

FREE
Conservation
Publication

A North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation PROGRESS REPORT

Fall/Winter 2009-10



*Don't let the
dream die*



GERALD W. PUTT

A message from the executive director

Despite the recent economic downturn, the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation wildlife endowment fund maintained the \$1 million level we established as our original goal. We hope those of you who have contributed feel that the NCWHF board has been a good steward of your investments. We certainly take pride in having funded more than \$1 million in impressive wildlife conservation projects with the interest earnings on your money.

With all of our obligations to our Adopt-An-Acre projects now complete, we will try to identify a new land acquisition project to which we can allocate funds. The important thing is that we choose high-quality habitat that can be permanently protected for future generations. Please keep in mind that we receive three-for-one matching grants for this program. Every \$100 contributed by individuals, conservation groups or the corporate community will be matched with an additional \$300 gift. All of these funds will be invested in wildlife gameland property protection efforts.

We continue to encourage sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts to participate in our NCWHF special license plate program. We need only about 100 more orders to reach the 300 required to produce the tags. Once on the street, interest in the plates should increase, at which time we will begin to receive a substantial



EDDIE BRIDGES

do not believe any other special license plate program can be as beneficial to the residents of North Carolina.

We are also very excited about the upcoming election season because of an important bond referendum that will be on the Guilford County ballot Nov. 3. The NCWHF is encouraging voters to approve the Natural Science Center Expansion Bond. One of the projects the bond would fund is a black bear exhibit, for which the NCWHF board has approved a \$50,000 grant in supplemental funding. With black bear habitat in our state being reduced at an alarming rate, it is very important to educate North Carolinians about the need to better protect and preserve this prized natural resource.

During the final quarter of 2009, we will focus mainly on trying to increase our membership. Additional membership fees are added to the endowment fund, which enables the NCWHF to pay for more wildlife habitat projects. We

amount of revenue. We plan to earmark this revenue for our Adopt-An-Acre program, which means that every tag ordered would generate an additional \$40 for gameland acquisition, thanks again to the three-for-one matching grants. We

have approximately 2,500 members, but North Carolina has more than 1 million outdoor enthusiasts. That means we have a tremendous number of prospects to solicit for our cause. Many of these individuals do not even know the NCWHF exists, and there is a great need to get the word out about the importance of the foundation's role. NCWHF has no paid staff, which makes this a difficult endeavor. We rely on committed volunteers to help distribute this semiannual progress report, for example. Our Web site (www.ncwhf.org) also provides additional information about our accomplishments.

Lastly, Teena Koury, the chairwoman for our major fundraising event, has already begun coordinating the 14th annual North Carolina Wildlife Extravaganza, which will take place Feb. 27, 2010, at Grandover Resort in Greensboro. We hope that you will mark your calendar and join us for a wonderful evening. Tickets are already being reserved for the event, which is limited to only 200 people. For more information about the event, or if you have any questions about NCWHF, call (336) 375-4994.

And "Don't let the dream die."

Eddie Bridges is executive director of the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation.

About this section

The News & Record produces this Progress Report for the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation twice a year. Find out more about the foundation online at www.ncwhf.org.

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"Wigeon Trio," 2009 N.C. duck stamp by Gerald W. Putt



Our Mission Statement

The purpose of the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation is to assist in the acquisition, management and protection of wildlife habitat within the state of North Carolina and to promote conservation education for the benefit of future generations.

For more information about the foundation, visit www.ncwhf.org.

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Bring yourself 'one step closer to knowing'

I woke up very early on a recent morning and tuned in to a podcast hosted by a friend of mine who belongs to a nondenominational church in California. Rarely do I ever come away from his message without a new idea that ultimately opens up my eyes and causes me to ponder questions that are bigger than me, and bigger than my world.

I don't know about you, but I find that the early morning is a place of peace, a time where a portal to the spiritual realm opens up and all of life's answers seem to be available to seek out. Call it prayer, meditation or whatever you are comfortable with, but for me it is closest to the spirit that just requires a quiet place and an open heart.

This particular morning I heard the words that have stirred me ever since: "How big is your world?" he asked. A tough question considering I had taken only two sips of my coffee, but this is why I tune in. The analytical side of my brain wanted to believe that he was asking for a physical boundary, but the direction he was going was obvious. He was asking how truly enriched by life we feel.

But how do you answer a question that asks you to analyze your life according to such a measurement? For me, it meant first surrendering to my own truth, which is not always without a bit of reflective pain. And it brought these questions to mind:

What is it that I am missing in my own life by not opening up to all of the possibilities that life offers? What am I too busy to see? What am I too busy to hear? Who am I too busy to love?

Looking back, my greatest joys were during times when I took a chance, when I went outside the boundaries of where I was most comfortable and simply let life meet me where I needed to be met. The greatest pain has come from a time when I have closed the door of my world to friends, family, ideas and, ultimately, the very source of life.

There was a time when such a question would have caused me to turn away and run from such a challenge, but not



KELLY HARRILL

on this morning. Fortunately, I was at a place in my life where such an introspective question didn't scare me anymore. And I'm still there.

What is it about life that causes so many of us to miss the point and live with our heads buried in the sand of our own world, but causes others to run into the street begging for more of what life has to offer? Ask yourself this question: Are the people in my life who are truly happy focused solely on their own needs and desires? I think the answer for anyone should be no. Happiness in this world comes from another place — a place where you open your world to others and their viewpoints, a place where you give yourself freely to others without your ego interfering.

The paradoxical beauty of this life, I believe, is not the self-preservation of the "you," but in the letting go of all that is not "you." Contemplate a paraphrased idea that Jesus, Buddha and many of the great philosophers clearly understood and taught: The key to life is to learn to die before you die, to strip away all that is not you and return to the place in your soul that has always been there but life has caused you to forget.

I recently had the opportunity to see U2 with my family and was moved by the lyrics, "One step closer to knowing." These telling words shed light on the certainty that we are not ever very far from returning to our maker and imply that each of us would do things differently with our lives if this idea were kept at the forefront. There is one guarantee in life that we can all pretty much agree on: Each day, with each beat of our hearts, brings us one step closer to knowing.

So how big is my world? Bigger than it was a few years ago, and I guess that's the point. I have opened my life to let other people in and have been so enriched in the process. I have stretched

What is it about life that causes so many of us to miss the point and live with our heads buried in the sand of our own world, but causes others to run into the street begging for more of what life has to offer?

to the borders to find laughter and the love of life wherever I can. I have opened my eyes to the fragility of our planet, specifically in efforts toward the preservation of wildlife habitat. I have sought out people, ideas, poems, experiences and music that tell the good story that we all need to hear. I have realized that our purpose here in this world is ultimately about how each of us, in our own way, leaves this place just a little bit better. That's a big part of what the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation is about, after all.

That early morning message was clear: Untie the knots of your life, of your world, and watch the miracle

that unfolds as a result. Life has a way of pulling the strings so tight that joy and peace sometimes have a hard time finding their way in. In my opinion, God asks us to take a chance on life by loosening the strings. I have learned that it is a chance well worth taking.

On behalf of the NCWHF board of directors, we appreciate your support of our efforts to preserve and protect wildlife habitat, and wish you and yours peace during the holiday season.

Kelly Harrill is chairman of the board of directors of the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation.

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Help build a wildlife legacy

Several North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation members, who wish to remain anonymous, have informed us that they have included the foundation in their wills.

This is one of the ways in which we can help grow our organization to a multimillion-dollar wildlife habitat savings account that will benefit our children and generations to come. If you have questions, call the NCWHF at (336) 375-4994.

— Eddie Bridges

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N.C. Wildlife Habitat Foundation Financial Report

As of Sept. 1, 2009

Wachovia investment account	\$723,085.71
BB&T investment account	\$333,621.23
Wachovia securities	\$43,358.83
MidCarolina checking.....	\$14,761.57
MidCarolina money market.....	\$130,531.36
MidCarolina CD (Endowment).....	\$100,000
Community One CD (Projects).....	\$30,178.51
Carolina Bank CD (Adopt-An-Acre)	\$153,986.44
Wachovia CD (Checking)	\$100,000
Hillsborough property.....	\$47,000
Wildlife art.....	\$128,520
2004 Land Rover	\$10,000
Other assets	\$12,000
Total assets	\$1,827,043.65

Projects Funded

The following projects have received funding from the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation:

NCWHF-Bur-Mil Park, Frank A. Sharpe Jr. Wildlife Education Center	\$300,000
Adopt-An-Acre	\$200,000
Black bear exhibit, Natural Science Center	\$50,000
Fish-Friendly Piers (NCWHF, Duke Energy, N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, N.C. State).....	\$50,000
Sandhills quail habitat projects.....	\$43,000
Jordan Lake bass habitat project	\$25,000
Wildlife seed distribution project.....	\$22,000
Core Sound Waterfowl Museum, Willow Pond restoration	\$18,000
Caswell County marsh project, waterfowl impoundment (NCWHF/NCWRC/Ducks Unlimited).....	\$16,500
Trout stream restoration, Peak Creek	\$7,000
Cataloochee wildlife enhancement project (controlled burn at Cataloochee Valley)	\$5,000
Black bear study, Tim Langer, N.C. State.....	\$5,000
Buck Paysour Fishing Pond at Bur-Mil Park	\$5,000

Application for Membership

North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation
P.O. Box 29187 • Greensboro, NC 27429-9187

Name_____

Address_____

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- | | |
|--|---------|
| ☐ Corporate or Group Benefactor | \$2,000 |
| ☐ Corporate or Group Life Sponsor | \$1,000 |
| ☐ Individual Benefactor | \$500 |
| ☐ Individual Life Sponsor | \$100 |
| ☐ Contributor | \$20 |



Method of Contribution

- ☐ Cash or check enclosed
- ☐ Bill me \$_____

For more information about the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation, call: (336) 375-4994 or visit our Web site: www.ncwhf.org

2010 event highlights

Feb. 27

14th annual North Carolina Wildlife Extravaganza
NCWHF's flagship fundraiser to benefit the foundation's endowment fund
Grandover Resort, Greensboro
Info: Call (336) 375-4994 or visit www.ncwhf.org

March 6

N.C. Bowhunters Award Banquet
Dinner, awards presentation and silent auction
6 p.m.
Gov. W. Kerr Scott Building, N.C. State Fairgrounds, 1025 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh
Info: Call (336) 643-4455 or visit www.ncbowhunter.com

March 5-7

29th annual Dixie Deer Classic
Family friendly trophy whitetail deer show
11 a.m.
N.C. State Fairgrounds, 1025 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh
Info: Call (919) 782-5333 or visit www.dixiedeerclassic.org



NCWHF spreads the word

Visitors to the 2009 fall festival at Bur-Mil Park in Greensboro on Oct. 10 had the chance to find out more about the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation, which was one of the festival's 16 exhibitors.



North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation



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Science center bond would fund black bear exhibit

A vote to pass the Natural Science Center Expansion Bond on the Nov. 3 Guilford County election ballot offers a great opportunity to provide our community with state-of-the-art facilities and exhibits.

Passage of the referendum will cement the science center as a featured tourist attraction in central North Carolina and as an outstanding educational tool to teach future generations about the importance of wildlife.

The Animal Discovery expansion will include a black bear exhibit, which would feature North Carolina's largest big game animal. The black bear population in our

state is estimated by wildlife biologists to be over 10,000, and the annual legal hunter harvest has recorded some of the largest black bears taken in our nation. Some weigh more than 700 pounds.

However, wetlands, farmland and prime wildlife habitat are being reduced at the alarming rate of 100,000 acres annually. It is essential to protect this land to maintain the vitality of the black bear population. It is important that we make all of our citizens aware of this disturbing trend.

To that end, the N.C. Wildlife Habitat Foundation, a private, nonprofit organization,



has approved a \$50,000 grant to help with the development of the black bear exhibit. NC-WHF has put its money on the table. The only other ingredient needed is your voice. **Vote "yes" Nov. 3, and "Don't let the dream die."**

— Eddie Bridges



Jupiter Images

The Natural Science Center of Greensboro bond on the Nov. 3 Guilford County election ballot would provide financing for a black bear exhibit.

Generous Childress museum grant helps protect wildlife habitat

Richard Childress has been a dedicated supporter of the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation for over a decade.

RUSTY JARRETT
Getty Images for NASCAR



The Richard Childress Racing Museum recently contributed \$3,800 to the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation. The money has been added to the NCWHF's endowment fund, which helps protect wildlife habitat in the state.

Childress, 64, has been a dedicated supporter of the NCWHF through his NASCAR teams, the RCR Museum and Childress Vineyards in Lexington. An NCWHF exhibit is included in the wildlife section of the museum, which also features exhibits from the National Wild

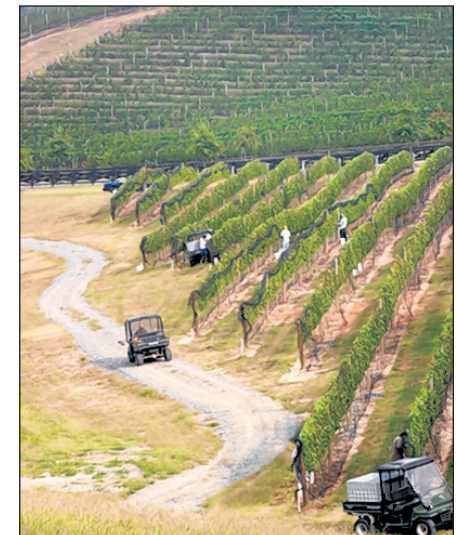
Turkey Federation, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Ducks Unlimited. Each of these organizations receives a portion of the proceeds from the museum and gift shop.

Childress Vineyards also has hosted fundraising events for the NCWHF. All told, Childress has demonstrated his generosity and dedication to wildlife conservation by contributing more than \$50,000 to the NCWHF over the past decade.

— Eddie Bridges

Richard Childress has been a dedicated supporter of the NCWHF through his NASCAR teams, the RCR Museum and Childress Vineyards in Lexington (right).

NANCY SIDELINGER/News & Record Special Sections



NANCY SIDELINGER/News & Record Special Sections

Childress Vineyards has hosted fundraising events for the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation.

"Some part of ourselves
Is in earth and sky and everywhere.
It shall continue
As long as nature follows its own purpose.
It shall continue
As long as we know what we are doing here."
— as written by Nancy Wood in "Many Winters"



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Complete the form, attach your check, made payable to NCWHF, in the amount of \$20.

Mail to:

**NCWHF, P.O. Box 29187,
Greensboro, NC
27429-9187.**

We will process your application and forward it to NCDMV. If you have questions, call **(336) 375-4994**.

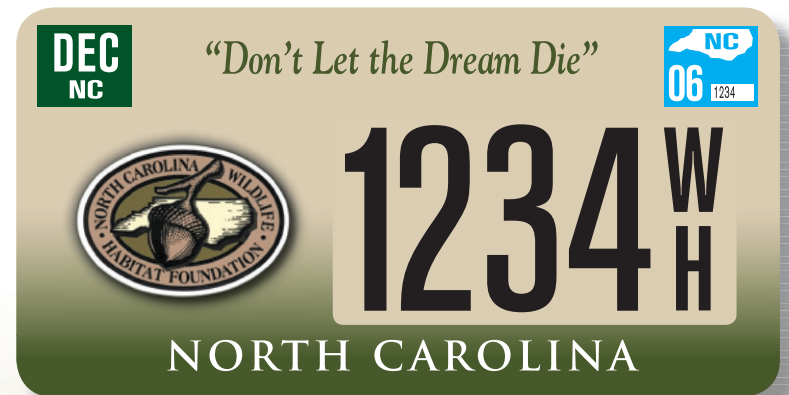
Support our new N.C. Official License Plate Program

NCWHF receives \$10 per year for every tag issued.

To receive your order form, call **(336) 375-4994** or visit us online at www.ncwhf.org

We must have 300 orders before plates will be issued.

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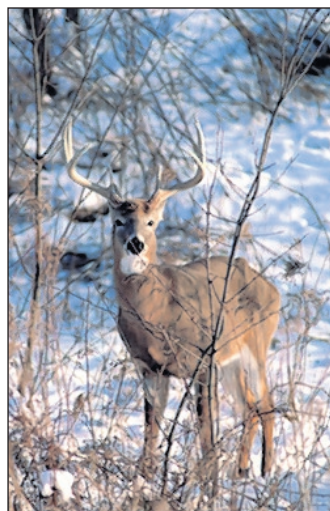
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Eyes on wildlife

For waterfowl season dates and bag limits, call the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission migratory bird season information line at (800) 675-0263.

To report wildlife violations, call the NCWRC enforcement communication center at (800) 662-7137.



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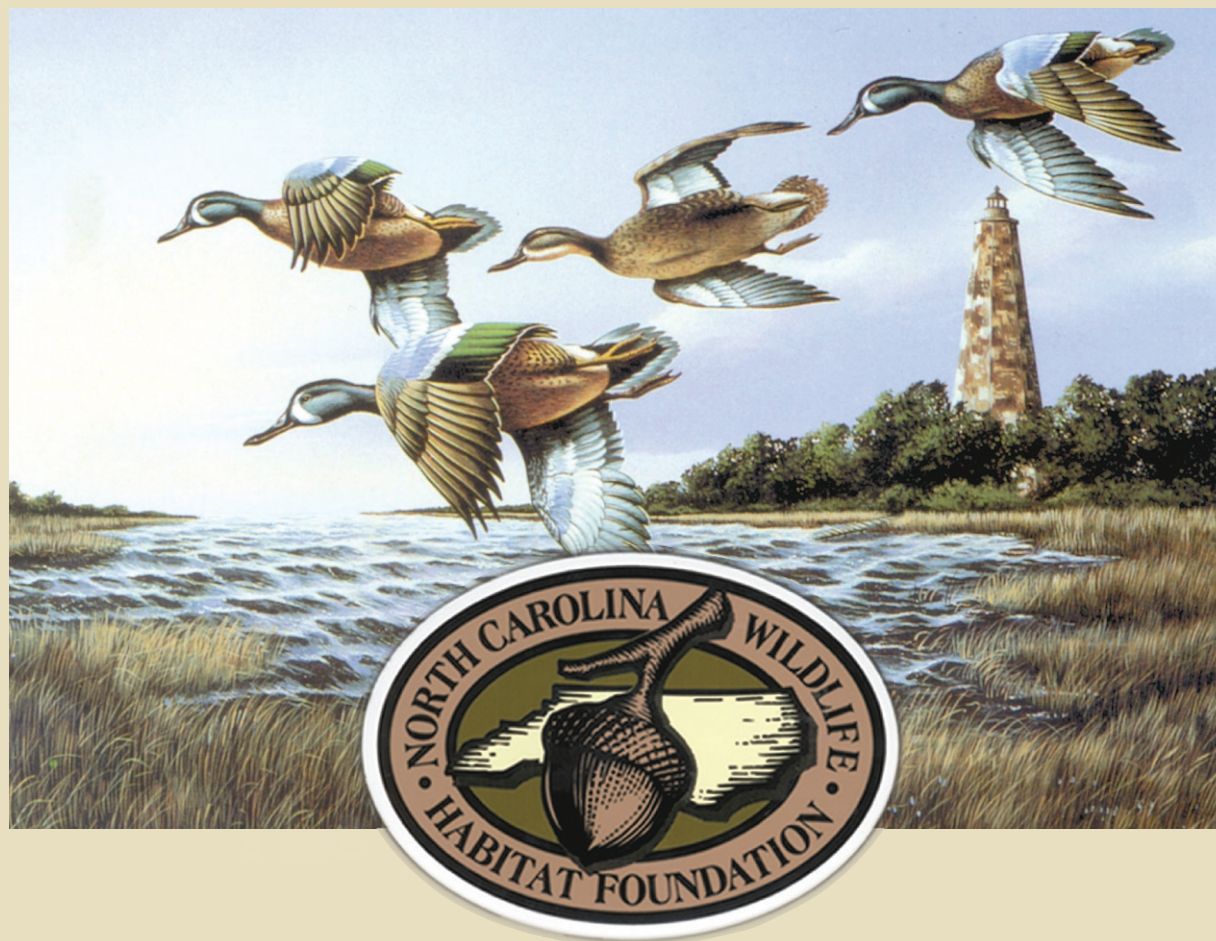
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2010 North Carolina Wildlife Extravaganza



Saturday, February 27, 2010

Make plans now to attend the North Carolina Wildlife Extravaganza on Saturday, February 27, 2010. Only 100 tickets will be sold (admits two). The event will include a social hour and dinner at Grandover Resort in Greensboro (Exit 120, I-85).

There will be drawings for many door prizes and raffle items. Every ticket holder will receive valuable door prizes and more.

The top raffle item will be a four-wheel drive vehicle. Other raffle items and door prizes will include a boat, motor and trailer, a Polaris ATV, hunting and fishing trips, and special wildlife art.

Tickets are \$1,000 each (admits two) and those who purchase tickets before January 1, 2010, will be eligible for an early bird drawing for a \$1,000 cash prize.

For more information, write to
NCWHF, P.O. Box 29187, Greensboro, NC 27429-9187
(336) 375-4994 www.ncwhf.org

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