



# N.C. Hunter Education Program Newsletter

Fourth 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.*

## Teaching Tips for Hunter Education Instructors

By Carissa Shelton  
District 5 Hunter Education Specialist

Consider this “staff development” for Hunter Education Program instructors, a few things to remember this season when we are teaching:

**1. Be positive and react positive.** When beginning a class, set a positive tone by welcoming the participants into a comfortable atmosphere. Sometimes we forget how anxious students can be, especially women and younger students. Also, remember to be positive in your reactions, especially if students give an incorrect answer.

Always acknowledge their answers with a positive comment such as, “Good answer, but that’s not quite what I am looking for,” not a negative reaction that others might find amusing.

**2. The 8-to-80 Rule.** At any time during a class you could have an 8-year-old in the front row and an 80-year-old in the back row. Don’t forget to teach to both levels. It can be a balancing act trying not to talk over the 8-year-old’s head, while keeping the 80-year-old engaged in the course. Try to use examples when explaining concepts, such as rifling being related to a quarterback’s spiral throw, which both students can relate to.

**3. The “W” word.** In today’s society we hear a lot about weapons and gun control – and it’s all negative. Many of our instructors have a law enforcement or military background and the term weapon comes naturally when talking about firearms. Try to make a conscious effort to NOT use the word “weapon.” Think of this scenario: Class is going great. Single mom is enjoying the lesson. Then, she hears the word “weapon.” All she can now focus on is the recent news about intruders, schools and weapons. We do not teach weapons, we teach firearms. One word can automatically change someone’s perception of what we teach and do.

**4. Once upon a time.** Stories are great attention getters for a class, but should never replace the material and core concepts. Keep storytelling to a minimum.



The Hunter Education Program is known for quality of instruction.

Also, keep control of students’ storytelling as well, especially with younger students. Discussion is great teaching tool, but stay on task and on topic. Look at the stories being told by instructors and students and decide what is nice to know and what is needed to know.

**5. Recording and Accounting.** Over the last two years we have been utilizing the Event Manager system for recording course data and distributing certification cards from Raleigh. As of July 1, 2013, an instructor NO longer needs to sign an instructor sheet when a course is completed. To make sure that we capture all the hours for the in-kind match, instructors will need to be diligent about making sure everyone who is instructing has been assigned to the event as an instructor and the instructor’s data has been recorded. This is how we track hours for the grant in the future. But don’t worry. Cover sheets will still be around and will be used at tournament events and instructor training sessions to input your data.

# Some Serious Praise For Hunter Education Instructors

By John Broughton, Jr.

Cary resident and longtime hunter

I would like to tell everyone how much I enjoyed the Hunter Education Program course given by Sharon and Tom McPherson at San Lee Gun Club on Aug. 2-3.

We were excited to get my son, Cody Broughton, 11, into the class. When I arrived with him, Sharon said I might as well take the class, too, seeing how I had to be there for Cody! So, that is what I did. I sat down and soaked up the course. (I also must point out that I must have needed the course. My son scored higher on the test than I did! Ah, complacency and the correction by humility!)

I never had a course like this one, being I was grandfathered in when it became a license requirement. The privilege to hunt and fish is very special to me and my wife Julie — so much so it was a priority to make sure Cody and Katie both received their Lifetime Sportsman Licenses as infants.

Sharon and Tom did a great job with visual aids, videos and presenting the information to the class. The highlight was provided by Wildlife Officers Bryan Scruggs and Sgt. Reggie Barker, who gave hands-on

training on different firearms for hunting. Both officers encouraged all attendees to ask questions about anything related to hunting, fishing, boating and that at any time always contact local officers as a starting point to get information if you cannot find or are unsure of regulations in your area. They also strongly suggested keeping a current Regulations Digest handy all times!

I could not have asked for better representatives of Wildlife Commission to introduce my son to, as Scruggs and Barker provided in themselves and their positions as wildlife officers.

When Scruggs and Barker were done with their presentation and taking questions about their experiences in the subject matter, of the course Sharon and Tom followed up on subjects and teaching the course in full.

The course was super and I am happy that my son was able to participate in everything provided by these super folks! I cannot say enough about how well it was presented and the enthusiasm of all the folks involved.

Thank you all very much! You made a great impression on my son. In a couple of years I will attend the course again with my daughter, and I hope the professionalism is as good then as it was in this course.



Mom Julie with Cody, flexing some hunting muscles.



Proud dad John and happy son Cody, after a successful trip.



# On Target with the State Hunter Education Coordinator

In a list just released by the International Hunter Education Association, North Carolina ranks sixth in the nation for the number of students certified, while we're the 10th largest state in population. Last year, we certified nearly 25,000 students. The only state ahead of us in hunter education certification with a greater population-certification ratio is Wisconsin, which certified 28,000 students last year. Looking to next year, our Hunter Education Program should be able to achieve numbers that would move us ahead of Wisconsin. We would then rank fourth in the nation overall.

The Hunter Education Program would like to congratulate Gray Stone Day School Marksmanship Team and Park Ridge Christian Sharpshooters for their accomplishments at the 2013 International Youth Hunter Education Challenge. Schools from the mountains to

the coast made the trek to Raton, N.M. and were outstanding ambassadors for us and conservation. Many of our teams achieved both team and individuals awards.

Our successes are numerous in North Carolina and this should be a point of pride. But let's not become complacent. We need to continue to look for ways to improve hunter education as an enhancement tool for conservation.

One last thought: with hunting seasons under way remember to introduce someone new to the hunting heritage. Take someone — young or not so young, who has never experienced a sunrise in a duck swamp or a startling burst of a covey rise to the field. Share with them the passion and wonders of what we all love. Until next time, keep your muzzles high and powder dry!

*Travis Casper*

## Survey Shows Value of Hunters to the State's Economy

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is highlighting results from a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Census Bureau survey to show the importance of sportsmen to North Carolina's economy.

The 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation measured public participation in hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing and other wildlife-dependent recreation, as well as how much money was spent pursuing these activities.

Nationally, more than 90 million Americans participated in wildlife-related recreation in 2011, up 3 percent.

North Carolina highlights:

- \$3.3 billion total spent on wildlife-related recreation.
- \$1.5 billion spent in North Carolina from fishing-related activities.
- \$525 million spent in North Carolina on hunting-related activities.
- \$930 million spent in North Carolina on wildlife activities.



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# 20 New Wildlife Officers Have Joined Our Ranks

The Wildlife Commission welcomed into its ranks 20 new wildlife officers with a sworn duty to enforce boating and conservation laws, and protect the public. Graduation ceremonies took place Aug. 2 at Campbell University, culminating 20 weeks of rigorous and intensive training.

They are now into six months of on-the-job training under supervision of a veteran officer. Upon completion of this field training, they will receive a permanent duty station assignment. Wildlife officers must meet wildlife basic law enforcement training standards in North Carolina.

All recruits are required to first pass extensive background,

psychological and physical screenings prior to entering the training school. Instruction covers statutory and investigation procedures, defensive tactics, fish and game laws, as well as pursuit driving and boating.

“This is an exemplary group of men and women, and I am proud to have them join the Wildlife Commission,” said Capt. Jon Evans, training director for the Commission’s Division of Law Enforcement. “They have faced the arduous challenges of multi-faceted instruction, worked as a team and as individuals, and are ready for the next step in their careers in conservation.”



Classroom instruction is only a part of the intensive training.



Class of 2013, prior to graduation, flanked by training directors.

The 20 new wildlife officers, their hometowns and home counties, and assigned county for training:

- Eric Landon Blalock, Fuquay-Varina, Wake County. Training duty station: Caswell County.
- William Amos Bridges, Sanford, Lee County. Training duty station: Perquimans County.
- Eric Daniel Crouse, Ronda, Wilkes County. Training duty station: Davidson County.
- Darby Dustin Wayne Enoch, Mount Pleasant, Cabarrus County. Training duty station: Hyde County.
- Murphy Williams Hall, Albemarle, Stanly County. Training duty station: Beaufort County.
- Gary Craddock Harrison, Jr., Cape Carteret, Carteret County. Training duty station: Craven County.
- John Mark Howell II, Albemarle, Stanly County. Training duty station: Swain County.
- Mitchell Earl Lawrence, Mocksville, Davie County. Training duty station: McDowell County.
- Trevor Daniel Lemon, Winston-Salem, Forsyth County. Training duty station: Bladen County.
- Barbara Elizabeth Marshburn, Beulaville, Duplin County.

Training duty station: Iredell County.

- Sampson Rodney Parker, Jr., Harrisburg, Mecklenburg County. Training duty station: Northampton County.
- Charles Tyler Sale, Ronda, Wilkes County. Training duty station: Jackson County.
- Darryl Gregory Southern, Stokesdale, Guilford County. Training duty station: Brunswick County.
- Justin Allen Stout, Ramseur, Randolph County. Training duty station: Davie County.
- Michael Vincent Varano, Spout Springs, Harnett County. Training duty station: Warren County.
- Charles Ray Vaughan, Jr., Rich Square, Bertie County. Training duty station: Forsyth County.
- Cody Adam Walker, Concord, Cabarrus County. Training duty station: Burke County.
- Stephanie Brooke Weaver, Vale, Catawba County. Training duty station: Randolph County.
- Brandon Blair Wilkins, Elizabeth City, Pasquotank County. Training duty station: Union County.
- Benjamin Tyler Wood, Raleigh, Wake County. Training duty station: Duplin County.

# Tim Sisk Promoted to Captain for District 9

Tim Sisk has been promoted to captain for District 9, which includes Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Swain, Macon, Jackson, Haywood, Transylvania, Madison, Buncombe and Henderson counties.

A 26-year veteran with the Wildlife Commission, he was previously a lieutenant in the district. His predecessor, Greg Daniels, recently retired.

“This region has a rich heritage of hunting and fishing, boating and wildlife watching,” said Sisk. “We have numerous game lands, state and national forests and parks, rivers and lakes that are world-renowned for outdoor recreation.

“I look forward to my new position and my continuing role in serving conservation and public safety in these beautiful mountains.”

Sisk holds a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from UNC-Charlotte and is a 1987 graduate of the Wildlife Basic Law Enforcement Training School.

“Capt. Sisk knows quite well the western corner of this state and its people,” said Col. Dale Caveny, chief of the

“Tim has my full confidence that he will carry on this agency’s mission in an area that is as biologically diverse as it is culturally.”



Capt. Tim Sisk has his bars pinned on by wife Lynn.

# Tim Hardy Promoted to Captain for District 1

Tim Hardy has been promoted to captain for District 1, which includes Hertford, Gates, Currituck, Camden, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Chowan, Bertie, Martin, Washington, Tyrrell, Dare and Hyde counties.



Col. Dale Caveny congratulates Capt. Tim Hardy upon promotion.

He was previously a lieutenant in the district. His predecessor, Norman Watts, recently retired.

“The northeastern region of North Carolina with ancient maritime forests, swamps, rivers and out into the sounds, is an ideal place for hunting and fishing, and certainly boating,” said Hardy. “I take great pride in the northeast region of North Carolina and look forward to working with the sportsmen who enjoy the area.”

Hardy is a 23-year veteran of the Wildlife Commission.

He is a 1982 graduate of Ahoskie High School and is a 1984 graduate of Elizabeth City State University, with a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science.

He completed Wildlife Basic Law Enforcement Training School in 1990.

“Capt. Hardy is known for his encouragement of new hunters and anglers, his enthusiastic approach to daily tasks, and his dedication to conservation,” said Col. Dale Caveny, chief of the Division of Law Enforcement of the Commission. “His leadership and reliability make him a natural for the challenges of this position.”

Hardy resides in Bertie County with his wife, Sandra. They have three children, Lolita, Timothy, Jr., and Natasha, and one grandson, Omarion.

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Hunter Education Program  
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## “Wildlife Officers: Law Enforcement Off the Pavement” Poster Wins ACI Award

The Association of Conservation Information (ACI) has awarded first place in the posters category to “Wildlife Officers: Law Enforcement Off the Pavement.”

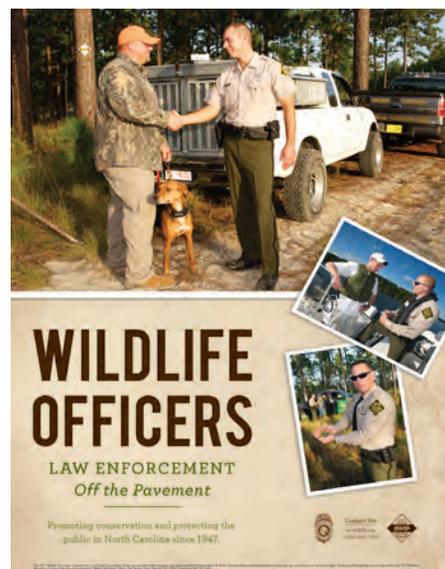
The annual communication awards contest recognizes excellence in more than 25 categories and promotes craft improvement through competition.

ACI is an organization of conservation communicators who play a major role in providing natural resource, environmental and wildlife information and education to the public. Membership consists of state, federal and

Canadian agencies, as well as some private conservation groups.

The poster and accompanying brochure were created by Wildlife Commission staff and printed under contract. The photographer was Melissa McGaw, the graphic designer was Alyssa Stepien, with text and project oversight by Geoff Cantrell. The slogan is used by permission of Texas Parks and Wildlife.

The poster and brochure are part of an awareness campaign to inform on the role of wildlife officers in conservation and public safety.



The Hunter Education Program newsletter is published quarterly by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. Comments and submissions are welcomed. 2,000 copies of this publication printed by Chamblee Graphics, Raleigh, at a cost of \$.XX per copy.

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