



TPWD Mission: To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



COORDINATOR'S CORNER

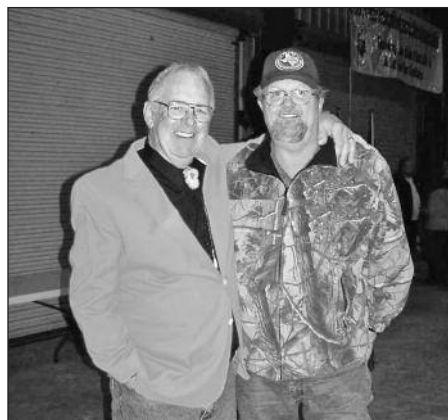
Thanks to your efforts, we accomplished several significant milestones in 2009. First, we certified 43,880 students, the highest yearly total in the history of the Texas Hunter Education Program. We also trained 479 instructor applicants, the highest yearly total in that category as well.

Finally, we just surpassed the **20,000** mark of instructors trained since the program began. Sandra Crabtree, senior from Texas Tech and an agriculture science graduate student, was the 20,000th instructor trained. We currently maintain an average of **2,900** active instructors per year.

Some other highlights in 2009 included **13 instructors being inducted into the Texas Hunter Education Hall of Fame**, the distribution of 32 firearm "gift certificates" sponsored by the Texas Hunter Education Instructor Association and McBride's Guns, and over 900 other incentive awards distributed. Congratulations! Keep up the great work! Let us know if we can continue to assist you in any way.

NOTE: This issue of *Target Talk* will be the very last one to be mailed via the post office. We have begun a process of providing information on how to obtain an "electronic" copy of the newsletter. It will be available on our

continued on page 2



Dick Turpin and Area Chief hunter education instructor Billy Holt posed for the camera. Billy's brother, Darrell Holt (deceased), former Texas hunter education coordinator, and Turpin worked together in the early years of the International Hunter Education Association.

Annual Instructor Conference

More highlights on the next page

The American Shooting Center in Houston played host to the 21st Annual Instructor Conference and Awards Banquet. With the exception of an extremely cold front that blew in with torrential rain, everything turned out okay. Thanks to the Texas Hunter Education Instructor Association, TPWD staff member Heidi Rao and all the volunteers who helped bring this together!

Texas Old Town will be the host site for the 2011 Annual Conference in Kyle between San Marcos and Austin. The style of an old western town brings tradition and a unique setting for the conference and is just eight miles from motels in San Marcos. Also located nearby is the LaQuinta in Kyle. Mark your calendars for March 18-20, 2011 and bring the family. There will be some new, exciting entertainment and breakout sessions. You will not want to miss this one.

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Coordinator's Corner, continued

Web site at: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/newsletters/target-talk/. Once you bookmark the location, it will be very easy to navigate to read the contents. Included with this issue is the **Accident Analysis for 2009**, and is currently available and listed on the Web site.

NOTICE: The new Hunter Education Exam is now being used as the Home Study Exam. Students must make a 70% for the two-day course to pass, and Home Study students must make an 80% to pass. The answer key is located on the Web site under Instructor Resources.

Please send in those courses to be listed in the computer, because we are receiving calls daily for them. Summer may seem like it passes slowly, but September (opening of dove season) is just around the corner!

Thank you very much for your continued support and dedication to fostering a love for the outdoors and helping the future generations of Texans enjoy the natural resources of this great state. Remember ... "Life's Better Outside."

Until next time ... Always be safe! Terry Erwin

Annual Instructor Conference, continued



Thirteen instructors were welcomed into the Hunter Education Hall of Fame. This total was an annual all-time high.

L to R, standing – Jose Garcia, Irving; James Davis, Pasadena; Joe Drobniak, Friendswood; John Polasek, College Station; Ron Fehler, Uvalde; Jesse Stephens, Fort Worth; Bob Douglas, Van Alstyne.

L to R, front row – Jim Schaefer, Grandview; Sean Hensley, Bastrop; and Heidi Rao, Houston.



Dick Turpin, former Nebraska hunter education coordinator, was the keynote speaker and accepted an award from Terry Erwin.

Bill Plumley, Marble Falls, and Ferris Bavousett, Argyle, were unable to attend the banquet, so the awards were presented in Austin.



Jimmie Caughron, hunter education specialist, had to leave the banquet early and his award was presented in Austin.



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Editor, Target Talk
Terry Erwin



Life's better outside.®

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www.tpwd.state.tx.us

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TPWD Procedure: Certifying In-kind Hours for Federal Match

Ever wonder why we are so meticulous and picky about the records we process? TPWD receives federal funding, and because of this, we all must abide by federal and state rules and regulations. An example is the certification of in-kind hours volunteers record on each of their instructor final report forms as highlighted in the following guidelines. Please pay particular attention to the bolded statements as they apply to you!

PROCEDURES/GUIDELINES STATEMENT:

Detailed actions on how to implement the procedure or portions of the procedure.

In-kind hours must be allowable under the terms of the grant

- Only actual labor hours used (**prep time and teaching time**)
- Hours must be performed during the period of the award (**maintained quarterly**)
- Documented hours must be received prior to submitting the annual reports
- Project narrative identifies value of in-kind labor (**\$16 per hour**)

Method to certify actual hours

- Source Documents must be received in a timely manner (**student records and final report due within seven days from completion**)
 - Prompt receipt of documents must be requested with anticipated quarterly information
 - At a minimum all data must be received 30 days prior to the due date of the annual federal aid reports and the annual federal financial reports.
- Source Document must certify actual hours by volunteer in an acceptable form (**Final training course report with dates and signature**).
- Source document must be approved by TPWD staff
 - Source document must be time stamped and signed/initialed by authorized approver
 - Date signed/stamped
 - Email date and time
 - System input date and time stamp (**Scantron® does this when entered**)
 - Hours will not be reported or entered into the database until source document data has been verified by authorized approver
 - Each program area will ensure that an authorized approver(s) will be identified at all times

Communicating hours to grants administrator

- Email notification with summary of hours for an identified period from authorized program representative
- Database report access if available
- Federal reimbursement will not be requested until notification of documented and certified actual in-kind hours has been received by the Grants Administrator (**quarterly**).
 - **To maximize cash flow, reimbursements are requested monthly.**
 - If unavailable monthly, all data received to date must be sent quarterly.
 - **Any data received after the preparation of the annual report will no longer be eligible.**
(This means courses sent in past the 7 days due, possibly will miss being eligible for reimbursement by the feds.)

Monitoring compliance

- AR staff reviews system queries to verify correct selection criteria are used.
- AR staff performs random sample reviews of the volunteer timesheets to verify volunteer signatures, approval signatures and the query report is consistent with the volunteer forms. (**We can no longer accept unsigned records of any kind!**)
- Program area to maintain records for three years.
- AR staff to audit training documentation (**Student records and final reports**)

Training staff on procedures

- Each program area will annually train appropriate staff and volunteers on most-current procedures and retain confirmation of staff training with yearly report.
- Training can take the form of a meeting, a memo, a newsletter or any other written communication option.

Properly and fully completing student and instructor records and following such protocols are extremely important! Instructors must also complete and mail their records within seven days! Record keeping remains an important task of the instructors and ensures that we will continue to receive federal funding as a result.

Thanks for your cooperation in helping us to maintain these standards.

KUDOS!

Charlie Wilson Inducted into Texas Sporting Clays Association Hall of Fame

A new award, the Texas Sporting Clays Association Service Award, was created this year. It honors individuals who have committed themselves to the growth of the sport and education of young shooters and is primarily for non-shooting accomplishments. The first winner of this award is Charlie Wilson of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. His great work with youth shooting sports and many outstanding accomplishments include the TPWD Whiz-Bang for Texas 4-H Shooting Sports and the Texas AG Clays Trap Program for high schools, which are well known throughout the state. Congratulations, Charlie!

Charlie is the coordinator of the Mobile Shooting Sports Program run by TPWD. He has been with the department since December 1996. Not only is he active with youth shooting sports, but he also has been involved with educating hundreds of individuals in Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Program workshops.



“Jimbo” Gets His Deer

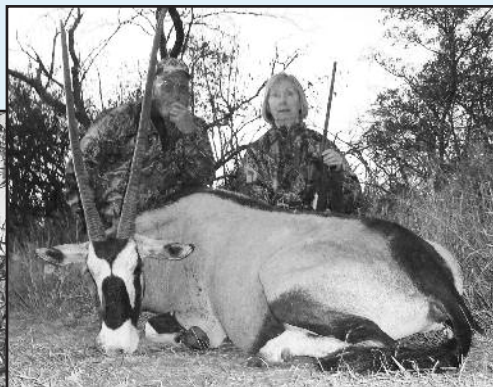


Remember a while back when an article was published about James “Jimbo” True-McInerney winning a shotgun at a banquet, because his “paw-paw” purchased him a raffle ticket? Here he is shown picking up his shotgun from McBride’s Guns. It remains stored in paw-paw’s safe for future use.



However, Jimbo has his own deer rifle, a custom-fit .223. He stated that he loves to go deer hunting with paw paw. During the last season, Jimbo harvested his second buck in Edwards County and was very proud of his accomplishments. Congratulations, Jimbo!

South Africa Hunt



Congratulations, Jeanette!

Here are a couple of photos from a South African (Limpopo Province) hunt that David and I (Jeanette Hammonds) went on in July 2009. It was a seven-day hunt for two that David won in a silent auction at a North Texas Safari Club International banquet. The Professional Hunter was Louis Venter. The kudu was taken at 300 meters and the gemsbok at 90 yards. My firearm was a Browning A-bolt .270 Win Mag compact. The hunt was amazing!



Grand Prairie Gun Club Instructors

Area Chief Jan Heath, Irving, gathered the instructors who teach at the Grand Prairie Gun Club and presented their incentive awards earned in 2009. This group works cooperatively together and turns out some quality students. They use a “round-robin” approach where every student rotates through muzzleloader, shotgun, rifles, survival, wildlife management, tree stand safety, ethics and responsibility, and archery and crossbow stations. Congratulations to this fine team! Thanks, Jan, for assembling this group and presenting their awards.

Texas Wildlife Officer of the Year

Cody Hatfield, TPWD game warden, stationed in Mason, has been named Texas Wildlife Officer of the Year by the National Wild Turkey Federation. TPWD Executive Director Carter Smith presented the award to Hatfield at the April 1 meeting of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. Congratulations, Cody!

Ross Walker Receives Award



During the quarterly meeting of the South Central Texas Hunter Education Instructor Association, Area Chief Ross Walker was presented with his 3500-Point Shotgun gift certificate. Congratulations, Ross!

Wheelin' Sportsmen's Hunt



Area Chief Instructors Donnie Kee, Lufkin, and Duke Walton, Porter, helped some of the Wheelin' Sportsmen enjoy a very successful hunt on December 12, on the Winston Ranch in Nacogdoches County. Shown here with his 6-point buck is Gary Fannin, Pastor of the First Baptist Church, Diboll, Texas. On a previous outing, he had been hunting and not wearing a fall restraint harness, and fell — breaking his back. He is writing a book on his experience in hopes of preventing others from having to go through what he had endured. He is also willing to speak to groups regarding his fall and how to avoid such tragedies.

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Prevalence Error

By Rod Machado. Reprinted with permission.

We occasionally fail to notice things that should be noticeable (especially if we kept searching)! This happens when our expectations collide with our experience. Who doesn't expect to see something where it was last placed? It's as if failing to see what we expected to see, our minds stop searching prematurely. According to Dr. Jeremy Wolf, a Harvard Ophthalmology professor, that's precisely what happens. He calls this the *prevalence error*.

At Harvard's Visual Attention Lab, Wolf and other researchers discovered that when we go in search of things without finding them (because they lack prevalence) we become less likely to find them during future searches when they're actually present. There's a good reason for this error, too. It turns out that you're just plain lazy.

Don't take it personally. This applies to all of us. Our brains are pretty good at minimizing our conscious workload when we fail to find what we're looking for. If we don't see it immediately, we tend to abandon our search quickly — or at the least, we don't continue searching with the same intensity. That makes a certain kind of sense, since there's little value in looking persistently for something when it's most likely not there — as long as it isn't a potentially fatal hazard. Besides, looking is hard work, requiring intense concentrations to say nothing of eyeball strain.

This explains why airport baggage screeners can miss important items when X-raying luggage. TSA agents scan for weapons but seldom find them, which makes it less likely that they'll notice one when it's actually there. The issue is especially pertinent now, given that TSA agents are also on the lookout for exploding underwear — otherwise known as “Fruit of the Boom.”

Do you see how the prevalence error can work against you as a pilot, especially when taking off or landing? Let's say you glance down the runway, looking for aircraft, cars or animals. Because you've found few (if any) intruders in the past, the prevalence error suggests that you're less likely to actually see an antelope interloper when it's actually there. Sure, you might look, but you're also likely to abandon your search a little too quickly.

What's the antidote for the prevalence error? How about doing what police officers do when they're in the roughest

of neighborhoods? Treat everybody as a suspect. That's right; the only thing you can do is to be sufficiently suspicious in those areas where the prevalence error might expose you to greater risk. That means treating critical things like your propeller, airborne traffic near airports, or even the runway environment with suspicion.

Clearly, the less often we see something, the less likely we are to see it when it's actually there. We're built to give up our searches early when experience suggests that the targets aren't likely to be present. We simply have more important things to do with our brains.

Ultimately, we must force ourselves to spend more time looking where it counts and when it counts. It's a strategy that applies not only to firearms but also to other critical areas associated with firearms and hunting, where a threat is not often present but can have serious consequences if it is there and not noticed.

New Feral Hog Control Publications Now Available for Landowners

From TWA Newsletter

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service has developed five new feral hog control publications to help landowners corral this growing menace. These publications were funded by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through a Clean Water Act § 319(h) non-point source grant. Publications are available online by going to the TWA Web site: texas-wildlife.org

These publications specifically target the Plum Creek Watershed in Hays and Caldwell counties, an area especially hard-hit by the marauders, but are applicable wherever feral hogs are a problem, said Dr. Jim Cathey, AgriLife Extension wildlife specialist at College Station and TWA Director.

Close Call — Incident in Missouri

By Tony Legg, Missouri Hunter Education Coordinator

Here is a bit of information on the near hunting accident that occurred in Clark County, Missouri. On January 31 around 1600 hours I received a phone call from my sheriff's office about a possible hunting accident. I was off work and a deputy was in route, so I let him handle the initial investigation. The deputy called me and told me that a group of goose hunters had a young man and his gun near Alexandria, where there is moderate goose hunting pressure. When the deputy arrived I advised him to seize the gun and get written statements from the goose hunters. I also advised him to obtain the juvenile's information and talk to the parents if possible.

The deputy did all three of these things, and I met with him and the juvenile officer the next day. We learned that the juvenile was hunting alone and fired into the goose hunters' decoys, striking a decoy in the head and sending a round through a goose hunter's layout blind. The juvenile was shooting a .22 bolt action Marlin rifle with a box-style magazine. Once the hunters realized what was happening, they stood up and yelled in the direction of the shots. One of the goose hunters then ran toward the shots and discovered the scared juvenile. The

juvenile then unloaded and removed the bolt from the firearm before handing it to the goose hunter. The goose hunter then called the sheriff's office. As previously stated, the responding deputy got written statements from one of the goose hunters, seized the gun, obtained the juvenile's information, and talked to the juvenile's mother.

I called the goose hunter that filled out the written statement the next day and he told me what had happened. He said they heard three shots—one which struck a decoy in the head, knocking it down, and another shot that traveled through the layout blind. He had no idea where the third shot landed. He also informed me that while they were picking up their decoys after the deputy left with the juvenile, they found a bullet between the coat collar and turtle-neck shirt of one of his buddies.

The juvenile officer and I went to the shooter's house on February 1. We talked with the young shooter and his mother. (The father is deceased.) They were both well aware of why we were there. We asked the juvenile his side of the story, and he told us pretty much exactly what we already knew. We explained where the

hunters found one of the bullets and how lucky both of them were—shooter and hunter. The mother and juvenile were both visibly upset. The mother told us that it was the first time the boy had ever hunted alone and that he was not supposed to be where the incident occurred. The juvenile told us that he was out rabbit/squirrel hunting when he saw what he thought were geese feeding and fired three shots into the decoys. He was hunting up a wood line along the Mississippi River and fired into an open-cut corn field.

The juvenile took hunter education in Clark County in October 2007. He received a 92% on his test and took it about a half-mile from the incident. We did not yet show the video of Tragedy at Wright Creek (Kansas accident), but are currently using it in our classes.

Our actions in the case were loss of hunting privileges for one year, one year probation, retake hunter education in the next year, and write a three-page paper on the Tragedy at Wright Creek, and issuance of a citation for attempt to take geese by illegal methods. The juvenile officer is handling all matters of this case, and the gun was returned to the owner.

KATHY'S CORNER

How to Win a Special Prize

Target Talk will no longer be sent by U.S. mail; that is, if we have your email address. If we do not have your email address in our records, delivery of the *Target Talk* will not get to you for about six weeks. In keeping up with technology and social media, we are trying to keep production cost to a minimum. To facilitate us getting every instructor's email, please send us your email address, and enter CONTEST in the subject line. Upon receipt, we will enter your name in a drawing for a **SPECIAL PRIZE**.

This is your chance, so send us your email address today! Get entered and get electrified (technologically speaking)! Send your email to kathryn.powell@tpwd.state.tx.us prior to August 1 — the date of the drawing for the Special Prize! All winners will be notified — you guessed it — by email!

TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Area Chief Meetings

Area chief instructors met in the month of January to discuss past accomplishments and plans for the upcoming year. Additional meetings were held in San Antonio, Houston and Grand Prairie.



During the Area Chief Meeting in Houston, Heidi Rao, TPWD hunter education specialist, presents a Certificate of Appreciation to employees of Bass Pro Shop, who made arrangements to host the meeting.

Area Chief Training

Heidi Rao, hunter education specialist, and Area Chief Duke Walton held an instructor course in Huffman, where Rodney Lancaster (front row, second from right) completed his Area Chief training. Rodney lives in Houston and will assist other area chief instructors in Harris and surrounding counties. Congratulations, Rodney!



Area Chief Training, continued

Manuel “Manny” Calderon, left, received his Area Chief training during an instructor course held recently in Del Rio by Jimmie Caughron. Manuel is from El Paso and will be coordinating efforts in El Paso County and surrounding area. Congratulations, Manuel!

Rhonda Esakov (front center), new area chief, Georgetown, completed her training with Terry Erwin in Austin and hosted this training session. Rhonda will take care of Williamson County and surrounding area. Congratulations, Rhonda!



New Instructor Training



Brock Minton, hunter education specialist, hosted an instructor training session for graduating Agriculture Science teachers from TAMU Kingsville.

Front Row (L to R): Amanda Vecera, Mitchell Hippensteal, Candace Aguirre, Kelsey Fort (Instructor Jimmy Fort’s daughter), Crystal Moser. Back Row (L to R): Courtney Bauer, Harmony Hosek, Marisol Esparza, Raul Flores, Toby Tomlin.

Pictured here are the TAMU-Kingsville Agriculture Science teachers and their professor, Dr. Randall Williams (far left). This same group took the Ag. Clays Trap Shotgun training session to assist them in setting up the program in their respective schools when they begin teaching. The training was hosted by Charlie Wilson and Brock Minton.



New Instructor Training, continued



Left to right are Matt Ruiz, new assistant instructor applicant; Benny Hamm, hunter education instructor; and David Rios, area chief in training.



Jimmie Caughron, hunter education specialist, hosted this training of new Ag. Teachers in Canyon.



During a recent Becoming an Outdoors-Woman workshop, Deirdre McDonald, Teresa Cook and Graciela Pratt completed the hunter education instructor course. Two are bilingual and will teach in Spanish in the Austin area and toward the Rio Grande Valley. Thanks for extending our capabilities as a program and agency to reach more diverse students in hunter education!



An Instructor course was held in February at Corpus Christi Gun Club conducted by Brock Minton and Gilbert Graves, Jr. Instructor Doug Bowers assisted with setting up the skills trail and live-firing exercises. L to R: David Batot, Johnny Rombs, Doug Bowers, Gilbert Graves, Jr., Area Chief, and Floyd Henry.

Robert Ramirez (left), DFW hunter education specialist, conducted an instructor course in Wichita Falls.

Advanced Instructor Training

Waterfowl Workshop

Robert Ramirez, DFW hunter education specialist, set up a first for instructors. All participants were treated to a duck hunt on the second day of the waterfowl management and hunting techniques in-service workshop at Cooper Lake WMA.

After going over waterfowl habitat, biology, traits, ID, and shooting and hunting scenarios, including wounding loss, the participants readied themselves for the next day's hunt.



Pictured here is Kim Kalich, Houston, with her first duck ever taken. She had it mounted to use as a training aid in her courses. You can't see it in this picture, but her shotgun is a "pink camo" color! It looks great!!



Pheasant Workshop in San Antonio

Instructor Don Pope and the Lonesome Dove Ranch hosted a pheasant management and hunting techniques in-service workshop attended by 20 people with 13 participating in an actual hunt during the afternoon. Brock Minton conducted a "Wounding Loss" workshop, and 29 birds were harvested out of 36 birds released prior to the hunt. The seven birds not bagged flew unharmed into livestock pastures marked as a "No Hunting Area." This meant that the group had ZERO percent wounding loss. Apparently, it was a successful workshop.



Pictured above is Peggy York with her very first pheasant harvest. Several instructors mentioned that the educational benefits received by gaining the privilege to hunt behind trained dogs and guides, was invaluable.

Quail Workshop at Lonesome Dove Ranch

Shown below are photos of the March 6, 2010, Quail Workshop/Hunt which took place at the Lonesome Dove Ranch, south of San Antonio hosted by instructor Don Pope. Robert Perez (TPWD biologist) gave an excellent presentation! A total of 18 instructors attended the workshop with 12 participating in the hunt. Jesus Franco attended the workshop and hunt, but had to leave early (to travel back to the Valley). Three groups harvested a total of 66 quail of the 120 that were released. Everyone had a knowledgeable, fun-filled adventure. Special thanks go out to the San Antonio Retriever's Club for bringing their dogs to assist with the hunt.



Advanced Instructor Training, continued

Grand Prairie Crossbow Workshop

The Grand Prairie Gun Club hosted a Crossbow In-service Workshop on March 6. Area Chiefs Jan Heath and Robert Blew along with DFW Hunter Education Specialist Robert Ramirez facilitated the workshop. Crossbow history, myths, harvest rates, retention of hunters who use crossbows and safety were discussed during the workshop. With the new regulation change in Texas allowing crossbows to be used during the archery season, this workshop will continue to be a part of the hunter education training programs.

Special thanks to Lee Zimmerman, Vice-President of Sales with Horton Manufacturing, for generously loaning TPWD five crossbow models that were demonstrated at the workshop. Participants assembled the crossbows and shot them at the range. This was an informative and exciting workshop that enabled the volunteer hunter/bowhunter instructors the opportunity to experience crossbows first-hand.



San Antonio Ethics Workshop



Front row left to right: Richard Anderson, Ross Walker, Dr. Peggy Weyel, Kimberly Kalich, Mike Gonzales Back row L-R: Jack Thompson, Maria Araujo, B.J. Ham, Warden Jake Scott, Marty Carroll, Matt McClellan, Brock Minton, John Rodriguez.

to each of our meetings and workshops with important information presented in a collegial and professional way. I'm so glad TPWD hired you to be our regional coordinator.

Offering our friends and colleagues a new look at responsibility in the field and classroom, as well as in our own lives, is a fascinating challenge. I hope they all learn half as much as I do about the subject as I do in my contribution to the workshop.

In appreciation,
Dr. Peggy Weyel, San Antonio

Once again I had the honor of working with John Rodriguez as he put together another workshop on ethics and responsibility. Those who attended seemed to enjoy the workshop as they were engaged in the discussions. I just wish we had more time. There are many issues in ethics and responsibility to explore, and John guides us beautifully in beginning that exploration.

Brock, thank you for attending our Ethics Workshop. We appreciate so much your dedication to hunter education and to us TPWD hunter education volunteers. You continue to contribute

For Your Information

The TPWD Hunter Education Page has been created on Facebook!

You must have a Facebook account to login: www.facebook.com

Follow the sign-in procedures if you do not already have an account, search for "Texas Parks and Wildlife Hunter Education," and become a "fan." Here you can post pictures of your special events and workshops, and invite students to attend your upcoming courses. Please pass this information along to all of your students and invite them to become a "fan" too! If you have any questions, please contact Heidi Rao at 281-534-0126 or heidi.rao@tpwd.state.tx.us



Ocelot found

This rare ocelot was run over by a vehicle near Mineral Wells, which is extremely far out of the normal range of this animal. They are usually found in deep South Texas near the border of Mexico. This beautiful specimen was thought to have been a bobcat at first, but after the game warden took a look at it, he confirmed it was indeed an ocelot.

Recruitment and Retention Survey

Texas will be participating in a survey of Hunter Education students related to recruitment and retention of shooters and hunters. Please be aware that some of your students might possibly be surveyed during this time. Please ask if any were surveyed before the course, and if so, tell them they will likely be surveyed after finishing the course. During pre-registration, please obtain the name and phone number of each participant who calls about a course. Please email that information to: Tom Beppler, Responsive Management [tom@responsivemanagement.com] prior to your course.

Thanks so much for your cooperation.

Speaking of Recruitment ...

A flyer was designed by Ernie Gammage, Education and Outreach branch chief, and Maria Araujo, International Affairs liaison for TPWD. In an effort to recruit bilingual instructors who can teach the hunter education course in Spanish, TPWD continues to look at a variety of tools that make people aware of such a need. Texas has a huge population of Spanish-speaking hunters, so this effort is aimed at reaching more people with safe, responsible hunting and shooting practices.



Texas Parks and Wildlife Department provides hunter education courses in Spanish, and bilingual instructors are needed to teach them. Join others who are interested in sharing their love for hunting and the outdoors. Become part of the hunting heritage in Texas.

Hunting is safe and getting safer because of the men and women who share their knowledge, skills and abilities to make sure hunting remains safe and responsible. Join our team of over 2,900 instructors!

For more information, contact Maria Araujo at (512) 389-4901 or maria.araujo@tpwd.state.tx.us

THE Newsletter of

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

FRIENDS:

As many of you already know, THEIA has a new president. Duke Walton served two terms and was prevented from re-election only by our constitution. I was elected to succeed him, and hope I can do half as well. I used the same greeting to start this letter, because it fits. We are friends, united in a cause that is as worthy as any we could imagine.

The future of our sport is in our hands. Our efforts in teaching Hunter Education are just part of our mission. The rest lies in introducing young people to the shooting sports and the outdoors. By creating more opportunities to shoot with the expansion of the YHEC program and opportunities to hunt with youth hunting programs, we can pass on to our children's and grandchildren's generations appreciation of the heritage that we hold so dear.

The recent Hunter Education Instructors Conference and Awards annual meeting was a great success. It was held at the American Shooting Centers in Houston, hosted by Heidi Rao and Duke Walton. Since it was in Houston, it rained. Before the rain, on Friday afternoon, we had a shotgun class by Gil and Vicki Ash that was the best I have ever experienced. Saturday we were able to shoot sporting clays, crossbows, and cowboy action shooting.

For those who didn't want to brave the rain and cold (yes it WAS cold), there were indoor activities as well, including scrapbook building. Over 130 instructors attended. Among them were most of the ten (10!) inductees into the Hunter Education Hall of Fame. Other high points of the day were the speech by Dick Turpin, the auction of a South African Safari donated by Louis Loots of Ka Maoto Safaris was won by Thomas Connaughton, and the purchase of the last THEIA Charter Life Membership by Susan Rector.

The 2011 Annual Meeting, previously planned for Nacogdoches, has been moved to the Austin area. For all you from East Texas, Nacogdoches is up for 2012. I hope to see all of you at both meetings.

Because we are down to two formal scheduled THEIA meetings, the annual meeting and the state YHEC, I will schedule a third meeting for directors and other interested members in Austin in the early fall.

Keep your powder dry,

Bob Boswell

HUNTER EDUCATION EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

May 15-16, 2010 Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge, American Shooting Centers, Houston

June 26, 2010 South East Regional YHEC, Angelina Rifle and Pistol Club, Lufkin. Contact: Donnie Kee dkee1@farmersagent.com office: 936-699-3483; cell: 936-635-4416

July 8, 2010 **Jim Stewart: "Hitting Your Target: Better Recruitment of Hunter Education Students."**

Guest speaker, South Central Texas Hunter Education Instructors Assn., Inc., San Antonio.

Program is open to all interested in the future of hunter education.

Thursday, July 8, 2010, 7 pm, Bass Pro Shops Conference Room, IH10 West, San Antonio

For more information, contact: Jack Thompson, SCTHEA President at 210-602-8032 or

jthompson6@satx.rr.com

October 8-9, 2010 **North East Regional YHEC**, at the Arlington Sportsman Club, Mansfield. Contact: David Hammonds - 817-236-3158 and mrdavidhammonds@charter.net

TBA 2011 Hunter Education Instructor Conference and Awards Banquet, Austin

THEIA THANK YOU! to... Dick Turpin, our outstanding and motivating evening keynote speaker; Bill and Kath Troubridge of Excaliber Crossbows, and Jim Stewart, Director of Programming for the Texas River School, our superb morning program presenters. Dick, Bill, Kath, and Jim are now among our new friends from at the Annual Hunter Education Conference.

ANOTHER THANK YOU TO... Duke and Heidi for their leadership in organizing the Hunter Education Conference and those THEIA members and non-member Hunter Education Instructors who braved the wind, rain, and coooooold in Houston (in an unheated building) at our Annual Instructor Conference and Awards Banquet. In summary:

The two morning guest speakers, Bill and Jim, did their darndest to speak over the noise of heavy rain on the "tin roof" and generally succeeded. The food was great. Dick's keynote kept us warm with poignant observations and good humor. The auction provided wondrous goodies and more financial resources to help Texas kids. Friendships were re-kindled and veterans' hard work was rewarded. Thank you all for being there.

IN CASE YOU MISSED THE CONFERENCE...HERE IS A SAMPLE OF WHAT WAS SHARED...

CROSSBOWS

They're not just for Medieval Castle-Conquering Anymore

Mr. Bill Troubridge, founder of Excaliber Crossbows, provided those attending the 2010 TPWD Hunter Education Instructor Conference and Awards Banquet with a superb class on Crossbows 101. Mr. Troubridge began with a history of the crossbow, moved through the differences between crossbows and vertical bows, then offered reasons why crossbows make excellent arms for any hunter from beginner to seasoned veteran.

Among the many points made was that:

- (1) Crossbows offer entry level deer hunters, especially youngsters and many women with limited upper body strength, with a sporting arm that can take down a whitetail without the recoil feared by some beginners.
- (2) Crossbows offer all veteran hunters an opportunity to lengthen the archery season as crossbows can be used to legally hunt whitetail deer in Texas during both Archery Season and the Regular "Gun" Season.

Continued next page.....

- (3) Crossbow safety begins with the usual basics of any sporting arm: control the “muzzle” or arrow, don’t point it at anything you aren’t going to shoot, and watch where your fingers are placed on the forend – don’t place your fingers on the front of the forend when shooting for they tend to receive injury from a the bow string upon release.

One other fine point of crossbow shooting caught my attention. In sharing the basics of cocking and uncocking the crossbow, I was delighted to learn, that, like muzzleloading, the best way to “unload” a crossbow is to shoot it into the ground. One way or another when you go hunting with muzzleloader or crossbow, you are going to get to shoot before you load up to go home.

Bill and Kath are a delightful, outgoing couple who can speak with great authority and encourage archers, veteran and novice alike, to try crossbows. Having hunted with crossbows for more than 30 years all over the world, they speak from a wealth of experience. Thank you, both, again for joining us.



HITTING YOUR TARGET: BEST PRACTICES APPROACH TO HUNTER EDUCATION

From a presentation to instructors by Jim Stewart, March 20, 2010

Mr. Stewart, Director of Programming for the Texas River School, got through the noise of the rain to provide instructors with *A Best Practices Approach to Hunter Education for Texas*. He used data from a 2001 Texas Tech University study titled *Texas Parks and Wildlife for the 21st Century* that offered recommendations the TPWD could use the design an updated statewide system and plan future operations.

So what does this mean for hunter educators?

With the study’s data, Hunter Educators can be made aware of what the public wants from the TPWD and how that agency can best organize to serve the Texas public. Although the following is only a partial list, TPWD Departments, including Hunter Education, now know of the Texans queried:

- 84% wanted TPWD to maintain our state parks
- 81% wanted TPWD to enforce fishing and hunting laws
- 79% wanted TPWD to provide Hunter Safety Education program
- 76 % wanted TPWD to protect wildlife habitats
- 53% of those surveyed said TPWD should be educating the public about hunting.
- 35% said TPWD should be involved in teaching hunter ethics and responsibility

If Hunter Education Instructors think about who needs to be targeted and how best to reach those “customers,” we now can begin to reevaluate how to do our job the best way possible to meet the public’s needs and expectations. If we understand why people are and aren’t hunting, among other expectations, we may be able do better jobs of planning the hunter ed curriculum, reaching out and teaching that curriculum, then certifying more 21st century hunters, and getting more of them into the field.

Check it out:

Schmidly, David J., Parker, Nick C., Baker, Robert, J. (November 2001). *Texas Parks and Wildlife for the 21st Century*. Texas Tech University Publishers, Lubbock, Texas.

http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/nonpwdpubs/media/tpwd_21st_century.pdf

EDITORS NOTE: Jim Stewart will be speaking in San Antonio July 9 (See “Calendar” page 2)

THEIA DIRECTORS

Directors Region 2, 4, 6, and 8 are elected for two year term of 2010-2012; 1, 3, 5, and 7 for 2009-2011

Region # 1 VACANT

Region # 6 Billy Holt
Breckenridge, TX 76424
H-/B 254-559-8010
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Region # 10 Daniel Sanchez
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H 956-380-0436
archerbow52@yahoo.com

THEIA

TEXAS HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION, INC.
Membership Application

INSTRUCTOR MEMBERSHIP 1 year, \$12 3 years, \$25

Must be currently certified by Texas Parks and Wildlife as a Hunter Education Instructor

SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP available for THEIA friends 1 year, \$12 3 years, \$25

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP available to junior instructors 1 year \$6 3 years \$15

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP available to our friends in business 1 year \$300 3 years \$750

make checks payable to: THEIA
send to Shannon Caughron,
1601 N 8th St. Ballinger TX 76821
325-365-2854 shannoncaughron@mac.com

NAME: _____

INSTRUCTOR # _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE _____

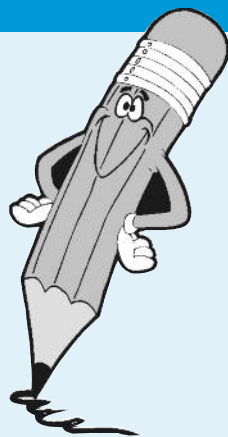
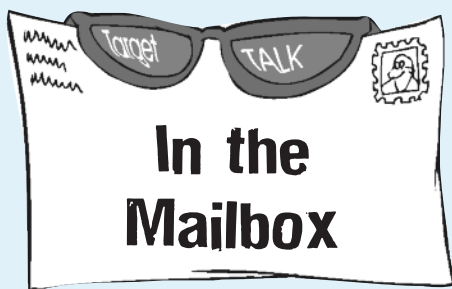
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E-MAIL: _____



Dear Staff:

Thank you so much for sharing the study on lead and human consumption. I am an Environmental Scientist (Aquatic Biologist) for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and found this very interesting. This whole issue has been downplayed by NRA and described as a bunch of liberal “whackos” making waves. I believe the study was objective, and very well conducted. The beauty of good science is that it maintains objectivity. The challenge of good scientists is to design studies properly, then accept the results – whether we like the answers or not. Results of this study are consistent with my personal experience.

What I take away from the video is that human health risks from lead ingestion are minimal on a clean heart/lung shot (which we have ALWAYS taught in Hunter Ed), but risk increases as more muscle tissue is incorporated into the bullet path. It does look like the wildlife consuming carcasses and intestinal piles may be exposed to significant lead ingestion. If we eat hogs that have made a habit out of foraging, we may also be ingesting more lead than we assume.

I have done some lead ball weight retentions studies from muzzleloader kills. My results show that round lead balls retain over 95% of their weight, even after passing through large bones. These were .50 caliber 175 grain pure lead balls in front of 85 grains of Pyrodex. I don't have any data on the newer, higher velocity loads, but I expect more bullet fragmentation with higher velocity.

Thanks, as always, for your support of instructors. Y'all are always here when we need you, which is pretty constant.

Mike Bira
Ovilla

Editor's Note: The National Rifle Association continues to be a strong supporter of hunter education and advocate not only for Second Amendment rights but also for hunting. Generalizations of NRA's stance on lead issues as summarized are the opinion of this instructor only.

Heidi and Duke:

This was my first year to attend the Hunter Education Annual Conference and THEIA program. It was a great experience, and I learned a lot despite the harsh weather conditions. I really wanted to congratulate you both again for all your accomplishments and acceptance into the “Hall of Fame.” It's obvious you both lead the pack and are passionate about your efforts. What a historical event this was, and I'm proud I was able to attend and be part of it all. Please keep me in the loop for future events, and I'll try to support as much as I can. It was great to meet everyone, many of whom I only read and hear about in *Target Talk*.

Thanks again,
Rick Rivas

Texas Youth Hunting Program Holds Huntmaster Workshop



Eleven new Huntmasters were trained for the Texas Youth Hunting Program, (TYHP) at the Freeman Ranch in Hays County, with participants ranging in age from 14 to 73. Two brothers, ages 14 and 16, were qualified as Junior Huntmasters. Also trained were two teachers who are involved in outdoor education, one from Lewisville and one from Austin. This opportunity offers great promise for TYHP.

L to R: Bill Bebee, Austin (HEI), Arthur Mancinas, San Antonio (HEI), David Hempel, Giddings (HEI), Joey Billig, Giddings, Doug DuBois, Austin (HEI), Bryan Perkins, Moody, and Roger Wubbenhorst, Dime Box (HEI).

SCI/SCIF Sponsors Mexico Cadets in Texas Game Warden Training

By Maria Araujo, *International Affairs Director*

Safari Club International (SCI) and Safari Club International Foundation (SCIF) are funding the training of two cadets from Nuevo León in the Texas Game Warden Training Academy. One cadet is graduating in July; the second cadet will join the upcoming training session. “Capacity building in law enforcement is one of SCI’s strategies to fight poaching worldwide,” said SCI President Larry Rudolph. “We are proud to support the law enforcement efforts of the new state wildlife agencies in Mexico.”

“It is a privilege to partner with SCI to provide law enforcement training for our sister state agencies in Mexico,” said Scott Boruff, TPWD deputy executive director. Since the decentralization of wildlife management functions to the six Mexican border states in 2005, the new state wildlife agencies identified law enforcement as a priority for long-term impact of conservation programs. In 2007, two Nuevo León cadets graduated from the 52nd Texas Game Warden Class. Game Wardens Manuel Muzquiz and Ricardo Torres now lead the Hunter Education program for the state of Nuevo León and have executed numerous successful operations in hunting and fishing laws enforcement. “We are impressed with the enforcement operations that

the Nuevo León game wardens are conducting; it is a privilege for us to be part of the effort to provide professional conservation law enforcement services in Mexico,” said Col. Pete Flores, TPWD Law Enforcement director. “The graduates from Nuevo León are pioneers of the profession in Mexico.”



Nuevo León cadet Mariela Guzman, a veterinarian, will lead the state’s black bear conservation program after graduation. Her dual training will be an asset because bear-human interactions are increasing and the Mexican government requires a veterinarian as well as law enforcement oversight to tranquilize and relocate a black bear. Outreach for the women of farming co-ops, called “ejidos,” will be another valuable role for Cadet Guzman.

INSTRUCTOR DISCOUNTS

Alan Madison Productions

Alan Madison Productions has had some changes in their DVD prices, which have dramatically been reduced. The DVD five-pack (was \$149) is now \$99 – with price breaks beginning at quantities of 10 dropping the price to \$89.

Also, the Master and The Last Shot combination is also now \$99. All other single DVDs have gone from \$89 to \$59, with further reductions for quantity orders. The Master Series has eight topics on one disc, which includes the following: The Hunter’s Path; Firearm Safety and the Hunter; Shoot, Don’t Shoot; Introduction to Bowhunting; Survival; The Skill of Survival; Judgment on the Water and Swept Away.

All details are at www.alanmadison.com

Geri Hatfield, Director of Sales/Marketing
(877) 404-3311 – toll free

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\$50 after your first purchase; 2% donation on gas and grocery purchases; 1% donation on all other purchases and up to 10% of purchases made at select merchants!

Visit www.ihea.com
for more information.



Texas Hunter Education Instructor's Words of Wisdom

By Curtis Ansley, Area Chief

So, what is hunter safety anyhow? I'll ask that question at the beginning of my classes, and seven out of 10 times the response will be, "It's this class the state makes me take." And a lot of times that response is given with a few grumbles. First off, yes, many states have set minimum requirements. Usually it is if you were born after a certain date. Some states say if you are a first-time hunter you have to have it. Some states even say you have to have hunter education before you can purchase a license. Secondly, I feel one should look at these courses not as a thing they have to do but something they want to do so they can learn more about hunting, safety, firearms, wildlife, conservation and much more.

In Texas, where I volunteer, the course is called Hunter Education. No, we don't teach you HOW to hunt. Our goal is to make your experience in the outdoors safer and more enjoyable. We do that by giving a little information about many things.

Though safety is a top priority, we also teach conservation, primitive firearms, wildlife I.D., some basic survival skills and so on. I have had grandfathers who have hunted all their lives tell me at the end of class they learned something new. There have been mothers who do not hunt but brought a child to the class, and by lunch time they decided to pay for the class because they were learning things they found interesting. Personally I take a multitude of items to all my classes so as to give the students as much visual and hands-on experience as possible.

Now back to safety. This past hunting season, safety became an even bigger issue for me. A teenager had a 30-30 go off when the hammer was struck. The bullet passed through his thumb and exited the ladder stand cover inches from his head. He was extremely fortunate and has regained most of the range of motion in that thumb.

This hit incredibly close to home for me for several reasons. First off, the boy was in the stand with his father at the same lease I am on. Secondly, I was sitting in a popup blind with my son the same morning and heard the shot go off. The boy's father is in my Sunday School class, as both attend the same church I do. Lastly, early last year this young man had attended one of my classes. The reason I am sharing this story with you is simple. We, as instructors,

can teach about hunter safety for the rest of our lives, but safety ultimately comes down to the individual.

Every year instructors in Texas are issued the previous year's incident report on accidents. This will cover fatal as well as non-fatal events. None of us want to see accidents occur, and certainly not fatal ones. But they happen. Maybe someone forgot to unload a rifle and the trigger got snagged on something and went off. Perhaps another climbed into his ladder stand and neglected to attach a safety harness. Every year the reports seem to have accidents where someone is mistaken for game and fired upon. Hunting accidents can involve anything from hunter judgment mistakes to game law violations to equipment failure or misuse.

Accidents, like the one I described above, can also involve people who have had hunter safety courses. Taking the course does not automatically make someone a safe hunter. Safety is in the mind. Once you develop a routine and carry it out without thought, accidents can occur. Be vigilant in giving attention to details. Even if, when going into the woods, you do pretty much the same thing, that doesn't always mean you will have the same outcome.

If you haven't had a "safety" course yet, take one. If someday you find yourself at the point of wanting to give back, become a volunteer instructor in your state. You don't have to be retired to volunteer. And you don't have to be under a certain age to take a course. Learn more about the species you seek. Learn more about conservation. Learn more about SAFETY! Make sure you come back to the woods next season and enjoy it as much as you did this season.

Regional YHEC Announced

WHAT: Youth Hunter Education Challenge

WHERE: Arlington Sportsman's Club, Mansfield, TX

WHEN: Saturday, October 9, 2010, 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

This is a spectator event, and family members are encouraged to join in as well. To encourage family participation, there will be a non-scored family fun muzzleloader event from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. where everyone will be taught the safety rules of blackpowder shooting, then be provided the opportunity to load and fire a muzzleloading rifle.

WHO: Youth, Ages 9 – 17 (MAX: 100 participants)
There will be five scored events: 22 cal. rimfire rifle, shotgun shooting, archery, wildlife identification, and a hunter skills trail. Olympic-style medals will be awarded for first, second and third place in each event. You may use your own equipment, or you can use equipment

furnished by the Arlington Sportsman's Club and/or the Texas Hunter Education Instructor Association.

COST: \$25.00 – Includes T-shirt and lunch meal only (extra lunches cost \$8 each)

For more information, questions and registration forms, please see the Web site at www.txheia.org or call David Hammonds at (817) 236-3158. Return completed forms with check made payable to "YHEC, Inc." to:

RSVP:

David Hammonds
Northeast Regional YHEC Director
7725 Lake Highlands Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76179
Email: mrdavidhammonds@charter.net

IN THE NEWS...

From National Shooting Sports Foundation

Excise Taxes Up 29 Percent

According to the most recent Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax Collection Report, released by the Department of the Treasury, firearm and ammunition manufacturers report excise tax obligations to be more than \$115.8 million in the third calendar quarter of 2009, up 29 percent over the same time period reported in 2008. The increase follows a 52 percent increase in excise tax obligations from the previous quarter (2Q, 2009) and more than a year of record-high FBI background checks for firearm purchasers – another strong indicator of firearm sales. The report, which covers the time period of July 1 through Sept. 30, shows that \$29.85 million was due in taxes for pistols and revolvers, \$37.09 million for long guns and \$48.89 million for ammunition. Compared to the same quarter in 2008, collections were up 50.2 percent for handguns, 33.4 percent for ammunition and 11.5 percent for long guns. Encourage support for excise tax reform legislation: It is important that members of the firearms and ammunition industry urge their senators and representatives to support S 632 and HR 510 – pro-conservation, pro-business, bipartisan legislation to bring equity to the excise tax payment schedule. Learn more through NSSF's government page: nssf.org/GovRel/

U.S. Imports Up 31 Percent In 2009

NSSF's research department reports that U.S. imports of sporting arms and ammunition were up 31 percent in 2009 to \$1.28 billion, compared to \$974 million the previous year. Imports of handguns were up 53 percent, while imports of ammunition increased 40 percent during 2009. In the fourth quarter, imports of all sporting arms and ammunition increased 22.3 percent compared to the same period in 2008.

Springtime is Prime Time for Youth to Enjoy the Shooting Sports

From NSSF

Parents Can Choose from Shotgun, Rifle and Handgun Programs

NEWTOWN, Conn. — Warmer weather and more hours of daylight make spring the perfect time to introduce youngsters to the shooting sports. To help get children properly started in these safe, adult-supervised and fun activities, parents have many programs from which to choose.

Programs exist for practically every age level, allowing youngsters to find the type of target shooting that best suits their interests and abilities, whether it's shooting clay pigeons with a shotgun or silhouette targets with a rifle or falling steel plates with a handgun. Certified instructors and adult coaches ensure that youngsters understand and follow the rules of firearm safety in addition to learning marksmanship skills that will help them enjoy these sports with friends and family for years to come.

Parents, particularly those with limited or no exposure to recreational shooting, should know that the shooting sports are rated among the safest of all sports. The National Shooting Sports Foundation's brochure, "A Parent's Guide to Recreational Shooting for Youngsters," can explain what the shooting sports are all about and is available online at www.nssf.org/lit. For the millions of parents who already know the enjoyment of recreational shooting, it's welcome news when their children say they want to participate, too.

"The shooting sports provide a great way for youngsters to meet new friends who share their excitement for these outdoor activities," said Steve Sanetti, president of the National Shooting Sports Foundation. "Shooting is every bit as challenging and fun as other supervised youth sports. It helps develop not only shooting skills but positive life skills, too, such as respect for authority, personal responsibility, teamwork and sportsmanship."

All the programs listed below offer an introduction to target shooting, and some provide opportunities for individual and team competition. In addition to these programs, a local shooting range or firearms retailers can help a youngster get the proper start in the shooting sports. To find a shooting range near you, visit the NSSF Web site www.wheretoshoot.org. Find a federally licensed firearms retailer near you at www.nssf.org/retailers/find.cfm.

Scholastic Clay Target Program: The NSSF-developed Scholastic Clay Target Program, now administered by the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation, is for newcomers and experienced shooters. Under the supervision of adult coaches, SCTP provides team competition for youth in skeet, trap and sporting clays, with the opportunity to win state and national championships. Learn more at www.sssfonline.org.

AIM (Academics, Integrity, Marksmanship): AIM provides a safe and positive experience with firearms and registered trapshooting for youth elementary school through college age. AIM encourages good sportsmanship and personal responsibility through competition while establishing the foundation to make trapshooting a lifelong avocation. Learn more at www.shootata.com/aim/aim4ata.html

Junior USA Shooting Patch Program: This NSSF patch program provides an excellent opportunity for youngsters to get started in target shooting. Under adult supervision, participants learn safety and shooting basics while earning official Junior USA Shooting team riflery or shotgunning patches. Learn more at www.nssf.org/JRUSA/

Boy Scouts of America: The Boy Scouts have long taught youth the safe, responsible and intelligent handling, care and use of firearms, BB guns and other air guns. Boy Scouts offer merit badges in shotgun and rifle shooting. Learn more at www.scouting.org/scoutsources/boyscouts/advancementandawards/meritbadges.aspx

National 4-H Shooting Sports: More than 300,000 4-H members have been introduced to shotgun, rifle, muzzleloader and handgun shooting through this program, which emphasizes the development of youth as responsible, productive citizens. The activities of the program and the support of adult leaders provide young people with opportunities to develop life skills, self-worth and conservation ethics. Learn more at www.4-hshootingsports.org/

Scholastic Steel Challenge: The SSC provides the opportunity for young adults aged 12 through 20 to participate in the challenging sport of "speed steel" in a supportive environment taught by trained adult coaches who focus on the safe handling and use of handguns.

In addition to the programs mentioned above, the following organizations also provide youngsters with opportunities to get started in recreational shooting:

American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program: www.legion.org/shooting

Civilian Marksmanship Program: www.odcmp.com/

National Rifle Association Education and Training Division: www.nra.org

National Sporting Clays Association: <http://mynsca.com>

National Skeet Shooting Association: <http://mynssa.com>

Hunting License Sales Up by 3.5 Percent in NSSF Index of States

From NSSF

NEWTOWN, Conn. — In a year when one word, “fewer,” described life in America — fewer jobs, fewer home sales, fewer purchases — hunters were responsible for generating a welcome “more” category, as hunting license sales rose by 3.5 percent in 2009 in states that make up NSSF’s Hunting License Sales Index.

The 12-state index comprises several states from four main regions of the United States. Nine of those states recorded hunting license sales increases from January through December of 2009 over the previous year, according to Southwick Associates, a research firm that monitored the license sales information.

“Many factors such as weather and the economy affect hunting license sales in any given year, but in 2009 the economy likely had a more significant effect,” said Jim Curcuruto, NSSF’s director of industry research and analysis. “While the reasons for the 3.5 percent increase are speculative, past research shows that during slowdowns in the nation’s economy it is possible that people have more time to hunt and that hunters take the opportunity to fill their freezers with nutritious, high-protein meat acquired at lower cost than if a similar amount was purchased at the supermarket.”

States participating in the NSSF License Sales Index are New York and New Jersey in the Northeast; Florida, North Carolina, Louisiana and Tennessee in the Southeast; Minnesota, Indiana, Kansas and Texas in the Midwest; and Oregon and Utah in the West. States were selected for their ability to provide license sales data on a regular basis. The geographical selections were made to offset potential variation in license sales by region. As more states are able to provide necessary data, the number of states will be increased, said Curcuruto.

According to the index, license sales got off to a good start in the first half of 2009. In the key turkey hunting month of April, license sales rose by approximately 17 percent over the same month the previous year. In June, which is the start of the fiscal year in many states and, hence, the month when many annual licenses go on sale, sales increased by 16.2 percent.

In the latter half of the year, which is when the bulk of hunting activity occurs and most licenses are sold, August and October sales were down, but September, November and December sales were up.

Curcuruto noted the findings were a bright spot when considering national hunting license sales totals from all 50 states showed little change from 2005 through 2007 (the most recent year that figures are available). During that period, license sales have held at approximately 14.5 million annually, according to that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Typically, hunting license sales data does not become available until 18 to 24 months after sales end. “NSSF and Southwick Associates saw there was a need to work directly with states to receive data in a more timely matter,” said Curcuruto.

The NSSF Hunting License Sales Index is designed to be an indicator of hunting license sales but not an exact measure of all hunting license sales nationally. Should the 3.5 percent rise hold true nationwide, it would represent one of the largest percentage increases in hunting license sales in over 20 years.

The index is a new project involving NSSF and Southwick Associates. The 2009 data was the first released in what both parties expect to be an ongoing effort. NSSF performs this type of research to better equip its member base with information that will help them make more informed business decisions.

Results from the index were first reported to NSSF members and media at the recently concluded 2010 SHOT Show. “Due to positive feedback from those sessions, NSSF plans to continue funding this project in 2010,” said Curcuruto.

Results are based on a weighted average of trends among participating states, so that states with larger hunter populations have a greater impact on the results than smaller states. Due to confidentiality agreements, license sales data is not available on a per-state basis.

New Texas Hunting and Outdoor Classic to Debut with 2010 South Texas Big Game Awards at Freeman Exposition Hall on August 14 in San Antonio

Big game hunters are planning to gather in celebration of the best game harvests in South Texas, and showcase their superior trophy mounts at the first Texas Hunting and Outdoor Classic (THC). The classic will be held August 13-15 at Freeman Coliseum grounds in the new air-conditioned Expo Center.

“The South Texas Regional Texas Big Game Awards (TBGA) Sportsman’s Celebration, which is known for its quality whitetails, will be a big draw. They are valued worldwide for superior size and beauty,” said THC lead organizer Lyle Larson. “The awards for TBGA’s Region 8 recognize both the hunter for their accomplishments as well as the landowners and land managers that help provide the habitat needed to sustain these healthy wildlife populations. And we are thrilled the Texas Wildlife Association (TWA) chose us as their venue to celebrate.”

The Texas Big Game Awards is the Official Hunting Program of Texas. Regional award celebrations will be held around the state throughout the year, showcasing the 2009-2010 hunting season. TWA, in conjunction with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, presents these awards to raise awareness about wildlife management and the role

that hunting plays in habitat conservation, as well as to foster cooperation among stakeholders who ensure that Texas wildlife will always have a home. The Texas Hunting and Outdoor Classic will feature the Texas Wildlife Association, among other conservation groups on-site throughout the three-day show, August 13-15, 2010. In addition, hunters and hunting enthusiasts will enjoy TWA’s unique showcase of spectacular trophy mounts the day of the awards celebration, Saturday, August 14. This will give outdoor enthusiasts a unique up-close look at winning game mounts of typical and non-typical whitetails taken in the brush country last season.

“The Texas Wildlife Association along with other non-profit wildlife and conservation organizations is a perfect match for the Texas Hunting and Outdoor Classic’s inaugural show,” said Jeff Lynch, THC co-organizer. “Our goal

is to give the hunter, outdoor enthusiast, and sportsman the widest range of exhibits and activities ... all of it in a hands-on, try-it-yourself environment.” Among the dozens of outdoor-related events during the three-day event, you can experience an ATV test track, archery range, turkey and predator calling, as well as discussions on hunter safety, Boone and Crockett scoring, wildlife management, and hunting strategies. Also, a sporting dog jump pool will be on-site for competition.

There will also be exhibits that cater to all wildlife, including deer, waterfowl, turkey, dove, quail, fishing, and of course deer hunting. The Texas Hunting and Outdoor Classic is August 13-15, 2010 at the Freeman Coliseum and Grounds in San Antonio.

For more information, visit our Web site at www.huntersclassic.com, or contact Jeff Lynch by phone at (210) 226-1177.

Sportsman’s Tip of the Day

If a landowner allows you to hunt on his land, do all you can to keep that relationship intact. Don’t abuse the privilege. Don’t invite other unwanted guests. Do pick up trash you find. Do share the bounty with him. Do send a Christmas card and occasionally give a small gift. Express appreciation and keep the welcome mat out.

OUTREACH EVENTS

Farm Safety Days in Bowie County

Staff:

I was a presenter recently at the Progressive Farm Safety Day in Bowie County. This event hosted 176 eighth-grade students for a round-robin of safety topics. Each Group of about 16 students rotated between 12 different safety presentations, including Firearm Safety, which I presented.

I demonstrated how to handle firearms around the vehicle and also how to safely cross a fence with a firearm. I let the students use wooden guns to cross the fence, and then a selected student and I crossed the rope fence in a safe manner. The brochure "Shooting Safety Rules," which presents the Ten Commandments of Firearm Safety and the parts of handguns, rifles and shotguns, was handed out to each student.

These were 14-year-olds, and I ask each group who had hunted before. About 75% indicated they had shot firearms and hunted. Then I asked the group who had attended a Hunter Education course and only about 10% showed their hands. I encouraged them to take the course at their first opportunity. I also told them that the demonstration of handling firearms around the vehicle and crossing the fence were where many firearm-related accidents happen and that this was one of many things they would learn about.

Thanks,
Charles W. Snowden, Jr., Area Chief, Linden



Youth Days at Chaparral WMA

Charlie Wilson, Jimmie Caughron and Brock Minton were at the Chaparral WMA near Cotulla for the Youth Outdoor Days during March. Several schools from the surrounding area were there over a three-day period for outdoor activities that included shotgun, archery, .22 rimfire rifle, and the hunter skills trails.





Youth Wildlife Contest

You know what they say. ... Shown here is a group of participants who recently competed in the Ag. 381 Wildlife Contest. Brock Minton administered part of the written test and also judged some of the contest.

National Camping Association Meeting

Bryant Truitt, Area Chief, Hunt, attended the National Camping Association meeting held at the MO Ranch near Hunt. He answered questions and distributed TPWD program brochures to those interested in using TPWD programs in their respective camps. Thanks, Bryant, for all your hard work and professional attendance!

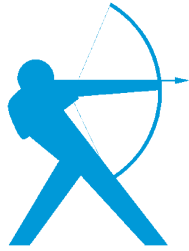


Better than paper towels and a lot less expensive ...

Coffee filters ... Who knew! And you can buy 1,000 at any store for almost nothing, even the large ones. Look at the many uses for simple coffee filters. It may come in handy, so pass this list around to friends.

1. Cover bowls or dishes when cooking in the microwave.
2. Clean windows, mirrors, and chrome. Coffee filters are lint-free so they'll leave windows sparkling.
3. Protect china by separating your good dishes with a coffee filter between each dish.
4. Filter broken cork from wine. If you break the cork when opening a wine bottle, filter the wine through a coffee filter.
5. Protect a cast-iron skillet. Place a coffee filter in the skillet to absorb moisture and prevent rust.
6. Apply shoe polish. Ball up a lint-free coffee filter.
7. Recycle frying oil. After frying, strain oil through a sieve lined with a coffee filter.
8. Weigh chopped foods. Place chopped ingredients in a coffee filter on a kitchen scale.
9. Hold tacos. Coffee filters make convenient wrappers for messy foods.
10. Stop the soil from leaking out of a plant pot. Line a plant pot with a coffee filter to prevent the soil from going through the drainage holes.
11. Prevent a popsicle from dripping. Poke one or two holes as needed in a coffee filter.
12. Put a few in a plate and put your fried bacon, french fries, chicken fingers, etc., on them. It soaks out all the grease.
13. Keep in the bathroom. They make great "razor nick fixers."
14. As sewing backing. Use a filter as an easy-to-tear backing for embroidering or appliquéing soft fabrics.
16. Put baking soda into a coffee filter and insert into shoes or a closet to absorb or prevent odors.
17. Use them to strain soup stock and to tie fresh herbs in to put in soups and stews.
18. Use a coffee filter to prevent spilling when you add fluids to your car.
19. Use them as a spoon rest while cooking and clean up small counter spills.
20. Can use to hold dry ingredients when baking or when cutting a piece of fruit or veggies. ... Saves on having extra bowls to wash.
21. Use them to wrap Christmas ornaments for storage.
22. Use them to remove fingernail polish when out of cotton balls.
23. Use them to sprout seeds. Simply dampen the coffee filter, place seeds inside, fold it and place it into a plastic baggie until they sprout.
24. Use coffee filters as blotting paper for pressed flowers. Place the flowers between two coffee filters and put the coffee filters in phone book.
25. Use as a disposable "snack bowl" for popcorn, chips, etc.

OH YEAH, THEY ARE GREAT TO USE IN YOUR COFFEE MAKERS, TOO!



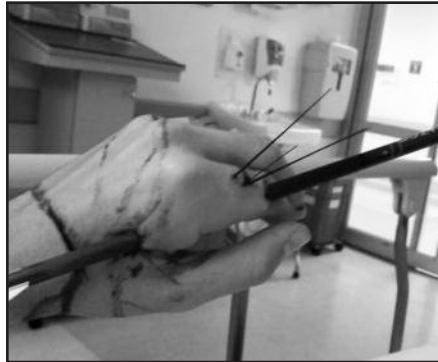
THE BOWHUNTER

TEXAS BOWHUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

NBEF wanted to get the word out that instructors (NBEF and IHEA) have an opportunity to save on some exciting new products. Notice was received that the G5 Broadhead and Accessory line, along with the Quest Bows, are once again offered at great savings similar to last year. Also, NBEF is working with Gamehide clothing and they have a couple great offers. Gamehide has a new anti-tick clothing product called ElimiTICK. Individuals in the company say it drives ticks crazy if they land on it! Please go to their Web site at www.gamehide.com and check out the product. You will be asked for a promotional code. Enter the word TICK (all caps) and you will get 25% off your order. Gamehide is also making the Mathews licensed line of clothing available at discounts to NBEF and IHEA instructors. Check out the items at www.gamehide.com and then give NBEF a call at (479) 649-9036 for special pricing on those items ... and the Mathews products get FREE SHIPPING!

Hand Injuries

Always be careful when using archery equipment, and be sure to check every inch of the arrow shafts to make sure there are no cracks or nicks. A good way to check these is to use a dry cotton ball and encircle the arrow shaft by running the cotton up and down from fletching to tip. IF even one fiber of the cotton is deposited or left on the arrow shaft, do NOT use it any longer.



Outdoor Fools Day

Outdoor Fools Day was held at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens. Lone Star Bowhunter Association, once again, ran the Youth Archery Range. The event was from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 10, and there were a lot of activities for kids and their families. It was a great opportunity for anyone in the Athens area to introduce kids to the outdoors.

Several volunteers backed out, and we were really short-handed at the youth archery range. If you live in Northeast Texas, we could really use your help at future events at the center. We are helping kids and their families safely fling a few arrows at 3-D targets using Genesis bows. You need no previous experience to volunteer. We'll show you what to do and I guarantee you'll have a great time!

Bob Wright, IBEP Instructor, Dallas

IBEP Course for Mexico

The country of Mexico does not have an official Bowhunter Education program, but some of the hunter education instructors previously certified to conduct courses wanted to be able to provide Bowhunter courses as well. The group from at least three states gathered at Resaca de La Palma State Park in Brownsville for the training conducted by Brock Minton.



Agustin Ravelo is an IBEP instructor and taught a course in Monterey, Mexico.



Steve Hall, Education Director, recently trained the Boys and Girls Club staff from Austin, and Boy Scout Troop #321 leaders from Spring as basic archery instructors in the Texas-National Archery in Schools Program at the Rosewood Recreation Center in East Austin. Go to the archery page at TPWD's Web site for upcoming training courses in your area!



*Front row, L to R: Noe Salazar (San Benito, TX); Gustavo Guajardo (San Pedro, Mexico); Augustin Ravelo (Hidalgo, TX).
Back row, L to R: Edgar Wenzel (Puebla, Mexico); Santiago Munoz Jr. (Brownsville, TX); Omar Travino (Santa Catarina, Mexico); Gustavo Saenz (Tehuacan, Mexico).*

Bowhunter Education New Instructors

FEBRUARY

- | | |
|------------------|------------|
| Juan Martinez | Athens |
| Patricia Stevens | Fort Worth |

MARCH

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Richard Latimer | Sulphur Springs |
| Carlos Willingham | Ben Wheeler |
| Stephan Polansky | Dallas |
| Thomas Phillips | Mt. Vernon |
| Brian Lowry | Lindale |
| Ron Jones, Sr. | Ennis |
| Loren Henry, Jr. | Spring |
| Jimmy Gracey | Poynor |
| Michael Driscoll | Clyde |
| Robin Kolton | Elgin |
| Danny Yarbrough | Canton |
| Todd Penrod | Ennis |

APRIL

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Santiago Munoz, Jr. | Brownsville |
| Gustavo Saenz | Tehuacan, Mexico |
| Edgar Wenzel | Puebla, Mexico |
| Gustavo Guajardo | San Pedro, Mexico |
| Omar Trevino | Monterrey, Mexico |

Students Compete in National Archery in the Schools Tournament

Students across Texas competed at the fifth Annual Texas–National Archery in the Schools Program State Scholarship Championship on Feb. 26 in Waco. Participants of all ages tested their shooting skills against others for a chance at prizes and a spot in the 2010 National Tournament.

There were 35 schools in attendance, with 770 students who shot in the tournament. Scholarship money totaling \$9,000 was awarded to the top three male and female high-school division archers, as well as individual and team trophies to the top three in all divisions and age groups. The overall high score of the tournament was shot by Nicole Taylor of Lamar Middle School. Taylor shot a 284 out of 300. The high overall male was a score of 282 shot by Jacob Harris from Canton High School.

Adding to this year's excitement was paralympic champion archer Lindsey Carmichael. Carmichael, who won the bronze medal in the 2008 Beijing Paralympics, attended at a booth along with other members of the University of Texas archery team.

The yearly event is held for schools statewide that participate in the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP). Students from kindergarten to 12th grade competed in the event, and only schools that teach archery as part of the in-school curriculum were allowed to enter the tournament.

"This is the culminating event for our NASP schools if they wish to participate," said Burnie Kessner, TPWD archery coordinator. "For the kids, it's their chance to really display the skills they have learned and practiced at their schools."

First-place team winners in each division automatically qualify to attend this year's National Tournament, held in Louisville, Kentucky. Individual first- through fifth-place winners also qualify to attend, and additional teams may go to the National Tournament with qualifying team scores. This year, 5,616 students from across the nation are expected to attend.

"Students from Texas who attend the national tournament in Louisville can expect to participate in the largest archery tournament in history and, hopefully, win an invitation to the NASP World tournament at Disney in Florida," said Kessner.

The Texas–National Archery in the Schools Program is the state affiliate of the NASP and was started in 2006. The program was adopted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to help engage students in school and promote interest and participation in the shooting sports.

"The TX-NASP activities conducted in the schools are a great way for students to learn and practice many valuable life skills, such as the ability to concentrate and focus in a stressful situation," said Kessner. "Studies of NASP show that students want to participate in the archery activities so much that they are motivated to keep their grades up, improve their behavior, and attend school."

State partners such as the Texas Archery in Schools Program, a state nonprofit support group that runs the competitions, the Texas Hunter Education Instructor's Association, Dallas Safari Club and the Texas AgriLife Extension agency, all assisted with coordinating and running the tournament, including providing a hands-on wildlife display, trophies, scholarships and even the tournament emcees. Sponsors such as Toyota, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Morrel Targets also played a big role in providing equipment and materials for schools and the tournament.

The program not only teaches important skills for the future, it also promotes archery as a sport and lifelong hobby. Over 5,000 schools have joined the program with over 4.6 million students participating in it.

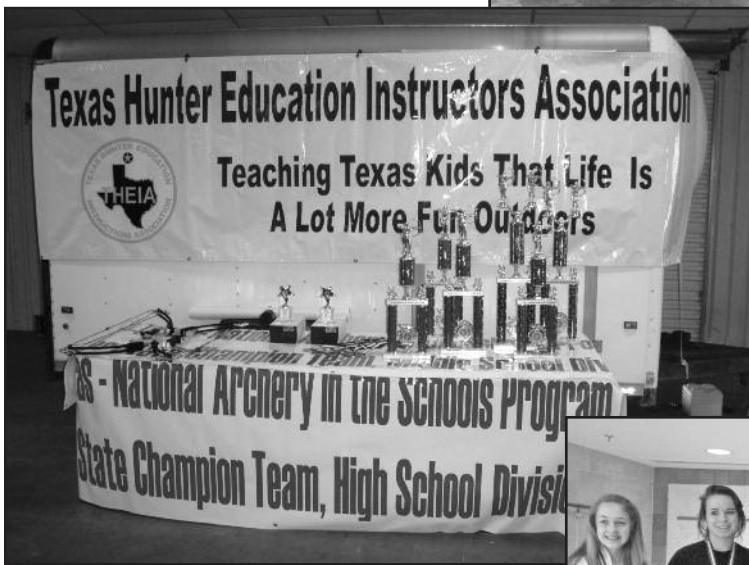
Schools interested in joining the NASP should visit www.archeryintheschools.org or the TPWD archery in the schools Web site for more information, or contact Burnie Kessner at burnie.kessner@tpwd.state.tx.us or (979) 862-7341.

TASP State Tournament a Huge Success!

State Archery in the Schools was held in Waco in February.



The tournament trophies were sponsored by the Texas Hunter Education Instructors Association.



Burnie Kessner (standing right), State Archery Coordinator, joined Kaufman Elementary which came in first in its division at the statewide tournament.



The Argyle High School team came in second place.





TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE

TARGET TALK

Texas Hunter Education Program
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744

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