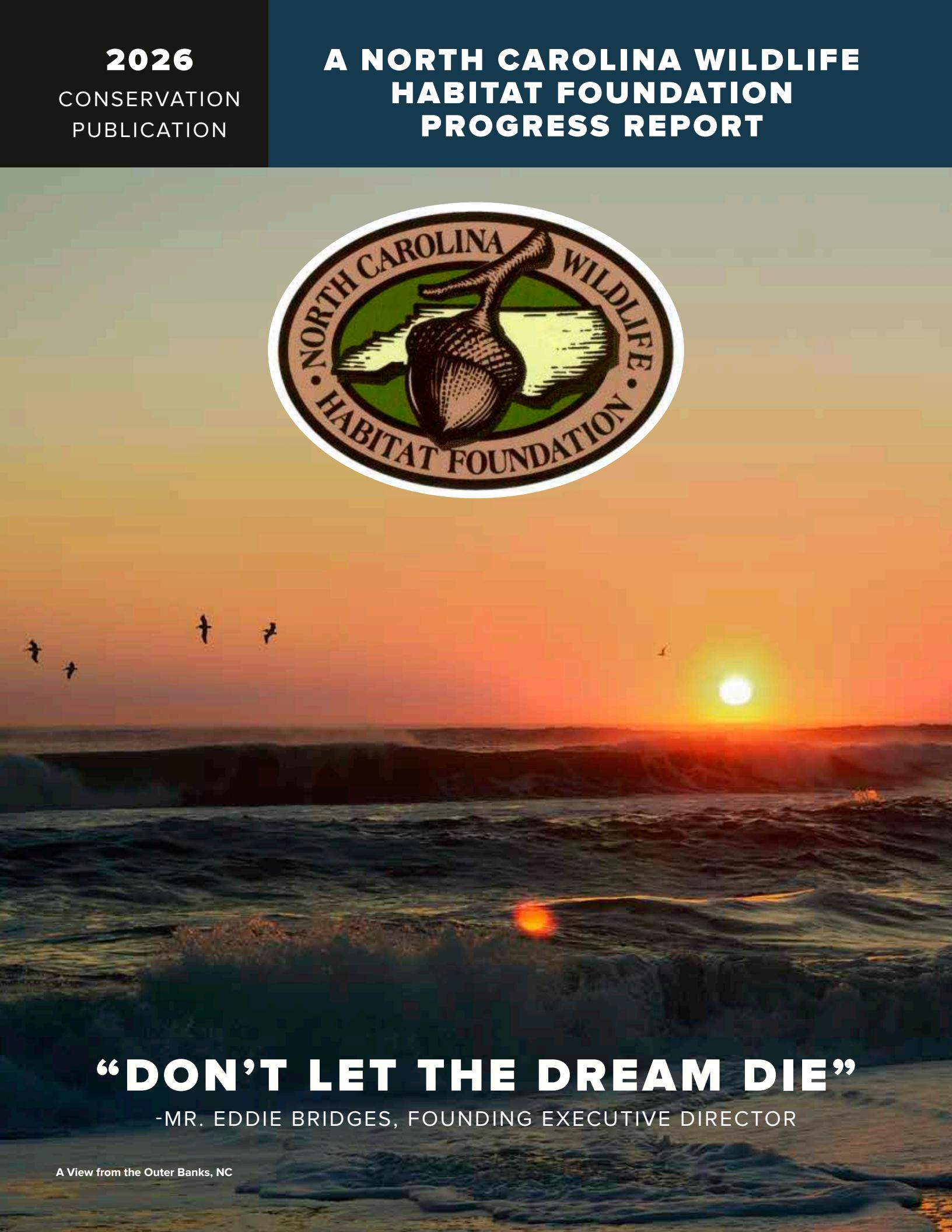


2026
CONSERVATION
PUBLICATION

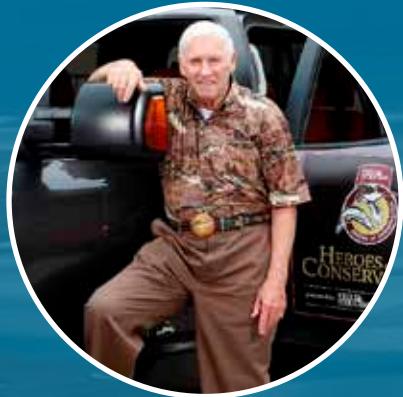
A NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE
HABITAT FOUNDATION
PROGRESS REPORT



“DON’T LET THE DREAM DIE”

-MR. EDDIE BRIDGES, FOUNDING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MISSION STATEMENT



The North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation, Inc., is a Nonprofit Organization formed 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.



FOUNDER'S VISION

In 1992 Mr. Eddie Bridges established the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation (NCWHF) in Greensboro by creating an unexpendable endowment fund to sustain wildlife habitat and to conduct habitat preservation projects that affect a broad range of species throughout the state.

Mr. Bridges envisioned the principle would always be maintained and only the earnings were designated for habitat preservation and improvements based on the donor's pledges. Mr. Bridges achieved his vision and the Foundation continues to operate on his principle concept today.

The Founder also invested in wildlife habitat conservation to ensure our future generations will have access to wildlife habitat in North Carolina. The NCWHF is managed by an all-volunteer Board of Directors (Trustees) with only one full-time employee, the Operations Director.



Founding Executive Director

Eddie Bridges (1933 – 2021)

Executive Committee

Greg Erwin – Chairman

Teena Koury – Vice Chairman

Richard Vanore Jr. – Treasurer

John Hagan – Secretary

Operations Director

Theodore C. Bethea II

Trustees

Thomas Berry | John McKee

Sandy Brady | Phillip Murdock

Tracy Brooks | Mark Ruffin

Rocky Carter | Allen Sharpe

Gary Graham | Harrison Stewart

Greg Harrell | Will Stewart

Kelly Harrill | Jay Stuart

Scott Love | Tom Wall

William McIvor | Jess Washburn

Eric Winter | Tim Cox

Will Berry

Administrative Assistant

Michelle Sharpe

2026 CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

DEAR NCWHF SUPPORTERS, SPONSORS, AND VOLUNTEERS,

Thank you for partnering with the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation to acquire, manage, and protect wildlife habitat within the state of North Carolina and to promote conservation education for the benefit of future generations. Throughout 2025, we continued to successfully expand our conservation easement portfolio, conducted several conservation education events with future generations, and sponsored meaningful habitat projects throughout the state. On behalf of our Trustees, I want to personally thank all our generous sponsors, dedicated volunteers, and long-standing conservation partners who all enable us to continue fulfilling our Founding Executive Director's vision to protect wildlife habitat and promote conservation education in our state.

In 2025, the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation methodically expanded our conservation easement holdings through continued engagements with our development partners. We are especially thankful to partner with: Restoration Systems – A Davey Mitigation Company, Resource Environmental Solutions, Greene Environmental, Clearwater Mitigation Solutions and Restore Ecology. Of note, the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation now manages 91 conservation easements that protect over 4643 acres of important wildlife habitat in perpetuity across North Carolina. Our conservation program is central to our charter and provides much-needed public benefits such as: water quality, farm and ranch land preservation, scenic views, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, education, and historic preservation. We look forward to further growing our conservation easement portfolio in 2026.

The North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation's future generations program enables us to provide young adults with meaningful opportunities to

develop leadership skills and positively impact our local environment through cleanups and habitat projects. In April, we partnered with the National Wild Turkey Federation and hosted a youth turkey day event for 30 junior hunters at Summerfield Farms. At the end of June, we partnered with the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission, multiple sponsors, volunteers and conducted our Annual Youth Sportsman Camp for 95 young outdoorsmen and outdoorswomen at Beaver Pond Sporting Club. In the Fall, we supported the Rockingham County Youth Outdoor Day at the Reidsville Police Training Center and Coastal Conservation Association – North Carolina's Fishing for the Future Tournament in Swansboro for over 117 young anglers. In the Winter, our future generations planted over 2000 bulbs that expanded our total bulb count to 12,000 for wild bee habitat in Greensboro. Once again, our sponsors, partners, and volunteers were all critical toward enabling these important outdoor activities for our future generations.

The North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation continues to effectively protect and preserve wildlife habitat through important projects with public and private partners. In May 2025, we participated in the Grand Opening of the City of Bern's Broad Street Public Fishing Pier on the Neuse River. This project provides the public with the opportunity to conduct wildlife observation and fishing on one of our state's most significant waterways. Finally, we remained fully engaged with the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission-led partnered project with the Nature Conservancy to restore the Game Lands on the Upper Roanoke River along Pollock's Ferry in Halifax County. On May 20, 2021, Mr. John L. Morris, the founder, majority owner, and CEO of Bass Pro Shops, announced a One Million Dollar Grant for coastal habitat restoration in North Carolina in honor of the late Mr. Eddie Bridges, the Founder

of the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation, during a ceremony at the Hatteras Yacht Facility in New Bern, North Carolina. We utilized \$200,000 of this incredibly meaningful grant from the Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund as our contribution to the multi-phased project to restore the game lands on the Upper Roanoke River. On October 21, 2025, we commemorated the completion of this meaningful project on-site with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and the Nature Conservancy.

In 2026, we look forward to partnering and working with all our generous sponsors, loyal volunteers, and committed conservation partners to protect and preserve wildlife habitat with an emphasis on Western North Carolina. The unprecedeted storm has created a need for significant habitat restoration work, and we are actively pursuing habitat projects with the Blue Ridge Conservancy and Trout Unlimited to positively impact this severely damaged region in our state. Please continue to support us as we continue to fulfill our Founding Executive Director's vision through the dedicated efforts of our all-volunteer Board of Directors and our staff. Thank you again for your support to the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation.

Sincerely,



Gregory Erwin

Chairman, NCWHF

CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM

The NCWHF manages a broad portfolio of **91** Conservation Easements in order to protect **4,643** acres of wildlife habitat in partnership with the landowners. A Conservation Easement is a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. Landowners retain many of their rights, including the right to own and use the land, sell it and pass it on to their heirs. Conservation Easements must provide public benefits, such as: water quality, farm and ranch land preservation, scenic views, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, education, and historic preservation.



CONSERVATION EASEMENTS PROTECT WILDLIFE HABITAT IN PERPETUITY

As a Conservation Easement steward, the NCWHF is responsible for ensuring the specific terms of all Conservation Easements are fully honored. The NCWHF Operations Director conducts annual site visits to our Conservation Easements to ensure compliance with all legal requirements and restrictions specific to each property. The NCWHF works in partnership with the landowners to protect and preserve wildlife habitat across the state.

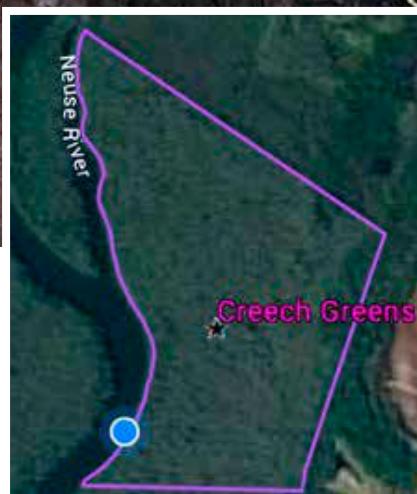


The Operations Director monitors **91** Conservation Easements, for a total of **4,643** acres, on an annual basis throughout North Carolina.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM CONTINUED

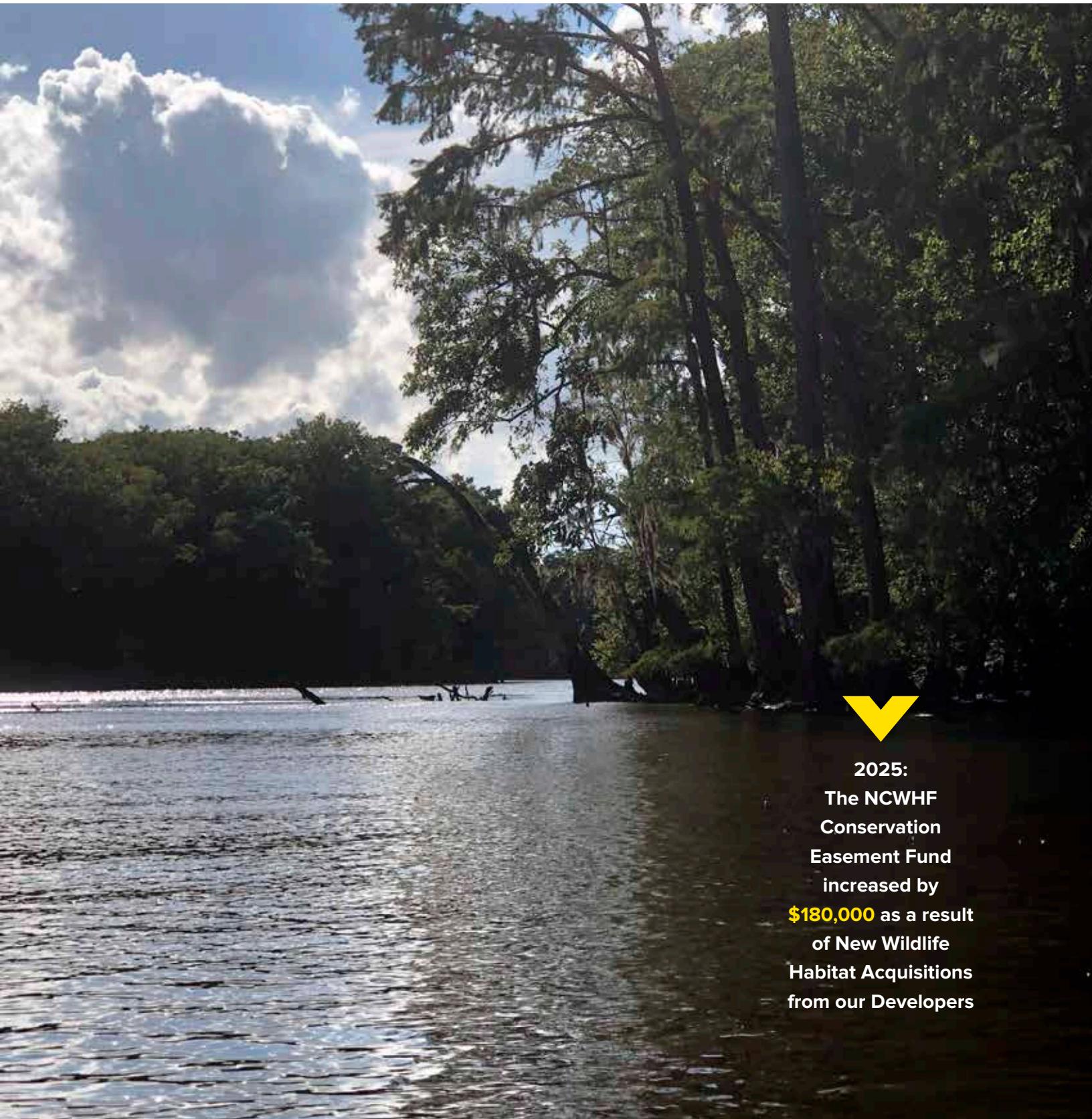


On September 30, 2025: Restoration Systems, a Davey Mitigation Company, transferred Creech Greens Thoroughfare (125 Acres) to the state as an expansion to the pre-existing NC Game Lands in Craven County outside Vanceboro, NC.





CLEARWATER
MITIGATION



2025:

The NCWHF

Conservation

Easement Fund

increased by

\$180,000 as a result

of New Wildlife

Habitat Acquisitions

from our Developers

ANNUAL YOUTH SPORTSMAN CAMP AT BEAVER POND SPORTING CLUB IN SNOW CAMP

In keeping with the Founder's vision, the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation continues to promote conservation education for the development of our Future Generations. The NCWHF, in close partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation, Ducks Unlimited, North Carolina Bowhunters Association, Boy Scouts of America, and North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission, conducts an annual 2-day Youth Sportsman Camp

at the Beaver Pond Sporting Club in Snow Camp, North Carolina. State Wildlife Officers and Subject Matter Experts volunteer to provide youth with firearms safety training; as well as instruction on: tree stand safety, fishing techniques, conservation techniques, and how to call for waterfowl and turkeys. Our volunteers and sponsors are the key to enabling this meaningful educational experience.



**2018: 65 Youth Trained
2019: 89 Youth Trained
2020: Cancelled / Pandemic
2021: 84 Youth Trained
2022: 65 Youth Trained
2023: 70 Youth Trained
2024: 65 Youth Trained
2025: 95 Youth Trained**



We especially want to thank all our Sponsors, Volunteers, and the NCWRC Wildlife Officers for making this event possible.

Please mark your calendar for our next camp scheduled for June 18-19, 2026!



FUTURE GENERATIONS PROGRAM

The North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation's Future Generations Program offers volunteer opportunities for young adults to develop leadership skills and positively impact the environment through local clean ups and habitat projects. The Future Generations also volunteer at the Annual Wildlife Extravaganza, the Annual Youth Sportsman Camp, and at various fundraising and community events.

FUTURE GENERATIONS STREAM CLEAN UP IN GREENSBORO



On March 25, 2025, Michelle Sharpe organized an impressive turnout of Future Generation High schoolers from Page and Greensboro Day who participated in cleaning Buffalo Creek waterway, which passes through Greensboro on its way to the Haw River. Over **1,000 pounds of trash** was removed from our stream by these exceptional youth who dedicated their Saturday to making a positive impact.

YOUTH TURKEY EVENT

On April 5, 2025, the NCWHF, in partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation, supported the Carolina Strutters Youth Turkey Event for 30 youth hunters throughout the state followed by a reception and awards ceremony at Summerfield Farms.

We want to thank our Board Member Sandy Brady for creating the beautiful trophies for our winners. We especially want to thank: Dan Erwin, Berico, Graham Personnel Services, Harrell's Waterproofing, and Grill 584 for your Support!

Please mark your calendar for our next Youth Turkey event on Saturday, April 4, 2026.



FUTURE GENERATIONS PROGRAM CONTINUED

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY YOUTH OUTDOOR DAY

On October 4, 2025, our Board Member Sandy Brady organized our support for the Rockingham County's Youth Outdoor Day with activities consisting of: Firearm Safety, Hunting Safety, Archery, and Fishing for over 130 Youth at the Reidsville Police Training Facility. Of note over 200 adults came out to volunteer for this year's event. We especially want to Thank David Griffin III for providing us this opportunity to contribute!



COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION – NORTH CAROLINA, ONSLOW BAY CHAPTER FISHING FOR THE FUTURE YOUTH TOURNAMENT IN SWANSBORO



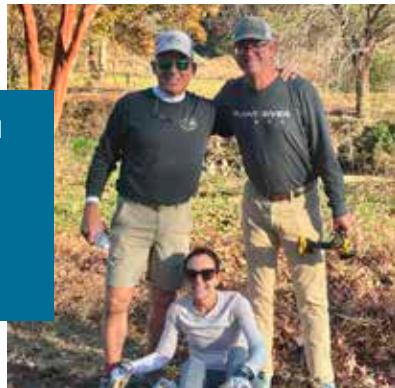
On October 4, 2025, the NCWHF funded **\$5,000** to purchase Penn Rod & Reel Combos for the CCA-NC, Onslow Bay Chapter, Fishing for the Future Youth Tournament. The event was sold out and surged up to 117 young Anglers.

We especially want to thank our Trustee Rocky Carter and CCA-NC Onslow Bay Chapter President Becky Garrett for providing us this opportunity to contribute!



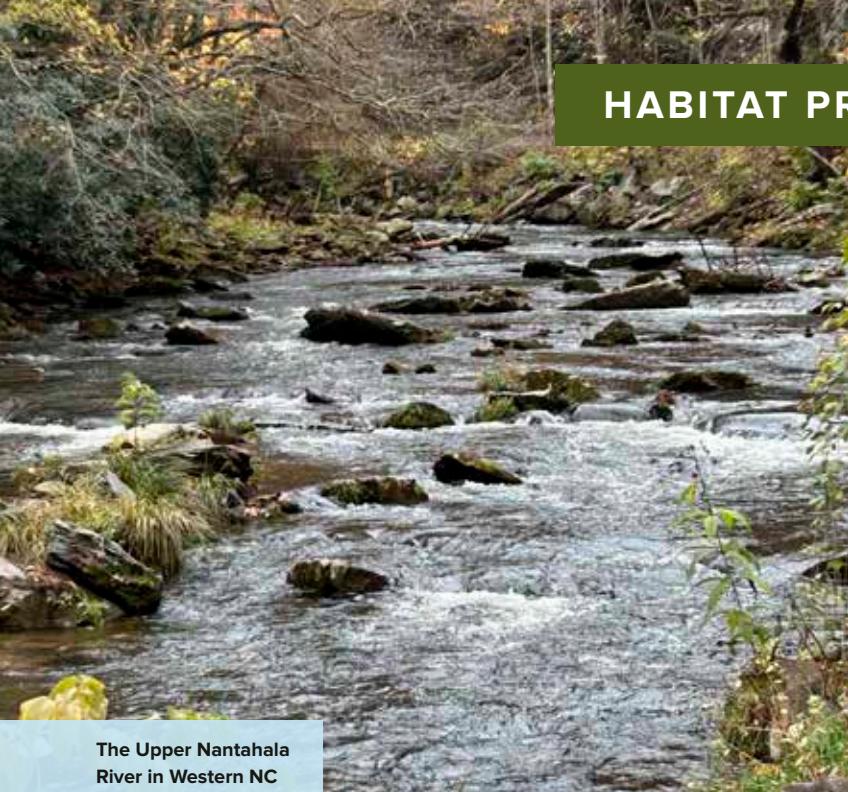
BULB PLANTING AND STREAM CLEAN UP AT LATHAM PARK IN GREENSBORO, NC

On November 23, 2025, Michelle Sharpe, Kelly Harrill, Jess Washburn, and volunteers enabled our Future Generations to plant **2,000 bulbs** at Latham Park bringing the grand total count to **12,000 bulbs** enhancing wild bee habitat in Greensboro.



To date, a grand total of 12,000 bulbs were planted to enhance wild bee habitat in Greensboro.

HABITAT PROJECTS



The Upper Nantahala River in Western NC

The NCWHF conducts a diverse range of habitat projects in partnership with other reputable conservation groups to protect wildlife habitat and enhance conservation education throughout North Carolina. Grants and sponsorships are the source for the NCWHF to conduct meaningful habitat projects as well as provide for conservation education opportunities that benefit our Future Generations. We are so thankful for the corporations, government organizations, groups, and individuals who graciously donate to the NCWHF and enable us to "Keep the Dream Alive".

NCWHF HURRICANE HELENE RELIEF IN WESTERN, NC

In May 2025, the NCWHF committed **\$50,000** toward the **Blue Ridge Conservancy's** \$195,000 project in partnership with Watauga County Soil and Water Conservation District, High Country Audubon Society, and Blue Ridge Resource Conservation & Development to restore the Aho Branch in Boone.

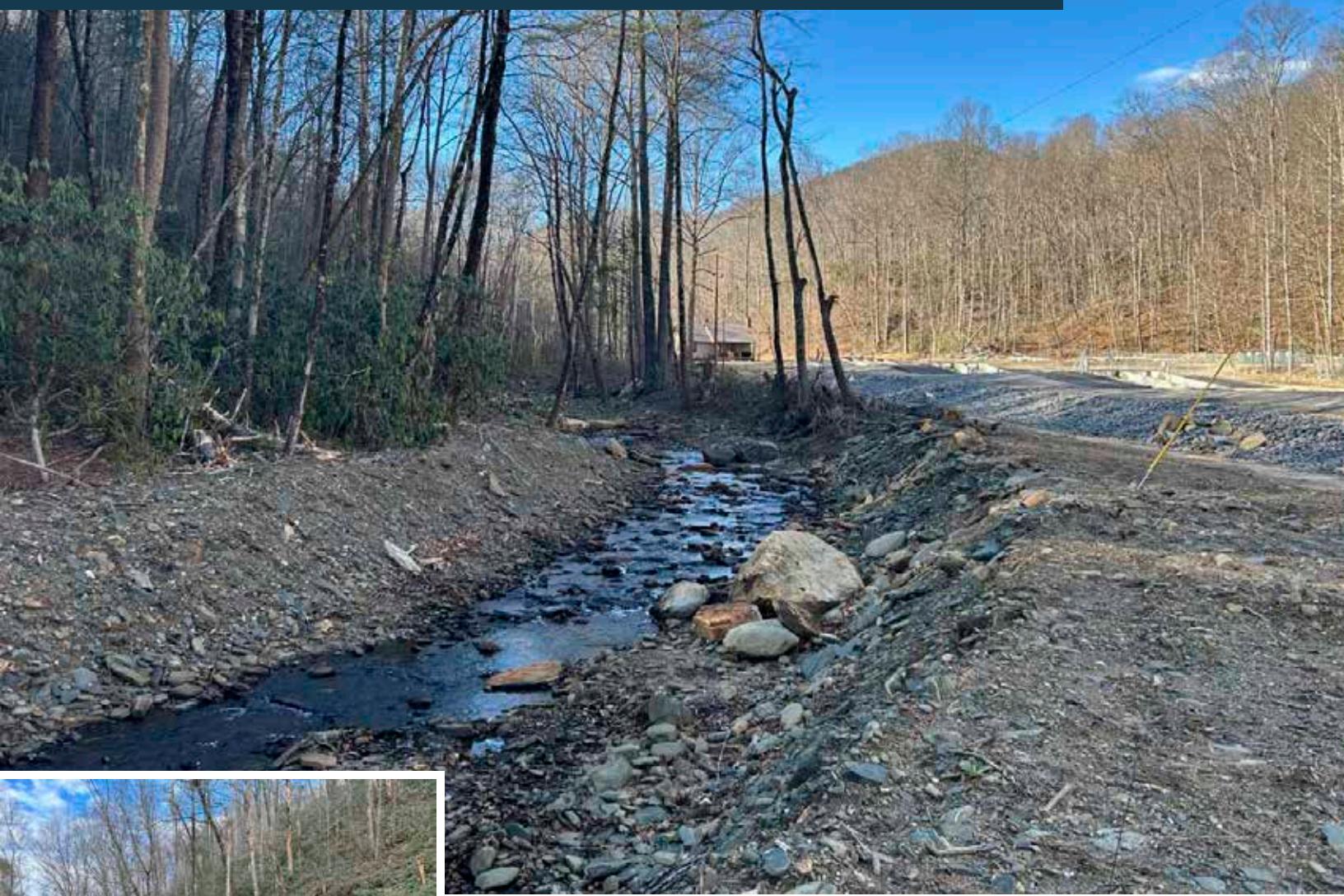
The environmental benefits include: reduced sedimentation and habitat creation with in-stream structures, vernal pools, woody riparian buffers to help mitigate flooding downstream by storing floodwater in the field.



Furthermore, the riparian buffer will create shade to regulate stream temperatures, keeping the stream cool to support trout and other aquatic species' survival.

Currently, the North Carolina State Soil & Water Engineers are working on design and permitting. In May 2026, we anticipate construction beginning on this important project.

ARMSTRONG CREEK RIPARIAN BUFFER RESTORATION IN MARION, NC



On January 7, 2026, the NCWHF committed **\$25,000 to Trout Unlimited's (TU) project to restore riparian buffers on the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commissioned-owned and operated Fish Hatchery on a 2.3 mile stretch along Armstrong Creek in Marion, NC.**



TU will plant native trees to restore riparian buffers to: stabilize stream banks, shade surface waters to blunt thermal gain, diffuse flood level flows, create wildlife habitat, improve water quality.

Total Project Cost: \$30,217.54
Start Date: March 16, 2026
Completion Date: March 27, 2026



HABITAT PROJECT IN HONOR OF OUR FOUNDER: RESTORING THE GAME LANDS ON THE UPPER ROANOKE RIVER ALONG POLLOCK'S FERRY



DRAINAGE PIPE REMOVAL



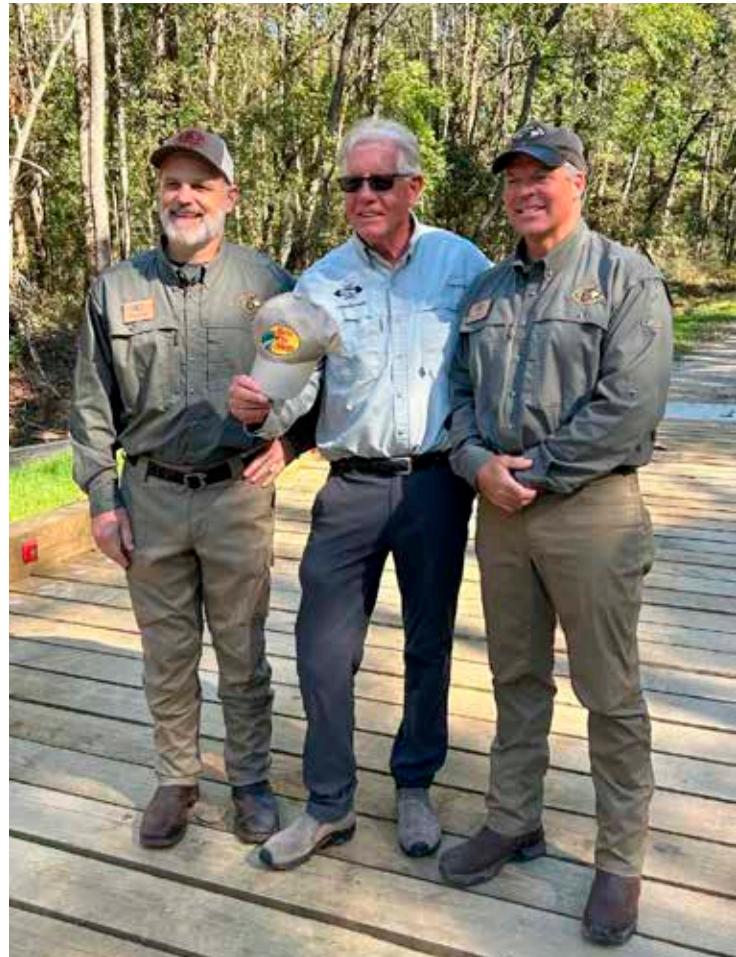
PROJECT COMPLETION

The North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation (NCWHF) is thrilled to announce the official completion of a Public-Private Partnered Project with Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund Team, the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission (NCWRC) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to Restore the Game Lands on the Upper Roanoke River along Pollock's Ferry in Halifax County, NC.

On May 20, 2021, Mr. John L. Morris, the founder, majority owner, and CEO of Bass Pro Shops, announced a **One Million Dollar** Grant for coastal habitat restoration in North Carolina in honor of the late Mr. Eddie Bridges, the Founder of the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation (NCWHF), during a ceremony at the Hatteras Yacht Facility in New Bern, North Carolina.

On August 4, 2021, Mr. Tom Berry, NCWHF Trustee and North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission (NCWRC) Commissioner invited Cam Ingram, the NCWRC Executive Director, and Chris Doll, NCWRC Land, Boating and Game, to provide the NCWHF Trustees with an overview of the partnered initiative to Restore the Game Lands on the Upper Roanoke River along Pollock's Ferry in Halifax County.

The NCWRC, with assistance from The Nature Conservancy (TNC), proposed a multi-phased restoration project to improve floodplain connectivity on the Roanoke River with the primary goals to increase diadromous fish habitat, reduce dangerous flooding, and improve water quality. The NCWHF Trustees unanimously voted to support this important habitat project.



Greg Erwin, NCWHF Chairman; Tom Berry, NCWHF Trustee and NCWRC Commissioner; and Beau Bethea, NCWHF Operations Director at the Game Lands at Pollock's Ferry



OUTDOOR FUND

On October 12, 2022, the Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund Team awarded the NCWHF a **\$200,000** grant to support the partnered habitat project to Restore the Game Lands on the Upper Roanoke River along Pollock's Ferry.

On September 13, 2025, the contractors completed removing the pre-existing culvert and constructing the new bridge to open the floodplain connectivity throughout the Game Lands on the Upper Roanoke River along Pollock's Ferry.

On October 21, 2025, the NCWHF, the NCWRC, TNC, and a Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Representative all met at the new bridge site in the Game Lands on the Upper Roanoke River along Pollocks to commemorate this important project.

The Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund Team enabled the NCWHF, the NCWRC, and TNC to restore a significant portion of the Game Lands to protect rare species, reduce dangerous flooding, and improve water quality for the local communities. Additionally, this collaborative effort clearly exemplifies the power of a Public-Private Partnership (non-profit, corporate, and government) to protect wildlife habitat for Future Generations in North Carolina.

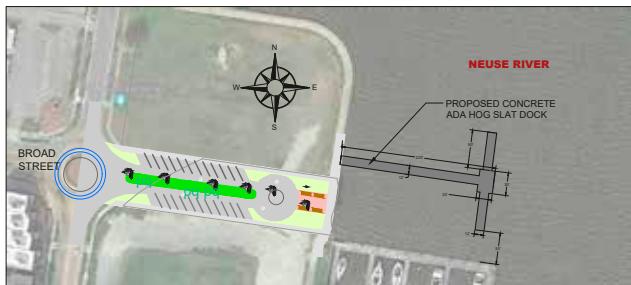
Brian McRae, NCWRC Deputy Director of Operations; Beau Bethea, NCWHF Operations Director; Chuck Peoples, TNC Deputy State Director; Tom Berry, NCWHF Trustee and NCWRC Commissioner; Greg Erwin, NCWHF Chairman



► This collaborative effort clearly exemplifies the power of a Public-Private Partnership (non-profit, corporate, and government) to protect wildlife habitat for Future Generations in North Carolina.



CITY OF NEW BERN BROAD STREET PUBLIC FISHING PIER



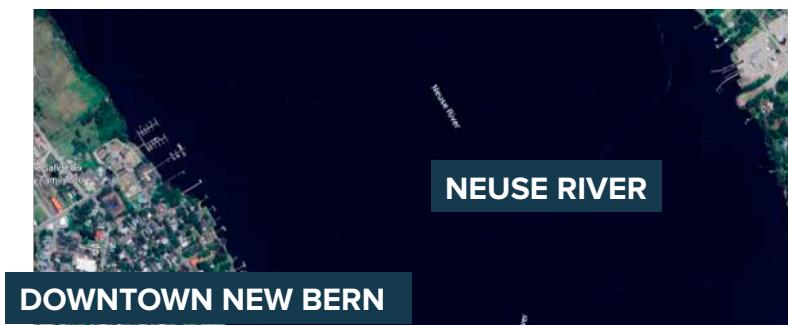
On April 17, 2024, our Trustee and Project Committee Member Rocky Carter presented the City of New Bern Broad Street Public Fishing Pier Project to the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation Board of Directors as a unique opportunity for the general public to access the Neuse River.

The North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation unanimously voted to support this meaningful project with a **\$115,000** contribution.

On December 18, 2024, the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management notified the City of New Bern that their CAMA Permit for the Broad Street Fishing Pier was approved.

The City of New Bern subsequently selected Bobby Cahoon Construction to build the pier in a timeframe of 12 weeks.

The City of New Bern utilized Federal Funds; as well as partnered with the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission for funding, engineer services, and CAMA permitting assistance. The City of New Bern also partnered with the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation for required funding toward this important project.



Tom Berry, Rocky Carter, Beau Bethea, Greg Erwin, Cam Ingram, Gary Graham, Sully Graham at the City of New Bern Broad Street Public Fishing Pier

In March 2025, Rocky Carter participated in the Groundbreaking Ceremony at the future site in New Bern.

On Friday, May 23, 2025, the City of New Bern held a Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Broad Street Public Fishing Pier. The City of New Bern's Mayor, Board of Alderman Members, and the Director of Parks and Recreation invited the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation Members to join the Grand Opening.

Several Local news outlets covered the Broad Street Public Fishing Pier Grand Opening and paid a special tribute to the generous supporters, including the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation, for this significant project.

CURRENT PROJECTS

CAPE LOOKOUT COAST GUARD STATION RESTORATION



On January 7, 2026, the NCWHF contributed **\$10,000** to the Cape Lookout Foundation's to restore the former Cape Lookout Coast Guard Station so that it may serve as a place of education and recreation welcoming any and all people open to learning about and enjoying the natural wonders of the Cape Lookout National Seashore.

The Cape Lookout Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization which was officially established in July 2022 by a group of life-long Cape Lookout National Seashore enthusiasts united behind the purpose of improving, preserving, and sharing this national treasure.

The Coast Guard Station was originally built in 1916 serving primarily as an outpost responsible for rescue services along Cape Lookout Shoals. The station operated until 1982 and has since been under the stewardship of the National Park Service. The Cape Lookout Foundation has signed a 20-year lease with the NPS affording the opportunity 1) to renovate the existing station and adjacent galley building, and 2) to organize/host educational and recreational activities available to public and private groups alike. Special emphasis will be placed on engaging groups of children and adults who might not otherwise have either awareness and/or means to visit a remote federal park.



PAT FOY BRADY MEMORIAL YOUTH SPORTSMAN'S PAVILION AT REIDSVILLE CITY LAKE



*“Finish High
and Let it Fly.”*

— Pat Foy Brady



On January 20, 2026, Leaders from the City of Reidsville, the NCWHF, and Koury Construction Corporation discuss building the Pat Foy Brady Memorial Youth Sportsmen's Pavilion at the Reidsville City Lake



Mr. Pat Foy Brady was an incredible family man, outdoorsman, businessman, athlete, philanthropist, and leader in Reidsville, North Carolina. Additionally, Pat Foy was a champion for youth participation in the great outdoors.

On September 9, 2021, the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation hosted the inaugural Pat Foy Brady Memorial Golf Tournament for up to 128 Players at Grandover Resort's East Course in Greensboro, NC. Our Founder envisioned for all proceeds to benefit Future Generations by constructing the Pat Foy Brady Youth Sportsman's Pavilion, consisting of an Outdoor Pavilion at the Reidsville City Lake. The NCWHF is partnering

with the City of Reidsville to honor Pat Foy and build this fabulous pavilion. The NCWHF recently selected the Koury Construction Corporation to serve as the General Contractor for this very important project.

**Please come out and join us for our
Second Annual Pat Foy Brady Memorial
Golf Tournament at the Grandover
Resort on Thursday, August 20, 2026!**



A Proclamation By The North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation

Whereas on September 9, 2021, in the City of Greensboro, North Carolina, The North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation, a non-profit organization deeply committed to assisting in the acquisition, management and protection of wildlife habitat within the State of North Carolina and to promoting conservation education for the benefit of future generations hereby commits to construct the Pat Foy Brady Memorial Youth Sportsmen's Pavilion as displayed for the education of our future generations.

Signed by Gregory A. Erwin, the Chairman of the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation

The North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation dedicates this Pat Foy Brady Memorial Youth Sportsmen's Pavilion for the Conservation Education of our Future Generations



RECENT PROJECTS

► **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliant Kayak and Canoe Access at Sutton Lake**

On October 11, 2021, the NCWHF contributed \$15,000

to the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission to build the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliant Kayak and Canoe Access at Sutton Lake.



► **Scouts Fishing Pier for Camp Durant, Boy Scouts of America**

On May 12, 2022, the NCWHF provided \$15,000

to Occoneechee Council, Camp Durant, Boy Scouts of America, to build a Scouts Fishing Pier at Lake Nello Teer in Carthage, North Carolina. The staff at Camp Durant train over 45,000 scouts a year and the new pier provides them access to bass, crappie, brim, bluegill, and catfish at Lake Nello Teer.



► **Riparian and Flood Plain Restoration along the Little Tennessee River**

On October 11, 2021, the NCWHF provided \$15,000 to the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission to enhance riparian and flood plain connectivity along the Little Tennessee River in Macon County, North Carolina.



► **Courthouse Wildfield Project in the Pisgah National Forrest**

On May 31, 2022, the NCWHF provided \$15,000 to the Pisgah Conservancy, a nonprofit organization, for the Courthouse Wildlife Field Project in the Pisgah National Forest in Transylvania County. The project consisted of clearing 3-acres of fully forested field in order to create habitat for a diverse group of species such as deer, grouse, and turkey.

► **Causey Farm Wildlife Habitat Study**

On August 15, 2022, the NCWHF provided \$25,000 to the Greensboro Science Center to study Wildlife Habitat at our Conservation Easement Causey Farm in Liberty. The study seeks to determine how wildlife responds to habitat change on stream / wetland restoration projects. This is the most comprehensive baseline study ever conducted on stream and wetland restoration in North Carolina.



Paynes Branch Tract

On April 17, 2024, the NCWHF contributed **\$25,000** toward the National Wild Turkey Federation's project to acquire a 209-acre Payne Branch Tract in Forsyth / Stokes Counties. This project will enable permit hunts for deer and turkey in an underserved region in our state.



New River Oyster Highway

In 2018, the NCWHF originally partnered with the City of Jacksonville and the NC General Assembly to create the New River Oyster Highway that achieved scientifically measurable success.

Benefit of Oyster Reefs:

Increased oyster biomass in the New River improves water quality

On April 11, 2022, the Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund announced a grant to the NCWHF, as part of a larger donation in honor of the late Mr. Bridges. The NCWHF subsequently funded **\$100,000** to the City of Jacksonville to expand the New River Oyster Highway in Jacksonville from 6 total acres to 12 total acres. The New River Estuary Oyster Highway is creating oyster habitat stepping stones in the central portion of the New River Estuary that support biogenic reefs via local hard-substrate subsidies, as well as river-wide enhanced oyster larval supply. The improved oyster reef fitness in the upper and middle New River Estuary improves biofiltration of sensitive estuarine waters, as well as supports a diverse aquatic animal community of ecologically and economically prized species via provision of essential fish habitat.

LEGACY PROJECTS

The Black Bear Study

The North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation supported Tim Langer's research at NC State to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of monitoring black bear populations with hair sampling and genetic identification. The study was subsequently presented to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission as part of Tim Langer's dissertation.



Jordan Lake Bass Habitat Project

The NCWHF funded **\$25,000** for researchers at North Carolina State to lay gravel beds that enhance the survival of bass and bluegill populations.



Core Sound Waterfowl Museum, Willow Pond Restoration

The NCWHF joined with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and Ducks Unlimited to restore a public waterfowl viewing site and resting area at Core Sound Waterfowl Museum, Harkers Island.



Trout Stream Restoration in Peak Creek, North Carolina

The NCWHF and Trout Unlimited funded a project to stabilize stream banks and protect fish on Peak Creek in Ashe & Alleghany counties.



Adopt an Acre Land Acquisition Project

The NCWHF created the Adopt-an-Acre program to purchase additional land for the North Carolina Game Lands program.



Sandhills Quail Habitat Project

The NCWHF contributed **\$43,000** toward a cooperative effort to improve quail habitat at the J. Robert Gordon Sandhills Field Trial area.



Wildlife Enhancement Project in Cataloochee Valley

The NCWHF partnered with the National Park Service and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to support a prescribed burn project that improved forage for elk, bear, grouse and small game in the Great Smoky Mountains.



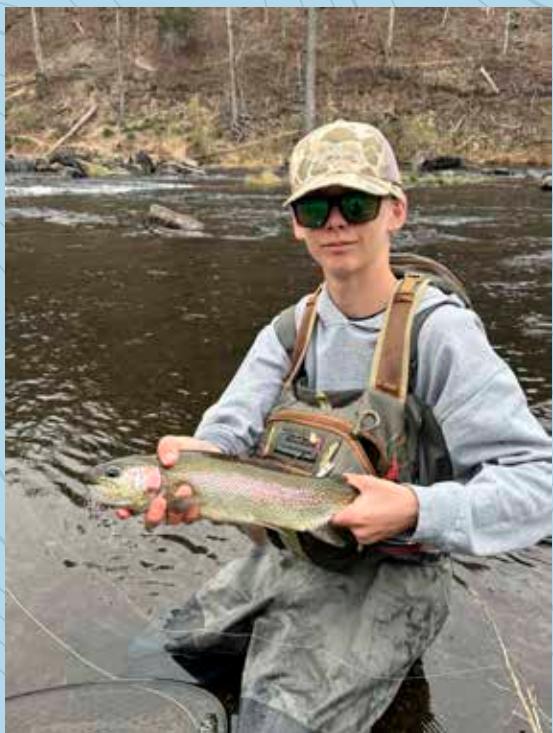
Frank A. Sharpe, Jr. Wildlife Education Center at Bur-Mill Park

The NCWHF contributed **\$150,000** toward the **\$300,000** Frank A. Sharpe, Jr. Wildlife Education Center at Bur-Mill Park as a joint effort with the city of Greensboro and Guilford County.





The North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation utilizes a collaborative effort through Public-Private Partnerships to protect wildlife habitat for Future Generations in North Carolina.



NCWHF WILDLIFE EXTRAVAGANZA

Our Premier Annual Fundraising Event at the Grandover Resort



Over 30 years ago, the NCWHF hosted our first Wildlife Extravaganza at the Ramada Inn in Burlington, NC. Mr. Bridges envisioned this event as an effective way to raise funds for habitat projects throughout North Carolina. Mr. Bridges asked Ms. Teena Koury, a Trustee and highly accomplished outdoor enthusiast, to spearhead this important fundraiser. Ms. Teena Koury subsequently brought in Jimmy Nobles, a world-famous chef, who provided incredible outdoor-inspired cuisine for the guests.

The Wildlife Extravaganza attracted outdoor legends, Mr. John L. Morris and Richard Childress as supporters who struck up a life-long friendship at this event. In addition, Mr. John L. Morris personally ensured our event was sold out! The NCWHF is so thankful to Mr. John L. Morris' and Richard Childress' enduring major sponsorships to our Foundation.

The Extravaganza took off and started selling out every year, so the NCWHF selected the fabulous Grandover Resort and Spa in Greensboro, NC to host this special event. Every year, the Extravaganza gathers a truly dedicated group of wildlife enthusiasts who come together to support protecting our natural resources in the state, as well as encouraging conservation education for our future generations. Thank you so much to all our sponsors and volunteers for your continued support for our mission!



THE DIXIE DEER CLASSIC

at the Raleigh State Fairgrounds



The Wake County Wildlife Club organizes the Dixie Deer Classic (DDC) as a three-day venue with exhibitors, outdoor celebrities, educational seminars, and hands-on activities designed to engage hunters, families, and outdoor enthusiasts of all ages at the Raleigh State Fairgrounds. The NCWHF Trustees and volunteers participate in the DDC every year to showcase our important mission and increase awareness of our habitat projects throughout North Carolina. Please come out and join us at this year's Dixie Deer Classic scheduled from **February 27 - March 1, 2026** at NC State Fairgrounds located at 4285 Trinity Road Raleigh, N.C. 27607!



LICENSE TAG PROGRAM

If you love wildlife, you can help wildlife conservation by purchasing a North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation license plate from the NC DMV.



Scan this QR code to order
your plate now!



NC DMV

Thank You

TO TRACY BROOKS OF SALEM ONE

FOR KINDLY PRINTING OUR NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE HABITAT
FOUNDATION PROGRESS REPORT

SERVICES:

**PACKAGING | PRINT
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For more information on the NCWHF, please contact Beau Bethea, the Operations Director at beau@ncwhf.org.

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