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# A North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation PROGRESS REPORT

*Fall / Winter 2013*



*Don't Let the Dream Die*



# Doing what we can today

Both 2012 and 2013 have been very productive years for the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation. We enjoyed a tremendous amount of success with the NC Wildlife Extravaganza during both of those years. Thanks to the leadership of our chairperson, Teena Koury, we raised more than \$120,000 for our cause. We are very optimistic about the 2014 event being equally successful. Mark your calendar for Feb. 22 and join us for the eighteenth year.

We now have about 300 of our Specialty License Plates on the streets and highways. If those who have the tag will encourage a friend or family member to buy a tag, we could immediately have more than 600 tags on the road. We have already received our first commission check from the state for \$3,270.

Proceeds from the tag commissions will be earmarked for our Adopt-An-Acre program to purchase wildlife game land property. With our 3 for 1 matching grant arrangement, each tag will generate \$40 annually to purchase Game Land for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

The Don W. Michael Wild-

life Conservation Fund, another project initiated by the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation, recently held its second annual fundraiser event, which raised \$7,967 in profit. With that amount added to the \$8,800 generated from the 2012 event, that endowment fund now has almost \$17,000 in the bank. As the fund grows and more outdoor enthusiasts become impressed with the projects we provide funding for, we expect the endowment to grow substantially. Our 2014 event will be scheduled for Sep. 27, which is National Hunting & Fishing Day.

Even though we continue to think of our group as a pocket change organization, we have managed to provide funding for several very worthwhile projects during this year. We have allocated \$20,000 to three trout stream habitat improvement projects. We purchased a special \$10,000 track wheelchair to transport handicapped hunters to hydraulic lift stands.

Through our Adopt-An-Acre program, we partnered with the N.C. Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation and commission chairman Jim Cogdell to purchase a game land



Photo courtesy of David and Kendall Murphy

**Eddie Bridges and his grandson, Sterling Sharpe, at the 2013 North Carolina Wildlife Extravaganza. The 2014 event will be on Feb. 22.**

track in Halifax County. We have more irons in the fire and expect to provide funding for another impressive wildlife conservation project before the end of 2013.

It is extremely important for us to be good stewards of the funds our supporters contribute to the NCWHF. We hope we have been doing that according to your wishes. We are not opposed to constructive criticism. We hope you will make suggestions for improvement. We want to manage your wildlife habitat savings account as well as possible.

I often have people ask, "What can I do to help?" There are many things our supporters can do to help and the effort is not painful at all. You could encourage someone to order our Specialty License Plate and that would send a loud message out to hundreds of people. You could help distribute our Progress Reports and get our message out to a lot of people who do not even know that we exist. You might

arrange for us to give a presentation to a small group of outdoor enthusiasts you meet with occasionally.

We are not a work-a-holic group or high pressure sales people. We are all volunteers and we have no employees or paid staff. We move at a comfortable pace, do what we can today and leave the rest for tomorrow.

It seems that our mode of operation is working. We have now raised four million dollars and spent about one and a half million dollars on some very impressive wildlife conservation projects. We plan to do a lot more for future generations and we would like for you to help.

"Don't Let The Dream Die."  
**Eddie Bridges,**

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## ABOUT THE COVER

"Pintails ahead of the storm," by Duane Raver.

## ABOUT THIS SECTION

The News & Record produces the Progress Report for the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation twice a year. Find out more at [www.ncwhf.org](http://www.ncwhf.org).

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Since 1995, Budweiser has teamed up with the National Fish And Wildlife Foundation to raise over \$10.8 million to protect land and wildlife from coast to coast. And this fall, Budweiser will once again be supporting on-the-ground conservation efforts.



This program has helped our partners fund a variety of projects, including the Ducks Unlimited effort to invest in grassland easements across Montana and North Dakota to conserve waterfowl nesting habitat. **Great Times Are Waiting ...**

**GRAB SOME BUDS**





# Eddie Bridges wins two N.C. awards

## THOMAS L. QUAY WILDLIFE DIVERSITY AWARD

In July, Eddie Bridges, a long-time conservationist and advocate of North Carolina's wildlife and wild places, was given the Thomas L. Quay Wildlife Diversity Award, one of the most prestigious awards given by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

The Commission presents the award annually to individuals who make outstanding contributions to wildlife diversity in North Carolina and who are considered leaders in wildlife resources conservation.

Bridges, of Greensboro, accepted the award, along with plaque and a framed print of a Sandhills longleaf pine forest, from Commission Executive Director Gordon Myers.

Bridges, who founded and serves as the executive director of the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation, is well known in conservation circles for his dedication and enthusiasm.

Under Bridges' leadership, the Foundation has raised nearly \$4 million in donations and has



Photo courtesy of Michelle Sharpe

## GOVERNOR'S ORDER OF THE LONG LEAF PINE

Eddie Bridges was given the Governor's Order of the Long Leaf Pine in June by Governor Pat McCrory. At left is event host Frank Grainger.

funded more than \$1 million of wildlife conservation programs and projects, such as rebuilding quail populations, enhancing fish habitat around piers and restoring Willow Pond, a public

waterfowl-viewing site located in Harkers Island. Through its Adopt-An-Acre Program, the Foundation has purchased more than 200 acres of prime wildlife habitat that will be added to the

Commission's North Carolina Game Land Program.

Bridges is a former Wildlife Commissioner, appointed by Gov. James B. Hunt in 1977. He served on the Commission board for 12 years, during which time he created the N.C. Wildlife Endowment Fund, also known as the "Eddie Bridges Fund." Since its inception in 1981, it has generated nearly \$150 million. It is a "401(k)" for wildlife that has been duplicated by more than 30 other states.

Bridges also was instrumental in the creation of two other programs — the North Carolina Waterfowl Conservation Stamp and Print Program and the North Carolina Tax Check-off for Non-game and Endangered Wildlife.

— North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

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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)



TIM MYERS/Special Sections

FALL / WINTER 2013 PROGRESS REPORT



Eddie Bridges and the NCWHF were awarded a Toyota truck for being named Field & Stream's 2012 Hero of Conservation. The truck sports the NCWHF's specialty license plate 0001. The plates were spearheaded by Michelle Sharpe, Bridges' daughter.

The plates can be obtained directly through the DMV, or by downloading a form at [www.ncwhf.org](http://www.ncwhf.org). Mail the form and \$20 to NCWHF, P.O. Box 29187, Greensboro, NC 27429. Call 336-375-4994 for more information or email [ebridges@ncwhf.org](mailto:ebridges@ncwhf.org) or [asharpe5@triad.rr.com](mailto:asharpe5@triad.rr.com). The NCWHF receives \$10 annually for every tag issued.

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# World Peace? Go for a walk

My grandfather, PawPee I called him, walked me out to his barn one afternoon. I couldn't have been more than 8 years old at the time. He said, "This is where I come when your Granny gets mad at me." He pointed over to the side of the barn, back behind the bailed hay and a faded, muddy, red International tractor, to a small room with a chair, some canned pickles and a pile of old farmers' almanacs.

"Sometime you just need to get away by yourself," he told me. "Helps you think clearly and keeps me from getting in any more trouble with your Granny," he chuckled.

As an 8-year-old, I didn't really understand the concept of him getting in trouble with my Granny. But as we sat there together in the quiet of the barn and talked about the chickens and the cows, the rest of the world simply faded away. It was just me and him. We didn't talk of trouble or of yesterday, we didn't talk of tomorrow, we just talked about the moment. "Nice to get alone with your thoughts," I remember him saying. At 8 years old, I didn't really understand the wisdom that he had just shared with me, but now that I've climbed the hill to 50, I get it.

We live in a busy world



Harrill

these days where we can so easily become consumed with our society's deafening chatter, which many times pushes us to live our lives in a false reality that is not true to our nature. Our world screams at us in thousands of ways each day and demands that we pay attention to the newest, the greatest and the shiniest. We get fixated on our media-driven culture and fall prey to glamorizing the lives of entertainers, politicians, sports stars and even criminals. The relentlessness of this unfortunate reality that we find ourselves living in has created a society in the United States and much of the world that is mostly reactionary and shallow.

My grandfather's words echo an old world wisdom that we need to slow down and take time to just be, to create space around us that allows for the nurtur-

ing of our spirit.

We need places that take us away from the world of societal pressures to a place of quiet which allows for reflection and the ability to embrace the eternal message of our creator.

We have lost our time on the front porch and around a camp fire where simple conversations foster new ideas that change lives. We have lost our time in the woods and our relationship with nature, which God provides us as a sanctuary.

We are creating a generational society that requires constant entertainment and finds only boredom when left alone with only their thoughts.

My fear is that our future generations will not know or understand the importance of allowing time and space in their lives to just "be."

Over and over again, my Christian faith reminds me that it is in my time of reflection that I

am closest to my Father, a place where my prayers are heard and answered.

Moments in my life where I felt closest to God have been sitting in silence with my family, fire burning and a dog on my lap or standing on the bow of a boat with friends, not a word said, just the whip of the perfect cast to a redfish in the grass.

Of daybreak coffee, and a light-hearted conversation with Christ, like I would speak to my best friend. A laugh, things I am sad about, things I am guilty about, friends that need prayer and whatever else He already knew I was going to say.

Recently I was watching the news, as our politicians debated healthcare and the government shutdown, and I couldn't help but think how badly these folks needed to get away. I wondered when they last went camping, threw a fly, hiked through the mountains, watched a sunset or gazed into the galaxies in wonder. When was the last time they went without reading the paper, put their phones down and contemplated their own existence?

Give me a couple days of uninterrupted fishing for redfish on oyster beds after a new moon with President Obama and Speaker Boehner and I'll hand you back two leaders with refreshed spirits that only time in the outdoors can accomplish. Give me a couple of more days and I'll hand you back two leaders that can solve these complex issues and work towards peace

in a world and a nation that so desperately needs grounded leaders.

My message and the message of NCWHF is simple and timeless. Take a walk in woods and take a kid with you. Take a politician fishing. Take a veteran into the dove fields. Take a friend in need camping and allow for the quietness of the outdoor to work miracles. Nature and the wildlife within it is a sanctuary that allows for the healing of the soul, healing of tempers and a nurturing of the spirit.

The North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation is an organization whose very foundation starts with an understanding of this principle and fights for the preservation of this irreplaceable natural resource that God has provided.

The NCWHF and its board members are dedi-

cated to making sure that future generations will have these places to enjoy and find solitude in, but it is the responsibility of our society to instill an understanding of its importance in our youth. Stand with us at NCWHF and groups that support the idea that we need to reattach to the outdoors.

There is a universal message of peace, understanding and compassion that the solitude of nature provides, but you need to be in it to hear it.

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# Camp aims at next generation

BY CRYSTAL COCKMAN

Uwharrie Conservation Specialist with The LandTrust for Central North Carolina

AND JOHN ISENHOUR

Technical assistance biologist with the NCWRC and a 1987 Rendezvous camper

Recently, natural resource professionals and volunteers from across the state came together in Richmond County to share their knowledge with North Carolina's next generation of sportsmen and women. The 31st year of the Fur, Fish 'N Game Rendezvous was held July 7 – 12 at N.C. Cooperative Extension's Millstone 4-H Center. This unique camp focuses on conservation education for young men and women ages 12 to 15.

Over the course of a week campers are immersed in outdoor activities, learning about a wide variety of topics related to wildlife and conservation. Wildlife Enforcement

## FUR, FISH 'N GAME RENDEZVOUS

Learn more about the camp at [www.nc4h.org](http://www.nc4h.org).

Officers and Hunter Education Specialists are on hand to assist campers in earning their N.C. Hunters Safety Certification. N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and N.C. Forest Service staff provide sessions on wildlife management and forestry.

Interactive lessons on archery, orienteering, taxidermy, wildlife identification, canoeing, fly-fishing, birdwatching, falconry and dog training insure a well-rounded ex-

posure to an outdoor life-style.

The camp is so popular that a special advanced camp has been developed for those who have attended basic camp in previous years. One of the highlights for advanced camper is a Wednesday morning crow hunt and survival expedition.

The Fur, Fish 'N Game Rendezvous is just one of several camps hosted every summer at Camp Millstone, a 4-H Camp in Ellerbe. This 320-acre camp was established in 1939.

This special camp that gets young people in the outdoors to learn so many conservation lessons would not happen without a great deal of support. Many volunteers and organizations dedicate time and funds to this camp.

## Youth deer hunt Dec. 14

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission has a limited number of permits remaining for a special youth-only deer hunt on Dec. 14 near New Bern.

The cost is \$5 per youth hunter with a Nov. 22 deadline. Permits can be purchased at any Wildlife Service Agent location, online at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org) or by calling 1-888-248-6834.

The hunt is for youth ages 12 to 15. It will take place at the Weyerhaeuser-Cool

Springs Environmental Education Center, located off U.S. 17 between Vanceboro and New Bern.

Participants must have completed a hunter education course and be accompanied by a licensed adult. Both the youth and accompanying adult must attend an orientation session on Dec. 7.

For more information, contact BB Gillen at [bb.gillen@ncwildlife.org](mailto:bb.gillen@ncwildlife.org) or 919-218-3638.



Photo courtesy of Jackson McKinney

## UTAH MOOSE

NCWHF member Jackson McKinney, 14, harvested a moose while hunting with Red Creek Outfitters in Utah. McKinney's uncles first took him hunting when he was 3 years old.

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# For the future

For the past six months, Haley Harrill, daughter of NCWHF Chairman Kelly Harrill, has been working on her Girl Scout Gold Award Project. She is sprucing up the Wildlife Education Center at Bur-Mil Park and is creating

a website to raise awareness for their various activities and exhibits. The website will also ensure that the information displayed in the center will be accessible to everyone.



Eddie Bridges presented Haley Harrill with a check for \$500 for her work on the center.



Photos courtesy of Kelly Harrill

Above, Haley Harrill and Nick Nelson touch up the center's sign, which is in Greensboro's Bur-Mil Park. Harrill's project will include new pictures, posters, taxidermy and other items related to wildlife education. Each year, thousands of school-aged children visit the Wildlife Education Center to learn more about the importance of wildlife and its habitat. At right from right, Haley's mother Kelly, and sister, Maggie, paint with Kosie Vanore.



*All Nature  
has it's place & purpose.  
Nature doesn't  
make mistakes...  
man does.*

*Donna K. Harris*

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# Classes

Frank Sharpe Jr. Wildlife Education Center,  
Bur-Mil Park, Greensboro

## CREEPY CRAWLY BUGS

**When:** 9:30 a.m., Nov. 7, \$4 for ages 3 – 6

**What:** Learn about all sorts of little friends who creep, crawl, fly, slither and hop around us all day, every day! This class is part of the Little Hands Nature Series.

## RECYCLING IN GREENSBORO

**When:** 10 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 16, free for all ages and 6:30 p.m., Dec. 10, \$3 for all ages

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

## HIBERNATION, MIGRATION, AND MORE!

**When:** 6 p.m., Nov. 21, \$3 for all ages

**What:** Learn about how many animals deal with the oncoming winter and what they will do to survive!

## ANIMAL SHOW AND TELL

**When:** 9:30 a.m., Dec. 5, \$4 for ages 3 – 6

**What:** Meet some animals up close. Some possible visitors include turtles, snakes, insects and more. Learn about these animals and others living around Bur-Mil Park and your own backyard. This class is part of the Little Hands Nature Series.



PHOTOS BY TIM MYERS/Special Sections

For more information about the Frank Sharpe Wildlife Education Center, go to the website at [www.burmilpark.org](http://www.burmilpark.org).





Rendering courtesy of Bass Pro Shops

## NCWHF AT THE NEW CARY BASS PRO SHOPS

We'll be at the February Grand Opening of the new Bass Pro Shops store in Cary. Register for a \$1,000 prize that will be given away at the event. The store will be near the intersection of I-40 and Harrison Avenue.



Photo courtesy of Michelle Sharpe

Eddie Bridges was awarded the Governor's Order of the Long Leaf Pine in June. Also at the presentation was Johnny Morris of Bass Pro Shops, left, and Richard Childress, NASCAR team owner and Childress Vineyards.



"Winter Roost," prints by Duane Raver are still available. All proceeds will be earmarked for the N.C. Quail Habitat Fund, which provides funding for quail habitat improvement. Limited edition prints are \$60. Additional information about quail habitat can be found at [www.ncwhf.org/quail.php](http://www.ncwhf.org/quail.php).

## PROJECTS FUNDED

NCWHF-Bur-Mil Park, Frank A. Sharpe Jr.	
Wildlife Education Center .....	\$300,000
Adopt-an-Acre .....	\$250,000
NC Quail Habitat Fund .....	\$108,000
Fish-Friendly Piers (NCWHF, Duke Power Co., N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, N.C. State) .....	\$50,000
Sand Hills Quail habitat projects .....	\$43,000
Jordan Lake Bass Habitat project .....	\$25,000
Wildlife seed distribution project .....	\$25,000
Core Sound Waterfowl Museum, Willow Pond Restoration .....	\$18,000
Caswell County marsh project, waterfowl impoundment (NCWHF, NCWRC, Ducks Unlimited) .....	\$16,500
Native Fish Conservation Area.....	\$10,000
The Don W. Michael Wildlife Conservation Fund.....	\$15,000
Trout stream restoration, Peak Creek.....	\$7,000
Invasive Exotic Plant Management, Wilson Creek .....	\$5,000
Cataloochee wildlife enhancement project (controlled burn at Cataloochee Valley) .....	\$5,000
Black bear study, Tim Langer, N.C. State .....	\$5,000
Buck Pysour Fishing Pond at Bur-Mil Park.....	\$5,000
Lake Jeanette Wood Duck Nesting Box Trail .....	\$3,000
Reddies River Angler Access Steps.....	\$3,000

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Wells Fargo Investment Account.....	\$1,003,409.81
BB&T Investment Account.....	495,577.52
BB&T Conservation Account.....	364,128.01
Raymond James Investment Account .....	216,856.35
Raymond James Dividend Account .....	2,987.56
Wells Fargo Securities (Stocks).....	50,170.27
American National Money Market .....	230,604.77
American National Checking Account .....	163,911.19
Hillsborough property .....	47,000.00
Reidsville City Lake property.....	25,000.00
Wildlife Art .....	135,265.00
2012 Chevrolet Equinox .....	20,000.00
2013 Toyota Tundra Crewmax .....	48,000.00
Other Assets.....	12,000.00
<b>Total Assets.....</b>	<b>\$2,810,910.48</b>

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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