



Thomas Harvey

## NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE UPDATE

### Delayed Harvest Trout Waters Open to Harvest June 1, 2019

The Wildlife Commission will open 34 trout streams and two lakes classified as Delayed Harvest to trout harvest on June 1 until Sept. 30. From 6 a.m. to 11:59 a.m. on opening day, Delayed Harvest waters are open only to anglers 17 years old and younger. Waters open to all anglers at noon. During this time, anglers can keep up to seven trout per day with no bait restrictions or minimum size limits. [MORE](#)



Take Me Fish!

## Don't Be a Statistic: Wear a Life Jacket While on the Water this Summer

In response to a stark increase in boating-related fatalities in 2018, the Wildlife Commission urges all North Carolinians to practice safe habits while on the water this summer. Last year, 35 people lost their lives due to boating accidents — the highest number of vessel-related fatalities since 1990. Twenty-nine of the victims were not wearing a life vest. Don't be a statistic. Wear your life jacket. [MORE](#)



Thomas Harv

## Free Kids' Fishing Events Going on Now Through mid-June

Kids can fish for free and register to win prizes, including two lifetime licenses, at one of more than 30 kids' fishing events being conducted across the state in late May and early June. The Wildlife Commission, along with [Neuse Sport Shop](#), [Triangle Fly Fishers](#) and the [U.S. Forest Service](#), is supporting these fishing events as part of this year's National Fishing and Boating Week. Registered participants have a chance to win a lifetime unified sportsman's license, donated by Neuse Sport Shop, a lifetime inland fishing license, donated by Triangle Fly Fishers, or one of

100 fishing prizes, such as mini tackleboxes, fishing towels and playing cards. [List of events](#)



Falyn Owe

### **Leave Fawns and other Young Wildlife Alone**

See a fawn, a baby rabbit or other young wildlife and think it has been abandoned? Think again. In almost all instances, young wild animals should be left alone — chances are good that the mother is nearby and will return when she feels it is safe to do so. When left alone, fawns, young rabbits and other species have an excellent chance of survival. Most people are ill-suited to care for wild animals. It is also illegal to take a fawn and most wild animals out of the wild and into your possession. [LEARN MORE](#)



NCW

## Deer Harvest for Last Season Down 9 Percent

Results from the Wildlife Commission's annual deer harvest summary indicate hunters across the state reported harvesting 143,529 deer during the 2018-19 hunting season — a 9 percent decrease compared to the average harvest the last three seasons. Deer harvests changed little in the Central and Northwestern zones (-1.2 percent and +0.6 percent, respectively); increased in the Western Zone by 7.3 percent; and declined in the Southeastern and Northeastern zones (-19.2 and -20.4 percent respectively). [LEARN MORE](#)





Melissa McGa

## **"On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive" Safety Campaign Starts Memorial Day Weekend**

The Wildlife Commission, State Highway Patrol and Mothers Against Drunk Driving will kick off the ninth annual "On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive" campaign on Memorial Day weekend. The campaign's purpose is to reduce alcohol-related accidents on the state's roadway and waterways, both of which see increased traffic during the summer. Officers will be conducting sobriety checkpoints and promoting public awareness. [LEARN MORE](#)





Jay Butfilos

## See an Armadillo? Let the Wildlife Commission Know!

The Wildlife Commission wants to know if you have seen an armadillo in the wild. Biologists want to determine the expansion range of armadillos in North Carolina. While armadillos are native to Central and South America, they have been expanding their range into the southeastern US and have been confirmed in 27 counties in North Carolina. Learn more about the nine-banded armadillo and how you can help the Wildlife Commission determine their range in the Tar Heel state. [LEARN MORE](#)





Jodie Owen

## **U.S. Army Proposes to Place Temporary Structures on Sandhills Game Land for Training Simulations**

Under a proposed agreement, the U.S. Army wants to place non-permanent structures on a small portion of the Wildlife Commission's Sandhills Game Land, located in Scotland and Richmond counties. The structures will simulate two villages (about the size of a football field) and three homesteads (about the size of 1/3 football field). The number of soldiers utilizing the game land will not change compared to the soldiers currently conducting training simulations. To avoid potential conflicts with hunters, there would be no daytime training activities during deer gun season. [LEARN MORE](#)





*Carmen Johnson*

## **Watch for Nesting Shorebirds this Summer**

Beach-bound visitors are advised to "Share the Shore" with waterbirds this summer by giving them and their nesting areas a wide berth. Eggs and chicks are well camouflaged to protect them from predators, so they can easily be stepped on and crushed. Beach-goers should avoid walking or driving in areas where birds nest and raise chicks, such as the upper portion of the beach around inlets and remote and/or undeveloped beaches. [LEARN MORE](#)



Ken Taylor

## Sea Turtle Nesting Begins along North Carolina's Coastline

On May 4, a loggerhead sea turtle crawled out of the ocean and laid around 120 eggs in the sand on South Core Banks in Cape Lookout National Seashore, signaling the start of the 2019 sea turtle nesting season in North Carolina. Each year, between May and August, loggerhead, green, Kemp's ridley, [leatherback](#) and even hawksbill sea turtles will nest on the roughly 330 miles of sandy beaches along the coast of North Carolina. More than 2,000 volunteers and cooperators participate in the NC Sea Turtle Nest Monitoring and Protection Project (learn more by reading a recent article in [Wildlife in North Carolina](#) magazine). Summary data they collect for the Wildlife Commission are [updated daily here](#).



Jodie Ow

## Species Spotlight - Copperhead

The [copperhead](#) is the most common venomous snake native to North Carolina. It is easy to recognize — if you know what you're looking for. Look for brown crossbands that are shaped like hourglasses along the back, or "hershey kisses" when viewed from the side. And never rely on head shape — a triangular-shaped head doesn't necessarily mean a snake is venomous as many non-venomous snakes will flatten their heads to appear dangerous. Although copperheads can be found in urban areas, the snakes most people are likely to encounter in their backyards are non-venomous and harmless rat snakes or brown snakes. If you do encounter a snake and don't know what it is, don't touch it or try to kill it, instead spray it with a garden hose to get it to leave the area. If possible, take a picture of the snake and email it, along with your location, to [wildlifehelpline@ncwildlife.org](mailto:wildlifehelpline@ncwildlife.org). [Learn about snakes in NC.](#)



## Outdoor Heritage Trust Fund

The Outdoor Heritage Trust Fund relies on *your* donations when you renew your hunting, fishing, or trapping license or vessel registration. The Trust Fund has awarded grants to North Carolina schools for field trips and outdoor learning centers, to get kids off the devices and back outside. If you share our vision to preserve the health, heritage, and environment of our great state by inspiring a new generation of outdoor adventurers, [you can make a tax-exempt contribution here](#).

### Other News and Events

[Volunteers Needed for Aquatic Enhancement Project on Lake Gaston](#)

[Free Fishing Programs Offered in Fayetteville in June](#)

[Free Workshops Offered in Brevard in June](#)

[Free Wildlife Programs Offered in Corolla in June](#)



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