

FREE
Conservation
Publication

A North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation PROGRESS REPORT

Fall / Winter 2012



Don't Let the Dream Die

“Winter Roost” quail prints
by Duane Raver are now
available. See story on page 6.

About this section

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

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"Winter Roost," painting
by Duane Raver

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Celebrating 20 years of progress

On August 19, 2012, the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation reached its 20th year of existence. It has grown from its initial goal and pledge, to create a \$1 million dollar wildlife habitat savings account, to a multi-million dollar endowment fund that will benefit many generations to come.

It has just now dawned on me that these past 20 years have consumed 25 percent of my entire life, but very few of the previous 60 years have been more rewarding.

Having taken a lot from nature's bounty has inspired me to give something back, but it will probably be very difficult for me to pay my debt in full.

I believe all of us owe it to our children and grandchildren to leave things better than we found them, and the NCWHF is making every effort to do just that.

During 2012 we have focused on several new projects and we have made a substantial amount of progress. In February we held our 16th N.C. Wildlife Extravaganza. As usual, it sold out and we were able to take more than \$60,000 to the bank.

During that same month, we were featured in Field & Stream Magazine as one of their Heroes of Conservation. Shortly after that, Mr. Anthony Licata, Editor-In-Chief of the magazine, called to inform us that we had been selected as one six finalists for the national award and the winner would be announced in Washington, DC, in October. Please see the related story on page 4 or go to fieldandstream.com.

Our new N.C. Quail Habitat Fund has received a lot of attention, thanks to Glenn Ayers, of the Times-News, Craig Holt with N.C. Sportsman magazine and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. A new wildlife painting by Duane Raver has been reproduced and is now available to help fund this project.

"Winter Roost," featured on the cover of this publication, is expected to help raise more than

\$100,000 to be earmarked for the quail habitat fund.

All proceeds from the print will be added to the fund.

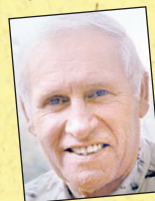
Your participation in this project will enable us to have greater success with the quail habitat restoration program.

Another recent project we hosted for the benefit of the McLeansville Wildlife Club was a raffle and wild game dinner, which raised almost \$10,000 to establish a permanent wildlife conservation fund now known as the Don W. Michael Wildlife Conservation Fund.

It is our intention to continue this event annually, with the hope of establishing a \$100,000 endowment for the McLeansville club. We plan to encourage and solicit gifts and grants from the corporate community to reach our goal for this worthwhile cause.

We are now in the process of redesigning and upgrading our website, www.ncwhf.org, in order to provide you with more current information about the status of your foundation. We hope our 3,000 NCWHF members will encourage their friends to visit our website and learn more about the things we are doing to improve and protect our wildlife habitat.

Before too long, we will begin planning and sending out the notice for our 17th Annual N.C. Wildlife Extravaganza, which will again be held at Grandover Resort. The date for the event has been set for Saturday, Feb. 23. Please mark your calendar for that date or, better still, call us to reserve your seats. In the past, the 100 available tickets have sold out early and we want you to be part of it. Make sure you are included and "Don't Let the Dream Die."

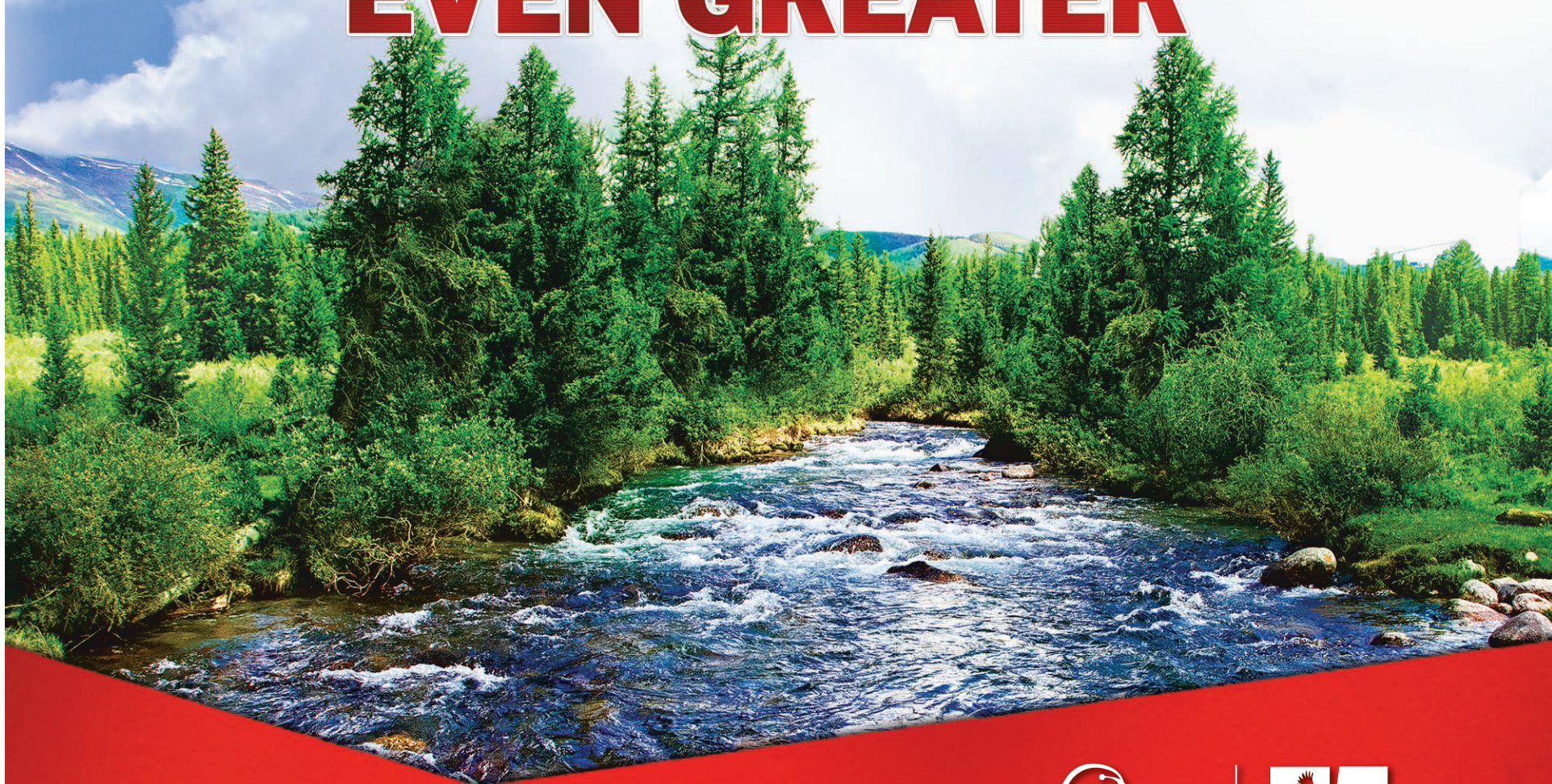


Eddie Bridges





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GRAB SOME BUDS
AND GET INVOLVED

Eddie Bridges: Field & Stream Hero of the Year

By FIELD & STREAM

Eddie Bridges, Executive Director of the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation, was honored by Field & Stream magazine as their 2012 Hero of Conservation on October 4.

"This is an exceptionally high honor for our organization. We're getting a lot of press over it," said Bridges. "It will be very beneficial in the long run."

Bridges has also been recognized in the past in North Carolina — in 1993, he was named the North Carolina Conservationist of The Year. He's also a member of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation Hall of Fame and the Guilford County Sports Hall of Fame.

Bridges was one of seven finalists for the award which honors volunteers involved in grassroots projects to preserve the land, water and wildlife vital to sportsman's pursuits. Bridges, who is featured in the October issue of Field & Stream, walked away with a new Toyota Tundra and \$5,000, all made possible by the generosity and support of Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A. Inc.

Bridges, who is 79, has dedicated many years to his volunteer conservation work. He proposed and helped develop the North Carolina waterfowl stamp program that has generated more than \$5 million and in 1994 Bridges founded the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Fund, an organization he continues to work with. "We have no paid staff. We're here because the work is so gratifying," says Bridges. The organization's goal is to supplement underfunded state-run land acquisition and habitat preservation programs. They have already put \$1 million toward local projects, including underwriting costs to keep a wildlife education center open to

3,000 monthly visitors.

"Eddie's ambitious project is a perfect example of the hard work outdoorsmen are willing to put in to protect America's wildlife and wild places," said Anthony Licata, Editorial Director of Field & Stream. "The work he is doing in North Carolina will benefit outdoorsmen for generations, and we're proud to honor him."

The 2012 Field & Stream Heroes of Conservation Awards were celebrated at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C. Country musician

Tyler Farr entertained the crowd following a ceremony where each of the seven finalists was presented with \$5,000 toward their conservation projects.



presented by
TOYOTA



The October issue featured the finalists, including eventual winner Bridges.

Eddie Bridges

GREENSBORO, N.C.

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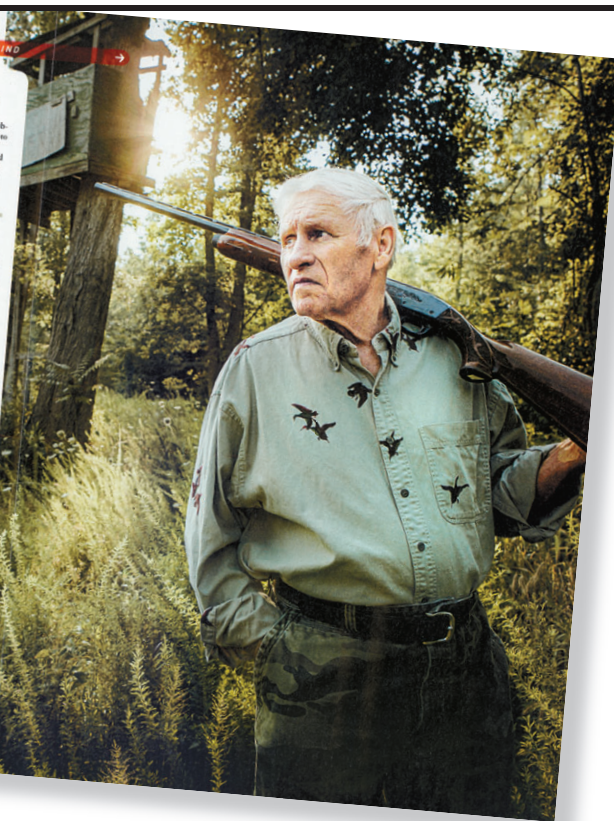
Lifelong outdoorsman Eddie Bridges founded the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation (NCWHF) 10 years ago to create a perpetual savings account that would help purchase land for hunting and fishing, and manage and protect fish and wildlife habitat. So far, the all-volunteer organization has raised about \$4 million and has paid for 10 million in projects.

WITH NO EMPLOYEES or paid staff, the dedicated team that runs the NCWHF has a full slate of all time. And my mind is like that. There's no downtime inside my head. I've been blessed with an innovative mind, and sometimes it's as if my ideas have fallen out of my sky, or they've come to me in a dream. When I volunteered on the board of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, they were in a budget crisis. I

IT'S A POWERFUL ARGUMENT TO SECURE PARCELS OF LAND FOR HUNTING AND FISHING PURPOSES."

With the idea to sell hunting and fishing licenses and use the money to fund the fund, I've generated \$40 million in total revenue. I watch that number like an old hen, because I'm proud of it. They love the principal and only spend the money on

The key for the NCWHF is that when we conserve someone's gift, we don't squander their money and we don't come back to them asking for another gift next year — but people continue to give. I think it is important that our projects are diverse. We purchase land, fund education, and help restore habitat. I'm not for hunting and fishing purposes. It's all about keeping kids interested. I've been hunting and fishing since I was 6 years old, and the wilderness is addicting to me, so I stay very active. I just turned 79, I don't wear glasses, and I don't need a walker or false teeth, so I think it's done me some good. Because we don't touch the principal in the trust, we're just doing what's worthwhile when we can afford it. We're lucky that our partners embrace us in a big way and make things work for us. So we'll keep cranking up the machine and letting it run for a while — I think the dividends are still to come.



"This is a very important program to Toyota because it acknowledges individuals who go out of their way to make the environment a better place," said Keith Dahl, National Marketing Manager for Toyota. "These people aren't looking for gratitude or recognition. Instead, they work tirelessly because they want to make a difference — for our generation and generations to come. We take great pride in being able to spotlight their efforts on a national stage."

The Field & Stream Heroes of Conser-

vation Awards honor everyday outdoorsmen who volunteer their time and effort to hunting and fishing-related conservation projects. The magazine highlights three conservation volunteers in each issue and selects the most notable examples as finalists for the awards. Since the introduction of the program in 2005, the magazine has been proud to profile and support the conservation efforts of nearly 200 men and women.

— Tim Myers contributed



From left, Eric Zinczenko, Executive VP Field & Stream; Tyler Farr, Nashville recording artist; Eddie Bridges; Jim Baudino, Engagement Marketing Manager for Toyota Motor Sales; Anthony Licata, Editorial Director, Field & Stream.

For complete details, including videos of this year's heroes please visit FieldandStream.com/heroes.

Photos and magazine pages courtesy of Field & Stream.

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Quail habitat: Progress is being made

By DON MCKENZIE

Director of the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative

It is no secret that our beloved bobwhite quail is in big trouble in North Carolina and across most of its U.S. range. It apparently is somewhat of a secret that the biggest bobwhite restoration effort in history is underway across the country, and North Carolina is an active participant.

Wildlife researchers and managers sit atop a mountain of scientific knowledge about bobwhite biology and management. But until recently, bobwhite conservationists didn't fully grasp that the keys to widespread quail restoration are learning how to work with people, politics, and money. These three forces are the underlying causes of quail problems and ultimately will be the sources of any effective solutions.

Leaders from state wildlife agencies, researchers, and quail organizations across the Southeast got together to solve the quail problem. The resulting 2002 Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI) was the first-ever 22-state native grassland and bird restoration strategy aiming to restore widespread bobwhite populations.

The NBCI is a habitat-based initiative because habitat degradation at landscape scales is the root of the range-wide quail and grassland bird problem.

Hundreds of millions of acres of quail habitat across more than two dozen states has been de-

graded over decades by fire suppression, vastly increased acreages of poorly managed, closed-canopy forests and pine plantations, intensive row-cropping and suburban sprawl.

In 2011, the NBCI was revised and renamed the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI 2.0). It involved more than 600 biologists across 25 states, including dozens from North Carolina.

The new digital plan identifies priority areas and assesses the main opportunities for tens of millions of acres of needed habitat restoration.

Now we face the biggest challenge — how do we get there?

This is where conservationists must be as effective at dealing with people, politics and money as with resource management.

In addition to being a

plan, the NBCI also is a strategic leadership initiative designed to compel our nation's conservation leaders to step up higher than ever for quail.

In North Carolina, bobwhite densities are rebounding on lands managed in association with the Wildlife Resources Commission's own quail initiative.

Many of the right pieces finally are in place at national, regional, and state

levels to catalyze a major movement for quail restoration.

It's a fair question to ask if 21st century American society is up to this task. Deer and turkey restoration were comparatively easy because good habitat was already in place, and wildlife agencies were simply returning deer and turkey to suitable but unoccupied areas. Quail restoration requires fixing the habitat

"Winter Roost" prints now available



"Winter Roost," Duane Raver's latest wildlife print, is now available. All proceeds will be earmarked for the N.C. Quail Habitat Fund, which provides funding for quail habitat improvement. In some cases, matching funds may be available to private land owners who are interested in improving quail habitat on their property. The signed and numbered limited edition prints are \$60. Sixty signed, numbered and remarked artist proofs are available for \$100. Boxes of 12 note cards/envelopes with the "Winter Roost" image are also available for \$12. Additional information about the fund can be found at www.ncwhf.org/quail.php

QUAIL INFORMATION

Additional information about quail can be found at:



■ The North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission's Upland Gazette: ncwildlife.org/uplandgazette.aspx



■ National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative: bringbackbobwhites.org/

across vast landscapes.

How much do we want wild quail back in our lives, in our grandchildren's lives, in our culture? Working in our favor is the fact that quail are universally loved.

There is no such thing as too many quail, quail depredation, or dangerous quail/vehicle collisions. I have never known a landowner who wouldn't like more quail.

The NBCI offers a vision and hope; it can bring together, focus, and help unite the many people that are necessary to help solve the problem.

The NBCI website is at bringbackbobwhites.org.



Wildlife Extravaganza set for Feb. 23

Information will be sent out soon about the 17th Annual NC Wildlife Extravaganza, which will again be held at Greensboro's Grandover Resort on Saturday, February 23. Please mark your calendar for that date or call to reserve your seats. The 100 available tickets usually sell out fast.

From last year's dinner, the main speaker's topic was 'Covey on the Rise.' Quail eggs were served as part of the event.



NANCY SIDELINGER/Special Sections

Dinner raises \$10k for McLeansville club

A raffle and wild game dinner, hosted by the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation, has established a new conservation endowment fund that will benefit the McLeansville Wildlife Club.

More than 100 wildlife enthusiasts attended the event, which raised almost \$10,000 to create a wildlife habitat savings account that will provide funding for wildlife habitat projects for years to come.

The planning committee expects to continue holding the event annually on National Hunting and Fishing Day.

The committee voted unanimously to name the fund The Don W. Michael Wildlife Conservation Fund. Individual and corporate gifts can be made by sending checks to NCWHF, P.O. Box 29187, Greensboro, NC 27429. For information, call (336) 375-4994.

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METHOD OF CONTRIBUTION

- ☐ Cash or check enclosed
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For more information about the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation, call (336) 375-4994 or visit www.ncwhf.org

Financial Report

(As of October 1, 2012)

Wells Fargo Investment Account	\$929,299.55
BB&T Investment Account	553,263.46
Wells Fargo Securities (Stocks)	46,306.65
American National Checking Account.....	242,457.06
American National Money Market	429,782.61
Hillsborough property	47,000.00
Reidsville City Lake property	25,000.00
Wildlife Art	134,370.00
2012 Chevrolet Equinox	26,000
Other Assets	12,000.00

Total assets \$2,445,109.33

Spreading the word

To order your tag, download the NCDMV form from our Web site, www.ncwhf.org.

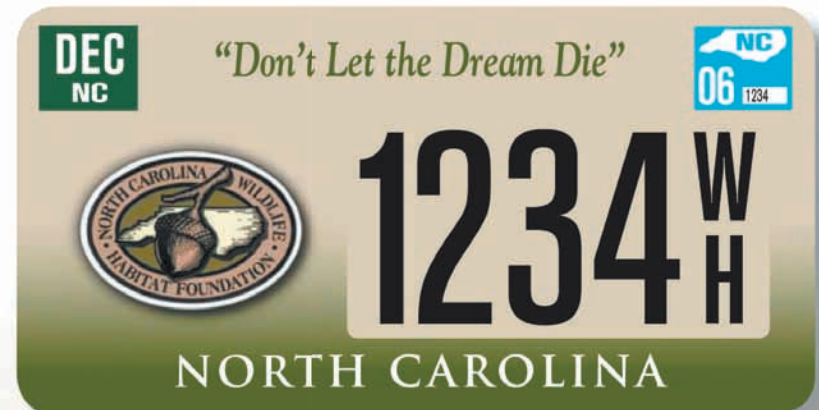
Complete the form, attach your check, made payable to NCWHF, in the amount of \$20.

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.

We need 300 applications to put these tags into production and we currently have 250. Our goal is to send them in by January 2013. Please show your support today. Commercial and weighted tags can apply. For questions or information, email ebridges@ncwhf.org or asharp@triad.rr.com or call (336) 375-4994.

“Don't Let the Dream Die”



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
NC Quail Habitat Fund	\$72,000
Fish-Friendly Piers (NCWHF, Duke Power Co., 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
The Don W. Michael Wildlife Conservation Fund	\$10,000
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

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by Pam, Ed, Seth and Mitchell Burleson	Clayton

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NEWS & RECORD

Eddie Bridges outside the Frank A. Sharpe Jr. Wildlife Education Center at Bur-Mil Park. Bridges and the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation helped get the education center built. A listing of upcoming classes at the center is on page 10.

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Photo courtesy of Eddie Bridges

In the fishing classes, Hudson Sharpe was a fast learner.

Upcoming wildlife education classes

FISHY TALES

February 2, 10 a.m.

Fee: \$3 per person

Ages: All ages

What makes a fish different from other animals? We will combine art and nature to learn about local fish and try our hand at casting for "flat" fish. Class limited to 20 participants.

Classes are held at the Frank Sharpe Jr.

Wildlife Education Center, Bur-Mil Park. Registration is

required. Please call (336) 373-3819 on weekdays or (336) 373-3802 on weekends or email from the website www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=1185.

BUNNIES GALORE

Nov. 10, 10 a.m.

Fee: \$3 per person, **Ages:** All ages

Join us as we combine art and nature to learn about bunnies and their characteristics. We will interact with a live bunny, and make a craft to take home.

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

Nov. 10, noon

Fee: \$3 per person, **Ages:** All ages

Wildlife photography is much more than shutter speeds and exposure times. This class covers techniques for "observing while unobserved," the best times of day and year for taking pictures, and the basic equipment you will need. Please bring a camera.

RECYCLING IN GREENSBORO

Nov. 17 and Jan. 19, 10 a.m.

December 18 and February 12, 6:30 p.m.

Fee: Free, **Ages:** All ages

This class covers the importance of recycling, what happens to the recyclable materials when they leave the recycling center and how everyone's contribution helps.

HIBERNATION

Dec. 6, 9:30 a.m.

Fee: \$4 per child, **Ages:** 3-6

All kinds of critters take a long nap during the winter. We will take a look at some of them and talk about why hibernating is important for them. This class is part of the Little Hands Nature Series.

WILD SYMBOLS OF N.C.

Dec. 15, 10 a.m.

Fee: \$3 per person, **Ages:** All ages

Learn about the wildlife used for symbols of North Carolina. We will talk about the state bird, mammal, reptile, fish, amphibian, tree, flower, and insect, and make a craft to take home.

WINTER WONDERLAND

Jan. 3, 9:30 a.m.

Fee: \$4 per child, **Ages:** 3-6

Winter is a great time of year to learn about all the nifty ways animals spend their time. Learn how animals stay warm, find food, and play in the coldest season. This class is part of the Little Hands Nature Series.

TURTLES... AND OTHER LOCAL REPTILES

Jan. 5, 10 a.m.

Fee: \$3 per person, **Ages:** All ages

Turtles are terrific. Learn about these interesting reptiles including where they live, what they eat, and how they protect themselves.

I (HEART) ANIMALS

Feb. 7, 9:30 a.m.

Fee: \$4 per child, **Ages:** 3-6

All animals are lovable! We will take some time with different animals to learn what makes them so cute, in their own unique way. This class is part of the Little Hands Nature Series.

N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission hunter education program



The Hunter Education Program of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission provides free hunter education courses throughout the year in every county. More than a firearm safety course, instruction includes ethics and responsibility, conservation and wildlife management, wildlife identification, survival and first

aid, specialty hunting and tree stand safety.

All first-time license buyers must first successfully complete a hunter education course. There are no minimum age requirements, however, classes are taught at a sixth grade level and tests must be completed without assistance. Courses

are a minimum of 10 hours, taught by wildlife officers, hunter education specialists and certified volunteer instructors, and certification is accepted in every state and province in North America.

Because of hunter education, hunting accidents have decreased by over 50 percent during the last twenty years.

To register for on-site classes, go to: www.register-ed.com/programs/44

To register for on-line classes, go to: www.ncwildlife.org/Hunting/LearnResources/HunterEducation/OnlineCourses.aspx



What the world needs now, is a little less ... 'me'

If you have read my articles before you know that I have carried a familiar theme through most of them. So I apologize if this is more of the same, but I just can't help myself.

The way I see it, I have been given an opportunity to write an article for the NCWHF that may make a difference to one of our supporters somewhere, somehow, so I better give it my best shot.

For this article I would like to ask you to pretend along with me for a moment, that I could write something here that the entire world, with some divine intervention, would actually understand and comprehend the intent of the message. I would imagine that you would as I have, written your message carefully and with a great deal of prayerful consideration. So pretend along with me that this was my once in a lifetime opportunity, my five minutes to have the whole world hear a message. A message crafted in the name of unity and peace through deeper understanding for the purpose of our lives.

In my attempt to come up the perfect message, I continually came back to the words of Jesus in the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount. There are no more perfect words in my opinion on how to live one's life where compassion, mercy and love are centered at the core of ones being.

Jesus understood who his audience was as he spoke so many years ago and introduced a concept that was as simple as it was complex. A message spoken from authority by the demonstration of humility. A message of peace, compassion and love for your neighbor demonstrated by example. The weight of those words still rings as true today as ever before.

Today, I pretend my audience is the entire world in 2012 — a world that is diverse in culture, religion, tradition and complexity. How would I respectfully and honestly relay a message that would pierce through the armor of deep-seated convictions, passions and thousands of years of traditions within nations? A message that would inspire the faithful, give hope to the faithless in all religions.

The answer to this complex and overwhelming question lies within each of us and is also in part my message, so here goes — a message to the World.



Harrill

There is commonality between each person that has ever graced this Earth — our Soul.

It is the resting place for who we truly are. The place within each of us that whispers the truths that we all once knew but life has caused so many to forget. The Soul reminds us that we all come from pure light, pure love and we come here with a specific purpose.

My message to the world would be a reminder that our Souls are adorned with a divine message. A message that each of us can hear when we take the time to unclutter the noise that life creates. A message that reminds us that we are not from here but visiting briefly, so that we may learn from our own unique experiences and those around us. My message would point to the directions back to the place where we can hear what Jesus and so many prophets that have blessed this earth heard so clearly. Our lives are about learning to serve others, learning compassion, learning humility and most importantly that it is not about "me."

When we learn to surrender to these ideas, there is no need for war, there is no need for greed and there is no need to deny basic human needs.

We have spent thousands of years re-learning the same lessons and the world is crying out for change. People are best when they are uplifted not suppressed, encouraged not imprisoned.

The time has come for us to move beyond these problems and focus on our higher calling — our true nature. We are all made in God's image and the time is now to take the next step to getting back to the enlightened spirits that we are.

Take a look into the night sky, take a look into the beauty of this planet and all the magnificent creatures and know that you are part of a creation that goes beyond our ability to understand. Find the courage to accept that your true nature is

that of love and humility and share that understanding with your neighbor.

The world is on the cusp of great change and is showing itself in the strife that we are living through now. Do not be afraid of the problems that your life and the world are facing, it is part of the plan. Our individual life lessons are unique and one day their purpose will be revealed.

There is a great awakening taking place in our world and it may be messy as it unfolds but take comfort in knowing that each day we are one step closer to a greater understanding. If nothing else, know this.

If you can focus your life more on your neighbor than yourself, practice compassion and truth with all people, you can rest knowing that your work here is complete and the veil of this mysterious world will soon be lifted.

There is a message in your Soul, and it says, do your best, and I will do the rest.

It is the language of the universe and the time is now for all of us to hear it.

"Love is a temple, love the higher law."
Bono

Kelly Harrill
Chairman, NCWHF

"We will be
known forever
by the tracks
that we leave"

— Dakota

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