



## **Wildlife Commissioners Approve Alligator Management Plan**

At their October business meeting, the Wildlife Commissioners approved the N.C. Alligator Management Plan, which will guide management of alligator populations in North Carolina. The plan was developed by the N.C. Alligator Task Force and outlines conditions under which alligator could be hunted in the state. However, approval of the plan did not establish an alligator hunting season in the state. [MORE](#)



## **Wildlife Commission Provides Tips and Safety Reminders to Hunters**

The Wildlife Commission reminds hunters to be aware of their surroundings and positively identify their target before pulling the trigger. The four basic 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.

[MORE](#)



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## Wildlife Commission Seeks Hunters for 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 to all bear e-stamp holders. Information gleaned from the teeth will help Commission biologists monitor bear populations, make management decisions and evaluate the impact of bear harvest. Biologists need teeth from all bears, young and old. Participating hunters receive a bear cooperator baseball hat! [Learn how to participate.](#)

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## Three Game Lands Enrolled as Tree Farm Demonstration Forests

The Wildlife Commission has partnered with the N.C. Tree Farm Program to enroll three state-owned game lands as Tree Farm Demonstration Forests. These game lands will be designated areas that demonstrate strong forest management techniques and ecology. Game lands to be enrolled this fiscal year are Johns River in Burke County, Embro in Halifax and Warren counties and Suggs Mill Pond in Bladen and Cumberland counties. [MORE](#)

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## Participants Needed for Annual Deer Hunter Observation Survey

The Wildlife Commission is asking deer hunters to participate in its annual Deer Hunter Observation Survey. Deer observations provide important information on fawn productivity

and ratios of male to female deer, as well as helping biologists understand the impact of disease outbreaks, such as hemorrhagic disease. Participants will receive an annual statewide report summarizing the survey results for the season. [Deer Hunter Wildlife Observation Survey Signup.](#)



## **2015 Evaluation of Deer Herd and Final Report of Deer Survey Now Posted Online**

In addition to signing up for the Deer Hunter Wildlife Observation Survey, deer hunters can learn more about the Wildlife Commission's 2015 evaluation of the deer herd in North Carolina, as well as read the final report for the 2016 Deer Hunting and Management Survey and the 2017 Deer Management Forum presentation, handout and summary. [MORE](#)



## **Wildlife Commission and Partners Create Better Habitat for Rare Wildlife Species**

In September, staff with the Wildlife Commission, along with partners and volunteers, planted 900 red spruce seedlings on the Pisgah National Forest to help create better habitat for many rare wildlife species including the Carolina northern flying squirrel, red crossbill, brown creeper and northern saw-whet owl. [MORE](#)



## **Educational Fishing Trail at Lake Thom-A-Lex Now Open**

The Wildlife Commission recently opened a fishing trail on Lake Thom-A-Lex in Davidson County. The N.C. Fishing Trail at Thom-A-Lex consists of 13 fishing sites scattered around the 650-acre reservoir. Each site is enhanced with fish attractors to attract largemouth bass and other sport fishes. The fishing trail is one of three the Commission has developed in cooperation with local governments and N.C. B.A.S.S. to teach anglers how to catch largemouth bass and other sport fish during different times of the year. [MORE](#)



## **Other News and Events**

[Youth Deer Hunting Opportunity Offered in Craven County on Dec. 9](#)

[Wildlife Commission Offers Free Wildlife Programs in Brevard in November](#)

[Wildlife Commission Offers Free Fishing Programs in Fayetteville in November](#)

[Shell Rock Landing Boating Access Area in Hubert Closed until January](#)

[Master Officer Scott Strickland and VIP for a VIP Program Receive Boating Safety Honors](#)

[BLOG: Plan A Visit to the John E. Pechmann Fishing Education Center](#)