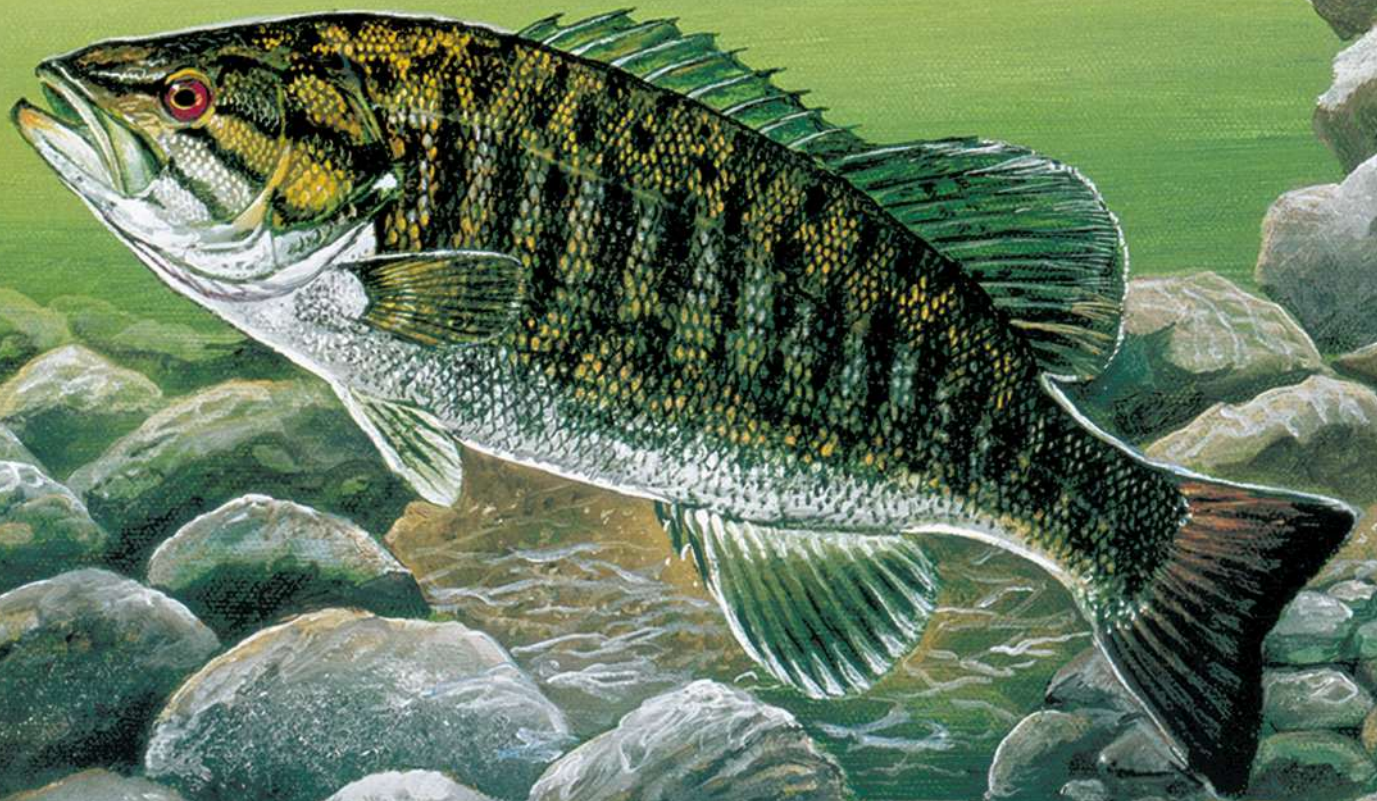


**FREE**  
Conservation  
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# A North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation PROGRESS REPORT



*Don't let the dream die*



Spring/Summer 2010



## NCWHF MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the N.C. 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 NCWHF, call (336) 375-4994 or visit the Web site at [www.ncwhf.org](http://www.ncwhf.org).

You can also find updates, event photos and other information about the foundation by visiting [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com).

## ABOUT THIS REPORT

The News & Record produces this Progress Report for the N.C. Wildlife Habitat Foundation twice a year. Find out more about the foundation online at [www.ncwhf.org](http://www.ncwhf.org).

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### COVER ART

Illustration of smallmouth bass courtesy of Duane Raver.

# With your help, the NCWHF continues to grow stronger

**A**s the economy slowly recovers, the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation also is returning to an upward trend. For the first time, our total assets now exceed \$2 million.

In addition, we have allocated more than \$1 million to several important wildlife conservation projects, such as the ongoing Adopt-An-Acre program, the black bear exhibit at the Natural Science Center in Greensboro, and Frank A. Sharpe Jr. Wildlife Education Center at Bur-Mil Park, also in Greensboro.

These and other projects are made possible by your generous donations and through fundraisers such as the 14th annual N.C. Wildlife Extravaganza, which was held Feb. 27 at Grandover Resort in Greensboro.

It was another great success. Teena Koury, vice chairwoman of NCWHF's board of directors, has coordinated the event since its inception and did another superb job organizing this year's Extravaganza. Her work involved decorating and arranging for food, beverages and many special prizes that were available in drawings and given away as door prizes.

Although times have been tough for people economically, we sold 94 of the 100 tickets that were available for the event. It was a delightful evening for those who attended, including a special guest, U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan, D-N.C. Many of those in attendance commented that it was the best Extravaganza we have held. The event raised more than \$50,000, which will be added to the NCWHF endowment fund to help pay for future conservation projects.

Another fundraiser, the NCWHF special license plate program, continues to develop. We have received around 200 orders, but we need to reach 300 before the tags can be produced. The NCWHF plans to make a concerted effort to meet this goal by the end of 2010.

We receive \$10 a year for every tag issued and, with your support, we could take in more than \$5,000 annually to invest in conservation projects. Our priority is to acquire more gameland property, an important investment that serves as a



**EDDIE BRIDGES**



**NANCY SIDELINGER/Special Sections Photographer**

Dunkley's Taxidermy Studio was one of the vendors at the N.C. Wildlife Habitat Foundation's 14th annual Extravaganza Feb. 27 at Grandover Resort in Greensboro.

## INSIDE

- Connect with your heroes, **Page 4**
- NCWHF Extravaganza photos, **Page 6**
- Financial reports, **Page 7**
- License plate application, **Page 9**
- Wildlife Education Center, **Page 10**

permanent asset for future generations.

As we look back over the projects for which we have provided funding, the Frank A. Sharpe Jr. Wildlife Education Center at Bur-Mil Park probably has been NCWHF's most beneficial long-term initiative. Not one penny of the \$325,000 spent on the center came from our regular foundation solicitations.

Instead, that money was raised separately, over and above our gifts received for memberships. Many of Sharpe's friends, his family, heads of other foundations and the corporate community stepped up to provide the additional funding. Many of those people believe, as we do, that the environment and wildlife conservation are very important elements of a well-rounded education.

We view the Wildlife Education Center as the crown jewel of Bur-Mil Park. In the past year, more than 33,000 people visited the center to participate in the variety of programs and classes it offers.

**"Don't let the dream die."**

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

## Get home safely from the hunt

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission offers tips on safe hunting practices. It also holds safety education classes throughout the state. **See Page 8**



**GEOFF CANTRELL**  
N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

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# Reach out to the heroes around you — they're everywhere

**Y**ou never know when you will run across something or someone that changes you, uplifts you or simply offers a different perspective. As I have gotten older, and hopefully wiser, I feel more in touch with those opportunities around me that help me grow closer to the understanding of life's purpose.

A good example of this has come in the form of a few people who have been influential to me spiritually through their laudable actions. Allow me to introduce to you a trio of passionate, inspirational and motivated people.

The first is a hero on an international level.

Greg Mortenson, author and executive director of the nonprofit Central Asia Institute, grew up the son of a missionary. In 1993, to honor the memory of his sister, who died from an epileptic seizure, he attempted to climb Pakistan's K2, the world's second-highest mountain.

After the failed climb he recovered in the remote village of Korphe, where he was introduced to a group of children sitting in the dirt writing with sticks in the sand, according to his Web site ([www.gregmortenson.com](http://www.gregmortenson.com)). He made a promise to help them build a school. From a seemingly impossible promise grew a remarkable humanitarian campaign.

Mortenson, now 52, dedicates his life to the institute, which promotes education, especially for girls, in remote regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan. As of 2009, Mortenson has established 131 schools in rural and often volatile regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan, which provide education to more than 58,000 children.

His passion for this undertaking was described in "Three Cups of Tea," the New York Times best-seller that he co-authored. The book's title is from a Balti proverb: "The first time you share tea with a Balti, you are a stranger. The second time you take tea, you are an honored guest. The third time you share a cup of tea, you become family..."

His understanding of relationships was part of the reason he was able to accomplish what he has despite relentless threats and actions by the Taliban and often brutal environmental conditions. His work also caught the attention of U.S. Gen. David Petraeus, who uses Mortenson's book as required reading for military officers in the region.

One person with one idea became an international hero.

A local hero, Mike Conrad, executive director of the Piedmont Triad Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, immerses himself



**KELLY HARRILL**

in an organization that addresses a disease that affects so many. The passion this retired Lucent Technologies executive invests in the foundation is evident as he goes about his dizzying daily routine, which requires a compassionate heart and a savvy business mind.

Mike spends hours with a talented staff planning events, raising money and telling the story of families affected by diabetes. He also has served as district governor of a North Carolina district of more than 2,500 Rotarians. Mike has been leading, inspiring and coordinating efforts of his fellow Rotarians, who have accomplished hundreds of humanitarian projects in our community and around the world.

Always with a quick step and a smile, he passes out congratulations and "attaboys" to everyone he works with, and is known to shun accolades or credit for himself.

Another local man with whom you are probably familiar is Eddie Bridges, who has possibly done more for wildlife conservation in North Carolina than any other person, although he would never tell you that.

Ask the executive director of the N.C. Wildlife Habitat Foundation how he's doing on any given day and he will probably give you an answer that is conditional upon how much land the foundation has been able to preserve.

You see, Eddie doesn't have a job; he has a passion. Eddie lives the dream that most of us wish we were living — he is doing exactly what he loves, and the rest of us are the beneficiaries of his passion.

Eddie began living his dream many years ago as he served as a commissioner with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. After retiring, he shared an idea with close friends about creating a foundation that would preserve wildlife habitat in the state.

Fifteen years and \$2 million later, his dream is alive and well, providing education on the importance of wildlife habitat protection and conservation. His efforts have made a huge impact on the state of North Carolina wildlife, and it all started with someone saying, "I'm going to do something about this." That person was Eddie.

He, along with Greg Mortenson and Mike Conrad, symbolize a pattern of heroism. Their lives are based in service to others, and you can learn from them. Here's what I have learned: Life deals each of us different cir-

The three people I described in this space would probably say that happiness is achieved when your heart and mind say there's a need out there and, to the best of your ability, you do something to try and fill it.

cumstances, each extraordinary in their own unique ways, but that which only God understands. Regardless of our situation, if the focus of our lives is on those around us and not so much on ourselves, happiness will come.

It is often said that happiness begins when one begins to serve. I am now a firm believer in that notion. The three people I described in this space would probably say that happiness is achieved when your heart and mind say there's a need out there and, to the best of your ability, you do something to try and fill it.

Heroes like these can be found

from the foothills of North Carolina to the remote regions of Pakistan. And you don't have to look hard. Heroes are everywhere in our lives, and we need to recognize them as such by pointing them out to one another, especially to our children.

I urge you to connect, in one way or another, with the heroes in your life. Enjoy that proverbial third cup of tea with them — the world could use it.

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

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- Individual Life Sponsor \$100
- Contributor \$20

### 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](http://www.ncwhf.org)

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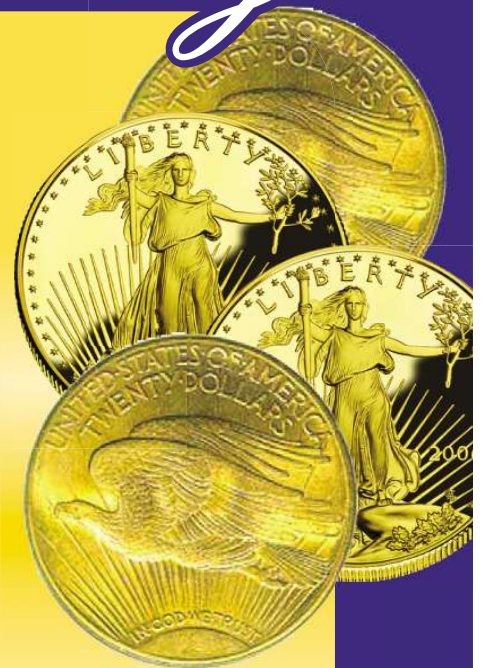
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# 14th annual N.C. Wildlife Extravaganza

Feb. 27, 2010 • Grandover Resort, Greensboro



PHOTOS BY NANCY SIDELINGER/Special Sections Photographer

U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan, D-N.C. (center), is flanked by husband Chip (left) and Eric Montross, a retired professional basketball player who also played center for UNC-Chapel Hill, at NCWHF's 14th annual N.C. Wildlife Extravaganza, which was held Feb. 27 at Grandover Resort in Greensboro.



NCWHF chairman Kelly Harrill speaks to guests at Grandover Resort.



Tracy Brooks and daughter Claire pose with a black Labrador retriever puppy that was part of the silent auction at the Extravaganza.



Richard Vanore shows the \$1,000 Bass Pro Shops gift card he won through a raffle.



Comedians from comedy club The Idiot Box in Greensboro entertain Extravaganza guests with improvised skits.

Jackson McKinney puts down a bid for a basketball signed by the 2009-10 UNC-Chapel Hill men's basketball team, one of the silent auction items at the Extravaganza. McKinney checked the status of his bid every minute.



NCWHF vice chairwoman Teena Koury and executive director Eddie Bridges helped coordinate the annual Extravaganza. The theme of this year's event was "A Night of Coastal Treasures."

# \$ NCWHF FINANCIAL REPORTS

## Financial statement as of May 1, 2010

Wachovia investment account .....	\$815,072.28
BB&T investment account .....	\$374,062.12
Wells Fargo securities, stocks .....	\$47,385.68
MidCarolina checking.....	\$187,643.44
MidCarolina money market.....	\$421,806.15
Hillsborough property.....	\$47,000
Wildlife art.....	\$126,675
2004 Land Rover .....	\$10,000
Other assets .....	\$12,000
<b>Total Assets.....</b>	<b>\$2,041,644.67</b>

## Projects funded

The following projects have received funding from the N.C. 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 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
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

## NCWHF gets commercial spots on weekly outdoors television

Carolina Outdoors ([www.scoutdoors.com](http://www.scoutdoors.com)) has provided the N.C. Wildlife Habitat Foundation with 52 weekly commercial spots on its regular television show, which appears at 8 a.m. Saturdays on the following channels.

**Greensboro:** Channel 69

**Charlotte:** Channels 9 or 15

**Raleigh/Durham:** Channel 24

**Winston-Salem:** Channels 75 or 70

## Help build legacy, benefit future generations



Courtesy of the N.C. Wildlife Habitat Foundation

Several N.C. 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's multimillion-dollar wildlife habitat savings account that will benefit our children and generations to come. If you have questions, call NCWHF at (336) 375-4994.

— Eddie Bridges

# NO. 1 PRIORITY: SAFETY

State wildlife commission offers free hunter education courses throughout the year in every county

By GEOFF CANTRELL  
N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

“Home From The Hunt” begins with safety when you hunt. Be prepared and think ahead.

The Hunter Education program of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission urges all hunters to be responsible and careful in the field.

Wear blaze orange when appropriate, and always when required by law. It’s a good idea to let someone know your destination and expected return time. Consider carrying a cell phone in a Ziploc bag, programmed with an emergency number.

Be sure of your target and never shoot at movement or color. Always identify your target twice before shooting.

Here are some other important hunting safety tips.

## Hunters using tree stands

- Maintain three points of contact (hands and feet) when climbing up or down a tree stand.

- Never carry anything when climbing, and use a haul line once safely seated.

- Wear a full-body harness, also known as a fall arrest system, at all times.

- Check all belts, chains and attachment cords before use.

## Waterfowl hunters using a boat

- Always wear a life vest.
- Don’t overload the boat, especially with passengers.
- Keep hunting dogs prone in the center of the boat.
- Never move about the boat with a loaded firearm.

## Wild turkey hunters

- Never assume you’re the only hunter in the area — that turkey call you hear could be another hunter.

- Don’t stalk a turkey; it only increases the risk of being mistaken for game.

- Attach a blaze orange ribbon on the tree where you are located, which signals your



GEOFF CANTRELL/N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

When using tree stands, hunters should always wear a full-body harness, being sure to check belts, chains and attachment cords before use.

presence to other hunters.

- To alert another hunter of your presence, say “STOP” in a clear voice.

## Additional education

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission offers free hunter education courses throughout the year in every county. More than just a firearms safety class, hunter education teaches ethics and responsibility, conservation and wildlife management, survival and first aid, specialty hunting and tree stand safety. The course is a minimum of 10 hours and is accepted in every state and province in North America. All first-time license buyers

## FIND OUT MORE

Get information about upcoming hunter education courses in your county by visiting <http://ncpaws.org/huntingsafety/courses/search.asp>.

must successfully complete a hunter education course. For more information, visit [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org) or call (919) 707-0031.

*Geoff Cantrell is public information and media relations officer for the Division of Law Enforcement with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission in Raleigh.*

## NCWHF LATEST CONTRIBUTORS

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Contributed photo

## Turkey hunting success

Jeff Henderson (left), a new member of the N.C. Wildlife Habitat Foundation, and son Sam, of Kinston, pose with the wild turkey Sam killed during a recent hunting trip in Caswell County.

The trip, hosted by NCWHF board members Thomas A. Berry and Tonnie E. Davis, both considered top-notch turkey hunters, callers and guides, was one of the silent auction items at the 14th annual Extravaganza.

# Spreading the word

To order your tag, download the NCDMV form from our Web site, [www.ncwhf.org](http://www.ncwhf.org).

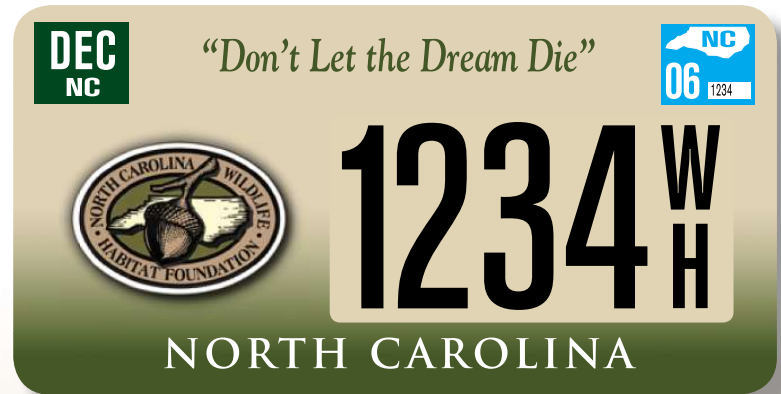
Complete the form, attach your check, made payable to NCWHF, in the amount of \$20.

**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.

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

We must have 300 orders before plates will be issued.

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Animal exhibits • Nature classes • Educator certification • Park trails information • Service projects • And more

# Wildlife center home for education

The Frank Sharpe Jr. Wildlife Education Center at Bur-Mil Park in Greensboro offers diverse programming and activities for people of all ages who are interested in nature and conservation. In 2009, the center hosted more than 33,000 visitors and offered 38 classes.

The education center offers many opportunities for the entire family to come out and learn something new, spend time together and enjoy nature in the Triad area.

The center has on display 27 live animals, from snakes and rabbits to iguanas and bearded dragons, providing visitors with a safe, up-close wildlife learning experience. It also hosts environmental education classes several times a month. Class topics range from bears and wilderness survival to fly-fishing and recycling. The classes, open to visitors of all ages, often are free or require only a nominal fee.

Customized programs and workshops are available for teachers, youth leaders, environmental educators and other groups seeking educational opportunities. Programs can be tailored to almost any need, such as environmental educator certification and educational credits for home-schooled children.

The education center has many resources for hikers, bicyclists and other active visitors to Bur-Mil. Hikers who use park trails often visit the education center for trail information or to find out about a plant or animal they may have encountered while hiking. Hikers also may borrow a "nature backpack" that includes nature guides, maps, binoculars and a compass. For a small deposit, adults can borrow a bicycle to ride on the Atlantic and Yadkin Greenway through the Dasani Blue Bikes program. Adult anglers may visit the center for bait, tackle and fishing passes, while youth fishermen can borrow a pole and receive a



Photos courtesy of Bur-Mil Park

The Frank Sharpe Jr. Wildlife Education Center at Bur-Mil Park in Greensboro has 27 animals on display, from snakes and rabbits to iguanas and bearded dragons. It also hosts environmental education classes several times a month. Customized programs are available for educators and youth leaders.

free tackle box as part of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's Loan-A-Rod program. Last year, 193 children were introduced to fishing through the program.

The center has a great volunteer and public service partnership. Civic groups, Scout groups, school classes and other organizations perform service projects in the center, its gardens or on park trails. The center also offers the Junior Naturalist program for youths ages 13 to 18, through which participants learn about animal care,

interpretation, program development, exhibit construction and leadership. Local colleges may offer summer, spring and fall internships at the center.

*Provided by the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation.*

•••

**Next page:** Find a list of upcoming classes at the Wildlife Education Center.

## WANT TO GO?

### Frank Sharpe Jr. Wildlife Education Center

Bur-Mil Park  
5834 Bur-Mil Club Road  
Greensboro, NC 27410  
Phone: (336) 373-3802

### Hours of operation:

9 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Friday  
8 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

## WILDLIFE CENTER UPDATES

On your next visit, look for these recent improvements to the Wildlife Education Center.

- An updated insect exhibit that includes a microscope and laboratory area for study.
- A new butterfly exhibit.
- A turtle habitat, which was donated by Red Dog Farms Animal Rescue.
- Donated annuals and perennials that were planted in the center's backyard garden by Girl Scout Troop 415.
- A black and white Norway rat and an albino corn snake, with habitats, that were donated.

Last year the Wildlife Education Center hosted more than 33,000 visitors and offered 38 classes. With help from donations, the center also has improved old and established new animal and insect exhibits.



"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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## WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTER SUMMER CLASSES

The Frank Sharpe Jr. Wildlife Education Center at Bur-Mil Park, a collaborative effort between the N.C. Wildlife Habitat Foundation, Guilford County, the city of Greensboro and private sponsors, will hold the following summer education classes. Children 12 years old and under must be accompanied by an adult. Early registration is encouraged. To register call (336) 373-3802.

### Recycling in Greensboro

6:30-7:30 p.m. June 8 and Aug. 10

10-11 a.m. July 10

Cost: Free, age 6 and older

Covers the importance of recycling, what happens to recyclable materials when they leave the recycling center, and how Greensboro's recycling program works. No prerequisites are necessary.

### Edible Plants of North Carolina

10 a.m.-noon June 12

Cost: \$2, age 10 and older

Looks at some of the more common edible plants found in the state and their historical and nutritional values.

### Birding 101

6-7:30 p.m. June 25

Cost: \$2, all ages

Beginner's class on the techniques and identification of our year-round residents. Be sure to bring a pair of binoculars.

### Historical Gardening for Beginners

6-7:30 p.m. July 1

Cost: \$2, all ages

Plant a garden the way the first American colonists did. Learn about heirloom vegetables and the easy way to grow them.

### Snakes

10 a.m.-noon July 10

Cost: \$2, all ages

Learn the true nature of this misunderstood reptile.

### Bug Collecting

8-10 p.m. July 30

Cost: \$2, all ages

Join our bug experts for a class on the methods and equipment needed to establish your own home insect zoo.

### Orienteering

6-7:30 p.m. Aug. 4

Cost: \$2, age 10 and older

From map-reading to determining the difference between "magnetic" and "true" north, this class will help you find your way.

### Native Americans

10 a.m.-noon Aug. 14

Cost: \$2, all ages

Learn about the fascinating lives of these native people. Through artifacts and demonstrations, participants will learn about Native American customs, food, weapons and crafts.

Source: [www.greensboro-nc.gov/departments/Parks/Facilities/regionalparks/burmil/educationcenter/](http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/departments/Parks/Facilities/regionalparks/burmil/educationcenter/)

## NCWHF Acknowledgements

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  - Greg Viola Guide Service
  - Wake County Wildlife Club

## Gear sale benefits conservation efforts

The N.C. Wildlife Habitat Foundation is planning a special yard sale in the fall to raise money to put toward wildlife conservation projects.

The Hunting and Fishing Gear Yard Sale will take place Saturday, Sept. 25, which is National Hunting and Fishing Day. The location had not been determined as of this publication, but will be announced soon and will be posted at [www.ncwhf.org](http://www.ncwhf.org).

The yard sale will feature bargains on items such as decoys, clothing, camping equipment, hunting dog training items and more.

If you have hunting or fishing gear to donate to the sale, contact the NCWHF at (336) 375-4994 or visit [www.ncwhf.org](http://www.ncwhf.org). Contributions qualify as tax-deductible gifts.



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