

**North Carolina Chapter of the National Wild  
Turkey Federation  
Call Makers Competition**

**Southeastern Open Championship  
2023 Rules, Announcements and Categories  
(Open to all call makers)**

**1. CHARTER**

The basis for this competition is to determine each call's stand-alone merit of how well it performs in the hands of a hunter. The judges of this competition will be a qualified panel of experienced hunters who will grade each call on the prescribed criteria. Please note that this is not a contest to determine who the best caller is, rather it is a contest to determine the best call in each specific category.

While it is expected that call makers can run their own calls with great precision, the question with hunters is, how simple or easy the call is to use and how much does it sound like the game they pursue. In determining and selecting the best hunting calls each year, the North Carolina State Chapter of the NWTF strives to ensure fairness and impartiality without prejudice towards commercial or custom call makers or with the design of any call entered in the hunting call competition. Criteria for determining and selecting the best call places equal emphasis on sound quality and tone, ease of use, versatility and its ability in attaining what is commonly referred to as a break over. Please be sure to condition your call upon entry.

**2. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RULES**

The purpose of the hunting call competition is to select the most consistent, user friendly and best sounding calls. The Southeastern Open is open to any call maker, regardless of residence, following the same criteria as above. Calls will be judged in Open by category

and class. A Southeastern Open Champion will be awarded. Awards will be given to category as well as Best of Class.

**All entries** will be sold at the silent auction at a 50/50 split (unless entry fee waiver is elected for 100% donation) at the 2023 Dixie Deer Classic or online. The 50/50 split entitles the call maker to 50% of the auction bid and the remaining 50% goes to support the North Carolina State Chapter of the NWTF. Names recognition and competition placement (if applicable) will be displayed with each entry at the auction.

## **General Hunting Calls Competition Rules:**

1. **All call makers are required to pre-register all calls they plan to enter in the 2018 competition by February 27, 2023**
2. Entries must be original works and must have been completed during or after March 2021.

Entries must be signed and dated by the call maker.

3. All call makers are limited to two entries per category.
4. Call makers are responsible for selecting the category in which they wish to enter each call. The North Carolina State Chapter reserves the right to place any call in a different category than the one designated by the entrant if the North Carolina State Chapter believes the call is more correctly suited to a different category/class.
5. **Pre-registered calls may be sent directly to the North Carolina State Chapter of the NWTF or delivered in person at the Call Competition Booth, Friday, March 3, 2023 until 11 am. (Dixie Deer Classic)**
6. Entries shipped to the North Carolina State Chapter of the NWTF must be received no later than February 27, 2023 at the following address:

**North Carolina State Chapter of the NWTF  
C/o Ted White  
10051 NC HWY 41 N  
Lumberton, North Carolina 28358**

7. The following procedure is required when sending in your call(s) and the Registration Forms. The Form has 2 copies...one copy must go on the outside of the box and one is for your records. It is very important that this procedure be followed. Please do not put the form inside the box; it must be on the outside, so we can get your call(s) registered without opening the box. This will help us expedite the registration and transporting of the many calls in this competition.
8. All entries shipped to the North Carolina State Chapter will be opened at the show site.
9. It is the call maker's responsibility to place an acceptable insurance value on the entry for shipping purposes, as the North Carolina State Chapter will not be held responsible for any loss or damage to entries that are beyond the control of the contest.

**Buyers will be allowed to pay for and pick up calls bought at the end of silent auction,**

10. **ENTRY FEES**

- a. **The entry fee is \$20.00 for the first call and \$10.00 for each additional call** for all entries that the call maker wishes to split half the proceeds with the North Carolina State Chapter of the NWTF.
  - b. **The entry fee is free per call** for all entries that are deemed 100% supportive. The artisan will not receive any moneys from the sale of the call under this option.
11. Checks will be mailed out from the North Carolina State Chapter Treasurer after the auctions.
  12. **Restrictions:** Calls made with box turtle or turtle shell are not permitted.
  13. Call makers wishing to place business cards near their pieces may do so after judging is completed and ribbons have been placed.
  14. No calls with ivory will be permitted.

### **3. DISTINCTION OF CLASSES AND CATEGORIES FOR HUNTING CALLS**

Entries are limited to (2) two calls per category and should be the original work of the entrant.

**Class 1**

**Category 1 - Short Box:** Hinged-lid design; traditional double-sided design e.g. (Cost,

Lynch, Turpin).

**Category 2 - Long Box:** Hinged-lid design; long paddle design 3.g. (Eminence fence post caller style, Cost style boat paddle).

**Category 3 - One Sided Box:** Hinged-lid design e.g. (Lynch fool proof).

### Class II

**Category 4 - Slate and Striker**

**Category 5 - Glass and Striker**

**Category 6 - Other Friction Call and Striker** (i.e. aluminum, copper, rock, etc.)

### Class III

**Category 7 - Turned Trumpet Call:** Turned or machined barrel with mouthpiece, mouthpiece is not required to be turned.

### Class IV

**Category 8 - Wing bone, cane and other material:** Two or three wingbones, cane or other materials such as wingbone/rubber tubing/cow horn are permissible.

### Class V

**Category 9 - Scratch Box Design**

**Category 10 - Push-Pin Call**

**Category 11 -Trough Call and Striker:** e.g.(Ray & Ira Chisholm, Pap Nelson, Ben Lee)

### Class VI

**Category 14 - Crow**

**Category 15- Owl**

**Category 16 - All other calls Predator, Grunt etc.**

## **4. JUDGING**

1. Only the following characteristics of each call will be scored.
  - a. Ability to produce turkey like sounds. (Examples include but are not limited to: Yelp, cluck, kee-kee, cackle, cutting of the hen, purr, putt, gobble, tree call).
  - b. Ease of use to produce turkey like sounds (i.e. how simple or user friendly is the call to use).
  - c. Tone, pitch, and sound quality.
  - d. Break over or roll over.

- e. Versatility (i.e. the ability to obtain a vast range of turkey like sounds, both spring or fall type calls, gobbler or hen sounds, and the ability to sound like more than one turkey).
2. A panel of five (5) judges will individually rate each entry.
3. Scores of each call are totaled following the removal of the high and low score. The winner of each category will then be determined by the highest score.
4. The North Carolina State Chapter of the NWTF reserves the right to make changes (to the scoring sheet) it deems necessary prior to judging.

All judges are required to be available at the hunting call display area in the exhibit hall on Friday, at 1:00 pm. Judges will be issued special badges to the exhibit hall at the time of registration. The preliminary round of judging will begin at 1.30 pm. on Friday, March 3, 2023. The Honorary Chairman of this event will serve as facilitator. Judging normally takes between 5-6 hours.

5. The process of how calls are judged is as follows:

Step 1: Based on the five (5) criteria, the panel of five judges will individually select a minimum of three (3) calls with a maximum of five (5) calls per category during the preliminary rounds. These selected calls will advance to the final round.

Step 2: For the final round, **each judge will individually score each entry** in each category.

Step 3: The calls with highest scores in each category will be declared: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

Step 4: In the event of a tie score, the calls in question will be re-scored by the judges to determine the winner.

Step 5: The call scoring the highest score in the final round of each class shall be recognized as this year's Best of Class winner.

Step 6: Next the judges will independently score the eight (8) Best in Class winners. The call with the highest score shall be declared the Best of Show in Hunting Calls and have earned the title Southeastern Open Champion for Hunting Calls.

Step 7: Once Judging is completed, all trophies and awards will be placed.

## 5. OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. Bidding on **ALL** Silent Auction Calls will begin on Saturday, March 4, 2023. The silent auction on the hunting calls will close at set time periods.
2. All calls will be sold to the highest bidder or will be considered sold when the “Buy it now” price is utilized.
3. All calls that place will be auctioned online

## 6. AWARDS

**SOUTHEASTERN Champion Call Maker of the Year**                      **\$500.00 and Ribbon**

<b>Best of Class I</b> Box Call Categories 1-2-3	\$100.00 and Ribbon
<b>Best of Class II</b> Friction Call Categories 4-5-6	\$100.00 and Ribbon
<b>Best of Class III</b> Turned Trumpet Call Category 7	\$100.00 and Ribbon
<b>Best of Class IV</b> Wing Bone Call Category 8	\$100.00 and Ribbon
<b>Best of Class V</b> Scratch Box, Push Pin, Trough Call Categories 9-11	\$100.00 and Ribbon
<b>Best of Class VI</b> All Other Calls	\$100.00 and Ribbon

**1<sup>st</sup> Place for each category**

Ribbon

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place for each category**

Ribbon

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place for each category**

Ribbon

**4<sup>th</sup> Place for each category**

Ribbon