

Wildlife Afield

By Jim Dean NC Wildlife Resources Commission

Scott Osborne is one of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's game biologists, and like many sportsmen, he is concerned about the image the public has of the hunter. "I'm afraid some of the non-hunting public has a rather poor opinion of hunters and hunting," said Scott recently. "Furthermore, I think this poor image is the direct result of a rather small segment of hunters we call slob hunters. The slob hunter, though in the minority, is highly visible. He's the guy who openly breaks the law, who flaunts his lack of regard for wildlife laws, who has no regard for the rights of others and often trespasses on private, posted land."

To Scott, what to do about the slob hunter is one of the biggest problems facing other legitimate hunters. Finding a way to rid ourselves of slob hunters is not easy, but Scott has given the matter a lot of thought and he's come up with some sound ideas.

He puts the burden directly on the backs of legitimate sportsmen who hunt legally and care about a sound future for wildlife populations. "The legitimate hunter must take the initiative," says Scott. "He must not only demonstrate good hunting practices himself; he must also convince the slob hunting minority that they must shape up or lose their opportunities to hunt (along with the rest of us.)."

Scott outlines 10 excellent steps which he considers basic.

(1) First, above all, hunters should try to establish good relationships with landowners and express a genuine interest in the farmer's land and his operation. If the farmer knows the hunter cares about and understands his problems, better relations will result.

(2) In asking permission to hunt, hunters should learn what species of game the landowner wants protected. Once this has been established the hunter must never harvest any species except those agreed upon in advance.

(3) In requesting permission to hunt, the hunter should offer to always check with the landowner in advance of EACH hunting trip. Some farmers, once they get to know and trust you, may simply let you hunt without checking before every trip, but it's always a good idea to ask. It may also be a good idea to check with the farmer each time after you've finished hunting.

(4) Hunters should never bring a friend or friends to hunt unless this has been

cleared with the landowner in advance. This is one of the landowner's pet peeves because many "friends" assume wrongly that they also have the right to return and hunt alone later. They don't.

(5) Hunters should offer to report to the landowner any misuse or abuse of his property that is encountered during a hunting trip. This might include trespass, damage to property or other abuse.

(6) It is also a good idea for hunters to invite landowners to hunt with them. Some landowners may like to hunt; but for many reasons (lack of dogs or companionship), they may get little opportunity. They will appreciate your sincere offer; and you may develop a long, mutual friendship that will be fruitful for both of you.

(7) Hunters should inform landowners that they will use only roads, tractor paths or trails that already exist. Four-wheel drive vehicles are nice, but they should not be used to cross fields or pastures. Avoid driving on roads, paths and trails when the weather is extremely wet and bad ruts could be created.

(8) Hunters should offer the landowner part of their kill. Most landowners will decline; but even if they occasionally accept, it is a very small price to pay for a good place to hunt.

(9) At all costs, avoid leaving any litter on the landowners property or anywhere else for that matter. If you see where someone else has left some litter, take a little time to clean it up.

(10) Hunters should keep in mind that farming entails great expense, and even minor things can make a big difference. If gates are shut, leave them shut when you use them. Never damage a fence while climbing it. Be especially careful of shooting towards buildings or domestic animals.

"I firmly believe that any person who obeys the law and truly makes an effort to follow the above practices will always have a place to hunt," says Scott. "I know these things have worked for me



New North Carolina Map

Department of Natural and Economic Resources artist Wayne Creech is shown with the travel guide side of the new official State Map. The map offers a new concept in that the back side is a complete guide to many of the travel

opportunities in the Tar Heel State. The North Carolina Travel Development Section and the Department of Transportation combined efforts to produce the map. N&ER Photo by Jim Page

Bishop Speaks On Uganda Terror

BY BECKY LUNSFORD
Bishop Festo Kivengere was in Asheville last week speaking at the Billy Graham Crusade and the Crusade School of Evangelism. He has been in the United States approximately two weeks, since fleeing Uganda, where last month President Carter intervened to save the lives of 200 Americans who live there. Kivengere reported to the crowd of 9,000 at the Crusade Saturday night that on February 16, he was with his Arch Bishop when Idi Amin summoned the Arch Bishop. Later that day the Arch Bishop was shot for his faith in Jesus. "Was this a tragedy?" Kivengere asked. "No!" he emphatically stated. "Not a tragedy, but his glory to follow this way, in the footprints of Jesus."

Kivengere shared with the students at the Crusade School of Evangelism that he and his wife escaped for their lives by walking many miles over the mountains at night into Kenya. Afterwards, in a conversation with the Bishop, he told me that he still has one daughter in Uganda and that he would be unable to return to his home unless there was a change in the political situa-

tion in Uganda.

We certainly have much to be thankful for here. Yet life in Jesus is a pearl of great price, worthy of giving everything we have to obtain it.

Kivengere pointed out that the testimony of the church continues to be sealed by the blood of martyrs.

Kivengere told me that he was leaving the United States

immediately to rejoin his wife in London, England. Before Bishop Kivengere left, Billy Graham stated that it was a very great privilege to have this man in our country.

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Photography II (Printing)	Tu. April 26, 7:00P.M.	Yancey Learning Center
Upholstery	Tu. April 19, 6:30p P.M.	Newdale Community Center
Upholstery	Tu. March 29, 9:00 A.M.	Little Ck. Community Center
Adult Basic Education	Mon. April 4, 6:00P.M.	Green Mountain
Adult Basic Education	Tu. April 5, 7:00P.M.	Beelog Elementary School
Adult Basic Education	Tu. April 5, 6:30P.M.	Bald Creek Elementary
Adult Basic Education	Tu. April 5, 3:30P.M.	South Toe Elementary
Adult Basic Education	Fri. April 1, 9:00A.M.	Yancey Learning Center

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