



Life's better outside.®

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

Can you believe the weather extremes we have had this spring? There were record highs in the early part, followed by cool fronts. ... And now we're having record highs again. We are still in a significant drought and need the rain badly. As far as setting records, look at the following breakdown of how you all did in FY 10. What a great job!

FY 2010 – Another RECORD Year! Hunter Education and Shooting Sports

- 41,655 students were trained in 3,967 courses conducted statewide
- 2,673 instructors (volunteers, game wardens, professional educators)
- 428 new instructor applicants were trained in 54 one-day courses
- 10,437 students were trained using the Internet/Hunter Skills method
- 17,879 students participated in live-firing activities
- 25,812 students participated in field activities
- A total of 516 teachers/youth group leaders were trained in Archery in Schools, and 448 schools were enrolled by the end of the year (up from 313)
- A total of 8,707 students participated in archery outreach events
- TPWD received \$691,520 of in-kind from hunter education volunteer hours
- 8,372 people shot in 47 sporting clays events conducted by staff

continued on page 2

Annual Instructor Conference in Kyle a Big Success

Texas Old Town in Kyle was the host site for the 23rd Annual Instructor Awards Banquet. Numerous special guests were on hand for some great breakout activities.



Instructor Mark Spillman (Azle) puts the final touches to a peach cobbler during his Dutch oven cooking seminar. Mark also brought his son, Talon, to help him with the event. What a great young man!

Check out more conference photos on pages 3-5!

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Coordinator's Corner, continued

- 11,781 people participated in 102 firearm safety presentations, hunting seminars and related outreach activities provided by staff
- 14,992 hunter education deferrals were sold through point of sale through April 2011 (new record!)
- TPWD approved \$240,000 in target range construction grants

As you know, we are well into FY 11 and things are going very well. Student records are caught up, nearly all incentive awards have been sent out (except a few, and we are waiting on back-ordered items) and turkey season has come and gone. Hope you had a chance to get out and enjoy some of the activities. We are anticipating a relatively hot summer, so stay hydrated and make sure your students do the same if hosting field days.

Please send in your schedules so Kathy or I can enter them in the computer. We are receiving numerous calls requesting courses already, including bowhunter home-study field-day courses.

Below is a quote worth remembering. Always try to teach your courses while incorporating this into the lesson.

"People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did. But people will never forget how you made them feel!"

—MAYA ANGELOU

Until next issue, **Always Be Safe!**

Terry Erwin



THEIA Donates Rifles to Hunter Education Program

The Texas Hunter Education Instructor Association's mission statement or purpose is to *"Work with, support and help improve the Texas Park and Wildlife Hunter Education Program."*

With that said, Bob Boswell, THEIA president, and Heidi Rao, Hunter Education training specialist, accept two of the six new Henry rifles donated by THEIA. Three rifles are single-shot Acu-Bolt .22 with scopes, and three are the Henry lever action .22 rifles. Heidi already made use of these fine firearms during a "Becoming an Outdoors-Woman" workshop held recently in Brownwood.

A big "Thank-You" goes out to THEIA for this generous program addition.

Executive Director
Carter P. Smith
Editor, *Target Talk*
Terry Erwin



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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

"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."

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www.tpwd.state.tx.us

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Annual Instructor Conference, continued

Kevin Frazier, second from right, arranged for the Region V Game Warden Cooking Team to host the meals for the weekend. A delicious wild game dinner was the highlight of the evening. Thanks very much to this entire group.



Peter Kummerfeldt (right) is seated with Bob Boswell, THEIA president. Peter did an outstanding Survival presentation.



Michael Wydner (background) did a great job with Tree Stand Safety using the Hunter Safety System.

Paul Yura, New Braunfels, a NOAA meteorologist, provided a Reading the Weather presentation.



Tami Moore (right), TPWD Boater Education administrative technician, presented a great session on building bluebird houses.

Karen Marks (left front), TPWD training specialist in Outdoor Learning, brought a group to teach salsa dancing.



Annual Instructor Conference, continued



Keith Powell, husband of our own Hunter Education administrative technician, Kathy Powell, brought his Jet Lathe and assisted everyone in making his or her own beautiful wooden writing pens.



Bryan Corb, an instructor who is employed by Laser Shot, presented a session on how to use the system during hunter education courses.

Kevin Hutchinson (right) teaches a session on Fly Tying Basics. Everyone made several flies to use while fishing.



A Visit from President Theodore Roosevelt

During the evening banquet, the group had the distinct pleasure of having a visit by President Theodore Roosevelt (Case Hicks), who gave an outstanding oratory of his adventures during his presidency and the fundamentals of conservation. What an opportunity to have someone from the past bring things up to the present!



Burnie Kessner, Archery in the Schools coordinator, did a great job with the archery event.

Even office staff, Michelle Michaelis and Kathy Powell, got in on the action. Guess everyone needs to do things right ... or else!



Awards Presentations at Conference

2,500 HAND GUN RECIPIENTS

Present were Joe Dever, Houston; Rick Ensor, Rockdale; James Russell, Denison; and Clinton Free, Tomball. Those not present and had their certificate mailed were: Neal Avery, Grand Prairie; Buffalo Allwright, Goodrich; Lee Morris, Dumas; Richard Tarpley, Commerce; Virgil Frick, Panhandle; and Pittman Haymore III, Irving.

3,000 POINT RIFLE RECIPIENTS



David Hammonds receives his 3,000-point rifle award.



Curtis Ansley receives his 3,000-point rifle award.



Jim Haynes accepts the 3,000-point rifle award on behalf of his son, Jamie Haynes, who could not attend the banquet. Not pictured is Monica Sobotka, Morgan's Point Resort, who left early.

Other **3,000 Rifle Award** recipients who were unable to attend were: John Rodriguez, Pipe Creek; Robert Blew, McKinney; Abram Cook, Henderson; David Sales, Kingsville; Emmett Kelly, Conroe; James Russell, Denison; Thomas Reynolds, Emory; and Walter Chapman, Houston.



3,500 POINT SHOTGUN RECIPIENTS

Present was Casimer Stawicki, Houston (pictured)

Not present were Walter Chapman, Houston; Van Ellis, Port Arthur; Ricky Linex, Weatherford; Rick Monger, Levelland; Don Moody, Sanger; Roy Ragsdale, Jr., Corsicana; and Dean Slider, Lancaster.

SIX INSTRUCTORS JOIN HALL OF FAME RANKS

Congratulations to all these fine, outstanding instructors! Not pictured is Ross Walker, San Antonio.



Don Barker, Colmesneil



Phil Brakebill, Mineola



Steve Hall, Austin



Danny Odom, Orange



Charles Snowden, Linden

KUDOS!



Steve Hall Receives T.D. Carroll Award

Steve Hall, retired education director, was the recipient of the T.D. Carroll Award given out at the Instructor Awards Banquet this year. Steve spent 26+ years with TPWD and knew T.D. as one of his mentors when he arrived in Texas from Colorado. Steve is now the executive director of the Texas State Rifle Association. Congratulations, Steve!

My daughter, former 4-H Field and Stream president, YHEC participant and Hunter Ed instructor, poses with her doe harvested on a Field and Stream hunt in January. Krista is now married and Mrs. Krista Hasty is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of the University of Houston-Victoria, and has been a third-grade teacher for two years.

Thanks,
Kelly Kehrer, Proud Father



Charlie Wilson to Be Inducted into NSCA Hall of Fame

Charlie Wilson, shooting sports program coordinator (TPWD), received the National Sporting Clays Association (NSCA) Hall of Fame Award and Hill-Adams Youth Service Award for his significant contributions to the involvement and development of youth shooters in the sport.

According to Steve Schultz of the National Sporting Clays Association Executive Council, "Charlie got the highest vote count of anyone coming out of the 20-person Awards Committee and received a unanimous vote of the Executive Council." His induction into the NSCA Hall of Fame will take place at the National NSCA Championship on October 27 in San Antonio.

Congratulations, Charlie!

Axis Adventure

Let me give you some background information. I have always thought that management animals or high-fence hunts were not really a fair way to hunt, but I was not against them. However, personally, I did not feel good about it. I still think animals like white-tailed deer or any other native animals should be hunted via fair chase.

After listening to one of my friends tell about an Axis hunt, and that it was not going to be easy, and thinking that an Axis is not native and it is really like a trip outside the country, I decided to try it. If you think white-tailed deer is hard to hunt with a bow, try the Axis deer. Axis have a strong sense of smell, great eyesight and has exceptional hearing. They are very cautious, and one single noise, they are gone. Axis hunting presents a great challenge for any bow hunter.



I did not see the Axis coming, since I was making some noise just arriving at my hunting location. When I turned around the Axis was 50 yards from me trying to identify what or who alarmed him. The animal was leaving the area when another noise behind me caught his attention. It was a white-tailed deer, so the Axis felt confident to walk on into my area again. What a hunt! What a beautiful animal. I hope you get a chance to hunt an Axis, as they are amazing animals!

Best Regards,
Agustin Ravelo
IBEP Mexico



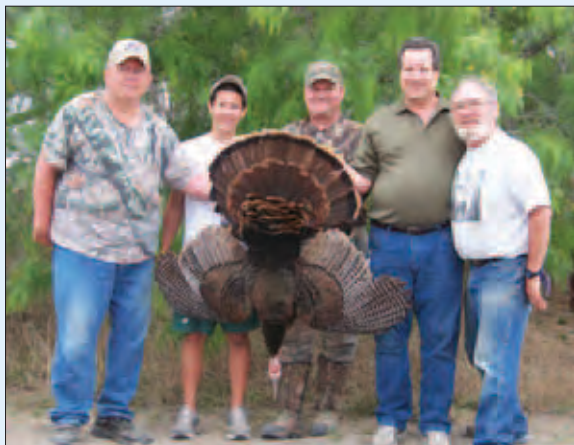
Dear Charlie, Brock and Jimmie:

We had another successful youth shooting event at the Chaparral WMA thanks to all of you! This was a very successful event due to the professional assistance from all of you. Although we did have one school group cancel, we still saw approximately 60 students during the two-day event.

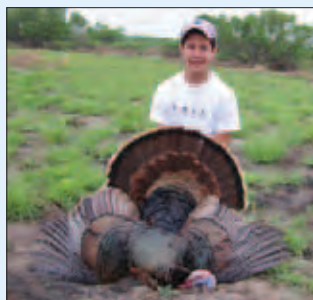
The teachers and students that participated had a great time and wanted me to pass on their appreciation for the great job you do during these events. Please pass this "thank-you" note on to your supervisors for allowing you the time to assist with the event. I hope I did not miss anyone but if I did please forward this note on to him or her.

For those of you that could not make this event, we look forward to seeing you in October! The next event is scheduled for October 11-13, 2011. Put this on your calendars. I will send a reminder in September.

Thanks, everyone! Elena Lopez, TPWD-Chaparral WMA



It was a productive turkey hunt for Ken Grau, Thomas Garcia, Curtis Ansley, Albert Garcia and Duke Walton. It was Thomas' first turkey hunt. Congratulations, Thomas!





Super Hunt

Anton Michael Benner harvested his first deer during the Super Hunt this January accompanied by his mother, Jennifer Benner, and hunt master Steve Hall on the Klein Ranch. Michael is 15 years old, from Austin, and attends Austin High School where he pitches for the baseball team and plays trumpet for the marching band. Michael was brought into the hunting sport by his friend and fellow hunter, Eli Gray, also from Austin. The two boys planned for the hunt for a year getting Michael through the Hunter Education course and rifle practice at Red's Gun Range. Eli has bragged about the Super Hunt for three years, ever since he took his first Axis doe. (See the video on the TYHP website.) Both are also Boy Scouts with Troop 17 and are Life Scouts. Michael's mother, Jennifer, was a trooper, having never been on a hunt before and willing to wear the fashionable one-piece camo suit and sit in the cold and rain in the wee hours with her son. She commented on how well organized the event was and particularly how safe it was. She met and talked with fellow school teachers like David Baxter from Crockett ISD and Tom Hewitt with Operation Orphans. Michael, himself, was adopted from Russia by Jeff and Jennifer Benner when he was two. Both boys immediately took their quartered deer (which they did themselves with Steve Hall's help) straight to Hudson's Deer Processing in downtown Austin. They were fascinated by all the possibilities of future meals their harvest could provide. Michael says he is proud to be able to feed his family. He has two younger brothers, Sam and Jack.



Eli Gray and his mother, Karen Loke (TPWD employee), took part in the Super Hunt.



Additional hunts were held for youth on the Faulkner Ranch. Shown here is the entire group who participated in the activities.



Duke Walton poses with his student at the Faulkner Hunt.

NSSF Reports Big Jump in Hunting License Sales

3.6 Percent Increase Largest Since 1974

NEWTOWN, Conn.—The National Shooting Sports Foundation, trade association for the firearms and ammunition industry, calls the 3.6 percent rise in paid hunting license holders for 2009 one of the most encouraging signs for hunting in recent years.

“This is great news for our industry and everyone associated with hunting,” said Steve Sanetti, president and CEO of the National Shooting Sports Foundation. “Many efforts are at work to build hunting participation, and they are paying off. More people are enjoying the outdoors and sharing the tradition of hunting with family and friends. Also, more hunting license sales translate into more funds for wildlife conservation.”



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service last week reported a total of 14,974,534 paid license holders for 2009, the largest figure since 2002 and an increase of 526,494 over 2008. The 3.6 percent rise in paid license holders represents the largest year-over-year increase since 1974. (A “paid license holder” is one individual regardless of the number of licenses purchased.)

NSSF cites several reasons for the increase, ranging from programs launched by many state wildlife agencies over the last decade to increase hunting participation to a difficult economy that

motivated hunters to fill their freezers with game rather than store-bought meat. In addition, hunters who were among the unemployed or had their work hours reduced used some of their free time to go hunting.

Coordinated efforts of state wildlife agencies, conservation organizations and the firearms industry appear to have halted a decades-long decline in hunting license sales, which since 2005 have held at the 14.5-million level until the jump in 2009. NSSF has played a key role promoting hunting participation with its programs and websites. Through its Hunting Heritage Partnership program, NSSF has provided state agencies with \$3.8 million to fund initiatives designed to encourage hunting among all age groups.

Also, through Families Afield, a partnership effort of NSSF, the U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance and National Wild Turkey Federation started in 2004, thirty states have made it easier for youth to begin hunting at a younger age with licensed adults. NSSF websites such as www.WingshootingUSA.org make it easy for hunters to locate game bird preserves, where youth can easily get started in hunting and where inactive adult hunters can revive their interest.

Another positive sign for hunting is that contrary to claims of a wholesale decline in hunting participation, paid license holders have increased in 24 states in the five-year period from 2005 to 2009.

“Due to continued urbanization and changes in our culture, hunting will face significant challenges for the foreseeable future, but at the same time hunting remains an extremely important activity in the lives of millions of Americans, as the latest hunting licenses sales figures confirm,” said Sanetti.

NSSF points out that the actual number of hunters who go afield in any given year is greater than the total of paid hunting license holders in that year. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service figures do not account for certain state exemptions for purchasing a hunting license. Many states allow landowners and active military to hunt without purchasing a license; also, lifetime license holders and youth hunters who do not fall within the required license purchasing age are not included in the figures.

According to an NSSF study carried out by Southwick Associates, the pool of hunters in America is much larger than previously thought. The study, released last fall, estimated that 21.8 million people purchased a hunting license at least once in the last five years.

Hunters are the backbone of conservation funding in America, contributing more than \$1 billion each year through the purchase of licenses, tags, permits and stamps and through excise taxes paid on firearms and ammunition. For example, proceeds from the sale of Federal Duck Stamps, a required purchase for migratory waterfowl hunting, have purchased more than 5 million acres of habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

NSSF, using its new 12-state hunting license sales index, anticipated the national increase in paid hunting license holders by reporting a 3.5 percent increase in license sales last spring. “It’s gratifying to see how accurate our state index was, which gives us confidence in future index-based hunting license sales figures,” said Jim Curcuruto, NSSF’s director of industry research and analysis.

TRAINING WORKSHOPS

New Instructor Training



Left is a picture of the candidates who took the course. The second picture shows our new ICs teaching to the students as part of their training. Another fun class! I liked your idea of having a student class in the afternoon for the instructors to work with. Maybe needs a little fine tuning on my part, but it went very well and I think I actually got more 'taught' to them that they can use by doing it this way. This training made for a very long day, though.

Rhonda Esakov, Area Chief, Georgetown



Brent Heath forwarded a photo of his March 12 class. First row, L to R: Dustin Ognowski, Warren Wolf, Bruce Kaase, James Morris, Kent Reeves, Cyle Cochran and David Pitman. Back row, L to R: Mark Roark, Thomas Salmi, Brent Heath, Connie Real, Ryan McGinley, Kyle Sands, Reggie Moore, Chase Hurst and John Binkley.



L-R is John Long, David West, Robert Krebs and Area Chief Danny Odom. This is from the new Hunter Education Instructor Training Class held on March 12, 2011 in Orange.



Area Chief Gilbert Graves (left) and graduate students from TAMU-Kingsville, and Area Chief Jack Thompson, San Antonio, took part in the instructor training session.



New instructor training was held by Phil Brakebill and Charles Snowden at the Tyler Nature Center.

TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Advanced Training



L-R: TPWD biologist Brett Johnson, James David Milam, USCOE, David McIntosh, Bob Wright, Greg Goodrich, Steven Blake and Pittman Haymore take part in a hog workshop.



Ag-Clays Training



L-R: Dr. Randall Williams, Amanda Natrass, Ricardo "Gabby" Perez, Orlando Gonzales, Cheryl Jordon, Kayla Box, Sherry Gonzalez, Vanessa Gomez, Laura Ann Salinas and Charlie Wilson. Photo by Brock Minton.

From The Wildlife Society Newsletter

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will soon be conducting the 12th National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. Hunters, anglers and other wildlife enthusiasts across the nation will be asked to participate in interviewing set to begin April 1. The survey, which has been conducted every five years since 1955, will involve 53,000 households.

"We appreciate the anglers, hunters, birdwatchers and other citizens throughout the United States who voluntarily participate in the survey when contacted," said Acting Director Rowan Gould, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "The survey results help wildlife and natural resource managers quantify how much Americans value wildlife resources in terms of both participation and expenditures."

The Multi-state Conservation Grant Program authorized by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000 funds the survey. The survey provides the only comprehensive statistical database available on participation and expenditures for hunting, fishing and wildlife-watching in all 50 states. The information is collected by the U.S. Census Bureau, primarily through telephone interviews to be conducted April to June and September to October in 2011, and January to March in 2012. Those contacted will be asked about their participation and expenditures in several categories of wildlife-associated recreation. The results will be available in a national report and in 50 individual state reports.

"The last survey published in 2006 revealed 87.5 million Americans enjoyed some form of wildlife-related recreation and spent more than \$122.3 billion pursuing their activities," said Hannibal Bolton, assistant director for the Service's Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program.

NEW INSTRUCTORS

Welcome, New Instructors

If you recognize any of these folks who might live near you, please give them a call and ask if you can help them get started. Remember, it is always appreciated when you lend a helping hand.

January

Dean Johnson	Burleson
Kathy Bryan	Amarillo
Charles Robinson	Amarillo
Richard Weathers	Amarillo
Michael Clardy	Spade

February

Allen Judy	Austin
Sabina Harrington	Fort Worth
Bruce Kennedy	Austin
Michael Saunders	Austin
Paul Michael	Stephenville
Paul Wolf	Stephenville
Arthur Sherrouse	Copperas Cove
Gary Keeney	Wichita Falls
Bart Durham	Lubbock
James Griffin, Jr.	Boerne
Dennis Bruton	Murphy
Kayla Rach	Corpus Christi
Michael Coyle	Burleson
Mandi Keith	Red Oak
Theresa Frederick	Arlington
Julianna Crowder	Leander
Spenser Adams	Mesquite
Christopher Gabriel	Falfurrias
Jose Caballero	Weslaco
David Watts	Houston
Timothy Lancaster	Houston

March

Kahyon Freeman	Daingerfield
William Montgomery	Byers
Stacy Coates	Sinton
John Newman	Corpus Christi
Josie Fernandez	Freer
Nathaniel Hale	Bellville
Clinton Brown	Era
Franklin Deater	Sherman
Steven Fleming	Gainesville
Craig Musser	Rockwall
Wayne Twiner	Era
Scott McIntyre	Arlington
James McClellan	Fritch
Randall Moore	Ropesville
Kevin Dydyk	Wichita Falls
Douglas Ray	Wichita Falls
Clifford Cox	Bowie
Robert Kappel	Henrietta
Gregory Washburn	Wichita Falls
David Fiero Liberty	Hill
Richard Perez	Bruni
Nathan Boedeker	Henrietta
Trent Houchin	Lorenzo
John Stewart	Sugar Land
Douglas Hale	Cypress
Troy Harrison	Pasadena
Roger Burris	Sugar Land
Ronald Portwood	Katy
David Pitman	New Braunfels

Chase Hurst	Waco
James Morris	Stephenville
Mark Roark	Groesbeck
Bruce Kaase	Robinson
Warren Wolf	Round Rock
Tracey Walker	Kyle
David Canales	San Diego
Lloyd Love	Pasadena
Ronald McCandless	Dale
Tony Warren	Midlothian
Tom Yeats	Burleson

April

Robert Krebs	Vidor
Dustin Ognowski	Round Rock
Ryan McGinley	Seguin
Constance Real	New Braunfels
Kent Reeves	Hico
Lee Boedeker	Wichita Falls
Thomas Salmi	Eules
Amanda Brantley	Cameron
Lonnie Hancock	Marshall
Casey Becker	Kaufman
Cheryl Jordan	Sinton
Roni Crow	North Richland Hills
Timothy Goodpasture	Whitehouse
Cyle Cochran	Gilmer
Preston Lindsey	Troup

KATHY'S CORNER

Hi Folks! Did ya miss me? I was on vacation for a week in early May. Some may have tried to call and got my voicemail. I'm back and here to help you. When you send in your student records, DO NOT SEND CASH! And, remember to fill out the Final Report. We cannot process them without all the paperwork completed. You have seven (7) days to get it to our office. If you have any questions, please call me at (512) 389-8142 and we can get everything cleared up.



Dear Mrs. Powell,

Thank you so much for the orange hat and shooting glasses you sent me for my birthday. Now I am ready to go hunting! (And I can't wait!) Thanks also for all the stickers, booklets, pencils and posters you sent for my party guests. They were a big hit! My mom says you went way above and beyond to make my fourth birthday special and she really appreciates your help!

Sincerely,

Lance La Coste
Baytown



Visitor from Estonia Loves Texas

Marko Aarna turned 20 in October, while he was in Texas. He is from Estonia, and lives outside of the town of Tartu. Members of the First Baptist Church of Bryan have been going to Estonia for 20 years, ever since the country broke away from the USSR. Marko has therefore known people from Texas since he was a baby, which helped fuel his desire to come to Texas, specifically Bryan/College Station.

Kathy:

I believe you have spoken over the phone to my wife, Christine La Coste. We both want to express our sincere gratitude to you for sending the child-appropriate hunting and wildlife education items for our son, Lance La Coste. We gave him a hunting-themed birthday party when he turned 4 years old in January. With the items you sent, we made gift bags for all the children that attended his party. Additionally, thank you for remembering our dear son in March and for sending him a critter book that you had received from a recent conference you had attended. Lance and his younger sister, Corinne, have truly enjoyed looking at the pictures and hearing about the wildlife that fill the pages.

Your initiative and thoughtfulness has impressed us tremendously, and has brought a lot of enjoyment to our children. We just wanted to say thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael and Christine La Coste
Baytown, Texas

I met Marko through Sunday school classmates of mine that went to Estonia on different trips over the last two years. They met Marko there, and hit it off with him. So I met Marko through them, when Marko came to Texas for a visit. Marko fell in love with Texas and the outdoors immediately, even before I met him. He worked two jobs while in this country. He roofed for a fellow church member and on the weekends spent his time on a ranch outside of Franklin, Texas, with his friend, Buddy Hiatt, who he also met in Estonia. Buddy and his family own and live on the land outside of Franklin, and that is where Marko enjoyed the outdoors—hunting wild pigs, fishing, feeding horses and cows, etc. Marko also cut about 10 cords of wood here and sold them to make money.

I took Marko to Corpus Christi one weekend in October, and then in December I took him to Dad's (Billy Holt). Marko hunted with me multiple mornings and evening hunts in "The Palace." We also sat close to the north feeder at the "High Lonesome." He sat on the ground, and I sat above him in the tripod. A spike buck came within 5 yards of Marko and never ran off. We saw many deer, and Marko got a huge kick out of the spike buck tagged with the ear tag labeled K48.



I took Marko shooting one Sunday in Bryan. He shot multiple handguns and an AR-15. He also shot shotguns in Carthage, Texas, with another Sunday school member and played shooting games like Knockout, trap, skeet, etc. Marko stayed in Texas for six months and left on December 21. I'll be going to Estonia in June with the church.

When Marko returned to Estonia, he built a new room onto his home just for himself and labeled it "The Palace" after the deer stand back in Texas he had used.

Will Holt
Bryan PD



Kathy,
I just wanted to let you know what a great time I had this past weekend at the awards banquet. I appreciate you and Heidi asking me back to do scrapbooking. I know there was a lot of work and headaches in putting something like this together. I appreciate it. I especially liked the salsa dancing. Thanks again for all your hard work.

Debbie Howard
Texas Parks and Wildlife/Coastal Fisheries
Galveston Bay Ecosystem, Dickinson Marine Lab

Hello Kathy,
I enjoyed seeing you this weekend. Hope everyone made it back safely. I was looking at my list of items on points and I have not received the orange vest. I was hoping you could mail it out to me because we left out on Sunday and couldn't stay until Monday to go by the office. I wanted to also thank you and your husband for the making of pens, and your husband really was nice to take the time to make me one after mine broke. I just wanted to thank you both for a wonderful time. You are deeply appreciated for your hard work.

Thanks again,
Laura and Richard Garcia

Good Morning Staff:

After more than 10 years of being the Hunter Education Area Chief in this area, I have elected to retire effective 01 January 2012. Speaking on behalf of the 10 hunter education instructors and one assistant instructor, we have accomplished a great deal over the years. We have expanded the number of classes in the Kerrville area from four a year to nine per year, and the number of summer camps from three to eight. In addition, with the help of Hunter Education coordinator Terry Erwin, we planned, organized and built the first Mobile Hunter Education Program trailer in Texas—with the help of many folks and grants from some several organizations and individuals. It is my understanding that there are now eight such trailers in Texas and others in several states.

Thanking you in advance for your continued support and assistance. It has been an honor and pleasure to be a member of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Hunter Education team in the Hill Country.

Warmest personal regards and yours in conservation,

Bryant D. Truitt
Hunter Education, Area Chief
Hunt, Texas

Good morning, Terry!

You probably won't remember me by name, but I was in your offices a couple of times a few years ago when my old partner and I were attempting to get our "Feeder Meter" product off the ground. We didn't make a very good go of it as it turned out. His health finally got the better of him

and he simply deteriorated. I was laid off from Dell on one of their mass lay-offs shortly after I last visited with you, and eventually made my way back to my home town of Wichita Falls.

I went through your Hunter Education instructor's course this weekend, and wanted to express how thoroughly impressed I was not only with the program itself, but also with Robert Ramirez! What a fantastic front man for TPWD! I learned so much more than I bargained for, and am extremely excited about getting ramped up to serve in this area. In fact, I was so positively affected by the experience that I am sending my resume to TPWD today in hopes of finding full time employment for myself with the agency!

I hope that I have an opportunity to see you again in the near future.

Regards,
Gary L. Keeney

Good Morning, Brent Heath,

I received the instructor packet and credentials from Mr. Erwin before Christmas, and have been digesting since. We are having a Beast Feast at our church (Union Hill Baptist, Brownsboro) on Friday night, February 25, with lots of local will game recipes to digest (excuse the pun). This will kick off our hunter education class next week. There will be lots of deer, squirrel, duck, rabbit, hogs and no idea what else. If you are in the area, please join us. We had a hunter education class scheduled on March 4 (6-8 p.m.) and March 5 (8 a.m.-5 p.m.), lunch provided. Another church is planning to begin a class on Thursday nights in Canton. I received a call from a pastor in Grand Saline just yesterday to have a class in later in the year. Next week I will speak to the Canton Lions Club about the hunter safety class and KidFish. These opportunities would not be possible if you have not taken the time to have your class in December. Thank you very much. If you are in Canton and have the time, drop by the auditor's office in the basement of the courthouse. Thanks again,

Sincerely,
John Shinn

Dear Staff:

A very impressive program was started in 1995 at University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-Madison) to acquaint wildlife majors with hunters' and the hunting community's myriad and long-standing contributions to natural resources conservation and wildlife resources. Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLfT) has now evolved into a year-round educational program supported by the Wildlife Management Institute, Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, and faculty from Purdue University, UW-Madison, Ohio State University, together with professionals from Colorado Division of Wildlife and other hunting experts.

CLfT offers week-long programs several times a year to students enrolled in natural resources conservation/wildlife management programs; agency professionals from over 30 states; and those interested in becoming instructors for CLfT. Together with agency professionals from 12 other states, Joe Beach of TPWD attended the November 2010, CLfT Training at the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation in Dundee, IL. A combination of classroom instruction, small group workshops, and intensive, hands-on training in the field culminated in our hunt of pen-raised/released ring-necked pheasants on the grounds of McGraw. Life-long friendships and professional relationships, as well as renewed appreciation of the legacy of hunters in wildlife and natural resources conservation were among the valuable lessons learned by all.

Thank you,
Joe Beach

Charlie Wilson:

This is an update on the Ag Clays shoot at Maud. We had 39 participants from seven schools and I started the shoot at 8:30 a.m. with a safety meeting while shooting started at 9 a.m. Everyone shot 50 targets from each trap, we took lunch at 11:45 and were completely done with shoot-offs and awards at 3:30. We had no accidents or narrow escapes; our high score for individual was a 90. The Ag teachers have requested to have another shoot in a few months and I have agreed to coordinate again. In addition, I wanted to let you know that my son (Cole) has made captain of the Texas State sub-Junior Team for 2011 and made the ATA All American Team for the first time. He was not able to participate in the Ag shoot this week, and

he has not been able to get into the 381 class yet. Hope all is going good for you, if you have anything coming up you would like some help on with your Ag program feel free to give me a call.

Thanks,
Eddy Anders

Texas Director
ATA AIM Youth Program
NRA/ATA Shooting Coach
TPWD Hunter Education Instructor
BC 4H Shooting Sports Instructor

I want to add my sincere thanks to Ross Walker and John Rodriquez for their support from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Saturday as St. Luke Men's Club expressed the importance of hunter safety and responsibility to over 600 guests with announcements and electronic displays throughout the evening. The SLMC also presented eight certificates to our guests who were successful in bidding on the auctioned hunts, including my contact information, redeemable for Hunter Education course fees. The Academy store at Vance Jackson and Loop 410 has offered to host those courses. Ross and John fielded many questions as they were positioned at the front and center of our stage with the Academy representatives. I'm truly proud to be a member of both organizations.

Thanks again. See you folks later this month in Kyle.

Rick Hite
San Antonio

Kathy,
A big THANK YOU for all that you do for the hunter education program and instructors. You are the glue. The conference was a lot of fun and the selection of mini-seminars was great. The facility was awesome! It was a very enjoyable day!! Thank you to all the committee for a great conference.

Best regards,
Monica Sobotka



This is Terrance the Cross-Eyed Turkey. (I named him that because he reminded me of Clarence, the Cross-eyed Lion, except he is a real wild Rio Grande turkey.) I saw him just as I drove out my driveway opening morning of turkey season. He was walking into the neighbor's driveway, so we stopped and took a few photos of him. I think he saw his reflection in my silver truck, because he came right up to it and was pecking on the passenger door. He gobbled and then walked around the front and pecked on it and gobbled at the front bumper a few times. When he got around to my door, I think he was getting really upset, and wanted to fight. He flew up toward my window with both feet and scratched down my door. I snapped a photo just as he flew up, but I jerked the phone and took a photo of the inside of the roof. That was just a little too up close and personal for me, so I drove forward to keep him off my truck, but he kept coming. He was still running and chasing us as we drove off. I never had one do that! I called my neighbor and he said that the crazy thing was there the other day and almost would not let his mother get back into the house. I may have to check to see if he likes Montec broad heads from a Horton Crossbow in the morning. It is a security issue for the neighborhood now, you know!

Rick Cumins,
Instructor
Rio Vista

Salazar Announces Funding to States for Fish and Wildlife Projects

From USFWS

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced the distribution of more than \$749 million in excise tax revenues generated by sportsmen and women to state and territorial fish and wildlife agencies through the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration and Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration programs.

“Hunters and anglers have provided the foundation for wildlife conservation in America for more than 75 years. They continue to provide dedicated, critical funding for fish and wildlife agencies across the nation, especially at a time when many state budgets are under pressure,” said Secretary Salazar. “These funds will support important fish and wildlife management and conservation, recreational boating access, and hunter and aquatic education programs.”

Program funds come from excise taxes paid by manufacturers, producers, and importers on sporting firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, fishing equipment and tackle, and electric outboard motors. Recreational boaters also contribute to the program through fuel taxes on motorboats and small engines.

The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Program apportionment for 2011 totals more than **\$384 million**, of which **more than \$79 million is for hunter education and safety programs**.

Please visit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Web site at <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/> for more information on the goals and accomplishments of these programs and for individual state funding allocations. Some examples of activities planned by state fish and wildlife agencies in 2011 include:

TEXAS – The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will construct a new two-lane boat ramp, parking lot, courtesy dock, and lighting in Muenster, Texas. The new facility will provide the only public access to the lake for fishing and other recreational boating pursuits. This will be the first public boat ramp in Cooke County.

Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Program funding is available to all 50 states, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the territories



These funds will support important fish and wildlife management and conservation, recreational boating access, and hunter and aquatic education programs.

of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. One-half of the 11 percent excise tax on bows, arrows, and archery equipment and 10 percent excise tax on handguns, pistols, and revolvers make up the funding for hunter education programs. The other one-half of the excise tax are for wildlife restoration purposes, including the 11 percent excise tax on firearms and ammunition.

Each state or territory receives a Wildlife Restoration Program apportionment derived from a formula that incorporates its total land area and number of paid hunting license holders. Each state or territory may not receive more than 5 percent or less than one-half of 1 percent of the total apportionment. Fish and wildlife agencies use these funds to manage wildlife populations, conduct habitat research, acquire wildlife habitat, enhance wildlife habitat, and public hunting access, carry out surveys and inventories, administer hunter education programs, and construct and maintain shooting and archery ranges.

The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs have generated a total of more than \$13.7 billion since their inception – in 1937 in the case of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Program, and 1950 for the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Program – to conserve fish and wildlife resources. The recipient fish and wildlife agencies have matched these program funds with more than \$3.4 billion. This funding is critical to continue sustaining healthy fish and wildlife populations and provide opportunities for all to connect with nature.



Hill Country Shooting Sports Center Hosts 20th Annual Texas YHEC

Young Texans aged 10-19 from across the state competed Saturday, April 30 in eight challenge events of the Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge to win awards and the right to participate in the National Rifle Association's International Youth Hunter Education Challenge held this year at their Wittington Center in Raton, New Mexico in July.

Competition in this 20th Annual Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge was in eight events: the Shooting Challenge events of Archery, Muzzleloading Rifle, Light Rifle (.22 caliber), and Shotgun together with the Responsibility Challenges of Wildlife Identification, Orienteering, Hunter Skills Trail, and a written Responsibility Exam. Each participant earned points toward single event championships, a Sportsmanship award, and overall Junior or Senior Competitor. All participants must have successfully completed a recognized state hunter certification course.

Texas Hunter Education Instructors Association has been sponsoring this Texas YHEC since 1991. Volunteers, most of whom are Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Hunter Education Instructors, work to set up the shooting events, the orienteering and hunter skills trails and act as directors of each event. Safety is always the number one concern, but so is enjoying the competition.



Volunteers from across Texas work to provide the best in a challenging competition. Robert Boswell, of Spring, is this year's Texas YHEC event director. Event coordinator is Peggy Weyel, San Antonio, and the National Rifle Association-YHEC representative for Texas is Duke Walton of Porter (top photo). Event treasurer is Shannon Caughron, Ballinger, and statistician is Jeannette Hammonds of Fort Worth.

Directors of the Challenge events are: Archery, David Hammonds, Fort Worth; Muzzleloading Rifle, James Davis, Pasadena; Light Rifle, Thomas Connaughton, Richmond; Shotgun, Dennis Rock, Plantersville; Orienteering, Clyde McMeans, Bellaire; Responsibility Exam, Jimmie Caughron, Ballinger; Hunter Skills Trail, Bryant Truitt, Hunt; and Wildlife ID, Junior Muñoz, Resaca de Palma State Park, Brownsville.



Kerr County game wardens Mark Chapa and Kenneth Lee, Jr. worked the Wildlife Identification all day, monitoring the participants as they tried to recall names of the 30 Texas sport fish, birds, mammals and reptiles whose pelts, feathers, skulls or taxidermied heads and bodies they had to identify.

JR and Noe came all the way from Resaca de la Palma State Park in Brownsville to run the Wildlife ID part of the challenge with wardens Chapa and Lee.

20th Annual Texas YHEC, continued



Awards handed out on Sunday morning, May 1, included the Sportsmanship Award, which was given to an entire team (top photo) this time. The Longview Piney Woods Shooting Club consists of Corbin Cheshire, Chantry Cheshire, John “JD” Dorman, Emily McCarty and Zane Faulkner. Coaches are Chuck Rue and Clyde Herrington with Nancy Rue the team’s manager.

Top Overall Junior Competitors, who earned most points in the eight events, were: third place – Zane Faulkner, Longview; second place – Ben Simpson, Belton; and first place – J. Parker Ford, Lufkin.

Top Overall Senior Competitors were: third place – John Walker; second place – Shelby Robinson, Lufkin; and first place – Kevin Carter, Lufkin.

First place winners received new muzzleloaders and all received a deer hunt for themselves and a parent at the Heart of Texas Bowhunting in Ballinger.

Jack Burch of the Hill Country Shooting Sports Center needs a Texas-sized thank you for hosting this year’s event. Other businesses from Subway sandwiches to hotels like the YO, La Quinta and Motel 6, and the Kerrville Visitor’s and Convention Bureau, provided services to keep volunteers and competitors fed and housed. This great trip to Kerrville was not just in the Heart of Texas, but also placed Kerrville in the heart of these Texans.



Shown here is the High Overall Junior, J. Parker Ford, (second from left) and High Overall Senior, Kevin Carter, (second from right) both from the East Texas Rooters, Lufkin. Overall, the group took first, second and third in Junior and Senior levels. Congratulations to coach and area chief, Donnie Kee, and the entire team!

May Fest Huge Success in Dallas

Trey Hamlett, outreach specialist, reported that the May Fest Life’s Better Outside Event (LBOE) was the largest to date. Thirty-three TPWD employees including two division directors plus 138 volunteers worked the event. Constituent groups represented were Lone Star Bow Hunters Association, Fort Worth Fly Fishers, Texas Wildlife Association as well as TPWD volunteer angler education and hunter education instructors. In addition, there were several area chiefs assisting as well. A total of 3,987 LBOE visitors attended the event. It was the biggest LBOE by more than 1,400 visitors.

- Saturday attendance: 2,204
(19% Hispanic, 9% Black, 66% Anglo, 6% Other)
- Sunday attendance: 1,783
(16% Hispanic 8% Black, 65% Anglo, 11% Other)
- 1,648 kids fished at the Inland Fisheries catfish tank
- 2,001 kids and adults shot a bow and arrow at Communications/Lone Star Bow Hunters Association archery area



For Your Information

F.Y.I.

Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

Youth hunts are extremely important to adults as well as young people. Seeing their excitement put in perspective shows how precious our heritage is. Go on a youth hunt to help. It will bring out the kid in you. Pass on what we know, so our sport will grow.

Top Citations Issued by Game Wardens

Including just hunting violations, here are the top categories from TPWD for 2010:

1. Hunter safety violation – 3,144
2. Class C misdemeanor trespassing – 568
3. Failure to complete white-tailed deer harvest log – 471
4. Hunt/possess white-tailed deer in closed season – 450

Top Hunting and Shooting Equipment Brands for 2010

Southwick Associates has announced the brands hunters and shooters purchased most frequently in 2010. This list has been compiled from the 41,923 Internet-based surveys completed by hunters and target shooters who volunteered to participate last year in HunterSurvey.com and ShooterSurvey.com polls. In 2010, top brands included:

- Top rifle brand: Remington (17.5% of all purchases)
- Top shotgun brand: Remington & Mossberg (virtual tie with 21.5% of all purchases)
- Top muzzleloader brand: Thompson Center (31.9% of all purchases)
- Top handgun brand: Sturm Ruger (16.7% of all purchases)
- Top scope for firearms: Bushnell (17.1% of all purchases)
- Top rifle ammunition brand: Remington (25.3% of all purchases)
- Top shotgun ammunition brand: Winchester (31.9% of all purchases)
- Top handgun ammunition brand: Winchester (22.0% of all purchases)
- Top blackpowder brand: Pyrodex (38.7% of all purchases)
- Top balls, bullets or shot brand: Hornady (28.4% of all purchases)
- Top bow brand: Matthews (17.5% of all purchases)
- Top arrow brand: Carbon Express (27.6% of all purchases)
- Top fletching brand: Blazer (15.8% of all purchases)
- Top broadhead brand: Muzzy (20.3% of all purchases)
- Top archery target brand: The Block (10.3% of all purchases)
- Top decoy brand: Mojo (12.9% of all purchases)
- Top game call brand: Primos (33.5% of all purchases)
- Top reloading bullet brand: Hornady (31.7% of all purchases)
- Top reloading primer brand: CCI (38.2% of all purchases)
- Top reloading powder brand: Hodgdon (37.8% of all purchases)
- Top binocular brand: Bushnell (33.6% of all purchases)
- Top holster brand: Uncle Mikes (19.0% of all purchases)
- Top knife brand: Gerber (15.0% of all purchases)
- Top scent or scent covering brand: Scent-A-Way, Scent Shield (14.7% of all purchases each)
- Top shooting target brand: Shoot-N-C (31.3% of all purchases)
- Top clay brand: White Flyer (51.8% of all purchases)

The marketing data presented here is a summary of a 238-page report that details consumer behavior including what products and brands are purchased, where they are bought, how much customers spend, and demographics of hunters and shooters broken out by each product category. Current information about what gear and brands hunters and shooters prefer, how many days they spend afield and what type of hunting and shooting they enjoy most is vital to businesses trying to build their customer base.

Area Chief Meetings

The new year started with Area Chief meetings being held in Houston, Dallas, San Antonio and Lubbock. New procedures were discussed and new training forms were handed out. During the Dallas meeting (right), held in conjunction with the Dallas Safari Club Annual Convention, the participants were given free entry tickets to the DSC Convention. At the same time, Larry Potterfield (pictured with Terry), CEO of Midway USA, attended the Area Chief meeting and spoke about the future of shooting sports.



During the Houston AC meeting, which also was held in conjunction with the Houston Safari Club Convention, the group received passes for the convention to look through and visit all the vendors, guides and displays.



Chris Solsolich, HSC Director of Marketing, Heidi Rao, and AC instructors hold the Remington firearms training set. HSC donated three of these sets to be used in the Houston area for hunter education courses. Many thanks to Houston Safari Club!



Chris Solsolich receives a Certificate of Appreciation for allowing the AC meeting to be held with the HSC convention.



Lubbock Area Chief meeting

IN THE NEWS...

From National Shooting Sports Foundation

Third Quarter Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax Figures Released

The latest firearms and ammunition excise tax collection report released by the Department of the Treasury indicates that firearm and ammunition manufacturers reported tax liabilities of \$104.32 million in the third calendar quarter of 2010, down 9.93 percent over the same period in 2009. The report, which covers the time period of July 1 through Sept. 30, shows that \$25.7 million was due in taxes for pistols and revolvers, \$33.94 million for firearms (other)/long guns and \$44.68 million for ammunition (shells and cartridges). Compared to the same period in 2009, tax obligations were down 13.91 percent for pistols and revolvers, down 8.48 percent for firearms (other)/long guns and down 8.61 percent for ammunition (shells and cartridges).

Streaming NSSF Safety Videos

New, higher-definition versions of NSSF's firearms safety videos are available online at www.nssf.org/safety/video/, including for the first time in its entirety "McGruff on Gun Safety," the educational video for students in grades K through 6. Also available for viewing are "It's Your Call: Playing It Safe Around Guns" designed for students in grades 6 through 9 and "Firearm Safety Depends on You," which provides a review of firearm safety rules for audiences of all ages. The two firearm safety videos for students have downloadable teacher discussion guides. NSSF asks that you bring these videos to the attention of your child's school or teacher, or that you view them with your children so that they understand how to safely respond if they should encounter a firearm in an unsupervised situation.

Turkey Hunters Increasing Twice as Fast as U.S. Population

The number of turkey hunters has increased at more than twice the rate of the growth of the U.S. population since 1991, according to a new report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. That is just one nugget of information found in the report, "Trends in Fishing and Hunting 1991-2006: A focus on Fishing and Hunting by Species," which provides a detailed look at hunting and fishing by species and offers new information on national and state hunting and fishing expenditures, participation rates and demographic trends.

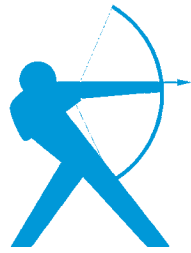
T. Boone Pickens is NHF Day Honorary Chairman



Since 1972 National Hunting and Fishing Day has had many honorary chairpersons, including professional baseball players, NASCAR drivers, musicians, presidents (George H. W. Bush), actors and comedians, but never a businessman—until now. T. Boone Pickens, the well-known philanthropist, successful businessman and sportsman, has added a new role to his illustrious career—honorary chairman of National Hunting and Fishing Day 2011. The annual celebration is set for Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011. Developed by the National Shooting Sports Foundation, NHF Day is now managed by Wonders of Wildlife Museum in Springfield, Mo.

Survey: Hunters, Shooters to Make Key Purchases in 2011

In a survey conducted by HunterSurvey.com, more than 40 percent of sportsmen said they intend to purchase a new rifle in 2011, while nearly a quarter of them anticipate buying a shotgun.



THE BOWHUNTER

TEXAS BOWHUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

New and Improved Online Course

The new Bowhunter Ed “managed course” went live on March 31. Students who click on the link for the old course are automatically directed to the new course.

Improvements have been taking place to enhance the student’s experience taking the bowhunter-ed.com online course. A summarized list is provided for the most notable improvements below:

1. The Bowhunter-Ed.com course has been divided into smaller segments designed for bite-sized learning and quick comprehension. Students will now progress through each course page *in sequence* and be *required to stay on the page for a specified period of time*. (Previously students could elect to progress immediately to the Final Exam.) Initially students will set up a free account. They will then have the ability to log in or out whenever they wish. The course software tracks each student every step of the way. This ‘managed course’ framework ensures that students cover all material before taking a chapter quiz or the Final Exam.
 2. The students will no longer be charged for failing and retaking the course. If the student fails the course, they may retake it as many times as necessary to pass *without additional charge*. There is *no payment required until the student passes*.
 3. In conjunction with these improvements, the new price of the course will be **\$30**. The **Field Course will remain \$15** of which you may retain \$10 for out-of-pocket expenses.
 4. Learning will be reinforced with a mandatory 5- or 10-question review quiz for each chapter. Students must score 70% on each chapter quiz before being allowed to progress to the next chapter. Students will feel well-prepared for their comprehensive Final Exam.
 5. All course material will have an audio option with the content professionally narrated. Students can select the learning style that is best for them: listen, read or both.
 6. Quiz and Final Exam questions will also be read aloud. The Final Exam was reduced to 50 questions versus the current 75 questions because students are also being tested on each separate chapter. The passing Final Exam score will remain the same at 80%.
 7. Hundreds of bow hunter safety illustrations have been stunningly updated with realistic details to give students a clear idea of what to expect once they are in the field.
- NBEF is excited about offering this redesigned course and now offers it on our website.
- We are updating our TPWD website with details about the new course. Here is the new description to be added.
- The official NBEF bow hunter classroom course – online
 - Free registration – pay only when you pass
 - Narrated bow hunter course, so you can listen, read or both
 - Exam questions are read aloud, too
 - Hundreds of realistic illustrations – you will feel like you are outdoors
 - Tree stand safety videos will minimize your risk of injury
- As always, we appreciate your efforts to education Texas bow hunters.



IBEP Mexico

Agustin Ravelo is the IBEP representative from Mexico and has been conducting IBEP courses with three other instructors in his area. He is certified in Texas and uses the Texas IBEP materials to process his courses. Since there is no infrastructure in Mexico for the IBEP program, he asked if he could handle the courses in this manner. Marilyn Bentz, NBEF executive director, gave the okay to do this.

Archery in the Schools Notes

Thank you for attending and helping at the 2011 Texas-National Archery in the Schools Program State Tournament. This year was another successful, record-breaking year for the state tournament. Participation increased by more than 300 students and 15 new schools. By the numbers:

1010 students (770 in 2010, 476 in 2009)

600 boys and 410 girls

51 schools (35 in 2010, 19 in 2009)

40,400 arrows shot (not counting the practice range) (30,800 arrows shot in 2009)

293 - Highest score, by twelfth-grader Travis Wright of Argyle High School (2010 high score - 284, 2009 high score - 273)

\$10,000.00 in college scholarship money to top four male and female High School Division students. (\$35,000 awarded to date)

A special "Thanks!" to our 2011 tournament sponsors, supporters and exhibitors: *Cabela's, *Lone Star Bow Hunters Association, Toyota, TPWD, Texas Hunter Education Instructors Association, USFWS, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Dallas Ecological Foundation, Morrell Targets, *Texas State Rifle Association, *Texas Archery Academy, The University of Texas Collegiate Archery Team, Operation Game Thief, *Tarleton State University, and NASP

*New this year

The workers at the tournament, many of whom volunteer at their own expense, deserve a big **Thank You**. This event could not happen without their help.

New Bowhunter Instructors

March

Jacob Russell

David Pitman

Carlos Silva

Robert Barnette

Lewisville

New Braunfels

Argyle

Dallas

April

Weldon Schmidlkofer

Robert Hilliard

Eddie Nicholson

Gainesville

Denton

Sanger

Texans Attend NASP National Tournament in Louisville, KY

Complete results of the 2011 National tournament are available on-line--Some of the Texas participants highlights are below. All results are now available on the official NASP tournament website www.nasptournaments.org - Congratulations NASP archers! <http://nasptournaments.org/VTTournamentDetail.aspx?tid=67>

6,730 students shot at the national tournament this past Friday and Saturday out of 7,140 that registered. They shot 302,850 arrows!

Some of our notable high-scoring **Top Shot Texans** from each division include:

Hope Washburn, Argyle HS, shot a 288 and ranked 16th among 879 High School girls and 5th among the 10th-grade girls. Travis Wright, Argyle HS, shot a 282 and ranked 112th among 1,236 High School boys and 22nd among the 12th-grade boys. Justin White, Kaufman JH, shot a 284 and ranked 42nd out of almost 1,263 Middle School boys and 13th among 7th-grade boys.

Paige Theall, Lamar MS, shot a 283 and ranked 23rd out of almost 816 Middle School girls and 9th among 8th-grade girls. Preston Boyd, Lamar MS, shot a 277 and ranks 49th out of 1,538 Elementary division boys and 33rd among 6th-grade boys. Berkley McClure, Argyle Intermediate, shot a 271 and ranks 48th out of 998 Elementary girls and 35th among 6th-grade girls.

Texas teams that participated include:

Elementary Division:

St. Mary's Catholic School, Sherman – team score 2,719.

Middle School Division:

Kaufman – team score 3,230.

Lamar MS – team score 3,219.

Poolville JH – team score 3,081.

High School Division:

Canton HS – team score 3,213.

Congratulations to all the Texas students!
Thanks to all the teachers, parents, schools and communities that helped the kids get to Louisville.

Bowhunting Kudos

Curtis Ansley took this fine javelina with his bow. He is becoming a more and more proficient bow hunter. Congratulations, Curtis!



THE Newsletter of

THEIA Texas Hunter Education Instructors Association, Inc.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Fellow THEIA members and Hunter Education Instructors:

I want to thank everyone that participated in the Annual Instructors Conference held at Texas Old Town near Kyle on Friday and Saturday, March 18-19. If you weren't there, you certainly missed an exceptional outing. The Conference was a great success, with a lot of events and breakout sessions with presentations on survival, tree stand safety, Laser Shot Simulation training, and chuck wagon cooking. Keith Powell was there again and I think everyone except me got to turn an exotic wooden pen on his lathe.

The Saturday evening was topped off with a wild game dinner by the Region IX Cooking Team of the Texas Game Wardens Association, and included alligator, Nilgai sausage links, red stag and Axis nuggets and red stag salami, deer tamales, red beans, potato salad and desert.

There was supposed to be an annual THEIA meeting for the purpose of business including the election of two officers, Vice President and Secretary, as well as the appointment of several regional Board of Directors members. I regret that there were so many events going on that the attractions prevented us from having a quorum for the THEIA meeting when it was called. We eventually had a quorum, but many others had already departed so the THEIA meeting was postponed until April 30 during the YHEC event in Kerrville.

During the Annual Conference it was brought to my attention that some of the members feel that activities THEIA supports are not directly addressed by our purpose statement as stated in the bylaws. The following can be found in the Bylaws and reads:

ARTICLE II, PURPOSE, states: ***"The purpose of this organization will be to work with, support and help improve the Texas Parks and Wildlife Hunter Education Program."***

ARTICLE VII, COMMITTEES, directs the forming of a Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC) Committee to "provide management and direction for conducting the annual Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge competition."

ARTICLE VIII, FUNDS AND THEIR EXPENDITURES, allows "payment of usual and customary bills, fees, and expenses for conducting THEIA sponsored events..." It also allows expenditures "approved by the vote of the Board of Directors."

THEIA's support of the state YHEC event is covered under these latter two articles. In a point-of-fact, our expenditures are largely and usually completely recovered from the entry fees for the event. THEIA also has supported the Texas Parks and Wildlife Youth Hunting Program, with approval by the directors, as provided in *ARTICLE VIII*.

THEIA's support of regional YHEC events has been limited to volunteers and the loan of equipment, at no expense to the organization. We have also supported youth events at some of our sponsor's request, such as the annual SCI sponsored Hunter Education course in Houston, the Archery in the Schools State Championship in Waco, and the Cabela's youth events in Fort Worth and Buda.

We have provided similar support to the Boy Scouts of America and the National Wild Turkey Federation by hosting or assisting with events that directly relate to conservation and the TPWD mission, which is again, a part of our "Purpose."

Transportation to and from all these events, including truck and diesel fuel, has been furnished by the President, President Emeritus, or other volunteers, at no cost to THEIA.

I believe these activities are within the broad scope of our stated purpose above, so my questions to you are these:

1. Do we want to continue what we are doing currently?
2. Do we want to engage in other activities in addition to, or in place of what we are doing now?
3. Do we want to broaden our stated purpose to include other objectives or more clearly define THEIA's present and future direction?

Members have the right to determine the direction THEIA should take. While everything we do is directly related to activities supported by TPWD, we want to make sure THEIA is continuing in the right direction and that membership is satisfied with those activities.

On another subject, along with the election of two officers, vice president and treasurer, we need volunteers to serve as directors for regions 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9. If you have an interest in serving, please contact me or any other officer. Please send me your thoughts on these questions. My email is boswellrob42@yahoo.com.

Thank you very much for your assistance and cooperation with this letter. We hope to see you in Kerrville as you consider volunteering for the state YHEC event. Remember, always be safe and keep up the great job of instruction.

Best regards,

Bob Boswell

Robert "Bob" Boswell

THEIA President

...and a **THEIA THANK YOU to...Jim Schaeffer, our THEIA website manager**

Jim has been working to update and get a new format for our THEIA webpage. Make sure you visit and check it out. Our NEW ADDRESS IS:

www.THEIATEXAS.ORG

Jim Schaefer can be reached at his e-address: jim.schaefer@ntxha.net

HUNTER EDUCATION EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

April 29-May 1, 2011, Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge (TxYHEC), Hill Country Shooting Sports Center, Kerrville

June 11, 2011, South East Regional YEHC, Lufkin area.

Contact: Donnie Kee, 3570 FM 2108, Lufkin, TX 75901, 936-635-4416 (cell) or Donnie_kee@hotmail.com

October 8, 2011 North East Regional YHEC, at the Arlington Sportsman Club, Mansfield. Contact: David Hammonds - 817-236-3158 and mrdavidhammonds@charter.net

TBA 2012 Hunter Education Instructor Conference and Awards Banquet

NSSF STUDY PROVIDES BETTER PICTURE OF U. S. HUNTER NUMBERS

Source: TF&G Report. (December, 2010). "U.S. Hunter Numbers Greater Than Expected."
Texas Fish & Game Magazine, page 11.

Just when we thought we are finding fewer and fewer hunters, a study by National Shooting Sports Foundation and Southwick Associates indicates that "the pool of American hunters is larger than previously thought."

The study looked at trends in license purchases over multiple years rather than single years. For example, looking at a five year period 78% of US hunters purchased licenses in a given year purchased another license the following year. However, the multiple year purchasing study showed that for every two hunters in the field this year, one is taking the year off.

This study suggests that IF as many as half of those who "take the year off" were to purchase a license our \$1 billion industry (yes, with a "B") could increase by nearly \$97 million. This interesting new piece of our "who-is-the-American-hunter" puzzle, indicates how varied is the demographic of our hunting community and suggests new avenues of strengthening current hunting participation programs, developing new programs, as well as providing advertising to "convert the casual hunter to an annual license buyer."

They are hoping if more of the 21.8 million who did hunt at least once in that 5 year period, more will choose to hunt again and benefit not only State Wildlife Departments, but also conservation funds, equipment suppliers, and local communities.

THINGS TO DO THIS SUMMER IN THE BACKYARD, or all year-round for that matter by Peggy Weyel

1. FIND 50 CRITTERS and PLANTS

Last weekend an article in our newspaper suggested that the "wilderness" begins around our homes. The author suggested that we see if we can identify at least 50 plants, insects, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, birds, and other critters that we easily overlook (and some not so easily overlooked) around our homes and yards.

As my husband and I sat in our backyard and started counting, beginning with the birds we were watching, continued through, to the turquoise-eyed wolf spider and kin, to native plants that we either propagate or pull, we arrive at 70 pretty quickly....in a suburban backyard! How many do you have?

2. BIRD watching (get the eyes ready for hunting season). Also get the binoculars and look UP, you can see birds (and butterflies) migrating or flying beyond what the unaided eye can see. Awesome!

3. BUTTERFLY watching – Find Sulphurs, Commas, Question Marks, and Red Admirals, oh my!

THEIA DIRECTORS

Directors Region 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 are elected for two year term of 2010-2012; 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 for 2009-2011

Region # 1 VACANT

Region # 6 Billy Holt
1805 W. Walker
Breckenridge, TX 76424
H-/B 254-559-8010
bwtelephone@att.net

Region # 2 Bob Douglas
P.O Box 2018
Van Alstyne, TX 75495
903-816-1082
bobdouglas26@yahoo.com

Region # 7 Bryant Truitt
P.O. Box 530
Hunt, TX 78024
H-830-238-4442
brytan@maverickbbs.com

Region # 3 Donnie Kee
3802 Medford Dr.
Lufkin, TX 75901
W-936-699-3483
curtis@outdoortexan.com

Region # 8 VACANT

Region # 4 Thomas Connaughton
11011 Brighton Gardens Dr.,
Richmond, TX 77406
281-450-5276
JTConnaughton@miswaco.slb.com

Region # 9 Rick Ensor
10145 N FM 486
Rockdale, TX 76567
512-779-3284 cell
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Region # 5 Peggy Weyel
13502 Syracuse
San Antonio, TX 78249
H-210-696-9599
pweyel@sbcglobal.net

Region # 10 Daniel Sanchez
909 Sprague
Edinburg, TX 78539
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 _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

E-MAIL: _____