



North Carolina

Second 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.



Chet Clark is D-1 Hunter Education Specialist

Chester “Chet” Clark, of Jarvisburg, is the new Hunter Education Specialist for District 1, which includes Hertford, Gates, Currituck, Camden, Pasquotank, Dare Perquimans, Chowan, Bertie, Martin, Washington, Tyrrell and Hyde counties.



Chet Clark

“Hunting education is so much more than firearms safety, although that is a key aspect that I will stress,” said Clark. “But these classes and workshops do so much to build support and enthusiasm for conservation. My

goal is introduce and involve as many people as we can in such a wholesome, rewarding pursuit like hunting. I guess you could say, “There’s room for everybody in the outdoors.””

He replaces David Denton, who retired after 29 years of service. Clark was previously a wildlife educator at the Commission’s Outer Banks Center for Wildlife Education in Corolla.

“We want to encourage future generations to hunt safely and be active in the outdoors, and we’re glad to have Chet working with us to achieve these goals,” said Capt. Norman Watts, District 1 supervisor.

To contact Clark, call 252-506-1360 or email chet.clark@ncwildlife.org.

North Carolina Part of Multi-Agency Undercover Operation

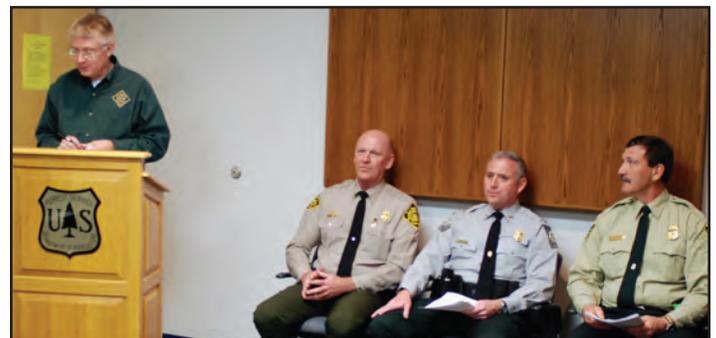
Operation Something Bruin has garnered national attention, after wildlife enforcement officers from North Carolina, Georgia and federal agencies arrested more than 80 wildlife violators and issued as many as 900 citations for wildlife violations. Primary violations stem from illegal bear hunting but include an array of wildlife and game law charges.

The four-year investigation targeted poachers in North Carolina and Georgia, with some work in adjacent states. Undercover officers infiltrated poaching circles to document violations including bear baiting, illegal take of bears, deer and other wildlife, illegal use of dogs, operation of illegal bear enclosures in North Carolina, and guiding hunts on national forest lands without the required permits.

“The Hunter Education Program is proud of this law enforcement success,” said Travis Casper, the state hunting education coordinator. “Hunting is ethical

when practiced with fair chase and a deep, profound respect for wildlife. Poaching steals from legitimate hunters and we deplore it.”

Simultaneous press conferences were held in Asheville and Gainesville, Ga. on Feb. 20 to announce to the results of the four-year undercover operation.



PIO Geoff Cantrell at Asheville press conference, as Col. Dale Caveny, Georgia DNR Capt. Thomas Bernard and USFS special agent in-charge Russ Arthur await their turn at the podium.

Helping Others Become Bow Hunters in North Carolina

By Ramon Bell,
Past President, North Carolina Bowhunters Association

In 2004, the North Carolina Bowhunters Association (NCBA) began a journey toward creating one of the most significant and valuable programs since its creation in 1975. This was the approval of the NCBA Land Acquisition Fund. In eight years, the fund has grown to almost \$22,000. It continues to grow at the rate of about \$6-7,000 a year.

All donations are an investment in the future of bow hunting for youths and adults alike in North Carolina.



Adults as well as youth would become involved in archery.

It is our plan and intent to organize and staff a bow hunter education program called “Becoming a Bow Hunter in North Carolina,” which will accept any individual — youth or adult — who has an interest but little or no knowledge of archery. They also will learn to understand our commitment to wildlife conservation, safety and appreciate the legacy of bow hunting.

To further ensure a lifetime commitment, the participants in the program will conclude with a guided hunt on private or public lands.

The “Becoming a Bow Hunter in North Carolina” program could be our answer to what we can do to help recruit and retain more people into outdoor hunting and fishing activities. As most of our generation knows, when individuals are taught to shoot a bow in a school, physical education class or an archery shop or club, the initial enthusiasm is high. However, unless there are family or friends who bow hunt, this enthusiasm seldom survives. NCBA wants to help overcome those hurdles with its “Becoming a Bow Hunter” program.

This is going to require a good deal of recruiting the right volunteers to staff, organize and administer the program statewide.

For more information, or to volunteer as an instructor or other position in this program, contact Ramon Bell at 567-703-6222 or email oldsouthadv@yahoo.com.

Hunter Education Program Assists the Southeastern Wildlife Conclave

By Carissa Shelton,
District 5 Hunter Education Specialist

Each year, Wildlife Society student chapters host regional conclaves to provide college students with valuable hands-on training in wildlife management and conservation. On March 7-10, 22 community colleges and universities across the southeast came to North Carolina for the annual conclave event, hosted by N.C. State University and its Leopold Wildlife Club.

Many divisions of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission were involved and provided personnel for the event. The Enforcement Division provided the personnel for the individual events in rifle and shotgun. Each of the shooting events used the same rules that are used in the North Carolina Hunter Safety Skills Tournaments.

North Carolina schools represented at the event were NCSU, Western Carolina University and Haywood Community College. Haywood Community College placed



Wildlife Society Conclave, hosted by NCSU, was a big hit. first during the rifle event and Mississippi State placed first in the shotgun event.

Recently, staff provided a hunter education instructor certification course for members of the NCSU Leopold Club, which has resulted in a valuable partnership.



On Target with the State Hunter Education Coordinator

Little Johnny was watching his mother prepare a large family meal. As she was preparing a ham he noticed she cut the butt-end off. As little boys do, Johnny started asking why.

“I do it because my mother did it,” his mother said. “I guess you’ll have to ask her.”

So he walked to his grandmother’s house. To his disappointment, it was essentially the same answer. “I did it because that’s what my mother did. I guess you’ll have to ask her.”

So he walked to his great-grandmother’s house, where she was rocking peacefully on the front porch.

“Well, son, I did it because my pot was small and it was the only way the ham would fit.”

We have a tendency to do things because that is the way it has always been done.

With today’s challenges, we need to re-examine our

actions and determine what works best for our students and the future of hunting heritage.

I recently read “Call of the Mild” by Lily R. MacCaulou. I was intrigued that she took up hunting later in life, with very limited social support. Her reflections on taking hunter education were eye opening. And I found myself asking, “Are we really teaching? Or are we trying to scare students to ensure they make safe decisions?”

I would like to challenge you to make hunting education an enhancement tool and to encourage involvement in hunting, not as an enforcement tool or barrier.

We should be like Little Johnny and be inquisitive to try to understand our actions. This will allow us to become more effective and efficient in producing avenues of safe and enjoyable experiences.

Until next time, keep your muzzles high and powder dry!
— Travis Casper

Annual Advanced Hunter Education Workshop Scheduled for Wilkes County

This year’s Advanced Hunter Education Instructors Workshop is Sept. 27-29 at YMCA Camp Harrison in Boomer, southwest of Wilkesboro.

All certified hunter education instructors are welcome to attend this weekend of instruction and fellowship.

The workshop is designed to further the knowledge level of the Wildlife Commission’s dedicated volunteers in their continuing effort to promote hunter education and to sustain the hunting tradition. All courses will take an in-depth look at teaching techniques along with valuable hands-on training. Both days’ curriculum should prove interesting and fun.

A registration form will be mailed in the summer. We hope you will join us.



Participants at last year’s workshop, held in Columbia, N.C.

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Peer Influence and Encouragement Key for Reaching Youth

Hunting Heritage Trust and National Shooting Sports Foundation recently partnered on a study to understand the impact of peer influence on youth participation in hunting and target shooting. The study, which consisted



The tournaments are a great example of youth involvement.

of youth focus groups and a comprehensive phone survey, was conducted by Responsive Management, a leading public opinion and research firm that specializes in natural resource and outdoor recreation issues.

Key findings:

- **Today's young hunters are role models.** They are looked at by their peers who are forming personal opinions of hunting, so young hunters need to be mindful of how they portray themselves and hunting.
- **Peers are important.** We should encourage young hunters to invite their friends to hunter education, on a hunt or to the shooting range.
- **Familiarity breeds success.** The more familiar youth are with individuals their own age who hunt and target shoot, the more likely they will support and participate.
- **It is who you know.** Youth who do not participate but know a hunter or target shooter have a more positive view of hunting.

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