

THE 'OUTDOOR LORE' PROGRAM OF THE 2025 DIXIE DEER CLASSIC:

There is something in the Dixie Deer Classic's 'Outdoor Lore' program for everyone. Individuals of all ages attending the DDC, either by themselves or with family, schools, or hunting partners, will find some element(s) of the Outdoor Lore program appealing.

Below are descriptions of the 2026 Dixie Deer Classic Outdoor Lore program sessions. We hope you enjoy the sessions and leave the show with a better understanding of game and non-game species, importance of habitat and ways to interact with nature. Sessions last 45-60 minutes and are held during prescribed times. Live birds of prey and decoy carving are open throughout the show.

IN-PERSON SEMINARS AT THE 2026 DIXIE DEER CLASSIC:

1. TRAPPING COYOTES

About the Presentation: With the rise of coyote populations nationwide, much interest has developed in trapping the animals. Have you ever tried to trap a coyote? It's not easy. Come gain firsthand knowledge from professional trapper Mr. Jimmy Pierce about trapping coyotes. The program will focus on specific techniques, equipment, and methods to get started in trapping coyotes in North Carolina. Also an expert on trapping regulations, Mr. Pierce will discuss the trends in coyote management and provide his own first-hand knowledge of the animal. Further information for trapping coyotes can be found at websites for the North Carolina Trappers Association (<http://www.nctrapper.org/>) and North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commissions (<http://www.ncwildlife.org/Trapping.aspx>).

Presenter: Jimmy Pierce, professional trapper.

About the Presenter: Mr. Jimmy Pierce has been a lifelong hunter, fisherman and trapper in North Carolina. He retired as Captain, in 1997, from the Raleigh Police Department. He is a former president of the North Carolina Trappers Association and currently a professional trapper in central and eastern North Carolina, with a special focus on trapping coyotes. Widely known throughout the trapping and outdoors communities in North Carolina, he is a much respected and consulted expert on coyote trapping. Mr. Pierce is also a prominent member of the North Carolina Trappers Association.

2. OUTDOOR ISSUES BY THE NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER OF BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS & ANGLERS

About the Presentation: This primer offers an overview of key outdoor conservation and access issues affecting hunters, anglers, and public-land users today. Drawing from the work and advocacy of North Carolina Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA), the session highlights the challenges and opportunities facing America's public lands, waters, and wildlife. Topics include public land access, habitat conservation, fair-chase ethics, responsible resource use, and current policy issues that impact hunting and fishing opportunities in North Carolina. The primer will also explore how conservation efforts, sportsmen's advocacy, and stewardship play a role in preserving outdoor traditions for future generations. Designed for both seasoned outdoorsmen and those new to conservation topics, this session provides context and education on issues facing your ability to hunt and fish on public lands. Attendees will gain a better understanding of how outdoor issues intersect with land management, legislation, and

individual responsibility, as well as how organizations like NC BHA work to protect access and wild places.

Presenters: Jordan Linger, Chair; Hunter Owen, Vice Chair; and Ryan Frenia, Treasurer of the North Carolina Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

(<https://www.backcountryhunters.org/Get-Involved/Chapters/north-carolina>).

About the Presenters: Jordan Linger, Chair of NC BHA, was born in Maryland and raised in North Carolina. He grew up fishing rivers, creeks, and streams with his dad from North Carolina up to Maryland whenever he wasn't in school. His family then moved to Ohio during his sophomore year of high school, which is where he really got into hunting for small game and deer. Jordan moved back to the great state of North Carolina in 2010 and now shares his love of all things outdoors with his three children (Claire, Nora, and Nolan), his wife, Beth, and their two English Setters, Cal and Remi. He joined the NC BHA shortly after moving to Winston-Salem where he resides now. Preaching his love of the outdoors, public land and animals that reside there to anyone who will lend an ear. He learned a lot from his Dad and Grandpa who shared classic writings from likes of Theodore Roosevelt, Aldo Leopold and Fred Bear. He loves old school ways of hunting. From traditional archery and muzzleloading while simply just sitting on the ground or still hunting just listening to the woods. While enjoying the classic styles and views of bird hunting with his two English Setters.

Hunter Owen, Vice Chair of NC BHA, lives outside of Sanford, NC with his wife and boys. He works for the military on Fort Bragg. Hunter was born in Wilmington, North Carolina, but spent most of his childhood in Florida. His outdoor experience began at a young age fishing the coast of NC with his grandfather and once in Florida fishing daily on the Gulf of Mexico. In 2006 Hunter joined the Army and spent the bulk of his career at Fort Bragg, NC. After being medically retired and spending a short time living and working in Washington D.C., Hunter packed up his family, and moved back to the land of bright leaf hotdogs. Hunter began Hunting in 2020 after a deployment to Iraq and attending a NCWRC Learn to hunt. He and his family now hunt or has plans to hunt any legal game in the state of North Carolina. Through hunting he became aware of our public lands and the need to conserve these lands through hunting and angling.

Ryan Frenia, Treasurer of NC BHA, is a native of Morehead City, NC, where he grew up stalking the Croatan National Forest, surfing the coastal waves, and angling at the local piers. Some of his fondest memories involve summer escapes to the North Carolina mountains, where he and his father would spend the days fishing for trout. He lives in near Greensboro with his wife and daughter who share his passion for the outdoors. By profession, he's an IT Auditor specializing in data analytics, drawing from his background in operations and his adept coding skills. Despite his tech-savvy career, Ryan relishes escaping the digital world whenever possible. You might spot him trekking the Appalachian Trail with family and friends, bird watching at the coast, or chasing anything from white tail to bushy tails throughout NC public lands.

3. BETTER FISHING

About the Presentation: This primer provides an overview of proven principles and practical adjustments that can help anglers consistently improve their fishing success. Rather than focusing on secret techniques or specialized gear, the session emphasizes understanding fish behavior, environmental conditions, and sound fundamentals. Topics include reading water, seasonal and weather influences, lure and bait selection, presentation, and basic tackle setup. The primer will also cover how factors such as water temperature, structure, depth, and time of day affect where fish are located and how they feed. Ethical angling practices, conservation considerations, and adapting strategies based on results will be emphasized throughout. Designed for both new and experienced anglers, this session offers actionable insights that can

be applied across species and locations. Participants will leave with a stronger foundation for making informed decisions on the water, increasing efficiency, and ultimately enjoying more consistent fishing success.

Presenter: Corey Oakley and Ben Ricks, Biologists with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission and hosts of the 2 Bald Biologists podcast (<https://www.ncwildlife.gov/2BB>).

About the Presenters: Avid anglers Corey Oakley and Ben Ricks are North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission biologists. Check out this seminar and be sure to listen in on their podcast as they help anglers understand more about the fish and fisheries in North Carolina while promoting conservation of valuable natural resources. Their monthly podcasts link the research and surveys conducted by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to fishing in North Carolina. Their hope is to help anglers learn more about fish, so they can catch more fish. Their podcast regularly hosts expert guests which include biologists, anglers, and fishing industry professionals to talk fish and fishing in North Carolina. Questions can be asked directly to them at the Dixie Deer Classic, and you can always send questions and feedback to address on their show to twobaldbiologists@ncwildlife.org.

4. LONG DISTANCE SHOOTING

About the Presentation: This seminar provides an introduction to the core principles behind accurate and consistent long-distance shooting. Designed for hunters and precision-shooting enthusiasts, the session focuses on understanding the science and fundamentals rather than advanced tactics. Topics will include rifle and optic basics, proper shooting position, fundamentals of marksmanship, understanding ballistics, and how factors like distance, gravity, and wind affect a projectile in flight. Attendees will also gain a foundational understanding of zeroing, scope adjustments, and data tracking, with an emphasis on repeatable and ethical shooting practices. This session is ideal for those looking to build a solid knowledge base before extending their effective shooting range or participating in further training. Participants will leave with a clearer understanding of what long-distance shooting entails, the skills required to do it responsibly, and how to continue learning and practicing safely.

Presenter: Pual Smith, Owner & Operator of Frontline Defense Firearms Training Center & Range (<https://www.frontlinedefenseusa.com/>).

About the Presenter: Paul Smith is a Gulf War veteran and a top graduate of both the US Army and FBI Sniper Schools. He founded Frontline Defense Firearms Training Center and Range, a NC veteran-owned facility. Paul got his start in the military with the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, where he quickly sharpened both his leadership and tactical skills. He deployed to the Middle East with the 24th Infantry Division during Operation Desert Shield/Storm and later served with the 509th Pathfinders. At Frontline Defense, Paul teaches courses that range from introductory long-range rifle training to concealed carry. The intro to Long Range Rifle class, co-taught with competitor Dale Campo, is designed to help shooters ring steel out to 1,000 yards, prepare for a hunting trip, competition, or personal development.

5. MASTERCLASS IN DOVE FIELDS AND WATERFOWL IMPOUNDMENTS

About the Presentation: This seminar focuses specifically on the technical design, planting, and management of dove fields and duck impoundments to maximize your hunting success. Whether you are starting with a dry field or a complex wetland, this session covers proven strategies to hold birds from opening day through the late season. We will dive deep into site selection, crop selection tailored for inland flyways—ranging from sunflowers and millets to rice and moist-soil vegetation. Our discussion will cover specialized planting methods, water level manipulation, and the common pitfalls that lead to empty skies. We'll also integrate these plots

into a comprehensive land-management plan, ensuring your timing aligns perfectly with migration patterns and bird nutritional requirements. This seminar is designed for hunters and landowners seeking practical, real-world guidance on engineering habitat that produces results. Attendees will leave with a clear blueprint for building effective habitats that support healthier wildlife and unforgettable hunts. Food plots are critical for ensuring successful hunts, as well as building and maintaining appropriate wildlife populations. This seminar will focus on designing, planting, and managing food plots to improve wildlife habitat and increase hunting success. Whether you're new to food plots or looking to refine your approach, this session will cover proven strategies that attract and hold game throughout the season. This seminar is ideal for hunters, landowners, and outdoor enthusiasts who want practical, real-world guidance they can apply immediately. Attendees will leave with a clearer understanding of how to build effective food plots that support healthier wildlife and better hunts.

Presenter: Thomas Moore, Creator and Youtuber Star of Yellowlab247 Outdoors.
(https://www.youtube.com/@Yellowlab247_Outdoors).

About the Presenter: With a life-long passion for natural resources that evolved into a career managing and inspecting lakes, ponds, wetlands, Thomas Moore is a professional stormwater consultant by day, but you might know him as the creator and YouTube star at Yellowlab247 Outdoors. At Yellowlab247 Outdoors, Thomas aims to inspire the public to create successful dove fields and duck properties by sharing practical, real-world experiences in land cultivation, hunting, and making the most of available resources and equipment. Professionally he operates Lentic Services LLC, and is dedicated to helping others cultivate thriving ecosystems. His work bridges the gap between professional land management and personal sporting passions.

LIVE-ANIMAL AND DECOY DISPLAYS AT THE 2025 DIXIE DEER CLASSIC:

1. AMERICAN WILDLIFE REFUGE'S BIRDS OF PREY

About the Display: Come see the majestic beauty of some of Earth's greatest hunters: birds of prey! Mr. Steve Stone and other members of the American Wildlife Refuge have several birds on display at this year's Dixie Deer Classic. Members of the American Wildlife Refuge will teach and answer questions about the birds of prey on display, as well as tell the amazing stories of their rescues and dispel common misconceptions about birds of prey. Close-up viewing of the animal is allowed when possible, and photos with the birds will be permitted as possible and for a fee. More information on the services of the American Wildlife Refuge can be found at <http://www.awrefuge.org>.

Presenter: Steve Stone, Director of the American Wildlife Refuge.

About the Presenter: Steve Stone has served as Director of the American Wildlife Refuge since 2001. He has Federal and State licenses to rescue hawks, eagles, owls, falcons, and many other types of birds. He is also licensed to keep birds of prey for educational shows. Through his care and work, many orphaned or injured raptors are returned to the wild, healthy and able. Mr. Stone has worked with many species of raptors that few in North Carolina have ever seen and has rehabilitated over 1,000 birds, which he shows to thousands of students each year through outdoor and educational venues. To date, his 1000+ educational shows have been seen by approximately 1.5 million people. Mr. Stone regularly instructs North Carolina Wildlife officers and State Park Rangers courses in raptor recognition and handling. He also regularly teaches a college course that is recognized by the NC Veterinary Board and the US Department of Interior for professional education credit.

2. DECOY CARVING/THE CORE SOUND DECOY CARVERS GUILD

About the Display: The Core Sound Decoy Carvers Guild will be demonstrating traditional Core Sound carving techniques and answering any questions that you may have. They will have various decoys and information about the Guild including events planned for the Annual Core Sound Decoy Festival in Harkers Island, North Carolina. For additional information on the Core Sound Decoy Carvers Guild, visit: www.decoyguild.com.

Presenter: Steve Hamilton, Core Sound Decoy Carvers Guild.

About the Presenter: Steve Hamilton is both an avid waterfowler and carver whose works are carved using traditional methods and materials of the Core Sound area. Steve does not limit his carving to ducks alone, but also makes shorebirds and canvas-covered waterfowl. He will often incorporate salvaged materials from local marshes as well as historic structures and vessels into his decorative pieces which give them a bit of historical significance. He is currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Core Sound Decoy Carver Guild. His pieces can be found in many collections and hunting rigs throughout the United States.