

# North Georgia News

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## Terry Rogers to be inducted into GADA Class of 2019 Hall of Fame

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
editor@nganews.com

It's difficult to quantify the accomplishments of Union County's native son Terry Rogers.

The man is a legend in these parts, no doubt. His legacy, however, reflects a much broader influence than just his many years spent leading the Panthers.

Rogers has held several leadership positions in the National Organization of Coaches Association Directors, including president and vice president.

Statewide, he served in a variety of roles with the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association, which he led as president in 2003 and as executive director from 2008 to 2016.

He also sat on the executive committee of the Georgia High School Association for more than 20 years, and he served as Nike Coach of the Year Clinic Director in Atlanta for five years.

But make no mistake – as a coach and as an athletic director, Rogers impacted countless lives in Union County. He took it upon himself to mentor kids both on and off the field, and in his time, he helped to instill senses of belonging and self-discipline in an untold number of local youths.

For these reasons and others, the Board of Directors of the Georgia Athletic Director's Association has selected Rogers as a member of its Class of 2019 Hall of Fame, and he will be honored in a special induction ceremony in Savannah on Sunday, March 24.

"It's an honor to be placed in that group that's contributed to athletics in the communities and the school systems all over the state," said Rogers. "To be nominated is an honor, but then to be selected – it's as big an honor as I could have had, really."

Rogers served as athletic director of Union County High School for 27 years before retiring in 2006, though his career in Union County really goes back to the early '70s,

when he came back home to coach after first serving in the U.S. Marine Corps, then earning a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Georgia.

He was born here, raised here, played football here and graduated from here, so his return to Union County Schools truly was a homecoming for Rogers.

During his career, Rogers was responsible for starting several sports programs at the High School, including tennis, soccer and cross country, and he reinstated other programs, like softball and track.

Rogers also coached six different sports at Union County High: football, girls and boys basketball, girls and boys track, and softball.

He raised many hundreds of thousands of dollars for the local sports programs, and he spearheaded the renovation and construction of a number of sports facilities over the years.

Locally, Rogers was honored in 2017 by being inducted into the Union County Football Hall of Fame as both a



Terry Rogers

and a coach really ought to reach out to students that aren't athletes, because they need some leadership," said Rogers. "And a lot of times, you can be an asset by helping a kid that's not an athlete."

Continued Rogers, "They're all hungry for advice and leadership, and I always felt like, if I could show some attention to a kid regardless of whether he or she played ball or not, that was one of my responsibilities."

Of course, Rogers likes to give credit where credit is due, and he said he recognizes just how fortunate he was to have been surrounded by so many supportive individuals.

"I had good administrators to work for, and that's very important, when you know you're going to have backing from your administration," said Rogers. "I was really lucky to work for supportive superintendents, principals and school board members."

"It's kind of a team effort, and a lot of places don't have that, but we were always

player and a coach.

Looking back on his career, Rogers said his philosophy as a leader of young people was to reinforce the

idea that everybody belonged to somebody, especially those kids who might not have had anywhere to turn for guidance. "The athletic director

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## Mark Rogers wins 2018 Waterfowl Call Makers Championship

By Mark Smith  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Every duck hunter knows that the most crucial aspect of the sport is being able to attract waterfowl close enough to bag them.

That means a duck hunter must be able to master duck calling. And to master duck calling, the hunter must have an instrument known as a "duck call."

"It's a call that you have to make out of wood, acrylic or just about any kind of material," said Blairsville native Mark Rogers, who now lives in Johnson City, Tennessee, where he works for the local power company. "They have a reed in them and a sound board – that's what makes the sound different."

Rogers compared the duck call to a wind instrument, noting that "it takes that kind of musical talent to be able to run a duck call properly."

"The custom call makers, they have lists, and they close their order books, so a lot of

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Mark Rogers with his duck hunting dog Gunny, a 3-year-old black Labrador, along with their catch of the day.

## STAR Student Matthew Patrick excited for whatever comes next

By Jarrett Whitener  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Matthew Patrick has earned the honor of being named 2019 STAR Student for Union County High School.

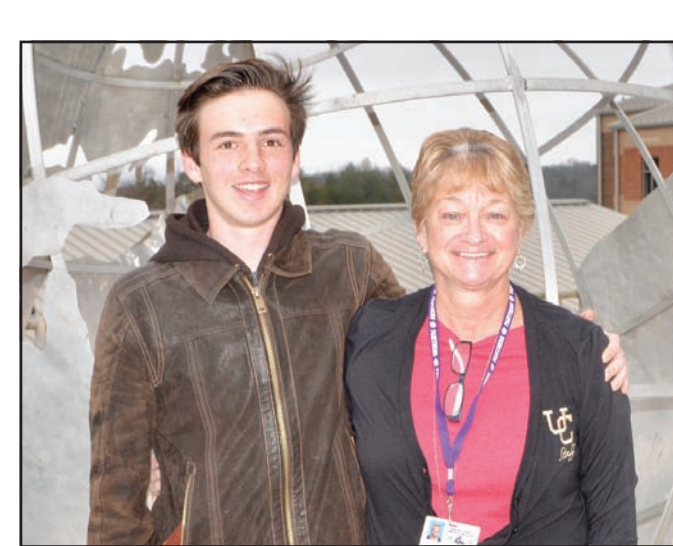
Every year, the school selects a student to serve as STAR Student based on SAT score and class placement, and in turn, the STAR Student selects a teacher who has influenced their journey through school.

Patrick selected Dr. Julie Hale as his STAR Teacher in 2019.

"It feels nice and good to be selected as the STAR student," said Patrick. "I'm proud that I get to have this experience."

Patrick scored a terrific 1480 on his SAT, and he has some pretty good advice for young people who still have the test to look forward to.

"I would say just use some of the general test-taking strategies," said Patrick. "Everybody thinks it's so daunting, but if you just use



Union County High School's 2019 STAR Student Matthew Patrick with STAR Teacher Dr. Julie Hale.

Photo by Jarrett Whitener

strategies like eliminating the two answers you know aren't right, re-reading the questions, finding evidence for the answer, and if you don't know it, skip it, and that will generally help you get a pretty good score."

Patrick is involved with sports such as soccer, cross

country and track, alongside different clubs like BETA, where he served on the executive board, and TSA, where he served as vice president.

Following high school, Patrick wants to pursue a degree in computer science. He

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## Nelms talks fixed charge; EMC Board welcomes students in meeting

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
editor@nganews.com

In the Feb. 15 regular meeting of the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Board of Directors, EMC General Manager JEMC Nelms addressed a member's concerns about an upcoming rate redesign that would result in increases to the residential customer charge over time.

The member shared his concerns with the North Georgia News via a letter to the editor published in the Feb. 6 edition of the newspaper.

Specifically, the member wanted EMC leadership to reconsider any plans moving forward that would include significantly raising the customer charge that appears on member bills.

As previously reported, Nelms told the board in the January meeting that the co-op's rate consultant had recently completed an updated cost of service study.

Currently, the fixed charge portion of each residential customer's bill, aka the customer charge, is right at \$21.37.

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Kara Dudley, Danny Reagan and Carson Chambers at the Iwo Jima Memorial near Washington D.C. last summer. This week marks the 74th anniversary of the start of the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Photo by Byron McCombs

## Blairsville celebrates 25th Anniversary of Tree City USA designation



The planting of a new tree commemorating Arbor Day on Friday, Feb. 15, at the Old Blairsville Cemetery.

Photo by Jarrett Whitener

By Jarrett Whitener  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Members of the Blairsville Garden Club, the Georgia Forestry Commission, and Mayor Jim Conley gathered at the Haralson Memorial Civic Center on Friday, Feb. 15, in honor of the 25th year that the city of Blairsville has held the

Tree City USA designation.

To be considered a Tree City USA, municipalities must have an established tree board, an inventory of all city trees made, and a budget allocation set up for money to be spent on tree care.

"We are so glad to have you all here today to help us celebrate our Arbor Day, which is a very special day to us," said

Garden Club President Lou Ann Bleakley. "This is the 25th Arbor Day that Blairsville has been named Tree City USA, so we appreciate the support, and it's been a pleasure to serve this community."

Union County 4-H student Ashley Palmateer led the Pledge of Allegiance that

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