



NEWSLETTER NO. 127

FALL/WINTER 2002



Editor's CORNER

Happy Holidays! It seems unusual to write this in October, and wish you Holiday cheers, when Halloween is not even here yet. By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will have passed, and Christmas will be just around the corner, so include a Happy New Year from all of us to you.

We are well into the hunting season at this time. Classes have been numerous all year, but the calls are still coming in. Does that surprise anyone? Here are just some of the rhetorical and excuses why students were unable to get into a class: just waited too long; just missed one; I work every weekend; can't fit it into my schedule; didn't know about the law; got a ticket (*age 28*); going to Colorado tomorrow; took it when I was in high school (*in 1993*), but didn't pay the fee; but I'm a police officer (*Fort Worth*) or deputy sheriff (*Dallas County*); I'm in the military and know more about guns than you do (*age 22*); you don't offer it in my area, (*Houston!*); I had football practice (*all summer?*); I'm an honor student and don't need it; didn't know anything about hunter education; but I'm an Eagle Scout; I've been hunting since I was 7 years old (*now age 17*); my son was born after Sept. 2, 1971, he knows how to hunt, can I just send in the money and get the certification; is there any Home Study in Oklahoma?; *mom*-but my son works full time, goes to school full time and plays football full time (*when is he going to have time to hunt?*); *mom*-my son needs the course and I'm calling for him (*he's 26*); and one of the favorites...who made this dumb law?

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Winchester "Dream Hunt" Marks 12th Anniversary

Yes, that's right; Winchester started from the beginning and is still the major sponsor of this special event where, this year, six youngsters and one instructor were treated like royalty at Southern Woods Plantation in Sylvester, GA. This



is the third year that Southern Woods has hosted this quail hunt to beat all hunts. Wayne Pearson, host of the *Ultimate Outdoors* as seen on ESPN-2, arrived to film this "Dream Hunt," which will air some time next summer.

Coming from the far north was Nathan Henry, with his dad Terry from New Brunswick, Canada; Michael Haye, and his dad Robert came from KiHanning, PA; Danny Furniss and his dad came from Bartlett, TN; Cody Koenig came with his mom, Carol, from El Campo, TX; Austin Register and his dad, Shawn came

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Editor's CORNER, continued

If any of you have some better ones that you have heard, or that might bring a chuckle, please send them in and we will publish them. I'm sure there are tons more out there we haven't heard.

Point of clarification. Some instructors allow students to grade their own exams. This is not necessarily a good idea, and certainly not recommended. At least exchange the sheets with someone else. Here are the results of a study by the Pinkerton Security Service as recently reported in the newspaper. *According to L.M. Boyd, a study by Pinkerton over a 20-year span revealed that: 30% of the population will not only steal if the opportunity arises, but will create the opportunity whenever possible; 40% will steal if there is little chance of being caught and 30% will not steal.*

Now, with all those considerations, lets take away that 70% chance of having someone "sway" the results in their favor, and possibly compromise the whole system. Grade the exams yourself, or have someone else grade them with a scoring template. Remember to record the scores on your class roster and retain for your records.

Note: Some instructors are still telling underage students that they will be certified "when they turn 12." This is NOT the case, nor will it change. The mandated law has been incorporated into the computer database entry system. If a student is not 12 on or before the certification date, the system records them as underage. We have had to deal with a lot of "unhappy" parents, not to mention those youngsters who have been waiting for their card to arrive after their birthday. Please remember that students who are not yet 12 years of age will not be certified, but will only receive a "Certificate of Attendance," and will have to retake the course for official certification after turning 12.

A last reminder... Instructors have seven (7) days to return student registration forms to our office after completion of any course. This will insure that students will receive their cards within a short period of time. Make note of the 2003 Workshop Schedule attached to this issue, and mark your choices for the upcoming year. Thanks for all your help, and if we can do anything for you, please let us know.

Always be safe...

Terry Erwin

SPECIAL INSTRUCTOR DISCOUNTS

Silvertip Productions Now on DVD

This high resolution DVD includes the enhanced seven-part Hunter Education Video Series plus over 30 new features designed to support both home study and instructor-led courses. All videos include optional subtitles for hearing impaired viewers. DVD added features include 14 Wildlife ID Videos, Zones of Fire Animations, Shoot/Don't Shoot Situations, Vital Areas, Bullet Trajectory Animations and Habitat Animation.

All for \$99.99+ S&H.

For more information call toll-free: (866) 438-4336

or visit www.hunter-education-video.com

NOTICE

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department receives federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior and its bureaus prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex (in educational programs). If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any Texas Parks and Wildlife Department program, activity, or facility, or if you desire further information, please call or write: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office for Diversity and Civil Rights Programs - External Programs, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Webb 300, Arlington, VA 22203, (703) 358-1724.

“Dream Hunt,” continued

in from Kansas City, MO; and John Parvin and his dad John came up from Jacksonville, FL.

The lucky instructor to accompany the group was Fred Chaney from Midland, TX. He’s talking about bring his son and wife back down to Southern Woods for another round of exciting action.

Here is what Fred had to say:

“The Dream Hunt is a dream that we have all had at one time or another, and is certainly a hunt of a lifetime. This hunt was more fun than any previous hunt I have ever been on. It is much more than hunting Bobwhite quail. Just having the opportunity to participate and being able to see the excitement in the six kids and their parents that were fortunate enough to be drawn for the hunt made the trip even more worthwhile. Watching the dogs and their handlers work together was a sight to behold. The entire staff made you feel welcome and very special. It is tremendous for men like Mr. Gene Bishop and Benjie DeLoach to provide Southern Woods Plantation for the Dream Hunt. It is also outstanding for Wayne Pearson to take the time out of his busy schedule to provide the Dream Hunt. This is certainly a dream come true, and one I will never forget. My son would just love it!”

The group arrived on Thursday afternoon, settled in and relaxed around the 9,000 square foot lodge, which has a trophy room, billiards room, four sitting areas, huge formal dining room, kitchen, refreshment bar area, and seven bedrooms and nine baths. The place is owned by Gene and Sheri Bishop from Atlanta, and managed by Benjie De Loach, along with his wife Elaine. The entire place had been newly decorated under the supervision and guidance of Benjie and done up in fantastic colors ordered by owner, Sheri Bishop.

After dinner, the boys and parents were treated to an early Christmas. Cabela’s had generously provided a travel bag with pants, shirt, coat, hat, vest, shooting glasses, belt, and boots for each youngster, while the parents enjoyed new pants, shirt, vest and hat for the outing. The boys stayed up late on Thursday getting acquainted, and then, Friday morning came early. It was very cool, the grass was wet with heavy dew, and the dogs were ready to go. Wayne Pearson held a short safety briefing and a safety orientation film was shown prior to a round of skeet.

After some expert shot gunning instruction, Wayne hunted and filmed with each group of youngsters as he instructed them on the finer points of upland bird hunting.

None of the boys had ever hunted quail, and even one youth had never hunted at all, but just wanted to get out there and see what it was all about. His father was a non-hunter, but willing to see what his son was so intrigued about. It didn’t take long to find out when the dogs pointed that first covey of birds. They were quite taken back as the quail burst into the air. Being a non-hunter, the father said he was wondering how he was going to satisfy his son’s appetite to go hunting. This Dream Hunt certainly got them both off to a great start of things to enjoy in the future. It was such a pleasure to see the bonding that took place with each duo.

Friday’s hunt saw over 150 quail taken by the group. At least it was enough for lunch the next day for the entire staff and guest. Saturday was much the same with beautifully clear weather and perfect hunting conditions. Interviews were finished, the show was in the can, and it was time to enjoy just being out there with a good dog, super companions and great guides, which included Mr. Jack, “Gopher,” Tony, Chris and Todd. These guys did a fantastic job. Thanks so much.



Shown here are Cody Koenig and his mom, Carol, along with instructor, Fred Chaney.

The end of the third day came much too soon, and the group settled in for a great dinner and a quick night’s rest. The van left for the airport at 4:15 A.M. The flight departed at 6:20 A.M. for Atlanta and destinations beyond. Only two youngsters drove in with their dads, and Fred didn’t leave for Midland until after 1 PM.

Until next time, keep that muzzle pointed in a safe direction, treat every firearm as if it were loaded, and always make sure of your target before you pull the trigger, and only take what you can use and leave the rest for others.

Cody Koenig's Dream Hunt

My Dream Hunt began the first weekend of October when Mr. Steve Balkcom called me to inform me of a dream hunt I had won. My mom returned the call on Monday, and to my family's surprise, I had won an all expense paid trip for two. This trip was on October 17-20 at Southern Woods Plantation in Sylvester, GA. Since my dad was unable to go with me due to work, I really didn't think I would be able to go. Mr. Balkcom told my mother she should plan on going. She got really excited and said that she would go with me. Here in Texas we don't get a chance to do a lot of quail hunting so we both thought it would a great experience. Mr. Balkcom told me that there were only six boys that won this trip in North America. It was called the "2002 Winchester Dream Hunt."

We left really early on Thursday, October 17th from the Houston Intercontinental Airport and arrived at around 2:00 P.M. in Albany, GA. It was another 30 minutes drive to Southern Woods Plantation. The scenery was just beautiful, but not as beautiful as the Southern Woods Plantation where we were going to be staying. We had a short program early the next morning by Mr. Wayne Pearson with ESPN-2, and it was really exciting to meet a person you watch on T.V. Mr. Pearson spent Friday and part of Saturday with us on our quail hunts. His camera crew videoed all of us along with an interview on each of us. My mother got interviewed because she was the only mom on the hunt, and she really enjoyed herself.

Over the next two days, I shot about 40 quail. Our guide, Mr. Jack was a cool guy to hunt with. He brought and used several dogs each day. Mr. Jack also had his dog "Dixie" along on the hunt, and I really liked her.

We spent our spare time taking pictures, visiting, and mostly playing pool. We also enjoyed the big game room that Mr. Gene Bishop, the owner of Southern Woods Plantation had. There were some large animals that I had never been that close to. The other boys came from Canada, Pennsylvania, Florida, Tennessee and Missouri. The hunter safety instructor who accompanied us on the trip was, Mr. Fred Chaney. He was a really cool guy too, always wanting to help us learn something about the guns and how to be safe while handling them.

Winchester Ammunition and Cabela's donated some really cool clothes to wear during our hunt and filming. We received a lot hunter orange gear also, including a cap and vest, which I will always wear while hunting, even in Texas.

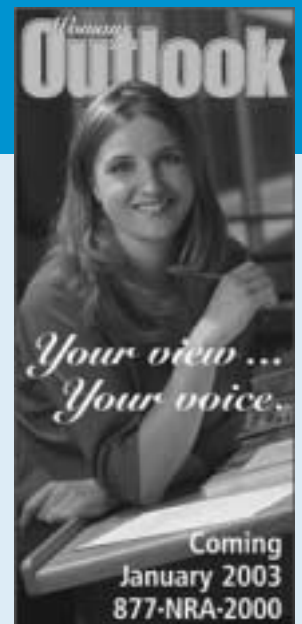
During our stay at Southern Woods the cooks really served some great food. We had some of the quail we shot on the hunt one day for lunch, and we all really enjoyed them. Then, on Sunday our once-in-a-lifetime "2002 Winchester Dream Hunt" came to an end. We all said our good byes and asked each other to keep in touch. The hunt might have ended but the memories will never end. Thanks to Hunter Education, I had an opportunity to win a trip like this.

NRA Announces the Creation of a New Journal: *Woman's Outlook*

A true resource and benefit of NRA membership, *Woman's Outlook*, will inform, entertain, and promote all aspects of firearm-oriented pursuits. On the political front, it strives to arm women with the ability to defend themselves and their beliefs, highlighting the many facets surrounding the right to keep and bear arms on both the national and local levels. *Woman's Outlook* will include information about: NRA Member Benefits and Resources, Personal Protection and Home Security, Recreational and Competitive Shooting, Hunting and much more.

To be a part of this exciting new venture, call (877) NRA-2000 to either add *Woman's Outlook* to the Official Journal you already receive or to replace your current Official Journal with *Woman's Outlook*.

You may also visit www.nrahq.org/women/outlook.asp for more information.



Texas Youth Hunting Program

By Wendy Dahlke

OUR MISSION

The Texas Youth Hunting Program was established to increase the numbers of youths participating in wildlife and hunting activities and to promote the hunting heritage in Texas.

OUR GOALS

- To preserve the hunting heritage in Texas for present and future generations.
- To instill in youth a basic understanding of practical conservation measures.
- To encourage wildlife habitat access, enhancement and management.
- To teach the basic skills, values, techniques and responsibilities of hunting.
- To promote the highest ethical standards in hunting.
- To give our youth an initial, positive, safe, educational, mentored hunting experience

JOIN THE TEXAS YOUTH HUNTING PROGRAM

The Texas Wildlife Association (TWA) and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) have joined forces to offer youth hunts that are safe, educational and very affordable. We sponsor introductory, instructive youth hunts for deer, turkey, hogs, javelina, exotics, dove, small game, waterfowl, varmints and other species. Normally, we provide mentors, lodging and meals.

TO JOIN THE TEXAS YOUTH HUNTING PROGRAM, YOU MUST...

- Be 9 to 17 years old.
- Complete and submit the Texas Youth Hunting Program Application.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Only through the work and resources of volunteers can TYHP provide thousands of safe, educational and memorable

hunting experiences. Our entire program is based on volunteer landowners who open their ranch gates for youth hunters, and other volunteers who plan and run hunts. TYHP can provide everything for successful hunts - except hunting opportunities and dedicated personnel. To preserve hunting experiences for our future generations! There are many opportunities for you to take an active role in our volunteer force. It takes thousands of volunteer hours each year to make TYHP successful.

TYHP volunteers...

- Become Huntmasters, who train to plan, coordinate, manage and lead youth hunts.
- Oversee firearms instruction and supervise ranges.
- Conduct hunter education activities.
- Serve as guides.
- Provide medical expertise.
- And, very importantly, cook!

To help cover the cost of the training workshop and Huntmaster manual, which is yours to keep, we ask that you submit a fee of \$40. We have Huntmaster training workshops throughout the year in various locations throughout the state, including Amarillo, San Angelo, Lubbock, Laredo, San Antonio, Houston, Columbus, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Lufkin, Abilene, Georgetown and the Rio Grande Valley.

Currently, we are working on our 2003 schedule. Please call our office and we will put you on our mailing list to receive the schedule once it is completed.

The number is (800) 460-5494.

Texas Big Game Awards

AUSTIN, Texas – For 12 years, the Texas Big Game Awards program has recognized the contributions that landowners, land managers and responsible hunters make to managing and conserving wildlife and wildlife habitat on Texas' private lands.

A partnership between the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Wildlife Association, the Texas Big Game Awards program is designed to promote big game hunting and encourage sound habitat management in Texas. The program recognizes the quality of big game animals in Texas, the hunters who harvest these animals, the land managers who enhance the habitat, the importance of our hunting heritage and the achievements of young and new hunters.

New for this year is an "Early Entry Special" prize drawing for hunters who mail in their Big Game Awards entry form along with a photo for promotional purposes.

Scored entries are recognized in eight regions of Texas. Scored categories include typical and non-typical white-tailed deer, typical and non-typical mule deer, and pronghorn antelope. All scoring is based on the Boone & Crockett Club scoring system. Entries must be scored by an official Big Game Awards scorer and are subject to re-scoring. Rankings are based on net green Boone & Crockett scores.

Hunters of any age who harvest their first big game animal in Texas are eligible for the First Big Game Harvest category. And, any youth hunter (those younger than 17 years of age when they purchase their hunting license) with a Special Resident Hunting License who harvests a white-tailed deer, mule deer, or pronghorn antelope is eligible for the Youth Division whether they harvest a buck or doe, regardless of score.

Hunters who harvest Scored-Entry qualifying animals and have their completed entry form in by the 30th of each month beginning in October through December will qualify for a drawing for a pair of binoculars, a rifle scope and more. Entries must include a quality field photo of the hunter and their trophy and entry forms must be complete.

There will be one winner chosen for each of the three months. For the Early Entry Grand Prize, everyone who has their completed entry form in by Jan. 15, including First Harvest and Youth Division entries, will be eligible for a Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License. Photos for this drawing are not required but are encouraged.

Information about the Texas Big Game Awards is available online at www.texasbiggameawards.com/ or by calling 800-839-9453, ext. 114. **The deadline to enter the Texas Big Game Awards for the 2002-03 season is Feb. 15, 2003.**

2002 Expo Lauded as Huge Success

About 44,000 people showed up for Expo this year, and it is being called the smoothest running in Expo history. About 24,000 people showed up on Saturday and about 20,000 on Sunday. "The sense of overall cooperation between divisions and employees was exceptional. There was a real sense of team work throughout the entire event," said Ernie Gammage, Expo Director. And, Friday night's banquet raised about \$49,500 for the Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas, Inc., which will go toward scholarships. There will be some tweaking of Expo for next year, such as examining activities to see if resources can be best used to expand the most popular ones. "I want to congratulate all employees on an impressive effort," said Executive Director Robert L. Cook. "Folks came to this and learned about what we do. This translates to more support for our agency and thus, a stronger effort to enjoy yet conserve our valuable resources in Texas. I want everyone to know they played an important role in this endeavor."



The shooting events had 15,012 participants in the following areas: Muzzleloading—1,384; 4-H/Crossman Airgun—775; NRA Airgun—2,010; Shoot Where You Look—2,524; Horton Crossbow—977; Bow Hunter Challenge—285; Lone Star Bowhunters Assoc.—2461; Winchester 5-Stand—667; TPWD 5-Stand—997; Youth Shotgun—1,343; TPWD Mobile Laser Shot—797; Laser Shot—792.

Thanks to the 245+ individuals made up of TPWD employee volunteers, the entire Hunter Education Staff and all of the volunteer Hunter Education Instructors for a tremendous job well done! We hope you and others will return next year for this special event to show what Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and you have to offer.

Welcome New Instructors

July

Eddie Smith	Crockett
Baldemar Sandoval	Mont Belvieu
Andrew Hunzicker	Houston
Mark Dandre	Rockport
Stephen Hawkins	Pampa
Norman Forrester	East Bernard
Mary Dubose	Katy
Edgar Belveal, Jr.	Sealy
Jon Turner	Spring

August

Eddie Rossow	Highlands
Mario Lopez	Corpus Christi
Robbie Wooldridge	Greenville
Newman Lofland	Rockwall
Damon Holley	Mexquite
Edward Benyon	Eules
David Wilkins	Fort Worth
Scott Larsen	Carrollton
Lelando Gonzales	Dallas
Christian Ellis	Forney
James Barclay	Cedar Hill
Jeremy Holley	Mesquite
Ricardo Leal, III	Sandia
Tommy Neal	Hemphill
David Oviedo	Uvalde
Charles Davidson	Greenville
Willie Morgan	Scroggins
James Dalrymple, Jr.	Uvalde
James Rice	Perrin
Gerald Chandler	Lumberton
Jared Minor	Naples
Wendell Decker	Slaton
Jason McDonald	Dumas
William Schares, Jr.	Whitesboro
George McAllister	Venus
Jeffery Sherman	Wellington
Michael McManners	Conroe
Monty Main	Malakoff
Terry Crawford	Ozona
Charles Hollingsworth	Paint Rock
Robert Cooper	Morton
Brad Ingram	Henderson
Joe Oswalt	Abernathy
Weston Born	Gruver
Buddy Winstead	Grand Saline
Thomas Bowman	Palmer
Mia Balko	Corpus Christi
Timothy Liberto	Krum
Wesley Harris	Lampasas
Bryant Paul	Huntsville
James Glenn	Miami
David Bray	Allison
Leo Moran	San Antonio
Tiffany Johnston	Tomball
Israel Mendiola	Kingsville
David Corona	Seguin
Aaron Custer	Big Spring
Eric Harrel	Denver City
Joseph Stevens	Harlingen
Cody Johnson	New Boston
Enrique Lopez	Rio Grande City
John Welps	Amherst
Timothy Tatsch, Jr.	Kemah
Clinton Cooper	Uvalde

Bryan Baronet	Pollok
Josh Stewart	Idalou
Lilburn Schulz	Lindale
Kendall Barrett	Houston
Steven Tatsch	Kemah
Robert Schumann	Corpus Christi
Chapel Schuessler	Llano
Steven Hays	Clarendon
Stephen Mild	San Angelo
Gary Evans	Cypress
Steven Meier	Hye
Sabino Rodriguez	Pearsall
Walter Chapman	Houston
Tony Veltre	Fort Worth
Jerry Park	Weslaco
Gary Odum	Friendswood
James Morrison	Laredo
Michelle Mount	Round Rock
Orlando Corona	Seguin
Raymond Johnson	Kingwood
David Hempel	Giddings
Samuel Byrd	Wimberley
Jerry Stanley, Jr.	Copperas Cove

September

Jason Richers	Sweeny
Glenn Jones	Athens
Lyndal Lee	Bedford
Debby Meisenheimer	Jefferson
Carlos Riojas	Austin
James Michael	Austin
Arlen Jones, Jr.	Austin
Ramiro Coronado	Austin
Jason Francis	Houston
Brannon Meinkowsky	Austin
Johnny Jones, Jr.	Austin
Landon Spacek	Austin
William Lee, Jr.	Austin
Ichabod Balkcom, V	Austin
Jarret Barker	Austin
Philip Bird	Austin
Aryn Corley	Austin
Kevin Frazier	Austin
Bobby Strickland	Austin
Ronald Mathis	Austin
Michael Jaramillo	Austin
Mark Hammonds	Austin
Jonathan Blackburn	Austin
Craig Hernandez	Austin
Michael Lewis	Austin
Donald Norred	Austin
Justin Eddins	Austin
Scott Jennings	Austin
Derek Nalls	Austin
Cliff Swofford	Austin
Holli Wetzig	Austin
John Thorne	Austin
Jimmy Woolley	Austin
Quentin Terrel	Austin
David Chavez	Austin
Charles Ford	Austin
Brandon Schlottman	Ennis
Derick Hollowell	Grand Prairie
Homer Hurlbut, Jr.	Garland
Patrick Reeves	Flint
Dustin Evans	Farmersville
Henry Tracy	Athens
William Gamble	Tomball

Robin Marshall	Ben Wheeler
Stephen Brown	Kilgore
Christopher Hunt	Athens
Alex Marshall	Ben Wheeler
Shannon Clinard	Anderson
Wilmer Honaker	Harker Heights
Cristy Brown	Stephenville
Warren Ivey	Tornillo
Brian Ivey	El Paso
James Sliger	Mineral Wells
George Krasucky, Jr.	Louise
Cody Van Zandt	Clyde
David Weston	Azle
Kim Pinkerton	San Angelo
Patrick Maass	Elgin
Schuyler Gallihier	Clear Lake Shores
Katy Williamson	Iowa Park
Shayla Boone	Merkel
Chad Beaver	Fluvanna
Rick Lemons	Godley
Kristy Judd	Aubrey
Myia Gladding	Pasadena
Matthew Kiker	Stephenville
Ben Cozart	Dublin
Chad Kolar	West
Cody Cain	Cisco
Daniel Phillips	Trinidad
Jason Fleming	Temple
Rachael Hunter	Tyler
Kelli Wilkinson	Kingwood
Joshua Wright	Perrin
Christopher Galban	Austin
Hollis Hamilton	Dublin
Johnny Kent, Jr.	Stephenville
Ronald Sanders	Weatherford
Bradley Marek	Abbott
David Farkas	Stephenville
Amy Alvey	China
Justin Parker	Dublin
Larry Battarbee	Cayuga
Will Edmiston	Lubbock
Melanie Krystynik	Wallis
Bill Hart	Houston
Elizabeth Schreiber	Katy
Morgan Gilliam	Needville
Linwood Newman	Houston
Jerrold Crumpton	Mart
Russell Murden	Austin
Jessica Lene	Stephenville
Nathan Urbanczyk	Stephenville
Nathaniel Franklin	Burleson
Alison Jones	Lewisville
Jesse Stevens	Fort Worth
Benjamin Anthony, Jr.	Fort Worth
Dominic Mazoch	Schulenburg
Cynthia Corona	Seguin
Benjamin Anthony	Granbury

October

Benjamin Wilcoxson	Edgewood
Gary Ashton	Van Vleck
Karl Schoenthal	Paradise
Joe Lewis	Pottsboro
William Haley, III	Bonham
Angelica Sanchez	Edinburg
Ronald Cliett	Whitney
Jimmy Loewe	Carmine

Kudos

Game Warden Interviews for Instructor Applicants

When Hunter Education instructor applicants fill out their paperwork, they are instructed to contact their local game warden. The purpose of Game Warden Interviews is two-fold. First, we want qualified and reputable applicants in our instructor ranks. Second, future instructors need to meet their local warden so they can work with that individual on multiple projects, and not just hunter education.

Kudos to all the wardens for interviewing our applicants and making sure we have the best-qualified individuals on the job. It certainly helps make certification much easier when interviews are received in a timely manner. Applicants may take the instructor course before having the game warden interview, however, certification is not completed until all paperwork is on file, approved and acceptable by the warden and Austin staff.

Special thanks Tony Navarro, Erath County Warden, for all the applicants processed each year at Tarleton State University. The following wardens did a great job during the annual Texas Agriculture Science Teacher's Conference in Corpus Christi. Lt. Henry Balderamas, Nueces County; Gilbert Martinez, Nueces County; Adolph Castillo Nueces County; Toby Murray, San Patricio County; and Andy Valdez, San Patricio County were all on duty interviewing the large slate of applicants.

Ty Harris, Assistant Hunter Education Coordinator, Gilbert Graves, Jr., Corpus Christi Area Chief and Tom Stashak, Pasadena Area Chief trained 72 new instructors for our public schools during that time.

Great job folks!

Brooks Named Officer of the Year

The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies have named panhandle area Game Warden John Brooks of Dalhart Officer of the Year. Last year, Brooks investigated the massacre of 39 pronghorn antelope, described as one of the worst wildlife crimes in Texas history. Nine defendants were brought to justice as a result. He is involved in outreach and outdoor youth activities and is active in the community.



Instructor Don Murray from Waxahachie was hunting recently in Wyoming and took this fine antelope. He said the antelope scored around 67" not near B and C (73") but he had character and he was very old. It was a "first" for him. Congratulations Don!

*"The man who really wants to do something finds a way;
the other man finds an excuse."*

UNKNOWN

Christian Outdoor Alliance Announces Adventure Camps

SAN ANTONIO - The Christian Outdoor Alliance announced its lineup of Hunting and Fishing Adventure Camps (mini-camps) for 2002-2003 recently. The camps will cover several events, from bow hunting, duck hunting, a father/son fishing trip on the Sea of Cortez, to summertime "Ultimate Dream Camps," and just about everything in between. COA offers camps for boys and girls, as well as parent/child outings.

The COA Hunting and Fishing Adventure Camps give participants hands-on, in-the-field instruction in hunting and fishing methods, with the opportunity to harvest game and/or catch fish. Equally important, they teach Bible-based respect for the Lord's creation and practical lessons in spiritual maturity, leadership, responsibility and integrity.

Kids who have attended COA camps rave about the fun experience and new friends they have met, while their parents rave about the long-lasting impact on the personal development of their children. Talk about a win-win combination!

Each camp has a nominal fee to offset expenses, but need-based scholarships are available for all the COA camps, and some camps are free. The COA also offers Christian retreats for church groups, as well as package hunts on some top game ranches around the state. In one upcoming retreat, participants will harvest whitetail does and wild hogs, and then learn how to make sausage with their game. Proceeds from these retreats and hunting packages go to benefit the COA,

which is a non-profit charitable organization, and its youth camp program.

In addition to the camps, retreats and hunting trips, COA produces a nationally distributed Christian outreach television show, *Outdoor Adventures*, and supports a grassroots network of church-based chapters. The chapter network is central to the COA organization, and starting a chapter is fun and rewarding.

The founders of COA are president Mike Arnold, vice president Michael Marbach, and youth director David Baxter. Arnold worked for Texas Trophy Hunters Association for the past two years as business development director. Marbach was dean of students and varsity baseball coach at San Antonio's St. Mary's Hall private school. Baxter was principal at FM Black Middle School in Houston. All three men resigned their jobs earlier this year to start this ministry.

If you would like more information on the Hunting and Fishing Adventure Camps, the COA retreats and hunts, starting a chapter at your church, or making a charitable contribution, call COA at 210-240-3290 or e-mail mike@AdventureOutdoors.tv



Colorado Hunters are From Where?

Instructors might be interested in the following statistics.

Seems to make a pretty good case for consistent hunter education programs!

This is nonresident deer and elk hunters to Colorado, sorted by number of hunters/state.

TX	24,066	OH	4,121	NM	2,862	WA	1,359	NH	267
CA	17,844	GA	3,825	VA	2,608	NJ	825	ME	226
WI	15,017	IL	3,750	WV	2,504	OR	797	DE	160
MN	11,487	NE	3,536	KY	2,491	SC	657	HI	69
PA	11,167	FL	3,445	NC	2,190	WY	477	RI	49
MO	10,938	IA	3,441	AL	2,069	MA	426	DC	8
MI	10,039	NY	3,196	UT	2,046	AK	357	MH	6
OK	7,966	AZ	3,101	SD	2,016	ID	351	VI	4
AR	6,482	TN	3,099	NV	1,550	VT	335	ON	2
KS	4,326	MS	3,085	MD	1,548	MT	325	PR	2
LA	4,222	IN	3,046	ND	1,548	CT	320	WN	2

TEXAS GAME WARDEN FIELD NOTES

Game Warden Cadet Saw Hunting on Both Sides of the Law

AUSTIN, Texas - At the graduation of the 48th Game Warden Cadet Class Aug. 31, one cadet said he and his family will feel especially proud. "Jeb" (who spoke on condition of anonymity), came from a family who didn't always follow hunting laws but have since turned their practices around. Now Jeb says his background will help him catch those trying to beat the law. "When I was young, my dad wasn't quite the law abiding citizen. He and his relatives got caught a few times.... They took whatever game they wanted and needed," Jeb said. "When I got to the age when I started hunting, my dad thought if he taught me to do that and I taught my kids to do that, there'd be nothing left if everybody did the way he and my family used to," he said. The family would run dogs (though it was legal then); hunt from the road and at night and ignored bag limits. "He stopped doing the outlaw hunting and got a deer lease and it was just him at first. Finally, he was an example for my entire family," Jeb said.

Jeb graduated with 36 other cadets and was assigned somewhere in Texas. This year's class had an average age of 28 and the new wardens brought much experience and diversity to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, said Royce Wells, chief of training. There was one female, one black male, eight Hispanic males, and eight people who have worked for TPWD as interns. Of the 37 people, 19 had conservation degrees of some kind and 17 had criminal justice degrees. There were 10 Aggies and three were Longhorns. One was a former Georgia game warden. There were several with military backgrounds including service in Operation Desert Storm.

The six-month training brought the group from throughout the state to Austin where they lived until graduation. Their

training included 1,200 hours of instruction - including the 576-hour basic peace officer course. Game warden cadet training also included hunting, fishing, and boating safety regulations, fish and wildlife identification, search and rescue and public speaking. The training included several field trips to the coast, ranches and lakes to take part in practical field training and scenario training.

New this year in the peace officer training was 16 hours of Spanish required by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education, which is the licensing department for peace officers in the state.

Each class was required to complete a project of its choice by the end of the training. This year's class designed, purchased and donated a monument on the Academy grounds commemorating all fallen wardens.

In Jeb's case, he wanted to be a warden for a long time, which is why he attended college and graduated with a degree in criminal justice. "I remember sitting around the campfire in high school and my dad and uncles talking about the old days and when they used to get caught by the game wardens. My dad would always say about the warden, 'he has a real good job,'" he said.

Jeb, now in his early 20s, was the first in his family to go to college, and his younger brother is following in his footsteps, both in going to college and pursuing a career as a game warden. And Jeb now feels like he knows more of what to look for to catch illegal hunters. For example, what nights are best to hunt based on the phase of the moon?

Jeb's father was at his graduation in the House Chambers at the Capitol. "He is proud of me."

From owls to hawks

A Travis County game warden received a call regarding an individual who was in possession of several life size mounts of hawks, owls, herons, and other non-game species. The warden and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service contacted the owner, who allowed them to enter the residence/business to photograph the mounts. No permits were located and a warrant was obtained and served. Woodpeckers, herons, curlews, cardinals, kingfishers, various hawks and owls were seized. All cases will be filed in federal court.

Bad deal

Tarrant County game wardens noticed a vehicle that was parked beside a field where hunting was prohibited. The wardens questioned two men hunting in the field. One of the men stated that he had leased the field for \$250 from an unknown person whom he met at an I-HOP. **(Here's your sign!)**

continued on the next page

Wide Open Spaces

Recently, a Jefferson County game warden received information that someone was starting the South Zone dove season early at one of the public hunting areas. The warden made contact with the person who did not have a hunting license, had not taken Hunter Education, and had an unplugged shotgun. When told that he was hunting out of season, he stated, "I was wondering why I had not seen anybody else out here." The only thing he did have was his Annual Public Hunting Permit. Cases pending.

It's All Coming Back To Me Now...

Earlier this month, Captain Bill Magee noticed a fresh deer hide lying in a county road near Singleton in Grimes County. Several miles down the county road, Captain Magee came to a residence where four men were sitting in a circle in the front yard having a serious 2:00 P.M. drinking session. Captain Magee happened to notice blood on the rear of a vehicle as he was walking up to the group. All members of the group assured Captain Magee they knew nothing about the

deerskin down the road and had killed absolutely nothing. When the blood on the vehicle was mentioned, they suddenly remembered killing a few hogs. They continued to strongly deny killing any deer. Within minutes, Captain Magee found an ice chest and a six-point buck. One of the men suddenly remembered killing this deer with a bow and forgetting to tag it. However, an inspection of the deer revealed it to have eight legs. Another short search revealed an eight-point buck head hidden in a nearby tree. Those involved were transported to the J.P. in Iola.

All He Saw Was The Red And Blue Lights...

While sitting at a county road intersection in Cochran County, Lamb County Game Warden Sam Harris recently observed two vehicles pull up to the intersection. The lead vehicle slowed to within 30 feet of Warden Harris, not seeing him. The passenger stuck his shotgun out of the window and shot at doves sitting on the fence. The driver pulled up another five feet to see if any traffic was coming. All he saw was the red and blue lights flashing. Five cases pending.

Hunter Education Donates \$1000 in Memory of Huntmaster's Daughter

In memory of Kelly Brenneman, daughter of *Texas Youth Hunting Program* and *Austin Woods and Water's* member, Kent Brenneman, the Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas, on behalf of the Texas Hunter Education Program, donated \$1000.00 to the *Austin Woods and Waters Club*. The membership organization will use the funds to secure equipment for their "Hunter Skills" trailer and course.

Killed in a car crash in mid-June, Kelly would often join her dad on outdoor adventures. Before Kelly passed, Kent had just hunt mastered an exotic hunt for young hunters in the Austin area. He has since completed the hunter education course at OCR Flatrock Ranch near Buda on October 13th and plans to become a certified hunter education instructor. He solemnly expressed to Education Director, Steve

Hall, who conducted the October course, "Kelly will live on through our efforts to provide opportunities for young people to enjoy the same kind of adventures we use to share in the outdoors." He added, "By becoming a hunter education instructor, maybe I can influence even more lives in that regard." Austin Woods and Waters has an active Youth Hunting Program and has taken many of its members through the Huntmaster training provided by the program's coordinator, Jerry Warden. The club has planned dozens of youth hunts and is continuing to grow their program into one of the best, consolidated efforts in the state.

For Information on the Austin Woods and Waters, you can contact Patti Callan at 512-821-3413. For information on the Texas Youth Hunting

Program, you can call Jerry Warden at the Texas Wildlife Association at 800-839-9453.





Dear Staff:

Just wanted to let you know that Stephen Nickelson and his dad just finished their hunter education course and Stephen passed with a 96 and dad passed with a 94. Gary said to tell you that Tom Stashak was great. He went by the book, but he added so much more with his interesting facts and stories. Gary was very impressed with him and said you can tell he loves what he is doing. I thought it would be good for you to hear that your volunteers are still doing a great job. Stephen really enjoyed this. Tom brought a crossbow and muzzleloader and they got to shoot them. That made it really interesting.

Tara Dittmann
Houston

Dear Staff:

Quincy Ellis, Area Chief, from Lohn recently taught a class in Coleman, Texas. He team-taught with two Game Wardens from Coleman. Wardens William Heath and Randall Brown. Quincy stated: "They were super to work with. They took team teaching to another level. That kind of interest and participation from both those game wardens was really appreciated. When you get right down to it – It's all about working together and not trying to be good at anyone else's expense." "Coleman is mighty lucky to have those two wardens taking care of business in that part of Texas." "In fact we've got great wardens all over Texas."

We had 27 in the class. Even the county agent came in and helped set up chairs etc. They are recruiting some instructors over there so Jimmie Caughron and I can do an instructor workshop. It was great! We need all the friends we can get and the wardens really are a great part of our "team."

From e-mail:

Just wanted to say how helpful you all were in getting a copy of my Hunters Education Card. I got my wallet stolen and was worried that I would not have my card to take with me dove hunting this weekend but Sherri Harper in Education took my information and faxed me a copy. WOW...Awesome. Thanks so much for having pleasant/helpful people in the right places.

Michael Kersey

From e-mail:

Thank you for your prompt response. I really thought that the online study course was well done. I think that the educational information and the review quizzes are very thorough. The only problem I encountered was I could not find the answer to the duck stamp question anywhere (I guess I need to study a bit more.) But the other quizzes, after each study section, did a good job of representing the necessary information. These are the ones I printed out. I am not sure about the instructor's name—he is in Grand Prairie, and I got the number of the TPWD Web site. He was out of town when he returned my call, so he was not sure about which quizzes I needed, but when I told him that I couldn't find a quiz about the ecosystems and wildlife, he said that he thought there was a test for that. I'm sure that he probably has that information at his home or testing site. He said that sometimes when lots of people are on the net, all the quizzes might not come up. I think he was just trying to make sure that I had them all. Thanks again for your help and with all you are doing to promote safety and conservation.

Rina Ramos
Dallas

Dear Staff:

I was recently in a hunter education class instructed by Mr. Mike Whittaker. I will be real honest..... I have been hunting for several years and was dreading going to this thing. It was the best thing I could have done. I took a 14 year-old young man who hunts with me on my deer lease and we were both very pleased with what was presented and how it was presented. Very positive class and Mr.

Whittaker is a wonderful instructor. I spoke to him about me possibly becoming an instructor and he is going to help me get the information I will need to get that ball rolling. I don't know what kind of credit these instructors get, but Mr. Whittaker should definitely be credited with a pat on the back for a job well done.

Thanks again,
Judd Storey

Rule Exception...

Hi Kathy:

I taught a class on October 1-2. In the process while I was teaching we lost a water heater, refrigerator/freezer, had

a cow step in a water line and break it, and then had a cow have a miscarriage with a calf that I had to pull. I am still working on the cow to get her back to health. Then, a few things went down, like the garbage disposal at Moms, and the water softener at Grandmas. End result? I have not sent in the final report and student forms yet. But, I finally have them done and will be depositing the checks and putting it all in the mail this weekend. Sorry for the delays! Just a FYI.

Instructor #006821

Editor's Comment: If it weren't for bad luck, he'd have no luck at all. Thanks for the information, and let us know if we can help. We will look for the forms. Keep up the great job!

Hunter Education Loses Instructors

VERNA LYNN

Verna Lynn, long time instructor and friend from Brownwood, passed away in July. She had been in the Hunter Education program with her teaching partner and husband Bill Lynn since the program began. She was certified in 1972, and had taught 126 classes and certified 648 students.

She and Bill were the backbone of the teaching group in Brownwood and west central Texas. Verna was always with Bill at Texas Wildlife Expo manning the Shooting Orientation tent near the shotgun areas. Every time she called the office, she had a new joke to tell. Her bright smile led many students down the road to safety. She encouraged her daughter and son-in-law to become instructors and then did the same with her grandson.

We will miss her.

SHERRY WEBB RUBENDALL

By Janie Trudo, District Judge

For all of us who knew and loved **Sherry Webb Rubendall** we celebrated her life and her presence with us and with God.

Sherry was one unique gal, and extremely talented! The only woman I've ever known who could design her own home, put in plumbing, wiring, put up trusses, do construction of any kind and then build it.

Oh, she had help and could round up volunteers easily with the promise of cold drinks and Randy's barbecue, and she'd tell you what to do, how to do it and then crack the whip!

She was so gifted. Who else could find an old oar, fix it with a couple of fishing poles, some lures and flies, an

old fish, and hang it on the wall as a decoration? She saw an old fence we took down and wanted to use it. She planed it down and it became part of the paneling and decoration in the hallway and part of her son's bedroom. She found a cow skull and a deer skull, took it home, painted it with Indian makeup, added beads and feathers and gave it back to me for my law office.

She loved to teach whatever she knew. She loved teaching hunter education, outdoor women's group, making flies and lures, and so many other things. She made her last trip to an outdoor women's group just several weeks ago.

We will miss her.

Sherry was certified in 1995, taught with her teaching partner, Monica Sobotka and conducted 55 classes certifying 548 students.

Waterfowl Hunters – Guess What! You Should Know More About Boating

By Wayne Spivak, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

Ahoy Hunter! Do you hunt waterfowl or hunt in and around lakes, streams, rivers or ponds? Do you use a Jon boat, rowboat, duck-boat or a blind near your favorite haunt? If you do, you should seriously think about getting more education, specifically boating education!

Most of us think accidents never happen to us, but denial won't help, if you or someone in your party is involved in an accident. In the year 2000, the Coast Guard reported that 23 vessels were involved in accidents, while the occupants were hunting. Ten (10) fatalities resulted from those 23 accidents. That's about 1/10th of 1% of all fatalities reported that year, not much of a risk, but its 43% of all boating accidents related to hunting. Now that's a major risk!

Why the need for more boater education?

Currently your chances of being in an accident or dying from that accident are, at least by the statistical pattern, low, but remember, these are still only the reported statistics! How many of us report little, embarrassing accidents, even if they caused not so little injuries?

If we, as participants in the sport of boating and hunting slack off on the

non-mandatory education efforts, these statistics will begin to rise. It has taken years of efforts, by the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the states as well as other interested parties, to improve these statistics. And, the collective "we" are still not happy!

Boating while involved in hunting adds new dimensions and new dangers, to both boating and hunting. Not only do you need to observe the rules, inherent in boating (both from a legal standpoint but also a boating technique stance), but also, now you have the added elements of danger, your firearm. Boats, especially Jon boats (or duck-boats) and rowboats are not known for their high degree of lateral stability.

It's extremely easy to swamp or broach these boats by shifting the weight distribution within the boat. Changes in the weather, leading to exposure to the harsher elements and their subsequent negative effects are also part of the dangers both boaters and hunters endure. Hypothermia is the major threat to both groups of sportsman, especially around the seasons (fall, winter) that hunters normally hunt.

Multiple hunters in a small boat just add to the danger. Fields of fire need to be mapped out and exactly maintained. Movement within the boat, from the act of swinging shotguns and rifles, to the bird dogs jumping into the water, need to be understood and factored into the mix.

Hunting, boating as well as other outdoor sports are best enjoyed when you return back home safe and sound. Education is part of any sport, and many outdoor sports require more preparation and education than other more traditional sports. Many states now require mandatory boating and/or hunting education. In some states, you are unable to get hunting licenses without proof of a hunter safety course, and you can't get a waterfowl license without a boater safety course.

To find out where and when the next boating course is being given, why not visit the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary on the Internet at www.cgaux.org or call Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. at 1-800-792-1112+63.





Americans Spend \$108 Billion on Wildlife- related Activities

In 2001, U.S. residents 16 years old and older who participated in activities such as hunting, fishing and bird-watching, spent more than \$108 billion to pursue those interests, according to the comprehensive "2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation." This expenditure accounted for 1.1% of the gross domestic product. Of the total amount spent, \$28.1 billion was trip-related, \$64.5 billion was spent on equipment and \$15.8 billion was spent on other items.

The \$110 billion figure reported in the preliminary findings last spring has changed to \$108 billion. The 2001 Survey is the 10th in a series that began in 1955. The Survey, produced by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in partnership with the U.S. Bureau of Census and State fish and wildlife agencies, reports that more than 34 million Americans fished, 13 million hunted and 66 million observed wildlife.

America's 34 million anglers spent \$35.6 billion in pursuit of their hobby. More than 28 million went freshwa-

ter-fishing, while nine million went saltwater fishing. The Great Lakes, one of the most widely fished freshwater areas, attracted two million anglers.

Meanwhile, 13 million Americans age 16 or older hunted. They spent more than \$20 billion on their activities and equipment. Nearly 11 million hunters sought big game, such as deer and elk, on 153 million days. Roughly five million hunters pursued small game, including squirrels and rabbits, on 60 million days. Three million migratory bird hunters spent 29 million days hunting for birds, such as doves and ducks. And one million hunters spent 19 million days hunting other animals, such as raccoons and woodchucks.

The more than 66 million adults who participated in feeding, observing and photographing wildlife spent \$38.4 billion. Nearly 22 million people, or 33% of this total, took outings of one mile or more away from home to participate in these activities. Nearly 63 million, or 95%, enjoyed wildlife-related activities near their homes.

A comparison with the 1991, 1996 and 2001 Surveys reveals that millions of Americans continue to enjoy wildlife-related recreation. In 1991, there were 35.6 million anglers and 14.1 million hunters. In 1996, 35.2 million fished and 14.0 million hunted. And in 2001, there were 34.1 million anglers and 13.0 million hunters. While the number of hunters and anglers has decreased slightly since 1991, expenditures by these sportspersons increased from \$53 billion (in 2001 dollars) in 1991 to \$70 billion in 2001.

The U.S. Bureau of Census interviewed 80,000 households in the United States to determine participants in wildlife-associated activities. From this initial phase, 30,000 sportsmen and sportswomen and 15,000 wildlife watchers were selected for detailed interviews about their participation and expenditures in 2001. The 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation is posted at <http://federalaid.fws.gov/>. Also, the Service will publish 50 in-depth State reports this fall and winter.

Training Efforts and Workshops

Wildlife Management Workshop – Kerr WMA

Assistant Hunter Education Coordinator, Jimmie Caughron, hosted this workshop.

Instructors enjoyed the efforts of Gene Fuchs and Bill Armstrong, who conducted the activities on Saturday. Thanks to the Wildlife Division for providing opportunities for instructors to gain additional knowledge they can share with students.



Responsibility, Game Laws and Ethics – Mt. Pleasant

Kent Irvin conducted this workshop for instructors in deep East Texas. Hope more instructors can attend the workshops in 2003.



Gene Howe WMA Workshop

The Gene Howe WMA workshop was conducted by Brad Simpson, Dave Dvorak and Scott Sudkamp this year. What a great opportunity for instructors to see a different area. Thanks so much for offering this workshop.



Responsibility, Game Laws and Ethics – Austin

Responsibility, Game Laws and Ethics workshop was held in July in Austin. Game Warden Rod Chalmers, Assistant Chief of Training, did an excellent job on how to teach using the Outdoor Annual and included all the updated changes. The Austin workshop will be moved to August 16-17, 2003 so the new Outdoor Annuals will be available for use. Students must know what the laws are and this workshop is a valuable tool for instructors.

IHEA Elevated Stand Incident Study

The International Hunter Education Association has put together the finding of a recent study to possibly help avoid future incidents involving hunters and the use of elevated deer stands.

(This study is still under review.) The preliminary results are as follows:

1. Hunters are concerned about elevated stand safety.
2. Seven percent of hunters surveyed have been involved in an elevated stand incident in past 10 years.
3. Of the surveyed hunters involved in an elevated stand incident requiring medical treatment none had their incident investigated.
4. Three-quarters or 74% of falls occurred when ascending to, descending from or getting in or out of the stand.
5. When the climbing incident occurred, 78% of hunters that fell were not wearing fall restraint
6. The simple safety belt rather than the preferred full body harness is the most common fall restraint system used.
7. Most incidents involved commercially manufactured stands rather than homemade stands, however, in only 21% of the incidents were the stands claimed to be defective.
8. Hunter education courses need to include more training on elevated stand safety.

The IHEA has recommended and will pursue these “Follow-Up Action Items”:

1. Develop recommend standards for elevated stand education.
2. Develop lesson plan with supporting teaching resources for hunter education course usage.

Editors comment: We will have this information for your use when available. Until then, advise all students to be very cautious when building, setting up or using any type of elevated stand. Always use manufacturers recommendations with any blind or stand.

Note: API Outdoors Has Recalled Hunting Treestands. Reason: A cable that secures the treestand to the tree can break, posing the risk of falls and serious injuries to hunters. For more information, please look on the following Web site: www.safetyalerts.com/recall/p/02/p001232.htm

Gun Safety Program Criticisms Fail ‘Reality Test’

The Future of Children, a journal of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, issued a report critical of firearms safety programs recently, even though fatal firearms accidents are at an all-time low and there have been dramatic decreases in firearms injuries involving children in recent years.

As the news service Reuters Health tells it, the report “says that education efforts targeting kids and parents—as well as laws to punish parents who fail to store their guns safely—are limited in their ability to prevent gun violence.” Last December, NSSF issued a news release on its analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data from the Firearms Injury Surveillance Study for 1993-1997, which found a dramatic decrease in non-fatal firearms-related injuries for all age categories for children and ado-

lescents. This decrease coincides with a similar drop in accidental firearms fatalities, which reached an all-time low in 2000.

At the time, the release quoted Bob Delfay, then NSSF president and CEO, as saying, “This good news underscores the value of nationwide safety efforts sponsored by the shooting sports industry, and those of the thousands of volunteers in hunter safety education, the National Rifle Association, Boy Scouts and 4-H firearm safety instruction who make a positive contribution to increasingly safe ownership of firearms and enjoyment of the shooting sports.”

The study shows a **37% decrease** in the total number of non-fatal firearms related injuries in the five-year period. The drop is from 28,963 in 1993 to 18,009 in 1997 for children and ado-

lescents ages 0-19. The greatest rates of decrease occurred among the youngest age groups with non-fatal firearms related injuries for children ages 0-4 **down 50%**, and non-fatal firearms related injuries for children ages 5-9 **down 76%**. The total number of non-fatal firearms related injuries for children under 10 **dropped 64%** from 1,308 in 1993 to 465 in 1997.

These firearm-related injury numbers would be even lower but the study includes such broadly defined non-penetrating gunshot injuries as those from powder burns, recoil, and even pistol whipping (the use of a firearm as a blunt object in an assault). With dramatic success such as this, clearly something must be working right, and a report which claims firearm safety programs don’t work in a period of sustained firearms safety success has clearly failed a reality test.



Project ChildSafe Provides Cable Locks for Texas

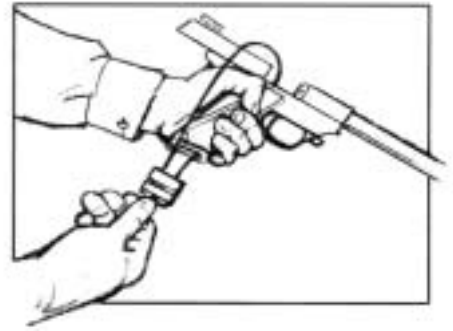
The National Shooting Sports Foundation along with the U.S. Department of Justice and the shooting sports industry have partnered to provide cable gun locks for the general public in hopes of preventing shooting incidents, especially around the home.

Forty thousand locks were shipped to TPWD for use during Texas Wildlife Expo, and over 24,000 locks were given out on October 5-6. Another 16,000

were sent to the field with game wardens for use during hunting season and special occasions.

An additional shipment of 40,000 locks arrived for distribution by game wardens throughout hunting season and hunter education instructors after their classes.

If any instructor needs an extra supply of these cable locks, please contact Jack Nasworthy while they last.



“Patience is a virtue that carries a lot of wait.”
 CHURCH BILLBOARD

FOOD FOR THOUGHT... A LIST TO LIVE BY

- The most destructive habit*Worry
- The greatest joy*Giving
- The greatest loss*Self-respect
- The most satisfying work*Helping Others
- The ugliest personality trait*Selfishness
- The most endangered species*Dedicated Leaders
- Our greatest natural resource* ..Our Youth & Our Elderly
- The greatest “shot in the arm”*Encouragement
- The greatest problem to overcome*Fear
- The most effective sleeping pill*Peace of Mind
- The most crippling failure disease*Excuses
- The most powerful force in life*Love

- The most dangerous outcast*A Gossip
- The world’s most incredible computer*The Brain
- The worst thing to be without*Hope
- The deadliest weapon*The Tongue
- The two most power-filled words*“I can”
- The greatest asset*Faith
- The most worthless emotion*Self-pity
- The most beautiful attire*A Smile
- The most prized possession*Integrity
- The most powerful channel of communication* ...Prayer
- The most contagious spirit*Enthusiasm
- Our greatest teacher*Experience

To the world, YOU may be one person; but to one person, you may be the world

Hi Folks! Can you believe we are keeping up with data entry at this time of the year? Yes, it's October and we have entered all classes that have been sent in. Cards are going out within 2-3 weeks. We have Linda Roe, Tami Crawford and Jennifer Logan helping manage the piles of records coming in each day. The "boss" said he would take us to lunch if we kept this pace up. (I love seafood! Ha.) It's fortunate that our scanner is working at full capacity. However, I would say that it could go a lot faster if instructors would PLEASE follow some simple rules and instructions. Here they are:

One.... Do not write anywhere on the student forms unless it is in a designated area. Don't write names, dates, "paid," present or make any other stray marks on the forms. This only holds up processing. If you must write on the form, use the "Temporary Card" area. It is torn off and goes with the student anyway.

Two.... Instructors who are NOT Home Study certified may NOT do this type of course or testing, no matter what. We only have to send the records back for completion of a regular structured course, and this makes the customers very unhappy.

Three.... When classes are "team taught," ALL records and revenue must come in together, either in one envelope or in envelopes taped together as a whole. Incoming revenue holds up processing when separated. Revenue does not match records when this happens.

Four.... Please remember to mark EVERY box appropriate for the class.

Five.... When doing Home Study courses.... Leave the "Start Date" blank; add the time spent with the students to the One day and six hours already credited to the student. The total must be at least **Two Days and 10 Hours** on the total to meet mandated requirements. Whatever time is spent (minimum of 4 hours) just add it to reach the total.

Now, ya got all that? Seriously though, it really helps us when all the forms are correctly completed. It makes scanning go much easier, and it helps the students receive their cards in a much more timely manner. Thanks for all your great efforts and help. Happy New Year!!

K A T H Y

The IHEA Has Home Study Online

A cooperative effort sponsored by the International Hunter Education Association and many states and provincial hunter education programs has resulted in the development of a nationally accepted online Web course where students can learn more about hunter education.

Initially, this project was done to help students gain knowledge to assist them in the certification process. Secondly, it was done to help eliminate the "perceived barriers" to the hunter education course certification by offering additional ways to gain knowledge other than through the traditional structured course.

The online course provides the minimal standards of knowledge as accepted by the IHEA, and many states are now utilizing this method of knowledge acquisition as a portion of

their certification process. Not every state has home study capabilities and the testing process, but for those who do, this Web course complements the hands-on activities utilized and required in the final stages of certification.

This Web site has a tremendous array of knowledge for the beginner, veteran hunter or even for one who does not hunt. Nancy Herron, Education Coordinator with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, was contracted to design and develop the Web site. It was modeled after the Texas Hunter Education online Home Study course. It has excellent material resources and links to other sites, and is very well done.

If more information is needed, please look at www.ihea.com. Texas may elect to join other states and use this new Web course for our online course of choice.

PRSRT STD
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AUSTIN, TEXAS
PERMIT NO. 2270

Target Talk

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



PWD BR D0200-135 (11/02)

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