input Meetings on Hunting Deer with Dogs to be Held in March

The Wildlife Commission will hold four public input meetings in March to discuss deer hunting with the aid of dogs, associated conflicts and potential solutions. Meetings will begin at 7 p.m. Dates and locations are:

- Wednesday, March 18
South Granville High School
701 North Crescent Dr., Creedmoor, NC
- Thursday, March 19
St. Andrews University – Avinger Auditorium
1700 Dogwood Mile St., Laurinburg, NC
- Monday, March 30
Duplin County Agricultural Center
165 Agriculture Dr., Kenansville, NC
- Tuesday, March 31
Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center
2900 NC-125, Williamston, NC

[MORE](#)



Duane Raver Illustration

River Herring Regulations Reminder

The Wildlife Commission is reminding anglers that they cannot harvest or possess blueback herring and alewife, collectively known as “river herring,” greater than 6 inches in length while boating on or fishing in inland fishing waters of coastal rivers and their tributaries. The regulation applies to all river herring, regardless of origin, in inland fishing waters of the Roanoke, Tar, Neuse, Cape Fear, Waccamaw and Pee Dee rivers and their tributaries up to the first impoundment of the main course of the river, the Lumber River, including Drowning Creek, and all other inland fishing waters east of I-95. [View an interactive map to see designations for specific coastal waters](#). For possession and harvest of herring in coastal/joint waters, visit the [Division of Marine Fisheries website](#).

Delayed Harvest Trout Stockings in Cane River Suspended Indefinitely

The Wildlife Commission has suspended all Delayed Harvest trout stockings in the Cane River until further notice, due to a partial equipment failure at the Town of Burnsville Wastewater Treatment Plant in Yancey County. The section of Cane River now closed to stockings is downstream of the plant and fisheries biologists are concerned about the potential for negative impacts to water quality. The Hatchery Supported section of Cane River is upstream of the plant and is not affected by the equipment failure. It will be stocked as normal in 2020. [MORE](#)



Avoid Being Scammed When Purchasing a Fishing or Hunting License

The Wildlife Commission is warning anglers and hunters to avoid online scams when purchasing their licenses. The warning follows several recent reports of customers paying for licenses through third-party websites not affiliated with the agency, and then never receiving a license. Hunting and fishing licenses can only be purchased through local Wildlife Service Agents, such as sporting goods stores and marinas, online at ncwildlife.org, or by calling the Wildlife Commission's license department at 888-248-6834 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.





Melissa McGaw

James Ruffin of Winston-Salem Sworn In as New Wildlife Commissioner

The Wildlife Commission welcomed a new member to its governing board at the agency's business meeting on Feb. 27. James (Jim) Ruffin, of Winston-Salem, was sworn in as the new District 7 Commissioner by Judge Reuben Young of the N.C. Court of Appeals. Ruffin, who is the son of former District 7 Commissioner Dalton Ruffin, represents Alleghany, Alexander, Ashe, Davie, Forsyth, Iredell, Stokes, Surry, Watauga, Wilkes and Yadkin counties. His term expires on June 20, 2025. [MORE](#)



Submit Nominations for Small Game Award through May 1

The Wildlife Commission is seeking nominations until 5 p.m. May 1 for its [Lawrence G. Diedrick Small Game Award](#), which recognizes an individual or organization whose actions that have significantly and positively impacted North Carolina's small game populations through habitat management, education, research, the Hunting Heritage Program or other efforts. These actions also

benefit other species, including nongame animals such as songbirds, reptiles and amphibians. [MORE](#)

◆

Three Members Sought for Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee

The Wildlife Commission is seeking nominations through April 30 for three seats on its [Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee](#) — a board of North Carolina citizens that provides advice to the Commission on nongame wildlife conservation issues across the state. Nominations are being accepted for expert and at-large seats on the Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee. [MORE](#)



Melissa McGo

Beyond BOW Weekend for Women Scheduled for April 3-5

The Wildlife Commission is offering its annual Becoming an Outdoors-Woman weekend, for women 18 and older, on April 3-5, at the Eastern 4-H Environmental Education Center in Tyrrell

County. Participants can choose from a variety of outdoor skills workshops, such as archery, fishing, hunting, decoy carving, outdoor game cooking, smartphone nature photography, motorboat skills, kayaking and much more! Workshops are designed for participants who: 1) have no outdoor skills experience, but would like to learn; 2) are beginners who would like to improve their skills; 3) know how to do some activities and would like to experience new ones. [More information and to register](#)

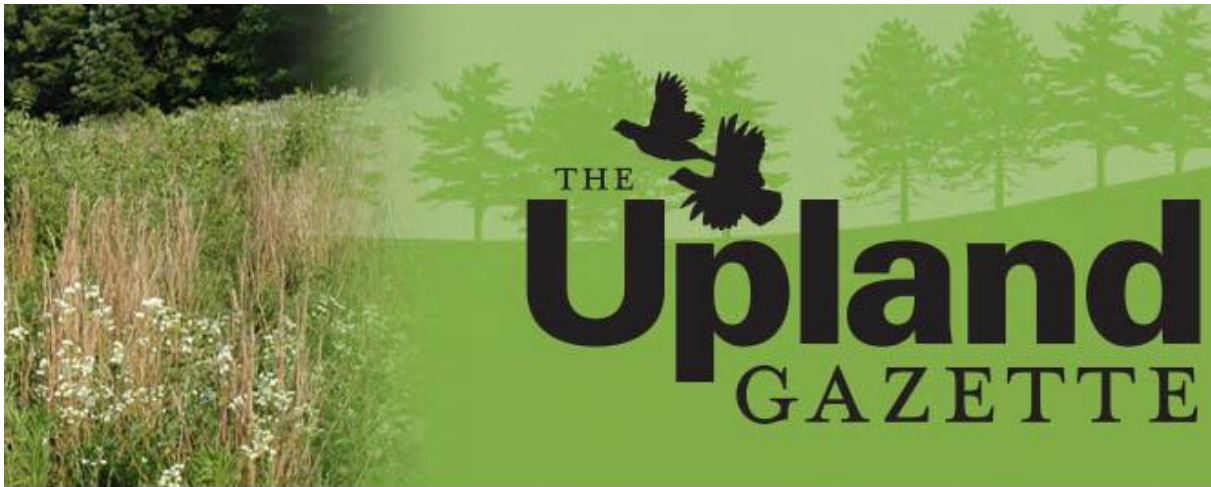


Adam Grimm

Tundra Swan Featured on 2020 North Carolina Duck Stamp

A painting of a tundra swan in flight by wildlife artist Adam Grimm, of South Dakota, has been selected as the 2020 North Carolina Waterfowl Conservation Stamp and Print. The painting, which was selected by a panel of five judges on Jan. 28 in downtown Washington, N.C., will be used as the artwork on the 2020 N.C. Waterfowl Stamp and Print. Signed and numbered regular edition prints with mint stamps will be available July 1

from the Wildlife Commission's [N.C. Wild Store](#) for \$149. [Runners up and more information.](#)



Craig Harpe

Spring 2020 Issue of Upland Gazette Now Available Online

Want to learn more about bobwhite quail, rabbits, other small game wildlife, songbirds and other game and nongame species as well as their habitats? If so, check out the spring issue of the Upland Gazette. In this issue are articles on creative ways to establish early successional habitat; a feature on encouraging and supporting tomorrow's hunters; an overview of techniques for implementing moist soil management for waterfowl on swamp lands and much more. [Read the current issue as well as past issues online.](#) You can also [subscribe online](#) to receive notices when the Upland Gazette is available.



Digital Edition, NOW AVAILABLE

Spring Fishing Guide is Here. Get Yours Today!

The digital version of the 2020 Spring Fishing and Boating Guide is now available to subscribers of the Wildlife Commission's award-winning *Wildlife in North Carolina* magazine. Among the topics covered in this guide are youth turkey hunting, reviving a Piedmont farm pond, and an overview of R3, a new philosophy for recruiting, retaining and reactivating hunters and anglers, and other outdoor enthusiasts. Not a subscriber to the magazine? [Subscribe today.](#)

Other News and Events

[Eleven Free Turkey Hunting Seminars Begin March 3](#)

[Pechmann Center in Fayetteville Offers Free Fishing Workshops and Clinics in March](#)

[Pisgah Center in Brevard Offers Free Workshops in March](#)



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