

Fall 2011

HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS' NEWSLETTER



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

Technology and Hunter Education— Working Hand in Hand

By Carissa Shelton

Change, it's occurring all around us, every day, every hour and every minute. With today's technology we're able to connect across the globe in a matter of seconds. We carry smart phones, which at times seem to be smarter than the people carrying them and we have a GPS in our vehicles that not only tells us the quickest route to our destination, but can find the closest Mexican restaurant to our current location. So, how is technology affecting North Carolina Hunter Education?

EVENT MANAGER

The Event Manager program is designed to replace the triplicate cover sheets and class addendums, making paper work quicker and more efficient, and just like with any new technology, there are going to be glitches and quirks. But in the long run, once the program is up and running, the technology makes things easier.

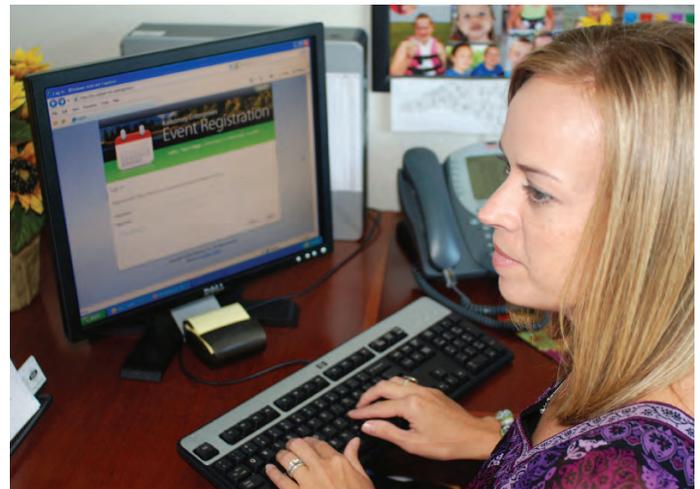
So how does that affect N.C. Volunteer Hunter Education Instructors? Instructors now have the ability to submit all their paper work online. There will no longer be any mailing or dropping off paper, which essentially will give us a better turn-around time. Cards will no longer be given out in classes but will be mailed directly from the Raleigh office. This will provide the students with a more professional looking card.

Instructors can have more control over classes with the ability to see contact information of their students, create events and locations, send emails to students, fellow instructors and register students, if need be.

As we begin using the Event Manager program, here are a few things to remember:

- Make sure that all your profile information is updated and correct.
- *Do NOT Cancel or Delete Classes.* If there is a reason for a class cancellation, contact your Hunter Education Specialist or administrator for directions how to handle the situation.
- Have paper work submitted to your administrator within 10 days of the close of class. Paper work must be submitted in a timely fashion to ensure that students will receive their cards from the Raleigh office in the projected time period. If the field has a red asterik (*) that is required field/information.
- All new events and locations created by an instructor must be approved by the administrator before any student can register for that event or an event created for that location.
- The instructor listed as the primary instructor is responsible for submitting paper work. This instructor does not have to be considered the lead instructor for the actual classroom.

You can find a copy of the training guide on the instructor website for step-by-step instructions on the various functions of Event Manager. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas on how to make the program better, please let your Hunter Education Specialist or administrator know. We meet monthly and will be able to voice your concerns and troubleshoot areas that may need to be changed to work better for N.C. Volunteer Hunter Education Instructors.



Terri Pope logs onto Event Manager.

Carissa Shelton is the Hunter Education Specialist for D-5

New Wildlife Website to Feature Easy to Use Updates

Visit the new ncwildlife.org this fall for a fresh look, simpler navigation and features that make access to information and answers about North Carolina's wildlife resources easier than ever. Whether you're a hunter, angler, boater or just simply enjoy wildlife watching, the newly redesigned website will let you quickly access licensing information, game lands maps, boating access areas, public fishing areas and other tools, information and services. We reorganized the content, streamlined navigation and improved menus so you can find what you need, when you need it.

The new site is being redesigned specifically with your needs in mind, reinforcing our commitment to better communications, information sharing and customer service.

District 7 Welcomes Chad Martin as the New Captain

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission has promoted Chad Martin to District 7 captain, where he will manage and supervise enforcement operations for hunting, inland fishing and boating, and coordinate boating safety and hunter education programs. Martin was previously a lieutenant in the district, which covers Watauga, Ashe, Alleghany, Wilkes, Surry, Yadkin, Alexander, Iredell, Stokes, Forsyth and Davie counties. His predecessor, Capt. Russell Hunter IV, retired in July.

A 21-year veteran of wildlife enforcement, Martin's first duty station was Avery County, in the neighboring mountains. Originally from Mooresville, he holds a criminal justice degree from Appalachian State University. He and his wife, Brenda, have two sons, Chase and Caleb, and one daughter, Macy. Away from the job, Capt. Martin works with youth activities at church and his children's sports involvement.



The Martin family, minus Chase

Norman Watts of Elizabeth City Has Been Promoted to Captain for District 1



The Watts family

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission has promoted Norman Watts to captain for District 1, supervising law enforcement operations for hunting, inland fishing and boating, as well as coordinating boating safety and hunter education.

Watts was a lieutenant in the district, a jurisdiction of Hertford, Gates, Currituck, Camden, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Chowan, Bertie, Martin, Washington, Tyrrell, Dare and Hyde counties. He succeeds Capt. Jay Rivenbark, who retired Aug. 1.

A 26-year veteran with the Wildlife Resources Commission, Watts began his career in Gates County in 1985, and has been stationed in District 1 since. He earned an associate degree in liberal arts from the College of the Albemarle and a bachelor's degree in wildlife biology from N.C. State University. He and his wife Rhonda have two children, Holley and Bryan.

The Landowner Protection Act Becomes State Law in North Carolina

A new law passed by the General Assembly requires hunters and anglers to obtain written permission from a landowner or leaseholder before hunting or fishing on privately-owned posted property — including land, waters, ponds or legally established waterfowl blinds. The Landowner Protection Act also provides two ways for landowners to post their lands to allow only hunters, trappers and anglers with written permission to legally enter their property. Landowners can now post their land by using vertical purple paint marks on posts or trees, or, as in the past, by posting signs or posters.

The Landowner Protection Act specifies that written permission, dated within the past 12 months and signed by the landowner, leaseholder, or agent of that land, be carried and displayed upon request of any law enforcement officer.

If a hunting club has leased the land, a person must have either written permission from the landowner, leaseholder or agent of that land, to that individual; or a copy of their hunting club membership and written permission from the landowner, landowner's agent or leasee designate for the club.

The Landowner Protection Act does not change general trespass laws or have any effect on lands that are not posted. It does not repeal any local acts currently in effect. More information at www.ncwildlife.org. The Landowner Protection Act goes into effect Oct. 1, 2011. Violation of this act is a Class 2 misdemeanor.



On Target with the Hunter Education Program

I have always been a student of history. Not so much for the dates, but as an informative tool in trying to answer the complicated question of why. History not only can assist in enlightenment of the past but also as a beacon into the future. You must know where you've been, to know where you are currently and you must know where you are to decide on your path for the future. Hunters have always been on the progressive side of thinking. From the development of a knapped stone point on a wooden shaft to the creation of the conservation movement that created wildlife agencies and the user-pay user-benefit system with which we pay for our conservation. Our past is the cornerstone on which we build our future.

In the late 1800s and well into the 1900s hunters' stepped forward to create laws to protect wildlife, habitat, and to establish funding sources. This period saw a rise of state wildlife agencies and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to assist with conservation efforts. Men like Theodore Roosevelt, Dr. Saxton Pope, Author Young, Aldo Leopold, Gifford Pinchot, Key Pittman, Willis Robertson, and many others' began laying the framework that became the "North American Model of Wildlife Management." I am, by no means, trying to compare the implementation of Event Manager software for the North Carolina Hunter Education Program to the events that got our hunting heritage where it is today. But, Event Manager is a tool that will assist us in meeting the public's expectations of current technology, while reducing time and resources spent by the agency and volunteers. The hunter education program is in a transitional process with the implementation of this new software but it will strengthen the program and assist in bringing new students to our programs. Until next time, keep your muzzles high and powder dry.

Travis Casper, assistant hunter education coordinator

Tar Heel Teams Again Do Well at Youth Hunter Education Challenge This Year

North Carolina was well-represented in the annual Youth Hunter Education Challenge, held this year in Raton, New Mexico. A demanding, week-long series of events, featuring shooting competition in .22-caliber rifle and muzzleloader at knock-down targets, shotgun on a sporting clays course and archery at three dimensional game targets. Also included were non-shooting components of orienteering, wildlife identification, a written hunter responsibility and ethics exam, and a hunter safety trail test.

The opportunity to be involved in this competition was an achievement in itself, according to Travis Casper, the state assistant hunting education coordinator. "There has to be a dedication and commitment from the youth, as well as the parents, coaches and community to compete at this level," Casper said. "Once there, you are in the spotlight and there is a realization that you are representing all of North Carolina. The N.C. Hunter Education Program is proud of their accomplishments and sportsmanship."

Senior team winners were Forbush Red, while second place went to Gray Stone Marksmen. The senior individual winner was Hunter Efird of Albemarle, with Colton Horn of East Bend coming in second. Park Ridge Sharpshooters took second place in the junior team category. Coach honors went to Eric Efird in first place and Heath Efird in second, both from Albemarle.



Forbush High School



Park Ridge Sharpshooters

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North Carolina Hunter Education Program – Communication and Outreach

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Comments and submissions are welcome.

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North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Hunter Education Program

Be Courteous, Be Careful, Be Seen, Be Safe

Division of Law Enforcement

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