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Announces July 4 as Free Fishing Day

On Friday, July 4 the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission invites anglers and wouldbe anglers of all ages to go fishing - for free. From 12:01 a.m. until 11:59 p.m., everyone in North Carolina - resident and non-residents alike can fish in any public body of water, including coastal waters, without purchasing a fishing license or additional trout fishing privilege. Although no fishing license is required, all other fishing regulations, such as size and creel limits and lure restrictions, still apply.

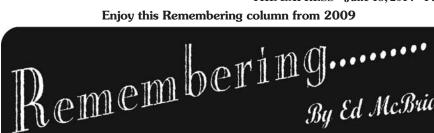
To give anglers a better chance of catching fish, the Commission stocks a variety of fish in waters across the state including trout and channel catfish. The agency also provides access to fishing sites across the state, including public fishing areas and boating access areas. The interactive fishing and boating maps on the Commission's website list more than 500 fishing and boating areas, many of which are free, that are open to the public.

Authorized by the N.C. General Assembly and started in 1994, North Carolina's annual free fishing day always falls on July 4.

On all other days of the year a fishing license is not required for anglers 15 years and younger, but anyone age 16 and older must have a fishing license to fish in any public water in North Carolina, including coastal waters. To purchase a license:

- Call the Commission at 1-888-248-6834. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., 7 days a week;
- Go to www.ncwildlife.org using a computer or mobile device;
- Visit a local Wildlife Service

For more information on fishing in public, inland waters, visit the Fishing page www.ncwildlife.org/Fishing.



Gaddy's Wild Goose Refuge I was thinking about fall of the year, remembering the days when Gaddy's Wild Goose Refuge was an attraction for so many. During the weekdays many bus

the 'cotton patch' field around the pond. people probably Many remember how it all began - hunting down on the river was not controlled by rules, regulations and laws then, so a hunter could shot, kill, trap or whatever, even using live decoys. Laws were later passed preventing that kind of hunting no live decoys either. This was the era of time that the Gaddy's Refuge began.

loads of school children would visit to

watch the geese. At times there would be as

many as perhaps 10,000 in the pond and

The Refuge was a small, muddy pond that was dug out by hand (no bulldozers then) at the edge of the field. As some geese would fly over they could see and hear the 'grounded-crippled' ones in the pond. This attracted the flyovers. The Gaddys began to feed around the area - and and there was an occasional 'fishing trip' by Mrs. Pat Ross (Miss

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Hazel's mother), who was in her 80's-90's. The fishing could not have been much - my brother and I 'dipped' most of them from a nearby branch, delivering same in a tin can to the pond.

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By Ed McBride

The goose population at the pond grew tremendously. Articles were in The State magazine and other publications, and news media and others were telling about the thousands of Canadian Geese here in Anson County. Visitors from many states visited, sharing in the geese population. Of course Sunday afternoons, quite a few visited to 'watch the geese' and just 'visit'. That is how I got the above picture (plus hundreds more) of the 'little fellow' with the geese in the background. My son Tommy was about five years old then...

And, that makes me at least about thirty-nine, I think!!

Thank you so much! I began my 87th birthday celebration even before August 10th, and it has lasted all the week...and I am still

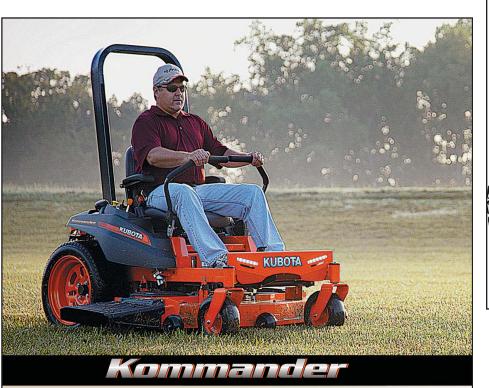
receiving calls, cards, comments! Thanks and appreciation. Ed





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BRLC Summer Fun Day Camp

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center will hold their Summer Fun Day Camp beginning Tuesday, June 24. The camp will be held Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., until July 24. Any student, aged 4 to 16, is wel-

come to enroll. With the theme, "Children are Human's Greatest Seed," the camp will offer two nutritious meals each day, along with inspirational time, computer skills enhancement, and much more. Each student will continue to grow academically and socially during the summer months - enjoying days filled with fun, making new and lasting friends.

Youth volunteers will have the opportunity to earn volunteer service hours, plus learn job training skills that will be used when they become employable.

The fee is \$45 per child. If you register before June 20 the cost is only \$40. This small amount is the total cost for the entire 5 weeks of camp - including the two meals per day! Remember to register early to save \$5.

Contact BRLC as soon as possible to enroll your child. Would you like to sponsor a student to attend the Summer Fun Day Camp? There were 57 children in the program last year. Sponsorships made it possible for many children who may have otherwise not been able to attend.

For more information about the camp or becoming a sponsor, please call BRLC at 704-826-8182 or 704-826-8737. BRLC is located on Highway 742 North, across from the Burnsville Fire Department. The address is 1961 Wightman Church Road, Polkton, NC 28135.

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