



Welcome

On behalf of the Banquet Committee and the Board of Directors of the Yadkin Valley Wildlife Federation Chapter GP450 of Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation, I would like to welcome everyone to our 2023 Fourteenth Annual Fundraising Banquet. Our goal this evening is to provide our guests an opportunity for fun and fellowship to raise funds for our Chapter's activities for the 2023-24 year. We have a delicious meal planned, some fun raffles and great auction items for purchase.

We especially welcome our North Carolina Wildlife Officers from the surrounding area. These men and women put their lives on the line every time they enter a field to check hunting licenses or board a boat for a safety inspection. Thanks for your service and dedication to protecting our wildlife, outdoorsmen and habitat.

YADKIN VALLEY WILDLIFE FEDERATION 14TH ANNUAL CONSERVATION BANQUET COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN - BRUCE THOMAS

Richard Harrington
Michael Sprinkle
Kurt Hemrick

Don Stroud
Rob Swink
Trey Eller

Randall Patterson
Josh Powell
Kristian Blackburn

Special Recognition

It takes a lot of people and hard work to put on a banquet like this evening. We would like to thank the following for their many hours planning this event and the financial donations and gifts-in-kind they have provided.

Matt O'Bryant - CE Print Solutions for print services

Randy Gentry - Clark's Barbecue in Kernersville for our delicious steak dinner

Jimmy Mundy of Jimmy Mundy Auction Co. for being our auctioneer

Steve Hartzog - RCR Racing for assistance in set-up for the Banquet

Bryan Tucker, Julie Pittman & Bill Bennett - Gallery of Guns - galleryofguns.com

QUWF National founder and Executive Director Craig Alderman

Boy Scout Troop 221 sponsored by Shiloh United Methodist Church for the Flag Ceremony

N.C. QUWF State Council

Sponsors and Corporate Partners - listed on separate page



Additionally, we want to honor and thank our public safety and first responders who provide the opportunity for us to hold this banquet by their commitment to our freedom and safety to our community, town, state and country.

- Thanks to our military and all veterans for their service to our country.
- Our local, State and Federal Law Enforcement, Firefighters, EMT's and first responders

Who Are We?

We are the **YADKIN VALLEY WILDLIFE FEDERATION**, a local chapter of the national organization **Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation**, serving Davidson, Forsyth, Yadkin, Rowan, Guilford and Stokes Counties. We are a group of like-minded sportsmen, actively supporting all types of conservation efforts with sporting and community events for adults and youth planned throughout the year. If you would like to join in our endeavors, we would love to have you become a member of our chapter. Membership is open to all; the only qualifications are a desire for upland wildlife habitat restoration and membership in our national organization. If you would like to be part of the chapter, **come by the Membership Table here at the banquet and complete an application.**

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide low-cost seed for quail and upland wildlife food plantings to develop habitat for wild populations of bobwhite quail and other upland wildlife and local fisheries. We strive to educate future generations in the importance of habitat to support these populations. We also believe involving youth and adults alike in the community of outdoor sports is paramount to achieving these tasks. Working together with hunters and fishermen benefits each of our respective species. **Together we can accomplish more.**



2023 Fourteenth Annual YVWF Conservation Banquet Agenda

- 5:30 pm** **Doors open - Bucket Brigade** - Visit our Raffle Ticket Tables to purchase sheets of tickets.
Youth Bucket Brigade - 25 FREE tickets provided to each youth at check-in.
Silent Auction – Bigger Than Ever . . . ***Ends at 7:30 pm!***
Visit Yadkin Valley Wildlife Membership Table to update your membership info or join if you are not already a member; membership starts at only \$35.00.
- 6:30 pm** **Flag Ceremony** - Boy Scouts Troop 221
Welcome, Opening Remarks, Chapter Overview & Special Recognitions – Trey Eller
Invocation – Brad Coe
- 6:45 pm** **Buffet Dinner** - Listen for your table number. Please remain seated until your table is called.
NC Wildlife Resource Commission Report – Scott Strickland, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) update.
Membership Report & Promo – Rob Swink
Election of Chapter Officers & Board – Rob Swink
Scholarship Award – Rob Swink
Fun Trial Dog of the Year - Sammy Mickel
Corporate Partners, Sponsors & Banquet Committee - Richard Harrington
Sponsors Only Gun Raffle Drawing – Richard Harrington
Pick of the Litter Drawing – Michael Sprinkle
- 7:30 pm** **Silent Auction Ends – WINNERS WILL BE POSTED IN THE SILENT AUCTION AREA AT 8:00PM**
- 7:30 pm** **Live Auction** - Jimmy Mundy
- 8:00 pm** **Silent Auction Winners Posted** – Michael Sprinkle
- 8:30 pm** **Bucket Brigade Drawings** – Rob Swink & Greg Cardwell



The Chairman's Corner

Good evening and thank you for joining the Yadkin Valley Wildlife Federation for our 14th Annual Banquet. Thank you to all who have taken time to join us in fellowship tonight. What a great year of wildlife preservation, promotion of conservation, and enjoyment of the outdoors we have to celebrate.

Last year I shared with you the sentiment of that happy tiredness that follows the many things we do to enjoy the outdoors. While in the field for a hunt not long ago, I succumbed to some personal issues and was unable to continue that day. I am sure many of you can imagine the disappointment and unsettling sadness of potentially not being able to continue a hunt, much less potentially not hunting from now on; to miss that "happy tiredness". While the setback was temporary (thankfully), it was no less heartbreaking in the moment. I have gratefully enjoyed being afield again, so I say this not to commiserate, but rather to remind all of us to celebrate the few moments we have in this world to enjoy God's creations and the fruits of our own labors in doing so. More importantly, that gift is increased many fold when we share it with others and help plant the seeds of someone else's "happy tiredness". I wish you all good health and continued enjoyment of the Great Outdoors.

Thank you to RCR Racing and Richard Childress for the use of this venue. It is greatly appreciated.

I want to thank Greg Cardwell, Richard Harrington, and Chris Lawson for leading our 2023 Seed Distribution Program. The 2023 Seed Distribution program issued seed exceeding a value of over \$20,000. Annually, this event has the greatest impact on Wildlife of the events we do. Seed is distributed free to individuals and preserves that are willing to plant and not harvest for the benefit of wildlife. We approach 30,000 acres of total habitat benefit with this program. Thank you for your commitment to such a critical element of our mission.

I would like to thank Sammy Mickel for his commitment to our chapter's Memorial Fun Trials. We look forward to Sammy releasing the Fun Trial Schedule Soon.

We hosted our first Game Banquet this year in February. With presentations on wildlife, a pot-luck feast of wild game, and well over 50 participants. This event was a huge hit and will be planned for again in the future so



please set aside a little of this year's harvest to enjoy with others at the banquet.

Don Stroud led efforts to support youth with two fishing derbies at Yadkinville Park at the Yadkinville YMCA, youth hunts, and shooting training. Don facilitates these events to introduce youth to the benefits of Wildlife Conservation and the joys of the great outdoors. Thank you, Don, and those that have helped over the years with these events.

This year we also awarded three college scholarships. The recipients are listed in this year's program. We thank all the applicants for their interest and want to highlight the successes of those that go the extra mile to work with, promote, share, and encourage Wildlife Conservation and a love of the Outdoors and responsible Sportsmanship. Congratulations to this year's recipients.

After missing a year, the Chapter was able to once again put on an Opening Day and Labor Day dove shoot thanks to Myron Mitchell of Mitchell Wealth Management and his partnership with our Chapter. Finding private property, suitable for dove shooting and capable of accommodating a 40-gun hunt is very difficult to find but Myron's family farm is such a place with a long history of annual Labor Day dove hunts dating back to 1965. Myron is committed to keeping the dove hunting tradition alive on his farm and the Yadkin Valley Wildlife Federation is pleased to partner with Myron and the dove hunting tradition.

Other great events included: a 5-Stand Shoot at River Ranch, Dove Hunting, a Youth Dove Hunt, the State Council Pheasant Tower Shoot, Youth Trout & Catfishing events.

Please join me in thanking this year's Banquet committee: Bruce Thomas, Richard Harrington, Randall Patterson, Josh Powell, Mike Sprinkle, Kurt Hemrick, Don Stroud, Trey Eller, Kristian Blackburn and Rob Swink. Thanks also to Randy Gentry, and his team for cooking, and Bill Cowan for helping handle firearms.

Be sure to like and share us on Facebook at Yadkin Valley Wildlife Federation page or check us out at <https://yadkinvalleywildlife.com/>

Rob Swink



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2023 Yadkin Valley Wildlife Federation Scholarship Program

Yadkin Valley QUWF Chapter 450 is in its sixth year of providing scholarships to young people in our community. We hope you see our commitment to sowing the seeds for our future generations, so they can have a connection with our conservation efforts and heritage. Through our Scholarship Committee we have defined our requirements and stepped up our commitment. Next year we will have scholarships available.

This year we awarded up to three (3) scholarships. Deadline for next year's applications is **MAY 1, 2024**. Please submit all applications to Rob Swink at robswink92@gmail.com.

**We are proud to honor this year's
Yadkin Valley QUWF Scholarship Winners**

Bailey Ann Roach - \$3,000

Sara Mickel - \$1,500

Tyler Cox - \$1000

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS!



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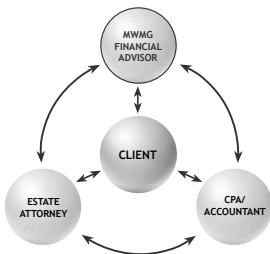
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