

Is That a Bear Den? Do Not Disturb!

Wildlife Agency Offers Help to Identify Bear Dens and Suggests Actions if One is Discovered

What may initially appear to be just a pile of brush, a crawl space or a hollowed-out tree, may actually be the winter home of a bear, and possibly its cubs. If disturbed by humans, a bear may be inadvertently flushed from the den, and if it's a female bear with cubs, she may orphan her cubs if humans do not leave the area immediately. Biologists at the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) recommend, if someone encounters a bear den, to remain calm, leave the area quickly and quietly, and do not disturb the den for the rest of the winter season.

Black bears are very resourceful in finding places to shelter from November through April as cubs are born and cold weather lingers. Dens come in many types and sizes, and exist in both wooded and developed areas, including neighborhoods. Bears have even been known to slumber in backyard brush piles, under decks and in crawl spaces. Black bears also use rock and tree cavities and excavations under fallen trees, or they build ground nests for their



long winter nap. If the den is found under a deck, shed or crawl space, leave the area and call the NC Wildlife Helpline at 866-318-2401, or contact your local district wildlife biologist for further guidance. But in almost all cases, the best option is to simply stay away from the den area.

"We have experienced an uptick in bears denning under houses and decks over the last 10 years, as well as unleashed dogs disturbing bears in dens," said Colleen Olfenbittel, NCWRC's bear expert. "Homeowners can safely coexist with the bears until they leave the den in the spring. This is because a denning bear is only interested in getting their winter rest or, if it's a female, caring for her cubs. Denning bears are not interested in engaging with people as long as people leave bear dens alone. Disturbances by humans or their pets may cause the bear to leave permanently and orphan her cubs."

NCWRC staff have been receiving reports from the public about the discovery of bear dens since November. In one case, a homeowner discovered a female with newly born cubs underneath their back deck. "The bear seems to have given birth in early January, when the

homeowners were alerted to the sound of cubs crying under their deck," said Ashley Hobbs, NCWRC's statewide BearWise coordinator. "After speaking with the homeowners and inspecting the den site, we recommended the best course of action was to limit disturbance around the deck area until the bear emerges with her cubs in the spring. This will avoid disturbing the female and potentially orphaning the cubs."

Hobbs also developed a plan for the homeowners to close the space under the deck once the bears vacate to prevent future access by bears and other wildlife. "The homeowners were receptive to the recommendations, and supportive of the steps they could take to coexist with the bear family"

If NCWRC staff determine a cub has been orphaned in a den, they will capture and bring it to one of the licensed bear cub rehabilitation facilities with the goal to eventually return it to the wild. Since 1976, NCWRC has been rehabilitating and releasing orphaned black bear cubs through its cub rehabilitation program, which was one of the first of its kind in the country. NCWRC advises if someone believes a cub has been orphaned in a den, to not handle, feed or remove it from the area. Instead, note the location and contact the N.C. Wildlife Helpline at 866-318-2401, or your local district wildlife biologist for further guidance

For more information on black bears visit Bearwise.org.

NC Educational State Forests Transition to Summer Hours of Operation

North Carolina's educational state forests (ESFs) are shifting from the winter schedule to summer hours of operation. With this transition, ESFs resumed weekend operations and visitation hours March 1. Summer hours will remain in effect through Oct. 31. Forest hours of operation are:

- Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Closed Mondays and designated state holidays except Good Friday and Independence Day.

During summer hours of operation, ESFs also welcome school groups, scouts and others to schedule educational programs covering a variety of topics such as forestry, water, soil and wildlife. A minimum of 10 students are required for educational programs with forest staff. Programs can accommodate as many as 100 students.

For forest contact information and to learn more about forest programming and amenities, visit www.ncesf.org.

Wadesboro Police Department Tip Line - 704-694-2160

This is a release from the Wadesboro Police Department: Chief Chewning and the entire staff of the Wadesboro Police Department are committed to providing the Town of Wadesboro with professional, fair, and effective law enforcement. However, we realize this is only possible through a partnership with the community. We believe this reciprocal partnership must be rooted in trust between the department and you, the citizens we serve. We ask that you trust us with your tips, information, and knowledge, and we will in turn provide you with a safer community that we all call home.

To further those ideals, the Wadesboro Police Department has established a Tip Line, allowing all citizens to directly inform officers. If you have any information about a crime past, present, or future, please call (704) 694-2160 and leave a message with as much detail as possible. If you would allow us to contact you with any follow up questions, please leave your name and number, if not, anonymous tips are fine too. Even if you choose to leave your name, your identity, and any information you provide will remain confidential.

Thank you for helping make our home a better place to work, live, grow, and raise our children.

Chair Exercise Classes at the Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library is hosting chair exercise classes with instructor Sheila Raye on Thursday, March 14 and Thursday, March 28. The classes begin at 10:30 a.m. in the library's Pritchett Room. Everyone is welcome. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

Anson Democratic Party Convention is March 16

There will be a Anson County Democratic Convention on Saturday, March 16 at the Lemuel center in Morven at 10:00 a.m. For more information please contact Henrietta Barringer at 704-690-8494.

Author Mary Jordan at the Hampton B. Allen Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library will be having an author event featuring local author Mary Jordan on Monday, March 18 at 10:30 a.m. in the library's Pritchett Room. Mary has written an interactive coloring book suitable for all ages.

Everyone is invited to come and learn about Mary's writing journey. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

Judy's Tax Service

For Hometown Service And More... See Us In 2024!

- ELECTRONIC FILING
- DIRECT DEPOSIT (Federal & NC State)

Hours: Monday - Friday 9 am - 6 pm
Saturday 9 am - 12 pm

102 South Rutherford Street • Wadesboro, NC

704-694-6342

Anson Schools Sports Update

Anson High School Girls Soccer

• Friday, March 8 - AHS beat North Stanly 3-2. Goal Scorers: Leigha Clarke - assisted by Macayla Mason; Macayla Mason - assisted by Alaysia Caraway; Morgan Burr - unassisted.

We also had Kennedy Ramsuer with a PK (penalty kick) save that won the game and prevented a tie.

Anson High School Golf

• Bearcats beat Parkwood 193-208. Now 2-1 for the season. Huntley Bowers 49, Dylan Kiser 50, Andrew Hill 42, Graham Fowler 58, Mason Tarlton 52, Wesley Lee 48, Riley Terry 50, Lucas Terry 53, Ethan Dillan 58. Other players: Susan Harrington, CJ McCracken, Cam Eddins & Malisa Hammond.

LAMB OF GOD CHURCH

8390 Highway 9, Chesterfield SC 29709
843-623-3777 logomchurch.com
PASTOR ANTONIO & CO-PASTOR CINDIE PATTERSON

We were created for communities and formed for families. Nobody is required to fulfil their destiny alone. You were born for a purpose, and you were made to belong.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT LAMB OF GOD CHURCH

- A FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT
- FREE BREAKFAST EVERY SUNDAY
- SAFE & CREATIVE PROGRAMS FOR KIDS
- MANY OUTREACHES TO GET INVOLVED IN
- RELEVANT & PRACTICAL TEACHING

Join us every Sunday at 11am & Wednesday at 6pm



MOBILE FOOD MARKET

FREE FOOD MONTHLY

THURSDAY MARCH 21 BEGINS AT 4PM

Location: Ansonville Town Hall
8778 US Highway 52 in Ansonville

FRESH VEGETABLES FRUIT AND BREAD (IF AVAILABLE)

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

BLOOD SUGAR CHECKS

OTHER HEALTHY LIVING TOPICS & BOOTHS

Nothing is required for you to receive produce, just come.

Sponsored by NC Cooperative Extension, Anson County, Sandhills Aginnovation, Pilgrim's & Atrium Health
Food given out as supplies last

MARTIN FURNITURE CO.

MARTIN FURNITURE FACTORY OUTLET

Highway 74 West in Wadesboro • 704-694-3185

www.furniturestoreinwadesboronc.com

Mon-Fri 8:30-5
Saturday 8:30-1
Closed Sunday

Pastors...

EVANGELISM TRAINING

APRIL 24 - 27

Host: HARMONY COMMUNITY CHURCH
1984 Pulpwood Yard Road, Peachland, NC 28133 704-272-7410

Pastor: Rocky Carpenter

Teachers: Evangelism Explosion Staff

www.evangelismexplosion.com

(Scholarships are available)

"Have you no wish for others to be saved? Then you are not saved yourself, be sure of that!"

Charles Spurgeon