



# North Carolina

First Quarter 2013

# Hunter Education Program



*The men and women who volunteer as hunter education instructors serve as teachers, mentors and coaches. The service they deliver is, quite literally, lifesaving.*



## The 2012 Instructors of the Year

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission has recognized nine volunteers who teach hunting education as the agency's "Instructors of the Year."

The instructors, each representing one of nine districts statewide, were presented a commemorative model Henry Golden Boy .22 caliber rifle in tribute to their service in ceremonies held in their home communities.

The rifles have been personalized for the Hunter Education Program, with inscriptions and sequenced serial numbers to recognize the outstanding effort of each instructor. Each presentation was held at the districts' awards ceremonies.

Everyone recognizes that 2012 was a very successful year and all volunteer efforts greatly contributed to this.

A look at the 2012 numbers:

- Active Instructors - 940
- Volunteer Instructor Hours - 26,033
- Volunteer Instructor Mileage - 136,747
- Total In-Kind Match - \$815,636
- New Instructors Certified - 405
- Live Fire Students - 16,956
- Students Certified, Instructor-Led Courses - 17,469
- Students Certified, Internet Courses - 1,777
- Total Reported - 19,246



**D-2 Rudy Simeone** with Capt. Rick Venable, Chris Kent and Sgt. Charles Smith



**D-1 Karen Harrell** with Lt. Tim Hardy, Sgt. Mark Cagle, David Denton and William Laton



**D-5 Mike Drummer** with Sgt. Cam Ingram, Barry Joyce, Capt. Billy Holland, Nathan Green, Tony Passmore, Darrell Johnson, Lt. Robert Sharpe and Brandon Lyon



**D-8 David Allen**



**D-9 Gary Blackwell**



**D-6 Tom Kearns**



**D-7 Mike Ely**



**D-3 Duncan Tatum** with Hilton Best and Lt. Jeff Hale



**D-4 Donald Allen**

# Hunter Education Program Welcomes New Captains

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission has promoted four wildlife officers to the rank of captain, with responsibilities to supervise enforcement operations for hunting, inland fishing and boating, and coordinate boating safety and hunter education programs.



Col. Dale Caveny with Capt. Todd Radabaugh

Todd Radabaugh is captain for District 2, a jurisdiction made up of Pitt, Beaufort, Greene, Lenoir, Duplin, Pender, New Hanover, Onslow, Jones, Carteret, Pamlico and Craven counties. A 22-year veteran with the Wildlife Commission, Capt. Radabaugh was previously a lieutenant in the district. He will attend the FBI National Academy in January.



Col. Dale Caveny with Capt. Matthew Long

Matthew Long is captain for District 3, a jurisdiction made up of Wake, Johnston, Wayne, Franklin, Nash, Wilson, Edgecombe, Vance, Warren, Halifax and Northampton counties. Capt. Long was previously a lieutenant in District 4. A 22-year veteran with the Division of Enforcement, Long is the first Wildlife Commission officer to graduate from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va.



Col. Dale Caveny with Capt. Michael Hatley

Michael Hatley is captain for District 8, a jurisdiction made up of Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln, McDowell, Mitchell, Yancey and Rutherford counties. A 22-year veteran with the Commission, he was previously a lieutenant in the district.



Col. Dale Caveny with Capt. Robert Sharpe

Robert Sharpe is captain for District 5, a jurisdiction made up of Rockingham, Guilford, Randolph, Caswell, Alamance, Chatham, Lee, Person, Orange, Granville and Durham counties. Sharpe was previously a lieutenant in the district and brings more than 10 years of supervisory experience to his new position.



# On Target with the State Hunter Education Coordinator

The Greek philosopher, Aristotle, is commonly quoted with saying “the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.” We each bring our different talents and outlooks to situations that allow us to solve problems and adapt to situations collectively that we might not be able to overcome individually. In this issue of the Hunter Education Program newsletter we recognize many parts of the whole that have shaped the Hunter Education Program into what it is today.

The program proudly recognizes the nine volunteer instructors of the year. These instructors have tirelessly given to create avenues of safe hunting. The individuals recognized have, in some way, strengthened hunting safety and education in their districts and sent many students down the avenue of conservation and safe hunting traditions.

Tradition is defined as “the handing down of statements, beliefs, customs, from generation to generation by word of mouth and by practice.” Hunting is a tradition, and as hunter education instructors, we are charged with passing safe hunting practices on to other generations and throughout society.

Another significant part of the sum recognized is David Denton. He has retired after 29 years as the District 1 Hunter Education Specialist.

In 2001, the Hunter Education Specialist unit was created to enhance hunter education delivery and begin to tackle recruitment and retention issues faced by the agency.

David was one of the original Specialists hired. He devoted his efforts to enhancing the District 1 and the state hunter education program. David’s retirement party was one of the largest I have ever attended. This is no doubt a reflection of the lives he has touched throughout his career and he should be proud of a job well done.



David Denton on the job

I would like to tip my hat to David for all of his assistance he has given to me personally throughout the years. I was hired after David and he was kind enough to mentor me with my job and the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. I am grateful for his commitment to hunter education and proud to call him friend, but more importantly, a hunting buddy and traveling companion. He was, and is, a trapping guru.

“David’s commitment to teaching hunter safety, boater safety and his willingness to assist the district’s Hunter Skills teams, no doubt has made North Carolina a safer place for those who enjoy all outdoor activities,” said Capt. Norman Watts. “I will miss him greatly in that capacity.”

North Carolina Hunter Education successes are due to all of your commitments. A speaker I heard recently talked about the difference in one degree. He illustrated his point by saying that a pot of water at 211 degrees is just a pot of hot water but at 212 degrees you have unleashed the power of boiling water and steam. We should not be content with status quo, but strive for the next degree. Until next time, keep your muzzles high and powder dry.

*Travis Casper*

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# Hunter Education Program Partners for a Special Iredell County Fishing Event

By Master Officer Ron Robertson

On Saturday, Oct. 20, a group of local sportsmen, the Nature Boys Christian Fellowship, hosted a fishing event entitled “Fish’n With a Mission.” The event was held at a local pond in west Iredell County for individuals with special needs. This event was co-sponsored by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and the new Crossroads Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf).

A total of 26 participants attended the event. Trophies were given for the biggest and most fish after the 2-hour derby. The Crossroads Chapter of NWTf provided funding for T-shirts for everyone. The Wildlife Resources Commission provided free loaner fishing rods and other equipment for the participants to use. They also gave free grab bags containing wildlife-related materials to each person.



Happy participants at “Fish’n With a Mission”

The state wildlife officers who work Iredell County came to help with the event. One of the goals of the Division of Law Enforcement is to provide and expand quality educational programs allowing everyone the opportunity for safe and knowledgeable participation in related wildlife activities.

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