

## Help Conserve Wildlife; Donate on Line 30 of NC State Income Tax Form

Donate to the Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Fund (NGEWF), found on line 30 on your North Carolina state income tax form this year, and help the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission fund projects and programs that benefit sea turtles, songbirds, freshwater mussels and fish and other wildlife species without a designated hunting and fishing season.

The agency uses "tax check-off" donations to the NGEWF to support nongame wildlife research, conservation and management, such as monitoring populations of Bachman's sparrows and bald eagles, managing habitat to benefit ephemeral pool-breeding amphibians like gopher frogs and mole salamanders, conducting research and surveys for rare fishes and freshwater mussels, and developing the North Carolina Birding Trail.

Although tax check-off donations target projects benefiting nongame animals and their habitats, game species such as deer, turkey and bear also benefit because they live in many of these same habitats. Since the fund's inception in 1984, taxpayers have donated more than \$11 million to projects such as:

- Monitoring and inventorying for eastern hellbenders in western North Carolina to document the breeding habits of this elusive and large salamander;
- Restoring mussels and to the Cheoah and Pigeon rivers in western North Carolina;
- Enhancing populations of robust redhorse and sicklefin redhorse, two large imperiled fish;
- Restoring wetlands on the Sandhills Game Land to help increase populations of gopher frogs, tiger salamanders and other pond-breeding amphibians;
- Monitoring and surveying for state and federally listed coastal waterbirds and working with partners to post signs to ensure their safety on Commission-owned lands during the nesting season; and,
- Conducting mist-netting surveys of bats in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain to learn more about the abundance and distribution of bats, as well as the prevalence of white-nose syndrome in these areas.

Donations make up the largest and most significant source of non-federal funding to help these animals, so donations - no matter how small - are critical to the continuation of many projects.

"Whether it is \$2 or \$200, any amount of money that people can donate is greatly appreciated and goes a long way toward helping the agency match federal and other grants, as well as pay for educational activities and programs, such as our birding trails, which are located throughout the state," said Sara Schweitzer, the Commission's Wildlife Diversity Program supervisor. "When we match grants using donations, we increase the dollars that we can spend on programs. For instance, if we receive a \$100 donation, through grants we get an additional \$185 that we use for a variety of programs and projects to protect our wildlife."

While paper tax forms show line 30 as the donation line, tax preparation software, such as TurboTax, does not have numbered lines, but e-filers will be asked if they would like to make a donation to the Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Fund. Other tax filers can also tell their tax preparer they would like to donate.

Tax season isn't the only time or way to contribute to wildlife conservation. Other ways to help North Carolina's wildlife and their habitats year-round are:

- Registering a vehicle or trailer with a N.C. Wildlife Conservation license plate
- Donating online at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org)

Learn more about the projects and programs Wildlife Commission staff conduct to benefit nongame and endangered wildlife by reading the agency's Wildlife Diversity Program's Quarterly Reports at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org).

## You Decide: How Can We Address Our Transportation Issues?

*By Dr. Mike Walden:* My wife retired a dozen years ago after working three decades as an elementary school teacher. Her daily routine now involves a trip to the nearest wellness facility for exercise as well as conversation - hopefully not at the same time! One thing she chronically complains about is the increased traffic in Raleigh compared to her working days. She says Raleigh has too many people and too few roads!

Increased travel time and traffic congestion are common gripes today for those living in North Carolina's large metropolitan areas. Yet this doesn't mean rural residents are satisfied with their roads. Often, they too want more and better maintained roads just as their city cousins. However, the rural requests are for a different reason. They want more roads to bring more people and businesses to their communities.

These two concerns about our transportation system, as well as others, were discussed at a recent state transportation summit. The purpose of the conference was to assess both today's and tomorrow's transportation issues in North Carolina and to consider plans for addressing them. I was honored to participate in the meeting and make a presentation. Here I'll give you a summary of what I said.

Although we might not think about it, transportation is key to two goals our society has: individual freedom and economic development. Transportation gives each of us freedom to consider more options for living, working and enjoying ourselves. For example, in the early 20th century most people - including my grandparents - had to live very close to where they worked because the range of horse travel and early autos was very limited. And my grandparents didn't even consider vacationing to some exotic location.

Over the sweep of history, a strong link can be seen between advancements in transportation and improvements in the economy. Faster, more reliable, versatile and less expensive (per mile traveled) methods of moving both people and products are keys to an expanding economy and higher standard of living. Better transportation creates more opportunities for businesses to sell and individuals to work.

While transportation is important to every person and place in North Carolina, the key issues are not the same. In the big urban areas, the top concerns are congestion, high land costs for new road projects, the roles of mass transit and the new transit modes like rides-on-demand, bikes and scooters. In the suburbs and small towns economically linked to nearby big urban centers, the greatest need is fast transit links from homes to jobs in the cities. These suburb-to-city commuters can easily spend two to three hours each working day in travel first to work in the morning and then to home at night. Then there are the scores of rural counties in our state that are trying to remake their economies. Many of these have actually lost population in recent years and have prospects of continuing to lose residents in the decades ahead. For these localities, improved transportation is a lifeline to a better economic future. More and better roads that improve access to locations in the counties increase the likelihood that both businesses and households will choose those counties as home.

An easy conclusion is that we need more transportation investment in almost all of our counties. Some futurists think the kinds of transportation we think we need now will not be the kinds of transportation we'll actually need in the future though. The reason is there's a high chance technology will change both the type and amount of transportation we'll actually want in the future.

Consider these potential "game changing" technologies affecting transportation: autonomous vehicles, expanded ride-sharing, virtualization, drone delivery, remote service (such as medical care) delivery and universal low-cost high-speed internet. Some futurists think these technologies could reduce vehicle ownership, reduce commuting, increase remote working, improve the availability of services in rural counties and reverse the trend toward urbanization in the state. Even if these technologies develop, they are likely years - if not decades - away. In the meantime, the issues I outlined above for the various parts of our state - congestion, connection and economic development - will remain being the key issues in transportation.

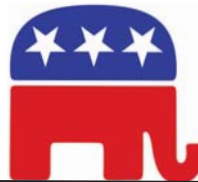
However, the longer run look of transportation is less certain. This future depends on how fast the game-changing technologies evolve, and how our living, working and commuting patterns will change.

Although some think it is a cliché, I do believe we live in interesting and exciting times, and this includes transportation. As new technologies become available, and as our lives - as a result - change, all of us will collectively decide our new transportation needs.

Walden is a William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor and Extension Economist in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at North Carolina State University who teaches and writes on personal finance, economic outlook and public policy.

# Annual Anson County REPUBLICAN PARTY CONVENTION

**MONDAY, MARCH 11TH**  
**Hampton B. Allen Library**  
**Side Entrance**



6pm.....Doors Open & Refreshments

7pm.....Anson County GOP Convention

**Election of Officers & Delegates**

**MONTHLY GOP MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 2ND MONDAY AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE HAMPTON B. ALLEN LIBRARY**

See our website: [www.anson.nc.gov](http://www.anson.nc.gov)

Paid for by the Anson County Republican Party. Not authorized by any candidate or candidate committee.

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Union County



Anson County



City of Monroe



Lancaster County Water & Sewer

## Union County / Anson County / Monroe, NC / Lancaster County Water & Sewer District

### Regional Water Quality Preventative Maintenance Program

**What are we doing?** In a continuing effort to distribute high-quality, potable water, the above listed water utilities will conduct a routine Water Quality Preventative Maintenance Program. This program will involve temporarily switching water disinfectants from the present chloramines to chlorine in order to optimize water quality within the distribution systems.

**When** Monday, February 25, 2019 through Sunday, March 31, 2019

**Where** Health Springs, and Kershaw, and unincorporated areas of Lancaster County served by LCWSD.

- Union County: Public water systems in Weddington, Wesley Chapel, Waxhaw, Marvin, Indian Trail, Stallings, Wingate, Marshville, Fairview, Unionville, and unincorporated areas of Union County served by Union County Public Works.

- Anson County: Public water systems in Wadesboro, Morven, Lilesville, Peachland, Polkton, Marshville, & Ansonville, and unincorporated areas of Anson County, as well as portions of Richmond County and Chesterfield County, SC, served by Anson County Public Works.

- Monroe: Public water system in Monroe, NC

**Comments** During the Preventative Maintenance Program, some water customers may notice temporary taste, color or odor differences in their water. This is a normal component of the process and customers should be reassured that water quality is not affected and remains safe for drinking, bathing, cooking and other general uses. Most customers will notice no change.

**There are three groups of water users that should take special precautions during the Preventative Maintenance Program:**

- 1) kidney dialysis providers/patients,
- 2) fish, pond, pool and aquarium owners/ operators, and
- 3) some businesses that use water in their production process.

**Those who fall in to any of the above categories are strongly encouraged to seek professional advice concerning the removal methods for chlorine and chloramines from their water supply.**

This maintenance program is being performed at this time of year when water usage is low, as to limit stress on the system. You may see crews performing flushing operations at hydrants to ensure chlorinated water is dispersed through the entire water system.

When the program is completed on March 31, the disinfection process will be switched back to chloramines. For further information or with specific questions, residents may contact their local water provider.

These organizations work in cooperation with one another to provide potable drinking water to portions of the 5-county region including Union, Anson, and Richmond counties in North Carolina and Lancaster and Chesterfield counties in South Carolina.

For more information on these utilities, please visit:

- Anson County - [www.co.anson.nc.us](http://www.co.anson.nc.us)
- Lancaster County Water & Sewer District - [www.lcwasd.org](http://www.lcwasd.org)
- Union County - [www.unioncountync.gov](http://www.unioncountync.gov)
- City of Monroe - [www.monroenc.org](http://www.monroenc.org)

## CARPET CLEANING

\$229<sup>95</sup> Per Room

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