



North Carolina Hunter Education Program

Third Quarter 2013

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

Tim Lemon is the Hunter Education Professional of the Year

Tim Lemon has been recognized as the 2013 Hunter Education Professional of the Year by the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA), the professional organization for 67 state and provincial wildlife conservation agencies and the 70,000 volunteer instructors who teach hunter education in North America.

Lemon, of Roaring River in Wilkes County, was recognized in a ceremony April 4 in San Antonio at the annual IHEA conference. He serves District 7, made up of Watauga, Ashe, Alleghany, Wilkes, Surry, Yadkin, Alexander, Iredell, Stokes, Forsyth and Davie counties.

“Tim has worked tirelessly throughout his career in promoting conservation and the pursuit of safe and ethical hunting,” said Travis Casper, the state hunting education coordinator.

Lemon is among nine district hunter education specialists across the state and the third to win this honor. Wes Blair, of Lenoir, was selected in 2010 and David Denton, of Edenton, was selected in 2005.

Among Lemon’s many achievements cited for the honor were his dedication to increasing youth involvement in hunting, increasing the number of volunteer instructors in his region by 140 percent and increasing the number of schools fielding a youth shooting sports team from 12 in 2001, to 49 in 2012.

“Recognizing professionals at the grassroots level — the ones who are doing the hard work on behalf of their agencies and hunter education — is very important to us all,” said Steve Hall, IHEA-USA executive director. “Tim is an outstanding representative of all hunter education agency professionals coordinating programs, attending events and teaching hunter education at regional and local levels.”

The award was presented at the IHEA conference by NRA Hunter Services Manager Bob Davis, whose department selects the winner from national finalists.



Tim Lemon in action at a recent instruction workshop.

“Tim’s work has consistently been essential to the success of conservation efforts and hunter education,” Davis said. “He is also a big supporter of the NRA’s International Youth Hunter Education Challenge, having volunteered his services for almost a decade.”

An excerpt from Lemon’s nomination states: “Tim Lemon is never willing to settle with ‘the way we did it last year.’ He is always seeking continual improvement in all of our programs.

“In a day when hunter recruitment and retention is so vitally important, having someone as dedicated, devoted and determined as Tim Lemon is invaluable.”

For someone who has lived and breathed hunting for a quarter of a century, Tim Lemon sets a great legacy.

Success at 2013 Youth Hunter Skills Tournament

Staff and volunteers made the crucial difference for a successful 2013 Youth Hunter Education Skills Tournament, the pre-collegiate shooting sports state championship, held April 27 by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission at Millstone 4-H Center in Richmond County.

There were 575 students from 55 schools participating in this year's tournament, having advanced from nine district events across the state where there was combined participation by more than 2,700 students from 271 schools. Overall attendance, including spectators, staff and competitors at the tournament, was estimated to be nearly 3,200.

The Gray Stone Day School "Garnet" team won the senior division with an overall score of 3,839 out of a possible 4,000, while Park Ridge Christian School won the junior division with an overall score of 3,635. Both schools are in Stanly County.

"I want to thank staff, dedicated volunteers, everyone who worked to make this tournament a success," said Travis Casper, state hunter education coordinator and tournament director. "Everyone contributing to the 35th

Hunter Education Skills Tournament should feel a sense of achievement. These youth are a good reflection of conservation, hunting and the outdoors community and are instrumental in securing the future of the hunting tradition. Even though a lot of hard work goes into conducting this event, it's the passion of the participants and volunteers that makes it all worthwhile."

The Fred Rorrer Trophy, which recognizes sportsmanship among competitors, was presented to Piedmont High School, of Monroe, in Union County. The trophy honors its namesake, a longtime hunting education instructor with the Wildlife Commission who died unexpectedly in October 2010.

Rorrer is remembered for his dedication to conservation and leadership in the youth tournaments, where he helped bolster North Carolina teams and individuals to the top levels of national competition.

Youth competed in team and individual categories in rifle, shotgun, archery and compass on senior (high school) and junior (middle and elementary schools) divisional levels, for overall team and individual awards.



Scenes of staff and volunteers keeping the record-setting event running smoothly.



The event was virtually flawless, thanks to preparation and execution by staff and volunteers.





On Target with the State Hunter Education Coordinator

I would like to thank everyone that assisted with the 2013 North Carolina Youth Hunter Education Skills Tournaments. This year's tournament program included 271 teams with approximately 2,700 participants at the nine district tournaments in March and 55 teams with 575 individuals showing off their skills at the state championship back in April.

Our state's hunter education skills tournament program is the largest and most successful demonstration of hunter education skills in the nation.

Whether you worked the tournaments, coached a team or mentored a young shooter, thank you for your support! I have quoted the Greek philosopher Aristotle in this column before and will again, "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts."

So, each of you have contributed in some way to the success of the Youth Hunter Education Skills Tournament. The tangible results we see, year after year, are testimony that we add up "on the whole" pretty darn well.

There is no doubt that the North Carolina teams traveling to Raton, New Mexico, for the Youth Hunter Education Challenge in July will be great ambassadors for the Old North State and represent our program well.

It was my honor in April to introduce Hunter Education Specialist Tim Lemon in San Antonio as the 2013 International Hunter Education Association's Professional of the Year. This award was well deserved.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Nothing great could be accomplished without enthusiasm," and the Hunter Education Program would not be where it is today if it were not for the enthusiasm from staff like Tim Lemon and all of our volunteers.

We share the same goals, hold a shared bond in the heritage of conservation and that is the strength of the Hunter Education Program. In this time of change and uncertainty, we may have different views and even disagree with some of the things happening in hunting and conservation right now. But our goals and love of outdoors remain and will continue to keep us together in our united purpose.

Thank you for the passion you bring in promoting our hunting and conservation heritage. Until next time, keep your muzzles high and powder dry! *Travis Casper*



Hunter Education Specialists Hilton Best and Carissa Shelton, seen onstage, recently helped future Agricultural Education teachers gain their hunter education instructor certification at the Centennial Campus Center for Wildlife Education in Raleigh. These students graduated from N.C. State University and as new hunter education instructors and soon-to-be teachers, they certainly will be an asset in promoting conservation and hunting.

Contact Information for the District Hunter Education Specialists

- D-1 Chet Clark, 252-506-1360 chet.clark@ncwildlife.org
- D-2 Chris Kent, 252-521-5190 christopher.kent@ncwildlife.org
- D-3 Hilton Best, 252-291-2863 hilton.best@ncwildlife.org
- D-4 Kevin Crabtree, 910-876-2376 kevin.crabtree@ncwildlife.org
- D-5 Carissa Shelton, 336-455-0292 carissa.shelton@ncwildlife.org
- D-6 Randy Thomas, 704-782-9097 randy.thomas@ncwildlife.org
- D-7 Tim Lemon, 336-957-4382 tim.lemon@ncwildlife.org
- D-8 Wes Blair, 828-726-1160 wes.blair@ncwildlife.org
- D-9 Darrin Ball, 828-891-4093 darrin.ball@ncwildlife.org

North Carolina Hunter Education Program, Raleigh staff

- Processing Assistant Nancy Boykin, 919-707-0041, nancy.boykin@ncwildlife.org
- Public Information Officer Geoff Cantrell, 919-707-0186, geoff.cantrell@ncwildlife.org
- Program Coordinator Travis Casper, 919-707-0337, travis.casper@ncwildlife.org



N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission
Hunter Education Program
Be Courteous, Be Careful, Be Seen, Be Safe
1717 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1717

Get N.C. Wildlife Update – news including season dates, bag limits, legislative updates and more – delivered to your Inbox from the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. Go to www.ncwildlife.org/eneews.

An Urgent Reminder for Pre-Season Tree Stand Safety

The Home From The Hunt™ safety campaign is again reminding hunters to be cautious when setting up tree stands prior to deer season.

If you are scouting a location, trimming shooting lanes and putting up your tree stand, even on a trial basis, use the same precautions you would during hunting season:

- Use a full body safety harness;
- Maintain three points of contact when climbing;
- Follow manufacturer instructions; and,
- Have an emergency signal and tell someone where you plan to go.

As with any piece of equipment, tree stands need inspection before use. Long-term placement, such as

leaving your tree stand up from one season to the next, has some inherent problems that outweigh any convenience. Exposure to the elements will damage straps, ropes and attachment cords, and potentially lead to breakage and failure.

Also, trees are living, growing things that change over time, affecting stability.

If you or someone you know has had a tree stand up for an extended length of time, take it down and inspect it. Replace rusted bolts, frayed straps or, if needed, buy a new tree stand.

Use a lineman-style belt in addition to a full body harness when first putting a tree stand in place. This minimizes the chance of falls and potential injury.

The Hunter Education Program newsletter is published quarterly by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. Comments and submissions are welcomed.

This is an online edition for www.ncwildlife.org and other digital distribution.

NOTICE This program receives federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior and its bureaus prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex in educational programs. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any North Carolina Hunter Education Program, activity or facility, or if you desire further information, please call or write: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office for Diversity and Civil Rights Programs – External Programs, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Webb 300, Arlington, Va. 22203, 703-358-1724 or Equal Employment Officer, N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Personnel Office, 1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, N.C. 27606, 919-707-0101.

