

A short Biography on Don Buie

I know the Don Buie award recipient is the focus here and I will get to the recipient's biography in a moment but I first want to talk a little about Don Buie so you can better understand why this award is important and what an honor and achievement it is for the recipient to receive this award.

Each year the LCWC presents an award to one of our youth hunter skills team members in honor of Don Buie. The Don Buie Award of Excellence. I was told it was tradition for the president of LCWC to present the award. That was a couple of weeks ago. I realized I knew very little about Don Buie or why we have an award in his name to honor a young person from one of our youth hunter skills teams. It was also on that day I decided I needed to learn who Don Buie was and better understand why we have an award in his honor.

I have only been a member of LCWC for a couple of years so I did not have the opportunity to meet Don Buie. I now know from conversations with other members Don was a native of Western Harnett County, a respected leader at LCWC and the Sanford community and was known throughout North Carolina as a leader, teacher, successful sports coach and advocate for the preservation of all natural resources and wildlife.

Don was a rigorous advocate for young folks, and strived to advance youth skills in all areas, especially in scholarly education and in the North Carolina Wildlife Commission's Youth Hunter Safety Program.

Over the last two weeks I read articles about Don Buie, asked questions of people who knew him and even went to the internet of all places. I wanted to know why we have a Don Buie Award of Excellence and I am glad I took the time to learn about the life and achievements of Don Buie.

I learned about Don's influence regarding Central Carolina Community College. During his tenure at CCCC, Don was very active in expanding its curriculum and bringing in new talent to support the expansion. Don retired from CCCC in 2002 as the Dean of Continuing Education.

After Don's passing a NC US congressman addressed the United States Congressional Assembly and Speaker of The House on May 16, 2007 declaring North Carolina had lost one of our most outstanding citizens.

The Sanford Rotary Club sponsored a project to dedicate a trail head located at Douglas Drive and Boone Circle for the Endor Iron Furnace Trail in Don's honor.

The Sanford City Council passed a resolution requesting the department of transportation name a section of the 421 Bypass, currently under construction, in Don's memory.

During my research I learned when Don joined an organization he eventually became the leader and the organization was always the better for his efforts.

Lee County Wildlife Club was fortunate to have Don Buie as a member and leader. Don left us in May of 2007 and 7 years later his influence remains and he is often the subject of conversation here at the club and in the Sanford community. Don was and still is known as one of North Carolina's most outstanding citizens.

Don's involvement with the N.C. State Wildlife Organization and the State Wildlife Resources Commission led to his starting our Youth Hunter Safety Program in the early 1990's. Don ran the program mostly on his own with intermittent help along the way. Before Don passed he turned the program over to Bill Colebrook, Tony Brewer and Cecil Yates to coordinate the program for the future.

Don was widely known for his work with youth in the area of hunter skills and personal development toward future careers. He strongly impacted the lives of youth through his leadership as a faculty leader of Central Carolina Community College and through his leadership role of the Lee County Wildlife Club. He led the Club in extensive outreach to the community in a number of very effective programs.

As a committed Christian and a Certified Lay Pastor, Don for many years spoke at churches and other groups throughout Lee County, encouraging all toward a good and successful life.

Don was a leader of the Central Carolina Paddlers, a canoeing group, and led the region in river expeditions along many of the Carolina's rivers even furnishing others with canoes for these trips.

Don loved hunting, raising beagles and barbecuing.

One of the things I also learned about Don Buie is he was a busy man who accomplished a great deal in his short 63 years on God's green earth while setting a great example for young folks to emulate.

I now understand why the Don Buie Award of Excellence is an important achievement and coveted award for any young person and especially those who strive to better themselves.

Today we honor Don Buie's memory once again by presenting the Don Buie Award of Excellence to an individual who exemplifies Don's attributes of leadership and stewardship by starting out their own young life in the service of others.