

Winter 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.

Dedication and Length of Service Recognized

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission recently honored 12 hunter education instructors from across the state who had achieved 1,000 volunteer hours or more of service. Trophies and congratulations were presented during the Wildlife Commissioners' meeting on Oct. 13 at the Wildlife Resources Commission headquarters, located on the Centennial Campus of N.C. State University in Raleigh. The instructors received a standing ovation from the commissioners.

Honorees were:

Terry Boyce, Elizabeth City
Cody Reed, Greensboro
John Hall, Trenton
Charles Kearns, Lexington
Ernest Darden, Fayetteville
Gary Steeley, Kannapolis
James Edwards, Stedman
Link Grass, Denver
Karl Koval, Hope Mills
Bruce Sweezy, Hickory
Walter Wilson, Lillington
George Pullman, Arden



Dedicated dozen, flanked by Capt. Huebner on left and Chairman Steve Windham at right

"Instructors give up their personal time to teach and to be taught, since being updated in training and teaching techniques is a requirement for certification," said the state hunting education coordinator, Capt. Chris Huebner with the Division of Law Enforcement of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. "We appreciate them and the support of their family and friends to do this. Their time and effort saves lives and saves the state money."

There are currently 772 hunter education instructors active in North Carolina.

Hunter Education Program Establishes Fred Rorrer Trophy

The Hunter Education Program of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission has established the Fred Rorrer Trophy to recognize a team competing in the Youth Hunter Safety Skills Tournament that best exemplifies the qualities and displays the actions of good sportsmanship.

The trophy, to be an annual award, is named in honor of Fred Rorrer, a hunter education specialist from Eden, N.C. who died unexpectedly in October 2010.

Criteria for receiving the trophy are:

- Exhibition of sportsmanship both on and off the field.
- Conducting oneself, individually and as a team, with integrity.
- Acting in manner befitting the traditions of shooting sports and hunting.
- Engaging in ethical behavior and fair play at all times.

"This is not a consolation prize for good efforts or a 'Miss Congeniality' type thing," said Capt. Chris Huebner. "This is recognition of a team whose members best embodies the qualities that Fred Rorrer taught and practiced in his life.

"To achieve it means their actions reflect a commitment to ethics and responsibility, strengthened by teamwork, making the Fred Rorrer Trophy an honor to strive for."



Fred Rorrer

A Hidden Threat That's Easily Prevented

By Stacy Kempf

As hunters, we like our “stuff.” We walk into the outdoor section of any store and we turn into shopping pros. “I need that...I want that...Oh, it's on sale.” Even if you tell others that you hate to shop, the numbers say otherwise. As sportsmen, we pay \$660 million in excise taxes alone every year according to the National Shooting Sports Foundation. Clearly, we don't dislike shopping that much.

However, there are a couple of important and relatively inexpensive items many of us fail to walk out of the store with and they are field dressing gloves and eye protection

Now, some of you may be thinking, “I've hunted for years and I've never worn them. So why should I start now?”

Well, let me ask you this - how do you feel about skin lesions, chronic flu-like symptoms, or excruciating stomach pain? Most of us cringe at the thought of such ailments, but only a few of us may be aware that we are vulnerable to these and other medical issues when we don't practice safe field dressing techniques. To be a responsible hunter, we have to take precautions when dealing with an animal's body.

Take, for instance, handling a feral hogs. They are growing in number throughout our state and are, for many of us, a source of meat. However, they can also be carriers of bacteria that cause the disease Brucellosis. Humans who come into contact with this bacteria through their mouths or eyes, or even minor cuts on their skin can face reoccurring symptoms that mimic the flu and can last for years or even result in death.

Another disease that can be prevented by safe field dressing techniques is Tularemia. Tularemia is caused by bacteria found in numerous game species, with rabbits being the most frequent source. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, the bacteria can spread to humans when our skin or mucus membranes come into contact with an infected animal's blood and/or tissue. Symptoms of this infection range from skin lesions to intestinal pain and vomiting.

Yet another concern for hunters should be infections caused by E.Coli and Salmonella bacteria. Salmonella live in numerous areas of an animal's body such as urine and blood, while E. Coli bacteria can make their way into humans through an animal's fecal matter or intestinal fluids. Both can cause serious infections that involve, but are not limited to, issues with stomach pain and diarrhea.

These are only a few of the concerns that hunters must take into consideration when field dressing game. The likelihood of someone contracting these diseases and infections can be greatly decreased by an act as simple as putting on a pair of latex gloves and some eyewear. This equipment can be picked up at any outdoor store any time of year, and they should be on every hunter's shopping list.

For more information, go to www.nssf.org/PDF/HunterFactCard.pdf and www.avma.org/public_health/zoonotic_risks/hunters_precautions.asp#escherichia_coli.



Potential danger lurks — really

An Outdoor Misadventure: It Happened to Me

By Travis Casper

I tend to learn the hard way and can offer a firsthand account of the dangers of contact with bacteria while field dressing a game animal and, believe me, it ain't pretty.

The above article by Hunter Education Specialist Kempf has been submitted as part of this winter issue for a few months now. I had even commented to her that this was a well written article and I needed to pay more attention to the information presented. Well, I said it but didn't do it. And I paid for it.

In November, I was putting a hoist in a receiver of a truck to weigh deer. At some point, I scrapped a knuckle. I did not think anything of it until a few days later, when I ended up with a swollen and sore hand. A trip to an urgent care center and a conversation with the doctor brought about many questions, not to mention a shot and some high-dollar antibiotics.

All this could have been avoided by wearing gloves. On Christmas Eve 2004, I learned the hard way to wear gloves when shucking oysters and, in November 2010, I learned to wear gloves when handling deer.

Please take Stacy's advice seriously, because it can and will happen.



On Target with the State Hunter Education Coordinator

As we settle into 2011 and begin putting dates and notes into our new calendars, it's also worthwhile to consider what's ahead for our mission. In broad terms – and without too much pop psychology – we, as hunting educators, should reflect on goals and objectives.

You may not be aware of it, but the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission has a strategic plan, which directly relates to, and relies upon, hunting educators. This strategic plan set as the very first goal among seven, to provide all North Carolina citizens the opportunity for safe and readily available participation in hunting, fishing, boating and other wildlife-related activities. And the objectives to achieve this? Check out this list:



Capt. Chris Huebner

- Advocate for legislation that supports wildlife conservation.
- Increase public access to private lands and waterways.
- Partner with other agencies, organizations, and local governments.
- Reduce wildlife-related hunting and boating incidents and violations.

Sounds familiar, doesn't it? Now compare those points to this summarized Hunter Education Program goals:

- To reduce the number of hunting and hunting-related accidents and fatalities.
- To improve the image of the hunter and promote public acceptance of hunting sport shooting.
- To provide the hunter and other outdoorsmen an awareness of their legal and ethical responsibilities.
- To provide a better understanding of the principles of wildlife management and the need for wildlife laws and regulation.
- To promote and aid in shooting sports for the public.

There's a mesh here and an interdependency. So your role as Hunter Education Instructors is crucial to the "bigger picture." Check out the NCWRC Strategic Plan in its entirety at www.ncwildlife.org and, thanks, for all that you do.

Home From The Hunt Offers Crossbow Hunting Safety Tips

With crossbows now legal for hunting in North Carolina, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's Home From The Hunt campaign has recommended safety guidelines.

As with any method of hunting, always point your crossbow in a safe direction; only shoot after positively identifying your target and what's beyond it. Know your crossbow's capabilities and limitations.

- Never carry a crossbow cocked and loaded with an arrow.
- Keep fingers and thumb below the rail at all times.
- When cocking, be sure that your foot is firmly planted in the cocking stirrup.
- Never dry-fire a crossbow (firing without an arrow can cause sudden breakage).

While using a tree stand, all hunters should maintain three points of contact when climbing up or down; wear a full-body safety harness; and check all belts, chains and attachment cords before use.



Accidents often involve fingers above the rail

With a crossbow while in a tree stand:

- Cock the crossbow on the ground before climbing.
- Load the crossbow only when in hunting position.
- Always use a haul line to raise or lower an unloaded crossbow.
- Keep the haul line away from the trigger mechanism – haul stock-first.
- Clear away any tree branches before taking a shot.

District Hunter Education Specialists

D-1 David Denton, 252-482-7105 david.denton@ncwildlife.org

D-2 Stacy Kempf, 252-521-5190 stacy.kempf@ncwildlife.org

D-3 Hilton Best, 252-291-2863 hilton.best@ncwildlife.org

D-4 Kevin Crabtree, 910-648-4034 kevin.crabtree@ncwildlife.org

D-5 Lt. Robert Sharpe (interim) 919-410-9912

D-6 Randy Thomas, 704-782-9097 randy.thomas@ncwildlife.org

D-7 Tim Lemon, 336-957-4382 tim.lemon@ncwildlife.org

D-8 Wesley Blair, 828-726-1160 wes.blair@ncwildlife.org

D-9 Darrin Ball, 828-891-4093 darrin.ball@ncwildlife.org



District Tournaments Schedule Released

The Hunter Education Program of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission has tentatively set the 2011 schedule for the annual district-level Youth Hunter Education Skills Tournaments. Nine competitions will be held across the state, with thousands of students expected to participate.

- District 1** tournament is scheduled for March 26 at Eastern 4-H Environmental Education Conference Center in Columbia.
- District 2** tournament is scheduled for March 12 at New Hanover Co. Law Enforcement Association Range in Castle Hayne.
- District 3** tournament is scheduled for March 12 at Rose Hill Farms near Nashville.
- District 4** tournament is scheduled for March 16 at the Coharrie Shooting Range near Clinton.
- District 5** tournament is scheduled for March 26 at the Alamance Wildlife Club near Graham, rain date April 2.
- District 6** tournament is scheduled for March 19 at Camp John J. Barnhardt in New London.
- District 7** tournament is scheduled for March 19 at Hunting Creek Preserve in Harmony.
- District 8** tournament is scheduled for March 19 at Catawba Valley Wildlife Club in Hickory.
- District 9** tournament is scheduled for March 19 at Polk County Gun Club near Columbus.

This Year's Youth Hunter Education Skills Tournament

Because of the Easter holiday, the popular Youth Hunter Education Skills Tournament will be held April 30. The 33rd annual tournament will determine the state championships in team and individual competitions. The location will remain at Millstone 4-H Center near Ellerbe.



Learning on the range

Nine district-level competitions will be held across the state in March. Volunteer opportunities, registration, rules and other information will be posted on the password-protected Hunter Education Instructor webpage (www.ncwildlife.org/HunterEd/index.asp) and distributed in a statewide news release.

The district tournaments and the state championship continue to garner positive attention from the press and public, and promote the Hunter Education Program in public and private schools.

This year's tournaments will stress the importance of sportsmanship and camaraderie among competitors, as an aspect of conservation ethics and responsibility.

Generous Donation Made in Fred Rorrer's Memory



Kevin Crabtree thanks Lin Webb for pop-up targets

On Nov. 7, 2010, on behalf of Mike Gibson Manufacturing (www.mg-targets.com), Hunter Education Instructor Lin Webb donated 10 steel .22 rimfire pop-up targets for the youth hunter safety skills program and marksmanship training.

"We would like to donate these in memory of Fred Rorrer, a Hunter Education Specialist with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission," Webb said.

These targets will help the Hunter Education Program throughout the state. Students and other shooters will put them to use for firearms safety, target recognition and marksmanship.

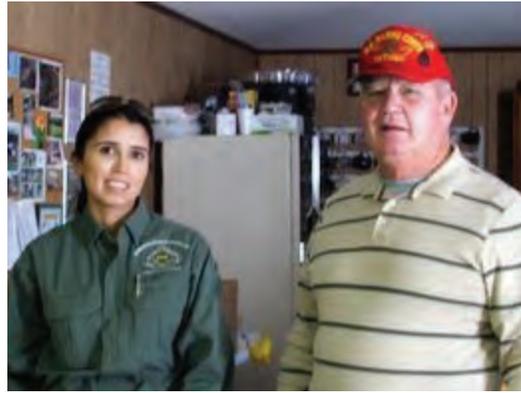
"I have found that these things will get kids hooked on shooting faster than anything I've used," said Mike Gibson, namesake of Mike Gibson Manufacturing of Caldwell, Idaho. "They get immediate feedback on each hit. They get to see it move and hear the bullet hit."

Rorrer was active in encouraging youth to participate in hunting and shooting sports, and served as a tremendous influence in North Carolina in encouraging safe, responsible involvement. He died unexpectedly in October at his home in Eden.

"On behalf of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, I would like to thank you and your company for the generous donation," Hunter Education Specialist Kevin Crabtree said. "This generous donation will also assist us in recruiting and retaining hunters in our state."



D-1 Terry Boyce with David Denton



D-2 Doyt "Dutch" Akom along with Stacy Kempf



D-3 Joe Fabian and Hilton Best



D-4 Joe Darden and Kevin Crabtree



D-5 Dave Gibbs and Lt. Robert Sharpe



D-6 Anne-Marie Rushing, Randy Thomas



D-7 Jay Hutchens



D-8 Link Grass with Wes Blair



D-9 Bill McAlhane

Custom Models of Henry Rifles for Instructors of the Year

Henry Rifles, made-in-America favorites for generations, has produced a custom model of the Golden Boy .22 lever action rifle for the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

These special-edition rifles were presented to each district's Hunter Education Instructor of the Year (above) and will become an annual occurrence, according to program leaders.

"The real unsung heroes of our industry are the instructors whose tireless efforts promote firearms safety, youth shooting sports and our Second Amendment rights," said Anthony Imperato, president of the Henry Repeating Arms. "I thank them and salute them."

The rifles have been personalized for North Carolina's 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.

"The men and women who earn 'Instructor of the Year' honors deserve something special," said Capt. Chris Huebner, hunting safety coordinator for North Carolina. "We appreciate Henry Rifles working with us to create these unique models.

"We know that the presentation of a Golden Boy will be a worthy recognition of the achievements of the instructors of the year," Huebner added. "Each honoree should know their contributions mean so much."

North Carolina Hunter Education Program – Communication and Outreach

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Comments and submissions are welcome.

Editorial Oversight: Travis Casper, asst. hunter education coordinator, (919) 707-0031, travis.casper@ncwildlife.org

Editor: Geoff Cantrell, public information officer, (919) 707-0186, geoff.cantrell@ncwildlife.org

Hunter Education Program, Division of Law Enforcement, 1718 Mail Services Center, Raleigh NC 27699-1718



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North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Hunter Education Program

Be Courteous, Be Careful, Be Seen, Be Safe

Division of Law Enforcement

1718 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699-1718