

**Virginia State Chapter of the National Wild
Turkey Federation
Call Makers Competition**

**Virginia State 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 Virginia 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 Virginia State 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 Virginia State Open Champion will be awarded. Awards will be given to categories as well as Best of Class.

First Place entries will be sold at the silent auction of the Commonwealth of Virginia State NWTF banquet on January 14, 2023 that are donated. Names recognition and competition placement (if applicable) will be displayed with each entry at the auction. Our goals is to have all awards mailed within two weeks of the competition.

General Hunting Calls Competition Rules:

- All call makers are required to pre-register all calls by January 9, 2023 with Staci Longest at staci.longest@gmail.com, that plan to enter in the 2023 competition, calls must be received in person no later than by January 11, 2023 by 8:00 AM at sight if not mailed ahead of time to Staci Longest 817 Poplar Hill Road Newtown, VA 23126.**
- Entries must be original works and must have been completed during or after February 2022. Entries must be signed and dated by the call maker.
- Call makers are unlimited for entries per category.
- Call makers are responsible for selecting the category in which they wish to enter each call. The Virginia State Chapter reserves the right to place any call in a different category than the one designated by the entrant if the Virginia State Chapter believes the call is more correctly suited to a different category/class.
- Pre-registered calls may be sent directly to the Virginia State Chapter of the NWTF (see below) or delivered in person** at the Call Competition Area, Friday January 14, 2023 until 8 a.m.
- Entries shipped to the Virginia State Chapter of the NWTF must be received no later than January 12, 2023 at the following address:

**Virginia State Chapter of the NWTF
C/O Staci Longest
817 Poplar Hill Road
Newtown, VA 23126**

7. **The following procedure is required when sending in your call(s) and the Registration Form. Please place the form in the box with the call to be entered in the contest.**
 8. All entries shipped to the Virginia State Chapter will be opened and organized when they arrive and taken to show site for judging.
 9. It is the call maker's responsibility to place an acceptable insurance value on the entry for shipping purposes, as the Virginia 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 the silent auction,**
10. **ENTRY FEES**
 - a. **The entry fee is free per call** for all entries that are deemed 100% supportive. The artisan will not receive any money from the sale of the call under this option.
 11. **Restrictions:** Calls made with box turtle or turtle shell are not permitted.
 12. Call makers wishing to place business cards near their pieces may do so after judging is completed and ribbons have been placed.

3. DISTINCTION OF CLASSES AND CATEGORIES FOR HUNTING CALLS

Entries are unlimited per category and should be the original work of the entrant.

Class I

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 or Decorative Box: Hinged-lid design e.g. (Lynch fool proof).

Class II

Category 4 – Slate and Striker

Category 5 – Glass/Crystal and Striker

Category 6 – Other Friction Call and Striker (i.e. aluminum, copper, ceramic, etc.)

Category 6.5- Trough Call and Striker

Class III

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

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

Class IV

Category 9 – Scratch Box Design

Category 10 – Push-Pin Call

Class V

Category 11 – Tube Call

Class VI

Category 12 – Locater (owl, crow, coyote, pileated woodpecker, etc.)

Class VII

Category 13 – All other calls (deer, waterfowl, 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 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 Virginia State Chapter of the NWTf reserves the right to make changes (to the scoring sheet) it deems necessary prior to judging.
5. All judges are required to be available at the hunting call display area in the call display area on Friday, no later than 8:00 a.m. The preliminary round of judging will begin no later than 9:00 a.m. on Friday, January 13, 2023. The Honorary Chairman of this event will serve as facilitator. Judging normally takes between 4-7 hours.
6. The process of how calls are judged is as follows:

Step 1: Based on the five (5) criteria, the panel of 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: 1st, 2nd & 3rd

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 – Step 12: 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 13: Next the judges will independently score the eight (7) 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 Virginia State Open Champion for Hunting Calls.

Step 14: Once Judging is completed, all awards will be placed.

5. OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. Bidding on First place in each category will be done by Silent Auction at the Commonwealth of Virginia Leadership Banquet and awards ceremony. The silent auction on the hunting calls will close at set time periods. Keep in mind the top calls will be sold for a longer period of time online, if deemed necessary. All other calls will be provided to local Virginia Chapters to promote individually which will also help get your name out for future sale opportunities.
2. All calls will be sold to the highest bidder.

6. AWARDS

Virginia State Open NWTf Champion Call Maker of the Year

Best of Class I Box Call Categories 1-2-3

Best of Class II Friction Call Categories 4-5-6-6.5

Best of Class III Turned Trumpet/Wing Bone Call Category 7-8

Best of Class IV Scratch Box/Push Pin Category 9-10

Best of Class V Tube Call Category 11

Best of Class VI Locater Call Category 12

Best of Class VII All Other Calls Category 13

1st Place for each category

2nd Place for each category

3rd Place for each category



VIRGINIA STATE

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

CATEGORY: _____



VIRGINIA STATE

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

CATEGORY: _____