

SUMMER 2009

# HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS' NEWSLETTER



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

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## Pittman-Robertson Act Puts Funds Into Action for Hunter Education

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, some 750,000 students across America participate in hunter education classes each year. North Carolina accounts for about 19,000 of those students, typically enrolled in one of the 750 or more free classes offered by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission annually.

“Free,” in this case, means there are no admission fees for enrolling in the course and there is no cost for materials. Hunting safety materials, including posters, videos and brochures are also distributed free across the state. So, a frequently asked question for instructors is, “who pays for all this?”

This is always a good opportunity to explain the importance of the U.S. Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program, commonly known as the Pittman-Robertson Act. These funds are used by state agencies for wildlife restoration and (a very crucial “and”) hunter education and enhancement of hunter education programs.

It is named for U.S. Sen. Key Pittman (D-Nevada) and U.S. Rep. Absalom Willis Robertson (D-Virginia)

and is another example of sportsmen not only leading the modern conservation movement, but paying for it as well. In the 71 years since Pittman-Robertson took effect in July 1938, more than \$2 billion in federal excise taxes have been matched by more than \$500 million in state funds, chiefly derived from hunting license fees.

The hunter education apportionment is based on total state population and is derived from one-half of the tax on handguns and archery equipment. No state may receive more than 3 percent of funding or less than 1 percent.

The overall mission is for state wildlife agencies to provide instruction in firearm operations and safety, wildlife management, nature conservation, ethics, game laws, outdoor survival and wilderness first aid. The goal is to teach students to be safe, responsible, conservation-minded hunters.

Pittman-Robertson Act funding has enabled North Carolina to provide an outstanding program, administered by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission through the Division of Enforcement since 1972. North Carolina’s program continues to offer 10-hour courses in all 100 counties, advanced courses, multimedia public awareness campaigns and the annual youth hunter safety competitions.



*Instructor Linda Brantley leads an advanced course on archery.*

### **Pittman-Robertson at-a-glance**

- Funding from excise taxes placed on firearms, ammunition and archery
- Administered by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Signed into law by Franklin D. Roosevelt in September 1937
- Amended in 1970 to include hunter education and target ranges

**“Gotta thank the crew, guys at the shop and the sponsors for makin’ it happen”**

***Like a NASCAR driver rolling into Victory Lane, hunter education has to thank Pittman-Robertson and the good folks at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, along with International Hunter Education Association, sportsmen clubs and businesses for their support. And not to be overlooked are volunteers services, determined to be worth \$30 million a year.***

# Lenoir Teen Wins National Essay Contest

Atlanta Blair, 13, of Lenoir, is the 2009 winner of the annual Kansas Governor's One-Shot Turkey Hunt Essay Contest, hosted by the National Wild Turkey Federation.

The topic was "How Would My Life Be Different If Hunting Was Not a Part of It."

Recognized in February in Nashville at the 33rd annual National Wild Turkey Federation Convention and Sports Show, Miss Blair received the grand prize of a Kansas hunting license and tickets for an all-expense-paid turkey hunt for herself and a chaperone.

"Choosing a winner from so many great essays was tough, but we felt that Atlanta's essay perfectly captured the responsibility, maturity and discipline that youth gain from hunting," said Mandy Harling, the National Wild Turkey Federation's youth programs coordinator.

Atlanta immediately picked her father, Wesley Blair, as her chaperone for the hunt. Wes is the Hunter Education Specialist for D-8.

"I realize the significance of the responsibilities that come with carrying my gun," she wrote in the essay. "My dad has always told me; 'With freedom there comes responsibility.' I learned this at an early age."



ABOVE Atlanta with Michael Waddell and Blake Shelton. BELOW Atlanta with mom and dad, Vickie and Wes Blair.



**The 2010 Kansas Governor's One-Shot Turkey Hunt Essay Contest topic is "How would life be different if everyone had experienced hunting at least once?" Deadline is Dec. 1 and rules available at [www.nwtf.org/jakes/hunt\\_contest\\_rules.html](http://www.nwtf.org/jakes/hunt_contest_rules.html)**

## Subscribe to Award-Winning *Wildlife in North Carolina* Magazine (It's a Bargain!)

What type of tree stand should I use for deer hunting? What safety tips will help keep my boating excursions safe this summer?

Each month, *Wildlife in North Carolina* is packed with information you and your family can use. Hunting, fishing, conservation, natural history, outdoor recreation and wild places, all for only \$1 or less per issue.

Subscriptions are \$12 for one year or \$30 for three. To order with a Visa or MasterCard, call toll free 1-866-945-3746 or go online to [www.ncwildstore.com](http://www.ncwildstore.com). To pay by check, send to 1710 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1710. Get informed and get outside!

## Campaign Shares How N.C. Sportsmen Can Stop the Spread of Invasive Species

America's sportsmen represent an essential partner in the fight against invasive species that threaten native fish and wildlife and their habitats, and the future of hunting and fishing.

Preventing and controlling invasive species is an achievable goal, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reminded us recently. The USDA provides valuable information worth sharing, including a documentary video. "Defending Favorite Places" is available on DVD and online in Windows Media Player format, as part of the National Invasive Species Threat Campaign.

A good start is to link invasive species management principles with the hunting and angling conservation ethics. Hunter Education instructors can play a major role in this campaign. Here are some helpful links:

<http://www.dontmovefirewood.org/videos-the-interview.html>

<http://www.fs.fed.us/invasivespecies/prevention/defending.shtml>

<http://www.emeraldashborer.info/firewood.cfm>

Linking invasive species management principles with the hunting and angling conservation is critical. Invasive species threaten the future of hunting and fishing. All outdoor recreation enthusiasts, particularly hunters and anglers, bear the brunt of the damage done by invasive species.



## On Target with the State Hunter Education Coordinator

As everyone knows, there is a budget crunch going on.

While the Hunter Education program has always been a responsible, even frugal operation with talented and dedicated volunteers, we've had to do some belt tightening, too. The Advanced Hunter Education Instructor workshop is, as of this writing, on schedule to take place. We can't do regional workshops like we did last fall, so we plan to return to Millstone 4-H Center near Ellerbe. We will update everyone as quickly as possible if that status changes, but for now we are planning on it. A registration form is included on another page, please fill it out and mail *and* fax it in as soon as you can.

The good news is, despite a bad economy, sales of hunting licenses are steadily increasing and hunter education remains in demand. Hard times can bring people back to core values and appreciating the essential things, and that makes your contributions all the more important. Thank you.

Speaking of thanks, a world of gratitude goes out to all of the volunteer instructors, wildlife enforcement officers and hunter education specialists who assisted with the district and the state Youth Hunter Education Skills Tournaments. Due to the hard work and dedication of our volunteers and staff, all the tournaments were a success and went smoothly. The popularity of these events continues to grow across the state. The 2009 district tournaments had 223 teams and around 2,300 participants, compared to 217 teams and some 1,700 participants in 2008.

We continue to emphasize tree stand safety and are working hard on this season's campaign. A couple of possible themes we are discussing are "The ABCs of Tree Stand Safety" aimed directly at active hunters, the other "Home From the Hunt Starts with Tree Stand Safety," which has a focus on family and friends as much as hunters. Let me know what you think and your ideas.



**Capt. Chris Huebner**

## Hunter Education Specialists Across the State by WRC Districts

In addition to your local hunter education specialist, information is also available at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org) at [http://www.ncwildlife.org/fs\\_index\\_08\\_education.htm](http://www.ncwildlife.org/fs_index_08_education.htm) and the password-protected [http://www.ncwildlife.org/pg04\\_HuntingTrapping/pg4c\\_instructorlogin.asp](http://www.ncwildlife.org/pg04_HuntingTrapping/pg4c_instructorlogin.asp)

**District 1** David Denton 252-482-7105 [d1huntersafety@inteliport.com](mailto:d1huntersafety@inteliport.com)

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**District 4** Kevin Crabtree 910-648-4034 [kcrabtree@intrstar.net](mailto:kcrabtree@intrstar.net)

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**District 6** Randy Thomas 704-782-9097 [thomasr@vnet.net](mailto:thomasr@vnet.net)

**District 7** Tim Lemon 336-957-4382 [tmlemon@wilkes.net](mailto:tmlemon@wilkes.net)

**District 8** Wesley Blair 828-726-1160 [weshuntered@directus.net](mailto:weshuntered@directus.net)

**District 9** Darrin Ball 828-891-4093 [dbball3@hotmail.com](mailto:dbball3@hotmail.com)



# ADVANCED HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR WORKSHOP

## SEPTEMBER 25 – 27 at MILLSTONE 4-H CENTER, ELLERBE

REGISTRATION FORM - PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

SHIRT SIZE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAKE FIRST AND SECOND CHOICES FOR EACH SECTION

### SATURDAY AM CLASS CHOICES

	1ST CHOICE	2ND CHOICE
MUZZLELOADING SILHOUETTE	_____	_____
*TRAPPING	_____	_____
MAP & COMPASS	_____	_____
WATERFOWL HUNTING	_____	_____
HOW TO SCORE A TROPHY	_____	_____
CROSSBOW (Familiarization Pros-Cons)	_____	_____
*BOATING SAFETY FOR HUNTER ED	_____	_____

### SATURDAY PM CLASS CHOICES

	1ST CHOICE	2ND CHOICE
*BOATING SAFETY FOR HUNTER ED	_____	_____
TRADITIONAL ARCHERY	_____	_____
FIREARMS MAINTENANCE	_____	_____
*TRAPPING	_____	_____
CROSSBOW (Familiarization Pros-Cons)	_____	_____
TALKING TURKEY	_____	_____
RIFLE MARKSMANSHIP	_____	_____

### SUNDAY AM CLASS CHOICES

	1ST CHOICE	2ND CHOICE
PREDATOR HUNTING	_____	_____
BIRD ID	_____	_____
TALKING TURKEY	_____	_____
WATERFOWL HUNTING	_____	_____
HANDGUN	_____	_____
HOW TO SCORE A TROPHY	_____	_____
OUTDOOR WRITING	_____	_____

\* MUST ATTEND BOTH SESSIONS

PLEASE RETURN WITH CHECK **NO LATER THAN AUG. 31** TO:

NANCY BOYKIN, N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION, 1718 MAIL SERVICE CENTER, RALEIGH, NC 27699-1718.

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO NCWRC HUNTER EDUCATION FOR \$10 (NON-REFUNDABLE)

PLEASE ALSO FAX COPY OF REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK TO NANCY AT 919-707-0045 TO ENSURE RECEIPT OF REGISTRATION FORM.

A confirmation packet will be sent acknowledging receipt of your registration and class choices.

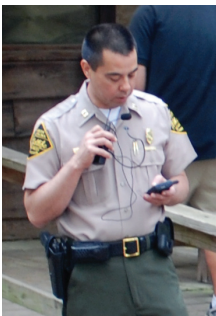


# Action at the 2009 District Tournaments





# A Successful 31st Annual State Tournament





# Team Rankings from the State Tournament

## SENIOR TEAM RANKING SCORE

- |                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| 1. West Montgomery | 3034 |
| 2. North Davidson  | 3003 |
| 3. Starmount       | 2997 |

## SENIOR TEAM RANKINGS BY EVENT

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Trap</u>            | <u>Rifle</u>          |
| 1. West Montgomery 790 | 1. Starmount 728      |
| <u>Archery</u>         | <u>Hunter Skills</u>  |
| 1. Jones FFA 791       | 1. North Davidson 732 |

## JUNIOR TEAM RANKING SCORE

- |                         |      |
|-------------------------|------|
| 1. Park Ridge Christian | 2955 |
| 2. Fall Creek           | 2954 |
| 3. Perquimans           | 2941 |

## JUNIOR TEAM RANKINGS BY EVENT

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| <u>Trap</u>       | <u>Rifle</u>         |
| 1. Perquimans 760 | 1. Fall Creek 728    |
| <u>Archery</u>    | <u>Hunter Skills</u> |
| 1. East Bend 777  | 1. East Bend 754     |

# Top Team Rankings from the District Tournaments

## District 1 Junior

1. Perquimans County Middle School 2796
2. Ridgcroft 2753

## District 1 Senior

1. Albemarle Home School 2886
2. John A. Holmes High School 2867

## District 2 Junior

1. Pamlico County 4H 2667
2. Farmville Middle School 2566

## District 2 Senior

1. Jones Senior FFA 2968
2. Farmville Central 2947

## District 3 Junior

1. Northeast Academy 2482

## District 3 Senior

1. Northeast Academy 2832
2. Hunt High School 2640

## District 4 Junior

1. Western Harnett Middle School 2634
2. Harrells Christian Academy 1494

## District 4 Senior

1. Western Harnett High School Red 2750
2. Triton High School 2701

## District 5 Junior

1. East Lee Middle School A 2789
2. Sanford Lee Middle School Gold 2580

## District 5 Senior

1. Southern Lee High School 2852
2. Eastern Randolph High School 2825

## District 6 Junior

1. Parkridge Christian Academy Junior 2966
2. New London Middle School Red 2817

## District 6 Senior

1. North Stanly High School 3028
2. West Montgomery High School A 2972

## District 7 Junior

1. Forbush Elementary 2918
2. Eastbend Elementary 2866

## District 7 Senior

1. Forbush High School Red 3031
2. Surry County Gold 2963

## District 8 Junior

1. Mill Creek Middle School 2472
2. Avery Middle School Black 2463

## District 8 Senior

1. Mitchell High School Blue 2802
2. Bunker Hill High School 2729

## District 9 Junior

1. Apple Valley Middle School 2763
2. Canton Middle School 2623

## District 9 Senior

1. Pisgah High School Team A 2873
2. North Henderson High School 2870

## About Hunter Education Program Communication and Outreach

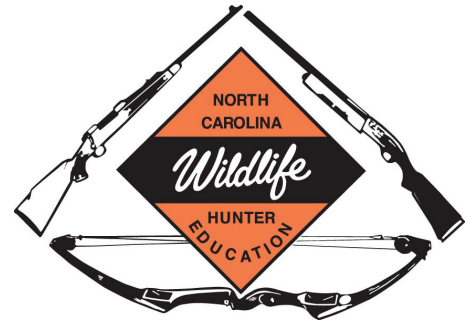
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Comments and submissions are welcome. Deadline for the fall issue is Sept.

7. Send c/o Hunter Education Program, 1717 Mail Services Center, Raleigh NC 27699-1717 or e-mail [travis.casper@ncwildlife.org](mailto:travis.casper@ncwildlife.org).

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### NOTICE



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North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Hunter Education Program

Be Courteous, Be Careful, Be Seen, Be Safe

Division of Enforcement

1718 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27669-1718