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**Commission Approves Wildlife Management, Fishing Proposed Regulations Changes**

The NC Wildlife Resources Commission voted on July 12 to take to statewide public hearings 68 proposed changes to the state's wildlife management and fishing regulations for the 2013-2014 seasons. An online comment form also will be available in early August. The wildlife management proposals include creating a one-week Spring Youth Only Wild Turkey Season from the first Saturday in April through the following Friday. The bag limit for this entire week will be one bird. In addition, the Commission is proposing allowing an adult to accompany more than one youth during the Spring Youth Only Wild Turkey Season.

The proposals also include removing restrictions on carrying firearms during the deer bow-and-arrow season and pistols during the muzzleloader season in accordance with state law, and allowing hunting with muzzleloading pistols. Fishing proposals include reclassifying 2.2 miles

of Fires Creek in Clay County and 2.8 miles of Big Snowbird Creek in Graham County to Delayed Harvest Trout Waters.

The proposals also include adding bighead and silver carp to the list of species that are unlawful to transport, purchase, possess, sell or stock into public or private waters. In addition, another proposal reduces the possession limit of American shad in the inland fishing waters of the Cape Fear River and its tributaries to five fish per day within the 10-fish creel for American and hickory shad in combination.

For a complete list of the proposed regulations changes, see the Proposed Changes in Fishing and Wildlife Management Regulations for 2013-2014 for Public Notice and Presentation at Public Hearings document.

The schedule for the closest public hearing is 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 13 at South Stanly High School in Norwood for District 6.

**Legislative Update**

*From Rep. Frank McGuirt:* The General Assembly continues to stay busy, even when we are not in session. There are a number of studies, task forces and interim committees that work in between our regular sessions. This week, I wanted to share some information with you about some of the work going on in the interim concerning issues of interest to some of our older residents. I hope you will find it helpful.

The Consumer Protection Division of the Department of Justice has been directed to form the Task Force on Fraud Against Older Adults. The law (SB 449) requires the task force to examine issues including:

- Identifying, clarifying, and strengthening laws to provide older adults a broader system of protection against fraud and abuse.
- Establishing a statewide system to enable reporting on incidents of fraud and mistreatment of older adults.
- Identifying opportunities for partnership among the Banking Commission, the financial management industry, and law enforcement agencies to prevent fraud against older adults.

Granting the Attorney General authority to initiate prosecutions for fraud against older adults.

A final report from the Task Force to the North Carolina Study Commission on Aging is due by October 1.

The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services will appoint a subcommittee to examine the state's delivery of mental health services. The subcommittee must consider:

- The state's progress in delivering mental health services in integrated settings.
- The state's capacity to meet growing mental health needs.
- The process for determining catchment areas for psychiatric hospitals including managed care organization groupings and alternatives that would increase efficiency and equity.
- The impact of implementing the 1915(b)(c) waiver and other mental health reforms on guardianship roles, responsibilities, relationships, and recommended legislation to transfer State Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities/Substance Abuse Services guardianship responsibilities to county departments of social services.

The subcommittee will report its findings to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services by January 15.

The staff of the General Assembly has been asked to study the feasibility of creating a separate Department of Medicaid. A joint recommendation will be made to the 2013 Regular Session of the General Assembly no later than February 5, and will include a review of the administration of other state Medicaid programs; an analysis of benefits and disadvantages to creating a Department of Medicaid; any adverse impact a Department of Medicaid may have on the administration of other agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services; and an identification of various Medicaid organizational structures, including any associated costs and savings.

The Blue Ribbon Commission on Transitions to Community Living will examine the state's system of community housing and community supports for people with severe mental illness, severe and persistent mental illness, and intellectual and developmental disabilities. The commission will be composed of 32 members. The Commission must appoint a Subcommittee on Housing and a Subcommittee on Adult Care Homes, each composed of 15 members. Reporting requirements include an interim report by October 1, 2012 and a final plan to the General Assembly no later than February 1, 2013.

Southern Business & Development, a leading publication covering and promoting economic development in the American South, announced that North Carolina has been named the "2012 State of the Year." North Carolina is being honored as State of the Year based on its performance in 2011. North Carolina also received this accolade in 2005 and 2006. Southern Business & Development ranks states based on each project announced with a minimum of 200 jobs and/or \$30 million investment. In 2011, North Carolina was successful in landing 89 projects that met or exceeded the publication's threshold, more than any other state. In addition to the state's top ranking, Charlotte was named the 2012 Major Market of the Year and Greensboro-High Point garnered the top spot in the Mid-Market category.

Rep. Larry Brown, a former mayor of Kernersville for eight years, died Thursday. Brown was elected to the House of Representatives in 2005 and was finishing out his final term after losing a primary election. He was a real estate company owner and retired postmaster. He represented parts of Forsyth and Davidson counties.

As always, thank you for your interest in state government and please let me know if I can assist you in any way. 919-715-3007, Frank.McGuirt@ncleg.net

**Brevard College Remembers Supporter Marion Clarke**

In a release by Brevard College: In February 2012 Brevard College in Brevard, NC lost Marion Craig Nifong Clarke, a long time loyal friend and supporter. Mrs. Clarke, who passed away on February 17, 2012, just 41 days shy of her 95th birthday, served as a Brevard College Trustee member from 1965 to 2005. Her support of Brevard College went beyond her service as a Trustee. She generously gave gifts, primarily in support of student scholarships and classroom technology.

"Marion was one of the kindest, most interesting and generous ladies who I have ever had the good fortune of knowing," said Vice President for Advancement Susan Cothorn. "She was a tiny force of a woman who, while well know for the smile that was ever-present on her face, was also known to stand strong and advocate for those beliefs that she held dear. Some of her most closely held passions included Christian education, women's rights advocacy, and education about and protection of the environment."

A native of Anson County, Mrs. Clarke's home was in Wadesboro where she was also an active member of First United Methodist Church.

**Extension Notes Using Wireless Technology During an Emergency**

If you have not yet purchased a smartphone, chances are you are being goaded by friends and co-workers. Technology is changing faster than we can keep up, and cell phones have become personal computers. As consumers increasingly rely on mobile phones and smartphones, these technologies are becoming vital tools for dealing with an emergency. Approximately 70 percent of 911 calls are placed from a mobile phone and 74 percent of consumers have used a mobile phone in an emergency.

According to one recent study, 19 percent of consumers had used their mobile phone to get help in an emergency in the last 30 days. New mobile technologies are giving consumers new choices and new tools they can use to be better prepared.

Consider using smartphones and their options of wireless technology to prepare for and respond to emergency situations. The following are a few great ways your smartphone can work smarter in an emergency.

- Be prepared. Use apps, such as FEMA's emergency preparedness app, to develop and implement emergency preparedness plans for your family, colleagues and loved ones.
- Stay charged. Use solar-powered and hand crank chargers and batteries. These chargers allow you to rely on your electronics and wireless devices even in a power outage.
- Stay connected. Use database and location-based apps to find loved ones during and after a disaster. Register yourself with the American Red Cross "Safe and Well" database and search for other loved ones that have registered to say they are okay.
- Keep it in the Cloud. Store your important documents, such as personal and financial records, in a password-protected area in the Cloud. New cloud services allow you to access your vital information anytime from anywhere with Internet access and to safely store your work where it is not vulnerable to a damaged or left-behind computer.
- Get help. Consider downloading a smartphone global positioning satellite app. GPS phone trackers have the ability to deliver short messages and your GPS pinpoint location to a preferred list of contacts of your choosing in the event of an emergency.
- Use Quick Response (QR) codes. QR code technology can help first responders prevent misdiagnoses and adverse drug reactions in treatment of emergency victims. See and be seen.
- Use your smartphone as a flashlight when the power is down. There are flashlight apps for almost all smartphones (many of them are free) that use either your screen or camera flash to help you find what you need during a power outage or help you to be found. Many flashlight apps even offer a Morse code SOS feature.
- Help others. Apps such as Phone Aid offer a series of quick educational and instructive "how to" slideshows designed to help jog your memory on skills such as administering CPR. It also shows basic first aid measures you may need to perform while you wait for emergency personnel to respond.
- Finally, spread the word. Use social media and smartphone apps to help disseminate information about severe weather in real time and warn others. The NOAA Now app provides weather info from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, including reports of hurricanes, tropical storms, mainland storms and tornado and severe thunderstorm alerts.

By Janine B. Rywak, County Extension Director

**Uptown Wadesboro Farmers Market is Back**

The Uptown Wadesboro Farmers Market is now open every Thursday, from 4 to 6 p.m. on the Square. Everyone is invited to come out to buy locally grown vegetables, meats and homemade goodies. If you would like to sell your produce call 704-695-1644 for more information.

**Artists and Crafters Meeting Every Tuesday**

The Anson County Arts Council holds an arts and crafts workshop each Tuesday, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Olde Mill Gallery at the Lockhart-Taylor Center. Bring your own supplies. The workshop is free, but donations are welcomed. Call 704-694-4950 for more information.

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