

2019 Pee Dee Wildlife Refuge Bird Hike is January 31

On Thursday, January 31 the Three Rivers Land Trust will host a guided birding trip to the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge. Don't miss out on this rare opportunity to observe migratory waterfowl while they make the Pee Dee Wildlife Refuge their winter home. This is a great chance to see migratory birds such as black ducks, ring-necked ducks, mallards and Canada geese. Spaces are limited so sign up today!

This event is open to members and non-members of the Three Rivers Land Trust. If you are not a member, but would like to know more about the Trust's conservation mission and perhaps join in, visit threeriverslandtrust.org for information.

The birding trip will take place from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. The Pee Dee Wildlife Refuge is located at 5770 Highway 52 North, between Wadesboro and Ansonville. Visit threeriverslandtrust.org or call 704-647-0302 with any questions.

NC Turkey Trap and Release Efforts Will Boost Texas Turkey Populations

A turkey trap-and-release effort originating in North Carolina is helping boost wild turkey populations in Texas. The effort, a joint venture involving the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the National Wild Turkey Federation, began in December and will finish up this month, with an anticipated several dozen eastern wild turkeys making their way from airstrips in eastern and central North Carolina to restoration sites in east Texas.

Biologists are trapping the wild turkeys at airports in Pitt, Columbus, Brunswick, Guilford, Beaufort, Stanly and Forsyth counties where they pose a risk to aircraft by being struck on runways. Ideally, turkeys can be harassed and chased off the property, but in some cases that is insufficient to reduce the risk and more drastic means must be considered.

APHIS, which is responsible for removing wildlife that may endanger airline operations, contacted staff with the Commission with a plan to remove the birds rather than kill them. The Commission issued the required permits and assisted APHIS staff with logistical support and trapping. NWTF volunteers also assisted with trapping efforts and the organization provided specialized boxes and other supplies so the turkeys could be safely transported from the trap sites to the release sites in Texas.

To capture the birds, APHIS staff use rocket nets - a type of animal trap used to catch a large number of birds, APHIS staff use rocket nets - a type of animal trap used to catch a large number of live birds and give biologists crucial information prior to trapping.

So far, trapping efforts have yielded 25 turkeys, and biologists hope to capture several dozen more this month.

One hundred years ago Texas turkeys, like those in North Carolina, nearly disappeared from the landscape due to unregulated and heavy market hunting, as well as rapid deforestation and habitat destruction. To counteract the steep population declines, state wildlife agencies instituted bag and season limits and, along with hunters and organizations like the NWTF, established restocking programs that brought these large and beautiful birds back from being nearly wiped out. Today in North Carolina wild turkeys can be found in all 100 counties and number around 265,000.

"Restoring wild turkeys to North Carolina took many decades of hard work and commitment. Changing our hunting regulations and a successful trap-and-transfer program were key pieces of restoration, but North Carolina didn't do it alone," said the Commission's Wild Turkey Biologist Chris Kreh. "We had tremendous help from the National Wild Turkey Federation, especially through its Super Program, which allowed us to receive wild turkeys from other states and release them in areas of good habitat here in North Carolina.

"Over the years North Carolina received nearly 2,000 wild turkeys from 12 other states. It's really nice to see North Carolina able to pay that forward now and help Texas with their restoration efforts."

Of the five subspecies of wild turkeys, three are found in Texas - eastern, Merriam's and Rio Grande. The Rio Grande is found mainly in the central and western region of Texas, and historically, the eastern wild turkey roamed the pine woods of East Texas in large numbers. Those numbers declined to the point that Texas instituted a restocking/restoration program, which has been ongoing for several decades. Despite the success of this program, eastern wild turkeys are still scarce in some East Texas counties.

"Texas has experienced tremendous success restoring the Rio Grande wild turkey to its historic range in Central Texas. However, restoring the eastern wild turkey to its historic range in East Texas has been challenging," said Clayton Wolf, Wildlife Division Director for Texas Parks and Wildlife. "Now following years of research and habitat management Texas is on the path to restoring the Eastern wild turkey. The success of this effort is made possible through the generosity of donor states like North Carolina."

Robert Smith, NWTF North Carolina State Chapter President, is hopeful these latest turkey transfers will be a game-changer for East Texas. Relocating turkeys to these areas will give the birds an opportunity to flourish and rebuild the flock.

"North Carolina would not be able to provide Texas our wild turkeys without the generosity other states showed us during our restoration period. The number of birds we received was paramount to how rapidly and successfully wild turkey populations recovered in North Carolina," Smith said. "This is a unique opportunity for North Carolina to help with restoration in another state now that we have strong population numbers after our own restoration efforts. It's also a win-win since APHIS needed to remove these birds, and there was a great solution through the Texas restoration program."

Since 1947 the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (www.ncwildlife.org) has been dedicated to the conservation and sustainability of the state's fish and wildlife resources through research, scientific management, wise use and public input. The Commission is the state regulatory agency responsible for the enforcement of fishing, hunting, trapping and boating laws and provides programs and opportunities for wildlife-related educational, recreational and sporting activities.

NC's Workplace Injury & Illness Rate Drops to Historic Low

Recent figures show North Carolina's nonfatal workplace injury and illness rate for private industry declined to a historic low in 2017. The 2017 rate is 2.3 cases per 100 full-time workers, a drop from 2.5 in 2016. The Tar Heel state remains one of the safest states in which to work with a rate below the national rate of 2.8 cases per 100 full-time workers.

"With this decline, North Carolina's rate has hit an unprecedented low," Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry said. "The downward trend speaks to a safety and health culture that has taken root in businesses throughout North Carolina, and I give employers and employees much of the credit for this drop."

As a State-Plan state, North Carolina's Occupational Safety and Health Division focuses on hazardous industries like construction and manufacturing by implementing special emphasis programs, providing free education and training, conducting free safety and health consultative visits, and establishing partnerships and alliances.

The 2017 private industry rate for manufacturing was 1.8 cases per 100 full-time workers, below the national rate of 3.1. The 2017 rate for manufacturing remained the same at 2.9 cases per 100 full-time workers, below the national rate of 3.5.

"This is positive news for North Carolina workplaces," Commissioner Berry said. "The rate accounts for economic growth, which is an important factor when you consider the growth North Carolina has experienced over the years."



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Anson County Writers' Club Welcomes New Members

The Anson County Writers' Club meets on the fourth Sunday of each month, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the fellowship hall of First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro, except in July and December. All meetings are open to the public. New members of all ages are welcome.

For more information please call Sandy Bruney at 704-694-5211 or email sandybruney@gmail.com.



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PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT BY:

Sandhills Community Action Program, Inc.

- **Montgomery County:** The Public Hearing will be held on Monday, January 28, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Montgomery County Library Conference Room, located at West Main Street, Troy, NC
- **Moore County:** The Public Hearing will be held on Monday, January 28, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at The Jackson Terrace Community Building, located at 700 Jackson Terrace Street, Carthage, NC
- **Anson County:** The Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 29, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. at the Anson County Office, 126 West Wade Street, Wadesboro, NC
- **Richmond County:** The Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 29, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. at the Richmond County Office, 602 Rockingham Road, Rockingham, NC

The purpose of this hearing is to allow the citizens of each county an adequate opportunity for involvement in the planning, implementation, evaluation and assessment of the Community Service Block Grant Program applied for and administered by Sandhills Community Action Program, Inc. It is with the intent to file an application for the 2019-2020 Community Service Block Grant Program funding. It is mandatory that we hold these meetings to ascertain the views, comments, questions, and proposals on how the funds will be utilized.

The purpose of the Community Service Block Grant is to provide a range of services and activities which are measurable and potentially major impact on the causes of poverty in those areas of the community where poverty is a particularly acute problem.

For further information, please contact our office at 910-947-5675.



Anson County Tax Collector

DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES

UNPAID 2018 PROPERTY TAXES ARE NOW DELINQUENT

Fees and Interest have been added

On or about March 1, 2019 delinquent tax lists will be published at an added cost of \$20 per tax listing. Pay now and avoid this fee.

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Anson County Tax Collector
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Wadesboro, NC 28170
704-994-3218

Or visit the office Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. An after hours drop box is available too. Thank you.

