

# **2024 OHIO NWTF Buckeye Challenge Callmaking World Championship February 3, 2024 2024 Rules, Announcements, and Categories (Open to all call makers)**

## **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 turkey 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 turkey hunters is, how simple or easy the turkey call is to use and how much does it sound like a turkey. In determining and selecting the best hunting turkey call each year, 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. (Crow and Locater calls will be judged a bit differently).

## **I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RULES**

The purpose of the hunting call competition is to select the most consistent, user friendly and best sounding calls. Entry into the event is open to commercially manufactured or custom, handmade or hand tuned calls. In addition, the 2024 NWTF Ohio Best of Show and Best of Hunting Class Call Makers will be recognized, as well as Youth Callmaker of the Year.

We will be posting entries for sale on eBay. Name recognition and competition placement (if applicable) will be displayed with each entry that's for sale on all eBay listings. All call makers must submit a brief description of the call they are entering. Information must include the call makers name and address along with a description of call including types of material used in the call and any information that will enhance the sale of the call at Auction and on eBay. Information should be submitted on a 5" x 7" note card or a half-page maximum. Call makers wishing to purchase their calls back from OH NWTF may place a reserve bid on their calls. If at auction the call does not reach the reserve bid the maker can buy the call for that price. This must be noted on the registration form.

## General Hunting Call Competition rules:

1. All call makers are required to pre-register, with the Ohio NWTF Buckeye Challenge Contest Chairman, all entries they plan to enter in the 2024 competition. The pre-registration deadline for all entries should be received no later than January 14, 2024.

- David Guthridge (Buckeye Challenge Chairman)  
Bigdave3443@gmail.com  
(513)498-8447

2. Entries must be original works and must have been completed during or after March 2023. **Entries must be signed and dated by the call maker.**

3. All call makers are limited to 2 entries per category.

4. Call makers are responsible for selecting the category in which they wish to enter each call. The OH NWTF reserves the right to place any call in a different category than the one designated by the entrant if the OH NWTF believes the call is more correctly suited to a differing category/class. In this event the competition chairman and co-chairs will convene and make the decision to move the call in question to the best suited category/class.

5. The call maker or their designated person may deliver pre-registered entries to be received by OH NWTF contest Chairman no later than January 26, 2024. All entries will be opened at the convention site.

- If you are mailing your calls to OH NWTF, please include 2 copies of the registration form. 1 copy inside the package and the other placed in an envelope or under the shipping label on the outside of the package and mail to:  
OH NWTF Buckeye Challenge Turkey Call Competition  
David Guthridge  
6594 Wyndwatch Dr  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45230
- Packages should be sent USPS Priority, UPS, or FedEx.
- NOTE: If entering multiple calls of the same type, it is the makers' responsibility to include a brief description of each call on the entry form so the call can be properly identified.

6. It is the call maker's responsibility to place an acceptable insurance value on the entry for shipping purposes, as the OH NWTF will not be held responsible for any loss or damage to entries that are beyond the control of the contest.

7. Checks will be mailed out from OH NWTF after the competition. Please allow 3-4 weeks for additional score validation process, treasury report, and shipping of awards.

8. Restrictions: Calls made with box turtle or turtle shell are not permitted.

9. The calls will be listed and sold on eBay.

10. Call makers may place absentee bids by filling out the bidding form and including it with their registration form. This amount will be the starting bid price and if this bid is not surpassed the call will be purchased by the call maker for the absentee bid amount.

11. All 1<sup>st</sup> place winners in the Hunting Categories will then be re-judged from the Best of Hunting Call.

12. Winners of the OH NWTF Buckeye Challenge Callmaking World Competition will be announced the day following the competition.

## II. JUDGING

A panel of five (5) judges per category will individually rate each entry. Each maker is limited to 2 entries per category. Scores of each call will be totaled. The winner of each category will be determined by the highest score. The preliminary round of judging will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday, February 3, 2024. The Contest Co-Chairs will serve as facilitators. Judging normally takes about 4 to 6 hours.

### Division 1 – Hunting Categories 1 – 8

The following characteristics of each call will be scored.

- 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.
- Ease of use to produce turkey-like sounds -- i.e. how simple or user-friendly the call is too use.
- Tone, pitch, and sound quality.
- Break over or roll over.
- Versatility: the ability to obtain a vast range of turkey-like sounds – i.e. both spring or fall type calls, gobbler or hen sounds, including the ability to sound like more than one turkey.

### Division 1 – Hunting Category 9 Turned Trumpet

The following characteristics of each call will be scored.

- 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.
- Ease of use to produce turkey-like sounds -- i.e. how simple or user-friendly the call is too use.
- Tone, pitch, and sound quality.
- Projection quality – i.e. loudness and clarity of the sound of the call.

### Division 1 – Hunting Category 10 Turkey Wing Bone

The following characteristics of each call will be scored.

- 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.

- Ease of use to produce turkey-like sounds -- i.e. how simple or user-friendly the call is too use.
- Tone, pitch, and sound quality.
- Projection quality – i.e. loudness and clarity of the sound of the call.

#### Division 1 – Hunting Category 11 Cane Yelper

The following characteristics of each call will be scored.

- 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.
- Ease of use to produce turkey-like sounds -- i.e. how simple or user-friendly the call is too use.
- Tone, pitch, and sound quality.
- Projection quality – i.e. loudness and clarity of the sound of the call.

#### Division 1 – Hunting Category 12, 13, and 14 Air Operated Open (Locator & Deer calls) and Tube Calls

The following characteristics of each call will be scored.

- Ability to produce the sound of the animal or object the call is meant to mimic.
- Ease of use to produce the sound of the specific animal.
- Tone, pitch, and sound quality.
- Projection quality – i.e. loudness and clarity of the sound of the call.

#### Division 2 - Decorative Category 15, 16, & 17 Decorative Box Call, Decorative Wingbone Call, & Decorative - Open

The following characteristic of each call will be scored:

- Eye appeal, artistic beauty. Scored from 1 to 20 possible points, with 20 being highest.
- Craftmanship, sanding, gluing, finish, etc. Scored from 1 to 20 possible points, with 20 being highest.
- Ingenuity, originality, and creativity uniqueness in design. Scored from 1 to 20 possible points, 20 being highest.
- Sound. It must be capable of producing realistic animal sound or realistic turkey sounds. I.e. yelp, cluck, etc. Scored from 1 to 20 possible points, with 20 being highest.
- Highest score obtainable is 80 points.

#### Category 18 Jakes - 17 and under, calls built with assistance

## Divisions and Classes of Turkey Calls

### Division 1

Category 1 – Short Box - Hinged lid design, overall length not to exceed 10” and sound chamber 5.5” or less with slight variations.

Category 2 – Long Box - Hinged lid design, overall length 11” or greater and sound chamber greater than 6.5”

Category 3 – Glass/Crystal Pot Call

Category 4 – Slate Pot Call

Category 5 - Other material, Pot call - Aluminum, copper, stone, ceramic, rock, fossil, bone

Category 6- Double Sided Pot Call – must be able to use both sides of pot call

Category 7 – Scratch Box Design - Any hinged design with a screw and/or spring will be moved to Category

Category 8 – Trough Call & Striker (i.e.: Ray & Ira Chisholm, Pap Nelson, Ben Lee) - Depth of trough must recede a minimum ¼” or more to qualify with the ends open. Playing surface may be of any material and striker may be of any design.

Category 9 – Turned Trumpet Call - Turned or machined barrel with mouth piece, mouth piece is not required to be turned.

Category 10 – Turkey Wing Bone, Open - Minimum of 2 bones must be used. NO migratory bird bones allowed.

Category 11 – Cane Yelpers – Must be made with materials consistent with a Jordan Yelper. (ie: river cane, thread, metal ferrule, and turkey wing bone mouth piece) NO turned barrels allowed.

Category 12 – Locator Call - Any style Turkey Locator call. Calls may include owl call, peacock call, crow call, woodpecker call, hawk call, etc. All calls are played as the makers send them. Judges will not move or adjust any reeds.

Category 13 – Buck Grunt or Doe Bleat - Any turned style Buck Grunt or Doe Bleat. All calls are played as the makers send them. Judges will extend the grunt tube when judging. Judges will not separate, move or adjust any reeds! Unless the call is built with an exterior adjustable reed system that doesn’t require the call to be separated (opened).

Category 14 – Tube Calls

Category 18 –Jakes - 17 and under, calls built with assistance

## **Division 2**

Category 15 – Decorative Box Call - This class is open to all types of box calls and must be decorated (painted, carved, woodburned, metal work, parquet, scrimshaw).

Category 16 – Decorative Turkey Wing bone Call - This class is open to all types of turkey wing bone calls and must be decorated (painted, carved, woodburned, metal work, parquet, scrimshaw).

Category 17 – Decorative, Open - This class is open to all call types and MUST BE DECORATED. Decorated (painted, carved, laminated, wood burned, metal work, parquet, scrimshaw, calls altered from original design).

## **Additional information:**

1. 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>.
2. In the event of a tie, the calls in question will be re-scored by the judges to determine the winner.
3. All 1<sup>st</sup> place hunting calls will be rescored for Best of Hunting Class.
4. The judges will collectively score all of the 1<sup>st</sup> place hunting class category winners. The call with the highest score shall be declared the Best of Hunting Class.
5. All of the 1<sup>st</sup> place decorative class winners will be rescored to determine the Best of Decorative Class Award.
6. Once judging is completed all awards will be placed next to calls.

## **AWARDS will be as follows:**

### Hunting Categories

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$100 cash, trophy, & medallion
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$50 cash & medallion
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Medallion only
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place – Medallion only

### Decorative Categories

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$100 cash, trophy, & medallion
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$50 cash & medallion
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Medallion only
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place – Medallion only

## **Additional awards:**

Best of Show World Champion Hunting award - This will be awarded to one hunting class call.

- \$500 cash, “Best of Show” medallion, & World Champion Trophy

Best of Show World Champion Decorative award – This will be awarded to one decorative class call.

- \$500 cash, “Best of Show” medallion, & World Champion Trophy

Youth Callmaker of the Year award – This will be awarded to one youth callmaker under age 18.

- “Youth Callmaker of the Year” medallion

Special note: Judges shall not be permitted to converse with one another during judging. This is to discourage one judge from influencing another judge’s score. Call makers who enter calls will not be permitted to judge.

The Ohio State Chapter NWTF supports one of the largest Wheelin’ Sportsman programs in the country. All proceeds from the Buckeye Challenge will go to the support of Ohio NWTF outreach programs.