



Delayed Harvest Trout Waters Open Oct. 1

The Wildlife Commission will implement [Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations](#) on 36 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 5, 2020. No natural bait may be possessed, and anglers can fish only with artificial lures with one single hook. [MORE](#)





Thomas Harve

Youth Deer Hunting Day Set for Saturday, Sept. 28

The Wildlife Commission has designated Saturday, Sept. 28, as a Youth Deer Hunting Day for 2019 when youth 17 and younger may use any legal weapon to hunt deer (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](#)



Thomas Harve

Free, Family-Friendly Outdoor Events Scheduled for Sept. 28

The Wildlife Commission is celebrating National Hunting and Fishing Day on Sept. 28 at family-friendly events throughout the state. Most events are free. Each wildlife conservation-focused event, held on the coast, the Piedmont and the mountains of North Carolina, will feature lots of fun outdoor activities such as fishing, archery and more! [MORE](#)



Agency-Related Hurricane Closures Posted Online

In the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian, the Wildlife Commission is announcing all agency-related event cancellations and/or postponements, as well as closures on game lands and boating access areas, on its website, ncwildlife.org/hurricane. Also those awarded game land permits with hunt dates in the coming weeks, in the affected region, are encouraged to visit the page prior to making the trip. The page will be updated as new information becomes available.



Hunting From a Tree Stand This Season? Wildlife Commission Encourages Safe Practices

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

- Before use, check the stand's belts, chains, bolts and attachment cords for damage and wear.

- Use a full-body safety harness properly at all times, and remain connected to the tree from the time you leave the ground to the time you return to the ground.
- Bring an emergency signal device, such as cell phone or whistle.
- Maintain three points of contact when climbing up or down a stand. [MORE](#)



Jeff Ha

Here's How You Can Help Monitor Wildlife Populations!

Submit Sightings of Pine Snakes

See a pine snake in the woods? Agency biologists are asking the public to help them learn more about the distribution of the northern pine snake in the Tar Heel state by reporting any sightings of these large snakes in the wild. [Pine snakes are large, heavy-bodied snakes, typically reaching between 4 to 5 feet, but can be as large as 7 ½ feet.](#) It has 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. In North Carolina, pine snakes are found

mostly in the Sandhills, the southern Coastal Plain and in the southwestern mountain counties. [MORE](#)

Deer Hunters: Report Observations of Game or Furbearer Species

Deer hunters who are still or stand hunting are asked to record an accurate count of game and furbearer species they observe on each hunt. Participants can enter their observations online in the field from any smart phone or small-screen device by using the survey link: ncwildlife.org/HunterObservationSurvey. As an alternative option, new participants can also request a [paper survey form](#) to be mailed to them. [MORE](#)

Deer Hunters: Submit Jawbones from Does and Bucks of All Ages

The Wildlife Commission is looking for volunteers for its annual Deer Jawbone Submission program. Jawbones from does and bucks of all ages, not just large deer, should be submitted so that biologists can estimate the age structure of the harvest. Hunters have two ways to submit jawbones this year. Participants will receive a report with the estimated age(s) of their deer next summer. [MORE](#)

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 Merrill Cook at (919) 707-0075
or merril.cook@ncwildlife.org.



Stop by Our N.C. State Fair Exhibit in Raleigh, from Oct. 17-27

The Wildlife Commission will have its annual exhibit at the N.C. State Fair in Raleigh, scheduled for Oct. 17-27. Take your best shot at the perennially popular air rifle range, learn how to co-exist peacefully with native wildlife and for kids only — test your fishing skills in a replica pond full of magnetic fish. While at the exhibit, be sure to pick up a FREE gray fox button.



Alcoa Game Land Gets Permanent Protection

The Wildlife Commission and Three Rivers Land Trust recently announced the purchase of 2,463 acres, including 45 miles of shoreline along the Yadkin and South Yadkin Rivers in Davie, Davidson and Rowan counties. The Commission and Three Rivers Land Trust worked together, along with others, to raise the \$7.7 million needed. This acquisition will permanently protect the land, which provides high-quality wildlife habitat and public recreational opportunities while protecting water quality in the Yadkin River basin. [MORE](#)





Annika Andersson

Great News! Wildlife Commission Documents Record Number of Wood Storks this Year

Biologists with the Wildlife Commission documented a record number of active wood stork colonies this year. During the annual breeding season survey, biologists found wood storks nesting at five locations in the southeastern part of the state. They also counted 354 nests in the five colonies - the highest number documented since the first wood stork colony was found in 2005. The wood stork is North America's only native stork and, like many other wading birds, has suffered substantial declines in population due, in part, to the loss of wetlands across its range, which significantly reduced its food base of small fish. [MORE](#)





Wildlife Commission Improves Aquatic Habitat in Harris Reservoir for Better Fishing Opportunities

The Wildlife Commission has been working to improve aquatic habitat in [Harris Reservoir](#) by installing artificial fish attractor structures and planting native vegetation for an ongoing aquatic habitat enhancement project on Harris Lake. In June and July, staff along with others planted nine species of native vegetation and installed [four types of artificial fish-attracting structures](#) in the lake. Coordinates for the attractors can be found on the Commission's [website](#) as an interactive map and for download. [MORE](#)



Other News and Events

[Wildlife Commission Approves Proposed Boundaries for Delineation of Inland and Coastal Fishing Waters](#)

[Wildlife Commission Seeks Public Comment on Dan River Game Land](#)

[Lake Gaston Aquatic Vegetation Enhancement Continues for 6th Year](#)

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

[Pechmann Center in Fayetteville Offers Five Free Fishing and Boating Workshops in October](#)

[Wildlife Commission Offers Free Wildlife Programs in Corolla](#)



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