

FREE
Conservation
Publication

A North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation PROGRESS REPORT

Spring/Summer 2011



Don't let the Dream Die



ABOUT THIS REPORT

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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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 NCWHF, call (336) 375-4994 or visit www.ncwhf.org.

You can also find the foundation on Facebook at www.facebook.com.



NCWHF moves forward cautiously to ensure long-term success

Since the devastating downturn in our economy just over two years ago, the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation (NCWHF) has not aggressively tried to identify new projects to fund. Instead we have taken a more conservative approach, knowing that our first responsibility is to be good stewards of the money you have invested in our organization.

We believe that every dollar should not be spent hastily today, but wisely tomorrow.

Even though our membership roster has not increased much over the past two years, our total assets have continued to grow as a result of the good performance of our endowment fund accounts. With more than \$2.3 million, our assets have reached the highest level since our founding. We take a lot of pride in that accomplishment, especially since we have less than 2,000 members and have no paid staff or employees — only a group of dedicated volunteers.

Since our conservation projects are usually funded with the interest earnings from our endowment, it is important that we continue to add new members to our roster. All receipts from members are deposited into our endowment fund and are unexpendable. Only interest earnings can be used to pay for projects. Thus, the more members we have, the more projects we will be able to fund.

North Carolina has more than a million outdoor enthusiasts who are interested in hunting, fishing, boating, hiking and numerous other outdoor activities. With less than 2,000 of them being members of the NCWHF, that leaves thousands of great prospects that we could



EDDIE BRIDGES



PATRICK COLLINS/Special Sections

The North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation had a display table at the 2010 Bur-Mil Park Fall Festival in Greensboro.

solicit for membership. Many of them are members of your family or close friends who would join hands with us if only they were asked.

Other than membership fees and special grants, the only events that generate revenue for NCWHF are our annual North Carolina Wildlife Extravaganza and special events such as our hunting and fishing gear yard sale. This year's Extravaganza, which took place in February, generated more than \$57,000. And our first yard sale last fall brought in nearly \$4,000, which will enable us to send three children to the Fur, Fish 'N' Game Rendezvous Camp in Ellerbe this summer.

Another campaign to raise money for and spread the word about the NCWHF is the special license plate program. As of publication we have more than 200 orders for the license plate. However, the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles will only produce the plate if we receive 300 orders. We will be working hard to reach that target number this summer. The revenue gained from the plates will be used to buy public land and add

it to the North Carolina Game Lands program. If you purchase the tag, the NCWHF will agree to allocate \$40 for the purchase of gameland. In essence, you will have invested in a tract of land that will belong to your children and grandchildren.

We invite you to visit our website at www.ncwhf.org to learn more about what we do. We also welcome your suggestions as to how you think we might become a more effective and productive wildlife conservation organization.

It is our desire to become the most highly recognized wildlife habitat savings account in our state, and we would like for every outdoor enthusiast in North Carolina to be part of that effort. We are determined to become a multimillion-dollar wildlife conservation organization. When all of North Carolina's wildlife conservation leaders join hands with us, we will have accomplished that quest.

"Don't Let the Dream Die."

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

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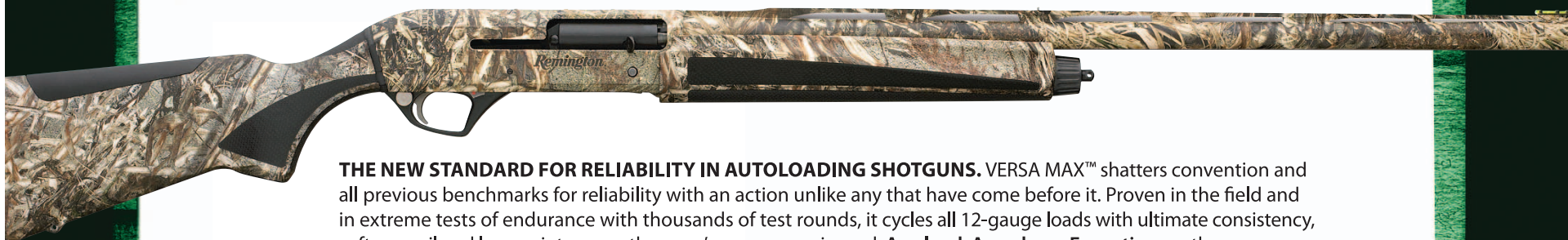
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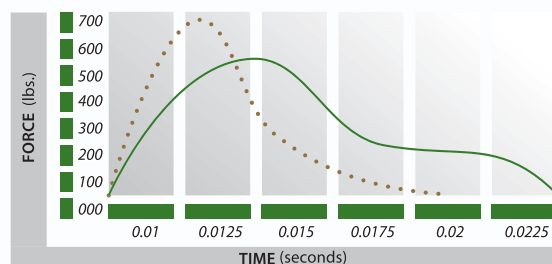


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Second gear sale planned after success of first

The North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation's second annual Hunting and Fishing Gear Yard Sale will take place Saturday, Sept. 24, which is National Hunting and Fishing Day.

The location of the sale will be announced at a later date and will be posted at www.ncwhf.org. The yard sale will feature bargains on items such as decoys, clothing, camping equipment and more.

If you have hunting, fishing or camping gear in good condition to donate to the sale, contact the NCWHF at (336) 375-4994 to arrange for it to be picked up. Contributions qualify as tax-deductible gifts.



Examples of some of the items that were for sale at last year's yard and gear sale.

PHOTOS BY NANCY SIDELINGER/Special Sections Photographer

Left: North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation held a Hunting and Fishing Gear Yard Sale on September 25, 2010, at 1601 Westover Terrace in Greensboro. Pictured is Michael Crews of Stokesdale with the hunting seat he purchased.

Partnerships help fulfill sick children's dreams

As I arrived in North Carolina in February to attend the North Carolina Wildlife Extravaganza, I was impressed with the natural beauty and diversity of its terrain. From heavily forested hills to fertile farmland, North Carolina is certainly blessed with abundant natural resources. Public awareness and resolve is essential to preserve any state's resources for future generations, and North Carolina has done a fine job of that.

At United Special Sportsman Alliance (USSA), our mission is to see that all Americans, regardless of their challenges in life, have an opportunity to experience and enjoy the fruits of dedicated conservation efforts and to promote outdoor activities for future generations.

USSA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit "dream-wish" granting charity that specializes in sending children and veterans with life-threatening illnesses and disabilities on the outdoor adventure of their dreams. The USSA's staff is composed en-



BRIGID O'DONOGHUE

tirely of volunteers from all walks of life. The charity has a deep respect for our fellow man and, like the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation, has a passion for natural resources conservation. By working cooperatively with merchandise donors, landowners, fishermen and financial sponsors, we are able to coordinate adventures for everyone in need.

Since its inception in 2000, USSA has granted more than 6,600 outdoor dream adventures in 38 states, and the number keeps growing rapidly each year. North Carolina has hosted deer, bear and turkey hunts, and fishing events. A partnership with the North Carolina Taxidermists Association provides a visual reminder of the recipient's adventure, so that the memory of the trip remains with



Children like Brittany Zebrasky, who has brain cancer, can benefit from USSA and its partners.

them for life. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission also gave its support by waiving hunting and fishing licenses for non-profit charities beginning last fall, making it more affordable to follow through with our mission. USSA is now trying to spread the movement to all states to benefit children and families enduring illnesses and disabilities. John Boy and Billy, hosts of The Big Show radio program in Charlotte, have been instrumental in helping to find deserving kids nationwide who would have otherwise never known about the available opportunities.

Indeed, there has been a long, productive and mutually beneficial history between the USSA and the residents of North Car-

olina. The Extravaganza I attended in February was a great experience. I was heartened to see so many dedicated professional people from all walks of life united under one roof for a mutual cause. By bringing them all together in one place, we create a deep pool of concepts and solutions that can lead to effective implementation of programs to further NCWHF's critical mission. The future quality of life within the state depends on it.

For USSA, it all comes back to children like Brittany Zebrasky, 15, of Wisconsin (pictured). Brittany has been a part of the USSA for six years and has had brain cancer for most of her life. Despite the many critical and even life-threatening moments she's endured, her spirit has not suffered. She remains a vital inspiration to me and to everyone she meets, as she has taught us the virtue of finding peace in the great outdoors. She loves hunting and being involved outdoors, and her greatest wish is to one

day become head of USSA. She and so many like her who are part of this organization are the brightest parts of our lives.

I look to a future in which the NCWHF works together with USSA to help medically challenged children and disabled veterans in North Carolina and across the county enjoy the results of caring and visionary people like those I met at the Extravaganza.

If you would like to support USSA and its mission, or would like to donate a dream wish or other goods or services, please feel free to contact us by calling or visiting our website. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend and speak at the North Carolina Wildlife Extravaganza. May God bless you all.

Brigid O'Donoghue is founder and CEO of United Special Sportsman Alliance, based in Pittsville, Wis. For more information about USSA, call (800) 518-8019 or visit www.childswish.org.

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2011 North Carolina Wildlife Extravaganza

Feb. 26, 2011 • Grandover Resort • Greensboro

Thanks to everyone who attended the 2011 North Carolina Wildlife Extravaganza, the NCWHF was able to generate more than \$57,000 in revenue. Among the many familiar faces at the event were Sen. Kay Hagan and family (right),

who were the highest bidders on a chocolate Labrador retriever puppy. Here are a few other scenes from the 15th annual event.

Photos by Nancy Sidelinger
Special Sections Photographer



Former UNC-Chapel Hill and NBA center Eric Montross talks to other guests at the Wildlife Extravaganza.



A Polaris four-wheeler was open for bidding at the Wildlife Extravaganza's silent auction.



Another silent auction prize was a Pond Prowler boat.



Event-goers could find a consistent hunting theme throughout the ballroom at the Grandover Resort.



Don Fish (left), executive director of the N.C. Sports Hall of Fame, talks with Rich Brenner, the Wildlife Extravaganza's master of ceremonies and former Fox 8 sportscaster. The N.C. Sports Hall of Fame will host the Naismith Basketball Awards, honoring coaches Mike Krzyzewski, Dean Smith and the late Kay Yow, on June 29. For information, call (919) 845-3455.



Lee McAllister (center) is congratulated after winning a door prize.

An open letter to my daughters (and everyone)

One of my favorite books is "The Road Less Traveled" by M. Scott Peck. It begins with a simple but poignant line: "Life is difficult."

I vividly remember reading that opening line when I was 22 while serving in the U.S. Navy on a guided missile destroyer in the Mediterranean Sea. I still recall lying in my bunk late at night as I read those words. A wash of relief came over me as if someone had said, "Hey, life's hard — get over it. It's part of the plan, and one day you'll understand."

I am a firm believer in the adage, "When the student is ready, the teacher will appear." On that late evening on the high seas, I was ready. Ready to hear it, absorb it and make it part of who I was.

Life is difficult, but following it up with the question, "So now what am I going to do about it?" soon became a part of me.

It was on board that ship where I made a change in the way I viewed my life. I decided that I wasn't ever going to be the victim. I was going to be a learner — that all that life threw at me was going to be a gift of learning.

Fast-forward 25 years. I find myself still learning and making mistakes, but thankful for the situations that offer me those opportunities.

In addition to being a son and a sibling, I'm also now a husband, a friend and a dad to two beautiful and caring daughters. As parents, my wife and I do our best to offer our daughters the best advice we can, frequently calling upon all that we have learned along our life journey.



Kelly Harrill

Having learned so much from the outdoors, and afforded this great opportunity to write a column

for the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation Progress Report, I thought I would share some of my life lessons openly with my daughters so that they can benefit from what I have learned while they learn a few lessons on their own. After all, God provides nature as a classroom for life, and the NCWHF works to preserve that setting for future generations.

So, to my dear daughters, here are a few things I've learned on my journey, along with some simple advice.

And to my teachers, thank you for all you have taught me.

- Love wins out every time. Practice it with everything that you do, with everyone you meet, especially the ones who you feel don't deserve it.

- Take time to find God in the outdoors. She will reveal herself to you over and over if you pay attention.

- Money is not the root of all evil, but what one does with it can be.

- To find happy people, look for someone who is serving others. If you want to be happy, serve others.

- God loves everyone — no exceptions.

- Practice balance in your life in all things. Too much of anything has its consequences.

- The best conversations you will ever have will be with complete

I find myself still learning and making mistakes, but thankful for the situations that offer me those opportunities.

strangers.

- Worrying doesn't help any situation.

- Yesterday is gone, and tomorrow is not here. Enjoy today and this moment, because it's all you really have.

- Pray like you are talking to your best friend, because you are.

- Angels are everywhere, and you can be one anytime you want to.

- Jesus is the best teacher on how to live that I ever met.

- Often it's not what you say that makes a difference, but how you say it.

- Tell your friends that you love them, even if they look at you funny.

- Friends and family will die, but they are never gone if you loved them.

- The richest people that you will meet will have very few possessions.

- People will come and go in your life, so be a friend while you can.

- One hour of hard exercise a day can make the other 23 pure joy.

- Get a dog, and let it sleep with you.

- Be a better listener than the person you are talking to.

- Find time for quiet

every day; the door to your soul opens in the solitude.

- Get your hands dirty in your own garden.

- The love of your life likely will not be your first love.

- Saying you are sorry takes more guts than not.

- Forgiveness is the greatest gift of all, and you can be forgiven anytime for the asking.

- It is always the right time to do what is right, especially if no one is watching.

- Happiness and joy are a state of mind; you may choose them in any situation that life presents.

- Love lasts when all

the gold and glitter are gone.

- Speak to the person that everyone else avoids; angels live there frequently.

- If you need a friend, try being a friend.

- Keep a copy of the "Desiderata" by Max Ehrmann and the eight beatitudes close by, and read them frequently.

Of all of life's lessons I have experienced, the greatest is that life is best spent shared. Share your talents, gifts, time and, most importantly, your love. Life will unfold just as it was planned. Our time here is brief and a gift. Make the most of each day and, above all,

be gentle with yourself. We were not made to be perfect, and for good reason.

Be content with what you have, rejoice in the way things are.

When you realize there is nothing lacking, the whole world belongs to you.

— Lao Tzu

Love,
Dad

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

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Teaching tools: Spring/summer wildlife education classes

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



PATRICK COLLINS/Special Sections

Gills, Scales and Water

9:30 a.m. June 2

Cost: \$4, ages 3-6

Try your hand at fishing. We'll also cover the basics about what makes a fish a fish. Poles and worms will be provided for children. This class is part of the Little Hands Nature Series.

Micro Hike

10 a.m. June 11

Cost: \$2, all ages

Grab a magnifying glass and explore what lives on the forest floor. Join a nature instructor on a hike in search of the tiny flora and fauna that call Bur-Mil Park home.

Living the Wild Life:

Birding Basics

6:30 p.m. June 14

Cost: Free, all ages

Did you know that birding is the No. 1 sport in America? According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, there are currently 51.3 million birders in the United States alone, and this number continues to grow. This class is for people who would like to become more proficient birders and get more out of this unique and growing hobby.

The Piedmont Bird Club displays the nest of a ruby-throated hummingbird at the 2010 Bur-Mil Park Fall Festival in Greensboro.

Recycling in Greensboro

6:30 p.m. June 21 and Aug. 9; 10 a.m. July 16

Cost: Free, all ages

This class covers the importance of recycling, what happens to the recyclable materials when they leave the recycling center, and how every resident's contribution leads to a cleaner Greensboro.

Nature Hike

8:30 a.m. June 25, July 9 and Aug. 13

Cost: Free, all ages

Join a nature instructor for an interpretive hike to explore Bur-Mil Park. Bring binoculars to view birds. Learn about the variety of plants that bring color to the woods and the animals that call the woods home.

Fishy Tales

10 a.m. June 25

Cost: \$2, 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. This class limited to 20 participants.

The World of Forests and Streams

9:30 a.m. July 7

Cost: \$4, ages 3-6

Learn all about forests and streams during this class. We will take a hike to a stream in the park and search for critters. This class is part of the Little Hands Nature Series.

Living the Wild Life: Creepy Crawly Bugs

6:30 p.m. July 12

Cost: Free, all ages

This class offers activities and games all about bugs and what makes them so cool and useful.

Venomous or Not? Dispelling the Myths

6:30 p.m. July 21

Cost: \$2, all ages

Would you kill a snake or spider just to be on the safe side in case it's venomous? Many of these creatures are helpful to the environment. Learn how to identify which snakes or spiders are venomous.

Rocks and Minerals

6:30 p.m. July 26

Cost: \$5, all ages

The term "Piedmont" means foot of the mountains, and Greensboro truly is the gateway to the Appalachians. In this class you will learn the basic differences between rocks and minerals, and will even have a chance to do a little gem mining.

Tweet Tweet

9:30 a.m. Aug. 4

Cost: \$4, ages 3-6

Join us as we learn about birds, how they fly, where they live and what they eat. Bring binoculars so we can spot and identify different birds in the park. This class is part of the Little Hands Nature Series.

Living the Wild Life:

Watershed Lifestyles

6:30 p.m. Aug. 16

Cost: Free, all ages

Water is a necessary human commodity, yet it is more than that. All plant and animal life is dependent upon the water within watersheds. This class will teach participants the role of watersheds in providing human and wildlife habitats.

Nature Photography

6:30 p.m. Aug. 25

Cost: \$2, all ages

Wildlife photography is much more than shutter speeds and exposure times. This class will cover 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.

Nature of Trees

10 a.m. Aug. 27

Cost: \$2, all ages

Join a nature instructor as we discuss all things tree, from acorn to xylem. Learn basic tree identification, the role of trees in the environment and the many uses of trees, from toothpaste to medicines.

Source: Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department. Find a complete, updated list at www.greensboro-nc.gov/Departments/Parks/facilities/regionalparks/burmil/educationcenter.

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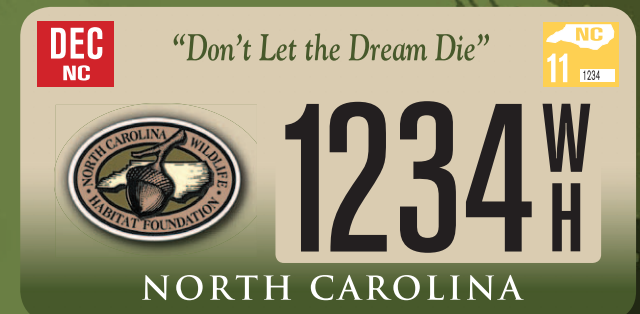
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The all-volunteer North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation assists in acquisition, management, and protection of land in North Carolina for the conservation of habitats needed to preserve wildlife



right here in the Old North State. Conservation education efforts are preparing future generations to sustain your concern for the lands we protect today.

At www.ncwhf.org, download the license tag application and see the good works in process. Your new tag shows your support and your contribution is put to work...times four.

www.ncwhf.org

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
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

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(as of May 1, 2011)

Wells Fargo investment account	\$929,399.58
BB&T investment account	\$434,293.50
Wells Fargo securities, stocks	\$42,070.36
MidCarolina checking account	\$315,028.98
MidCarolina money market account	\$427,264.41
Hillsborough property	47,000
Wildlife art	\$128,070
2004 Land Rover	\$10,000
Other assets	\$12,000
Total assets	\$2,345,126.83

“Treat the earth well:
it was not given to you by
your parents, it was loaned
to you by your children.
We do not inherit the Earth
from our Ancestors,
we borrow it
from our Children.”
— Ancient Indian Proverb

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