

OUTDOORS

DNR offers tips on how to be 'Bear Wise'

Did you know that black bears rarely become aggressive when encountered by people? Human-bear encounters take place every day in Georgia, but the majority of reported situations involving bears can effectively be handled over the phone or by simply encouraging people to become BearWise, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division.

"Avoiding problems with bears is usually simple, though it may not always be convenient," says Adam Hammond, WRD's state bear biologist. "One of the six BearWise Basics is about securing food, garbage and recycling. When bears have access to human-provided foods, regardless of the source or the intent, they will take advantage of them and that often leads to further

problems."

So, why is it such a big deal? A bear that repeatedly finds food from garbage cans, bird feeders, and pet food bowls is unlikely to leave, and will become bolder in its search for easy food. This can lead to potential property damage of homes, garages, vehicles and more. Once bears have learned bad habits and have come to rely on people for a "free meal," they never change those behaviors and nuisance bear behavior progressively gets worse with time and experience. If you really care about bears, please make the extra effort to ensure that your home and yard are "unattractive" to bears - to protect yourself, your family and pets, and bears.

BearWise is an education program developed by bear biologists from each of the 15 state wildlife agencies

that make up the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA). The program, anchored by the website www.bearwise.org, offers citizens specific, detailed, and high-quality information to help people live responsibly with bears and to keep bears wild. Check out the BearWise website and learn more about how to respond to specific types of bear encounters and more about the Six BearWise Basics.

The black bear is a symbol of Georgia's natural diversity, the only bear found in the state and a conservation success story. Though now considered the most common bear in North America, the species was nearly eradicated from Georgia in the 1930s due to unregulated market hunting, illegal harvest - including the killing of bears as

"vermin," and large-scale habitat loss. Sound wildlife management practices have restored Georgia's black bears to a thriving population estimated at 4,100 bears statewide.

Black bears may legally be hunted during the season, which occurs each fall in Georgia in certain areas (www.georgiawildlife.com/hunting/regulations). However, the taking of bears during any other time of the year or the taking of bears illegally during the hunting season is called poaching. Prevent poaching of bears by reporting any illegal activity. Information can be reported by email, phone or in person. Visit <http://gadnrle.org/ranger-hotline> for details.

For more information on how to live responsibly with bears, visit www.bearwise.org.

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New state-record spotted sunfish caught in Sumter County

Any day spent fishing is a good day. A day you catch a new state record is great! Jacob Hornaday of DeSoto, Ga is the new state record holder for the spotted sunfish. His catch, weighed 11 oz, beating the previous record of 10 oz, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division (WRD).

The angler hooked this new state record spotted sunfish on a private pond on April 28, 2019 using a beetle spin lure. Jacob wanted to have the fish weight certified, so went directly to

the Cordele Hatchery. The hearty size fish was weighed and then returned to the water to get bigger for another day!

"Georgia has such great fishing opportunities, and we love to hear about this kind of exciting news," says Matt Thomas, Chief of Fisheries for the Wildlife Resources Division. "This is our first state record of 2019, and I hope it encourages all anglers to get outdoors and go fish Georgia!"

Spotted sunfish (*Lepomis punctatus*) are found in warm waters throughout

Georgia. They have a compressed body with a rounded profile, olive green back and sides, and a yellow to orange belly. The ear flap is short and dark with a pale margin. They can be distinguished from all other sunfish by the numerous small dark to reddish spots on the sides that follow the scale rows, scattered dark spots on the cheek, and a distinct blue crescent mark on the lower margin of the eye.

Georgia anglers support fisheries conservation! Did you know that your license purchase allows the Georgia

WRD to continue to do important research, maintain and operate public fishing areas and more? Purchase a Georgia license at <https://goutdoorsgeorgia.com/>.

For fishing tips, be sure to check out the weekly Fishing Blog post at <https://georgiawildlife.blog/category/fishing/>.

Information about state-record fish, including an application and rules, can be found at <https://georgiawildlife.com/fishing/recordprogram/rules> or in the current Sport Fishing Regulations Guidebook.

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Homerville Police Department enforcing ATV, golf cart codes

Homerville Police Department has begun enforcing the city's code on golf carts and ATV's on roads within the city limits. Several complaints have come into the police department about the misuse of golf carts and ATV's.

HPD Chief Hanson said that punishment issued could be a warning, a citation, or impounding

the golf cart of ATV, depending on the nature of the violation. He also said that golf cart and ATV owners will be responsible for fines if a minor is caught in violation of the code.



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Clinch County Board of Education Tentative Budget July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

	General Fund	Special Revenue Funds	Total
Estimated Revenues:			
Local Revenues	\$ 5,358,025.00	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 5,401,025.00
State Revenues	8,817,518.00	414,200.00	9,231,718.00
Federal Revenues	-	2,466,067.00	2,466,067.00
Other Sources	-	15,080.00	15,080.00
Total Estimated Revenues	\$ 14,175,543.00	\$ 2,938,347.00	\$ 17,113,890.00
Estimated Expenditures:			
Instruction	\$ 8,405,203.00	\$ 1,600,111.00	\$ 10,005,314.00
Pupil Services	893,045.00	89,345.00	982,390.00
Improvement of Instruction	360,363.00	20,405.00	380,768.00
Instructional Staff Training	67,197.00	190,045.00	257,242.00
Media Services	190,438.00	38,089.00	228,527.00
Federal Grant Administration	123,800.00	16,437.00	140,237.00
General Administration	405,188.00	2,265.00	407,453.00
School Administration	874,633.00	-	874,633.00
Business Support Services	387,925.00	-	387,925.00
Maintenance & Operation	1,552,903.00	-	1,552,903.00
Student Transportation	763,393.00	63,700.00	827,093.00
Central Support Services	93,400.00	200.00	93,600.00
Other Support Services	36,865.00	-	36,865.00
School Nutrition Services	6,110.00	917,750.00	923,860.00
Facilities Acquisition & Imp.	-	-	-
Other Uses	15,080.00	-	15,080.00
Total Estimated Expenditures	\$ 14,175,543.00	\$ 2,938,347.00	\$ 17,113,890.00
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Estimated Fund Balance - July 1, 2019	\$ 4,500,000.00	\$ 186,000.00	\$ 4,686,000.00
Estimated Fund Balance - June 30, 2020	\$ 4,500,000.00	\$ 186,000.00	\$ 4,686,000.00

The Clinch County School System budget for 2019-2020 will be considered for final adoption by the board during the special called board meeting at 5:30 p.m., June 4, 2019, at the Board of Education office, 46 College Street, Homerville, Georgia, 31634.

The general public is invited to attend.