



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

Before we know it, the busy season will be here. Yes, the time just flies by, and without realizing it, we find ourselves wondering where it went and how it slipped away. Many of you are gaining on the years as I am, but remember, it always makes us feel better to have helped others.

When I first started teaching hunter education as a volunteer, I felt as though I could make a difference by sharing my love of something I truly believed in, and that was hunting. I didn't kill my first deer until I was 21 years old. It seems like only yesterday, but the thrill of having harvested my own game and knowing I was going to get to have some fine meals was such a reward.

My grandson, Ethan, took his first deer this past season and he was so proud. His dad took him, and Ethan actually got two deer that day. His first was an eight-point, then, he took a spike, which he thought was a doe. When asked if he had carefully looked at the animal to make sure what it was, he said, "Well, I didn't have any binoculars, so I couldn't see those small spikes behind the ears, and I thought it was a doe."

Well, I knew how to remedy that situation. Guess what showed up for his birthday just before Christmas? Yes, that's right, a

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Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge Held in Kerrville

Jack Burch's Hill Country Shooting Sports Center was the venue for the 21st Annual Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge on Saturday and Sunday, May 5-6, 2012. Participants, ranging in age from 12 to 17, came from across Texas to compete in eight events: Archery, Muzzleloader, Light Rifle, Shotgun, Wildlife Identification, Hunter Skills Trail, Orienteering and a written Responsibility Exam.

Junior and Senior winners in the individual shooting events were Archery Challenge, Junior Brandon Weid of Fort Bend 4-H Field and Stream Club and Senior Garrett Lovelace of Belton Regulators; Muzzleloader Challenge, Junior Daniel Lindstrom of Tarrant County Straight Shooters and Jonathan Hlavinka of East Bernard Shooting Club; Light Rifle Challenge, Junior Daniel Lindstrom of Tarrant County Straight Shooters and Senior Garrett Lovelace of Belton Regulators; and Shotgun Challenge, Junior Brandon Wied of Fort Bend 4-H Field and Stream Club and Senior Garrett Lovelace of Belton.

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Coordinator's Corner, continued

nice pair of Bushnell 10X50 waterproof binoculars. When he opened them and saw what it was, he just grinned real big. He took them out of the box and as he felt the rubber coating on them he said, "Grandpa, these are so soft!" I explained that they would make less noise if banged on something and not scare the game. I also told him to always make sure of his target and what lies in front of and beyond before bringing his gun up and taking the shot.

Seeing his reaction to that gift will always be etched in my mind. He will turn 12 in December of this year, and my next present will really blow his mind. Can't tell you what it will be, because he might read this newsletter. So, you will just have to wait until the Fall/Winter issue to find out. Oh, by the way, that will be my last issue of *Target Talk* to edit and provide the Coordinator's Corner. Yes, I am retiring this year!

Always share your time and adventures in the outdoors and take someone hunting. You never know what will happen and how you might turn the life of some young person around. By doing so, even with a young adult who has never hunted, it might prove to be one of the greatest adventures that ever happened.

Just watching the rising sun in the morning and hearing the world come alive helps us to understand why we do what we do. Or, it could be putting some gobblers to bed as the day

comes to an end and the coyotes begin to howl that makes us appreciate what we have had the opportunity to enjoy. Doesn't make any difference if we ever take a shot, but the fact that we were "there" will add meaning to each day in our memories.

Remember Bill Engvall, the comedian who appeared at Wildlife Expo a few years back, and performs with the Blue Collar Comedy Tour? Well, here is one for him. Guess someone needed to actually know this....



Until next time, always be safe!

Terry Erwin

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug. 25	Big Game Scoring	Ft. Worth
Sept. 8-9	White-tailed Workshop	Kerr WMA
Sept. 21-23	Range Safety Officer	Grand Prairie
Sept. 29	Dove Workshop/Hunt	Tilden

Lester Woytek Remembered as Hunter Education Instructor

Lester was certified in January 1991 and remained active as an instructor for over 21 years in Hallettsville. During that time he taught 31 courses and certified 317 students. He and his son, Michael, taught these courses together and his son commented, "I think this was one of the greatest things that he ever did to help our youth." Lester Woytek was born on November 1, 1942 and died on February 17, 2012. He will certainly be missed. Thanks for a tremendous job well done.

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



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Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge, continued



Winners in the individual responsibility events were Responsibility Exam Challenge, Junior Brandon Wied of Ford Bend, Senior Stephen Clark of Fort Bend 4-H Field and Stream Club; Wildlife Identification Challenge, Junior Logan Maus of Fort Bend 4-H Field and Stream Club and Senior Garrett Lovelace of Belton; Hunter Skills Trail Challenge, Junior Daniel Lindstrom of Tarrant County Straight Shooters and Senior Jacob Korenek of East Bernard Shooting Club; and Orienteering Challenge, Junior Eric Wied of Fort Bend 4-H Field and Stream Club and Senior Kyle Hall of the Belton Regulators.



Top Junior Participants were competitors Daniel Lindstrom of Tarrant County Straight Shooters, Brandon Wied and Logan Maus of Fort Bend 4-H Field and Stream Club, and Zachary Twardowski and Dennis "Michael" Todd of the Fort Bend 4-H Field and Stream Club.



Top Senior Participants were Garrett Lovelace and Ben Simpson of Belton Regulators, Stephen Clark of Fort Bend 4-H Field and Stream Club; Jonathan Hlavinka and Jacob Korenek both of the East Bernard Shooting Club.



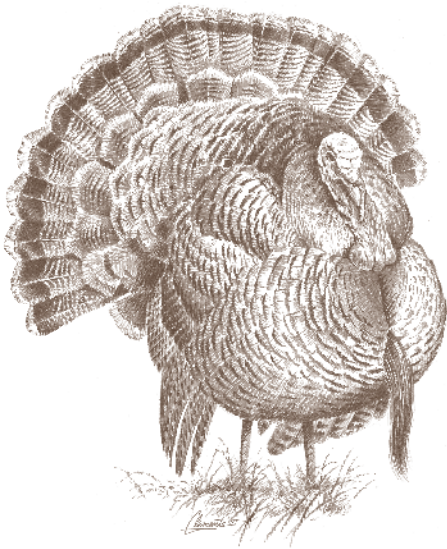
All who participated are eligible to enter the National Rifle Association's International Youth Hunter Education Challenge to be held July 20-27, 2012 in Mansfield, Pennsylvania. The Texas Hunter Education Instructors Association will pay entry fees for the top three Junior Participants and top three Senior Participants attending the International Youth Hunter Education Challenge.

Texas YHEC 2012 staff included Director Robert Boswell of Spring; NRA-YHEC Texas Representative Duke Walton of Porter; Event Director and Volunteer Coordinator Peggy Weyel of San Antonio; Event Assistant Event Director and THEIA Treasurer Shannon Caughron of Ballinger, and Statistician Jeanette Hammonds of Fort Worth.

Directors of Challenge Events were: Archery Challenge, David Hammonds of Fort Worth; Muzzleloader Challenge, Dan Griffin of Boerne; Light Rifle Challenge, Thomas Connaughton of Richmond; Shotgun Challenge, Rhonda Esakov of Georgetown; Hunter Skills Trail Challenge, Junior Muñoz of Brownsville; Wildlife Identification Challenge, Duke Walton of Porter; Orienteering Challenge, Clyde McMeans of Bellaire; and Responsibility Exam Challenge, Terry Erwin of Mountain City.

Sponsors of the 2012 event include Jack Burch and the Hill Country Shooting Sports Center, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Hunter Education Instructors Association, Inc., Houston Gulf Coast SCI- First for Hunters, Cabela's-World's Foremost Outfitter, and the National Rifle Association. Hunter Education Instructor William Krebs of Krebs Kustom Works in Fredericksburg designed and produced the laser engraved wooden trophies.

Highest honors, the Sportsmanship Award, is given to the participant who displays the best in competitive sportsmanship as well as courtesy and responsibility to teammates, to other competitors, and event judges. This year's Sportsmanship Award went to Stephen Clark of Fort Bend 4-H Field and Stream Club.



Tom Turkeys for a Trio at Texas Tech

By *Steve Hall, Executive Director, Texas State Rifle Association*

Back in March, my son, Ryan, attending Texas Tech University, asked if he could bring a couple of his friends turkey hunting over Easter. We planned to meet in Breckenridge, Texas, at the home and ranch of area chief hunter education instructor and longtime friend, Billy Holt. Billy's brother was former Texas hunter education coordinator, Darrell Holt, who passed in 1989, but who had originally hired me as assistant hunter education coordinator in 1985. Billy graciously allowed Ryan to bring his college friends, having the same passion as I — to introduce newcomers to hunter education and to hunting!

Neither of Ryan's friends were hunters, but they wanted to give it a try — especially his roommate, Johnathan Flores. Stephanie Kaufmann also thought she might try it after joining us last Thanksgiving at Billy's place for a deer hunt and helping Ryan take care of his doe. She is in physical therapy and takes anatomy and related courses — so seeing the internal organs on a deer really intrigued her. I asked Ryan if his friends had ever completed hunter education, and he said they had not. A quick look online revealed three hunter education courses available in mid- to late March, all in Amarillo. The one they selected was to be taught by area chiefs Jeff Srygley and Virgil Frick, and instructor Steve Camarata.

So, in a matter of a week, the two of them reserved their spots and took the Hunter Education Online study portion. On Saturday, March 24, they trekked up from Lubbock to complete their field course. Stephanie earned a 100% on her test, so apparently the lessons Jeff, Virgil and Steve taught her must have really sunk in! She and Johnathan said they enjoyed their experience and were thankful to these instructors — so they could ultimately join Ryan on his big adventure.

They arrived in Breckenridge Good Friday and purchased their licenses at a local Wal-Mart. Both had already been sent their hunter education cards and Stephanie's HE number was already on her license. Big kudos to these two instructors and to Kathy Powell, hunter education staff assistant, for her always-fast processing of hunter education cards — once she receives the instructor's records in Austin! Billy welcomed us to his home, and I

gave him and the three Red Raiders Easter baskets my wife Karen had prepared. This was the first time my wife would be without Ryan and myself at Easter, but she did not fail to make it extra special for those of us heading outdoors for that weekend. That evening, we headed out to Billy's ranch and got the lay of the land, but heard little to no gobbling. After showing us to our hunt locations, Billy went down near the river and had only been to his spot several minutes before a muddy, grizzly, 200+ pound boar walked out of the river bottom in front of him, heading towards an oat pasture. The pig quickly felt the bullet of Billy's .243 rifle, and the rest of us heard the shot ring out over the landscape — wondering if someone had already shot a turkey. Needless to say, helping Billy haul out the big animal was a fun, first-night experience for these two new hunters.

Good Saturday morning came early for the college students; Stephanie said she was not much of a morning person, but seemed excited to possibly seeing and hearing a morning gobbler. After leaving Ryan and Johnathan to hunt from a ground blind in the upper pastures; Stephanie and I went to the "Erwin Center" named appropriately after hunter education coordinator, Terry Erwin, who also works in Austin (near University of Texas's Erwin Center). We were next to both the river and the oat field near where Billy shot the feral pig. From that box stand, we could try to call in a big tom in the river bottom, and a little later that morning, we did just that. However, it was a stand-off for over 45 minutes of solid gobbling and me calling — the gobbler, only 30 to 40 yards away would just not cross the ravine. I also

felt that if we went into the thick stuff, we would only spook him or could not otherwise see well enough to get off a shot. After a while, he gave up and headed towards Ryan and Johnathan, who were coming down from the upper pastures after seeing little activity. They called that same gobbler to within 20 yards, only to be spotted before getting a shot — that was one smart tom! He fooled both our groups!

After shooting Billy's .22 cal. pistol and goofing around in the early afternoon, we headed out around 5 p.m. and went to pretty much the same locations — Stephanie and I in the bottomlands, Johnathan and Ryan in the highlands. Things were quiet early, but along about 6:30 to 7:00 p.m., Stephanie and I finally heard some far-off gobbles and worked our way towards them as much as possible. The sounds grew nearer, and as we headed down a thick ranch path near the riverbed, we heard two gobblers that seemed to run towards us quickly. As another gobbler spouted off in the distance, the two coming fast stayed quiet — "Silent toms" I explained to Stephanie as we got into position for a possible shot. I told her to get ready. They may appear out of nowhere. We waited another 10 minutes — then right at our doorstep and slightly behind us came the glorious sound of two toms calling in the Texas woods. We quickly repositioned ourselves. Stephanie was super excited to be in the moment. A few clucks and voila — two young toms appeared from the brush 25 yards in front of Stephanie's muzzle. Once the gobblers separated, I told her to shoot (at the closer one). She instantly muttered, "Shoot" herself, realizing that she forgot to push the

safety to the 'off' position. As she did so, this time, in a hurry, the button rang out with a "click," and both gobblers looked up — "Puttt!" I said, "Shoot" again and "Blam." The closer of the two birds dropped. Stephanie asked, "Did I get it?" I responded, "yes" (*inside — yeehoo!*) and asked to her put the button back on safe and quickly pump the shotgun, just



in case the bird got up. After several moments of intense scrutiny, we realized that she had taken her first animal. We unloaded and approached the bird. "WAY TO GO!" (*and Whew!!!*). She then learned how to fill out her tag in the proper manner — taking great interest in the process as it put closure to her feelings of elation and awe of what was a "stunning looking bird with shiny feathers...."

Needless to say, the boys were a little taken back that the new huntress was first to celebrate the experience of taking a spring turkey in all of its splendor. They went to bed that night wondering — both happy for Stephanie, but wondering what the next day would hold in store for them. "Had she taken the only bird of the hunt this Easter?" they doubted. Easter morning was just as exciting. Gobbling rang out in what had turned out to be a moist, foggy morning. This time, with Johnathan in front, we walked to the river pasture, only to hear gobblers off towards the backside of Billy's ranch. We headed that way to get closer to the sounds. Ryan was hunting with his new guide, Stephanie, in the highlands again. As we neared the back of the ranch, it was obvious the gobbler was on a neighboring ranch, but we called anyway. The gobblers were really responding and before long, a big bird had crossed onto our

ranch and was quickly heading towards us. I positioned Johnathan on two primary lanes from which the gobbler should appear, only to be out-smarted after the gobbler outflanked us and peeked in from our right. From that angle, at 25 yards, he quickly spotted our shapes and ducked behind a bush, reappeared, then gobbled away, nervously. He wanted in — but was wary of those two shapes he spotted — so Johnathan's exciting moment waned, and before long we were telling the others of yet another close encounter.



Earl Campbell
sausages — yum yum!

Ryan bumping fists with Johnathan, "as boys will do," whispered Steph. We all celebrated dinner at Billy's house with hot dogs, chili, cheese and



That evening, it was Ryan and Steph's turn. While Johnathan and I heard four gobblers and "put several to bed," we heard a shot which sounded like Ryan and Steph, down near the river where we had a standoff with the bird a day earlier. Ryan learned from our mistake of not crossing the ravine when we first heard the gobbler. He did so and quickly called in a big tom to 15 yards and tagged him moments later, excited to "have caught up with Stephanie," he admitted at dinner time. But he continued to be "bummed" for Johnathan, who had come "close, but had not gotten off a shot." "Tomorrow!" said

The next morning, our last, it was truly Johnathan's big break. Ryan and I accompanied him to a spot where we should be able to call in the gobblers from the night's roost, near where we had called in the gobbler the morning prior. Stephanie smartly slept in. This turkey hunting was taking its sleep deprivation toll on her. As we set up near the spot from the morning before, again we learned from our mistake and made a better blind from sticks and background trees. He wouldn't see our shapes this time. As we called, two gobblers made their move and came quickly our way, from the same direction as before. They strutted and drummed behind some trees at 40 yards for what seemed like hours. After 30 minutes of calling/gobbling — gobbling/calling — from both Ryan and me — they popped through the bushes at 25 yards. Ryan, coaching Johnathan the entire time, whispered to take him and Johnathan's shot was instant and true. Reminding him to put the safety back on his 12 gauge semi-auto and then checking the action to clear the chamber, we approached the dead bird. Johnathan was shaking uncontrollably — wearing a broad grin the entire time. His excitement was extremely contagious and reminds us all why we do what we do. Enough said!

What a great and memorable hunt.
Thanks, Billy Holt!

Opening Day, 2011

By *Michael Murphrey*

Life is awesome, especially as a tree farmer. Sometimes it is impossible to see the blessings you're about to receive. As I was honored to give my daughter, Melanie, away at her wedding on September 10, 2011, I received a wonderful new son-in-law, David. In actuality we got a package deal. When my wife and I were blessed with David, we also became grandparents to the sweetest little three and half year old boy you've ever met, little Dalton. Full of energy and curiosity, little Dalton, as I'm sure you all would understand, is always on the go and full of questions. I've known this young man now for about two years and he is truly a blessing.

Now back to the title, "Opening Day." My three brothers and I own 66 acres east of New Summerfield in Cherokee County. It was thinned in 2006, and when the harvest operation was completed, I made sure the property was cleaned up and setup with fire breaks, cross roads, food plots and numerous hunting opportunities. We all meet at the old home place the day before opening of deer season for a "hunting reunion weekend," David and Dalton now included. When all the guys (supposed to be men) get together, well you know, we all become boys again. Laughter and stories of the "days of old" fill the house along with smells of good food being prepared for dinner.

My son, Nicholas, nephew, Eric, and David, all want the latest toys for hunting. So we have deer stands with swivel chairs, corn feeders, and game cameras in all the food plots (what happened to a two-by-twelve between two limbs?). My game camera has shown for the last four days, between four and six o'clock, that several hogs show up at my corn feeder. Ground work is laid for the ambush on "Opening Day." We hunt that morning and see many young bucks but no takers. The boys bring a pop-up blind down to my stand and lay out the attack. Personally, I hope it works. I'm tired of "corn feeding" hogs I'm not eating. Since my stand is six feet off the ground and very sturdy, Melanie and little Dalton go with me.

Mind you it is 2,000 feet to my stand from the house and Dalton walked the whole way. He would not be carried. The last 300 feet is off the main logging road and through the trees on a forested path covered with pine straw. Dalton sees the ground, how it has been plowed up by the hogs. He asked what happened and Melanie tried to explain how the hogs "root" around through the trees digging in the soil for grubs, worms and other insects. Dalton (remember, he's three and a half) says "Are you sure it was hogs? It looks like the cows tore everything up because there is hay (pine straw) everywhere." Grand parenting is good!!!

We get to the stand around three o'clock; the boys are in place. Dalton has been instructed to be very quiet and he did a very

good job, I was so impressed. We wait, quietly!!! Cell phones have everything on them today which helped provide the quiet part for Dalton. He worked on his ABCs and played a puzzle game. Around four o'clock the prettiest seven-point buck came out into the food plot and noticed the pop-up blind. I showed Melanie and Dalton the buck. When Dalton saw the deer he dropped the phone, banging it on the deer stand floor. A nice learning opportunity presented itself as the buck looked straight at us in the stand. The buck was in full alert and you could see how the ears were just outside the antlers, which means he was not mature enough to be harvested; but he will be a nice eight-to-ten-point next year. The very next second Dalton begins telling me "Look a deer, a deer" and as quickly as the deer arrived he was gone. Melanie now knows what the law means when it says you cannot harvest a buck that doesn't have at least a 13-inch antler spread (antlers outside the ears.)

Shortly after the buck sighting, Dalton's little body battery waned and he took a nap. For the next hour and a half, Melanie and I got to do some great "catching up." I hadn't been able to take her hunting with me since she was 13. We talked about everything from the fall colors to her work. She works for an ophthalmologist here in Lufkin and she hates putting drops (needed to dilate) in eyes of children; the drops burn. Which lead us to a conversation about being a momma, which she is now! And she is doing a great job as she sat there with that baby on her lap for an hour and a half and we whispered back and forth for the entire time.

This was one of the best "opening days" I've spent in the woods in years. And it was the first hunting season I got to start with Dalton; what an awesome start to our future "hunting reunions." Oh, and the hogs took the weekend off; they never showed. The only thing we killed this weekend was time.

This day, to me, I would like to explain in the infamous words of Victor Hemard with Hemard & Company, "was time well wasted."



Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Program Inspires, Challenges

By Karen Horn, Temple, Texas

My name is Karen Horn and I participated in the recent BOW workshop in Brownwood, and yes, I am a repeat offender and very happy to be so and to be allowed to do so. I am eagerly anticipating the November BOW for a number of reasons.

My mom passed away in November, and because I lived with her over the past two years caring for her, it has been a difficult journey to process her passing. Your program helped me focus on what mom loved – the outdoors, birds, cooking, exploring and making new friends. My mom and dad were in the Air Force and we traveled the world, so trying new things comes easy for all of my brothers and me.

She was an inspiration to keep experiencing everything you can that is offered – to explore – to challenge yourself physically and mentally. She was a woman way before her time and would be right in the middle of BOW urging people on ... and fighting for TPWD.

She was the one that saw BOW online and told me to check it out. The first one I went to was at Parrie Haynes and mom was thrilled when I brought back pictures and showed my excitement for this new adventure. I think in a way that she felt like she participated when I would recall all the things that we did and the new friends I added. She was confined to a wheelchair during all this time but we continued to get out and explore as much as we could until the last week of her life.

I know that it is important to get new people into the program and I have been trying without much success to get any of the folks that I know to participate. They are more of the couch potato and internet group and even with the pictures I took of

the scenery and other activities I have yet to sign any one up to come with me. That doesn't mean I won't stop trying. I keep telling them that they are missing out on one of the most outstanding programs that Texas can offer women.

Anyway, I would like to still be considered to attend the BOW in November. I have been waiting anxiously for the shotgun courses to come around – the clays, etc., and any repelling or basically any course I haven't been able to get into just yet. Ha, ha.

I will continue to spread the word about BOW and keep trying to get people to go on Facebook and online to check it out. But I hope in not being able to bring someone along that I will be eliminated from attending. I really hope not. I guess I just want to say THANKS!

Thanks for fighting for this program – thanks for the great trainers you have – thank you for all that you do because I know this is your side adventure so to speak. I will continue to keep buying my TPWD Texas license plates, my yearly park pass and the fishing/hunting combo licenses and support TPWD every chance I get.

Thanks for providing me with a dose of much needed wonderment and adventure. You are both an inspiration to me. Your love for this program and the Texas outdoors really shows.

Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

Learn from the mistakes you make. Learn how to do it better next time. Go over the situation in your mind and mark well the lessons you can use when the opportunity presents itself again. In the field, every mistake may be turned into a learning experience. *(Teachable Moment)*

IN THE NEWS...

From National Shooting Sports Foundation

Attention!! Free Videos For Schools From NSSF

NSSF has emailed its annual offer to teachers to receive – free of charge – its Conservation and Firearms Safety Education DVDs. The campaign is off to a fast start, with nearly 3,000 orders received so far. Teachers and students in more than 100,000 public, private and home schools have benefited from the important messages these videos deliver. The Conservation DVD and Firearm Safety DVD can be ordered online, and the three separate videos contained on each DVD can be previewed online as well. Read more on [NSSF Blog](#).

NSSF Set to Sponsor National Hunting and Fishing Day

NSSF will once again renew its major sponsorship of National Hunting and Fishing Day, the official federal commemoration of hunters, anglers and conservation. NSSF has been involved with National Hunting and Fishing Day for 41 years. NHF Day continues to grow and reach new outdoorsmen and outdoorswomen each year with the continued support of its sponsors. Through licenses, permits and special taxes, hunters and anglers generate \$100,000 every 30 minutes – totaling more than \$1.75 billion per year – for fish, wildlife and habitat. No one contributes more for conservation. NHF Day is set to take place Sept. 22, 2012. [Read more.](#)



National Take Your Daughters to the Range Day

June 9 will mark the first annual national Take Your Daughters to the Range Day, presenting an opportunity for shooting facilities across the country to make a special effort to attract and perhaps introduce young women and their parent or parents to the world of shooting. [Learn more about this event.](#)

Record 61 Colleges Compete at Clay Target Championships

Sixty-one colleges competed recently at the ACUI Intercollegiate Clay Target Championships in San Antonio. The event has grown steadily in recent years, thanks in part to NSSF's Collegiate Shooting Sports Initiative, which provides grants to college shooting sports programs. Lindenwood University again took high overall team in Division I. Complete results are available at the [ACUI website](#).

Editor's Note: Several shooters that have participated in Ag Clays and/or 4-H Shooting Sports Whiz-Bang Events under Charlie Wilson have been fortunate enough to have gained scholarships at some of these universities. One young lady, Drucilla Meier, who won the Overall High Female Shooter in Sporting Clays at the Ag Clays State Event in 2011, is currently attending Schreiner's College in Kerrville on a shooting scholarship.

Fox News: 'Gun Sales Explode as Election Looms'

"Sales of handguns and ammunition are booming across the country, and retailers say it's all about the November election," begins a [FoxNews.com report](#). The network talked to firearms retailers and others about the recent spike in firearm sales.

Conservation Efforts Benefit From Record 2011 Excise Taxes

Wildlife conservation efforts got a boost in 2011 thanks to excise taxes paid by America's firearms and ammunition industry. Excise tax obligations for firearms and ammunition manufacturers were up 27 percent in the fourth quarter and up 14 percent for the 2011 calendar year when compared to the same periods the previous year. Obligations for the full 2011 calendar year were the highest for a calendar year to date. Excise tax collections are a key economic indicator for the industry. These 10 to 11 percent excise tax dollars, collected since 1937 under the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, are specifically designated to be used by state wildlife agencies for conservation. Collectively, purchasers of firearms and ammunition and hunters are the single-largest source of wildlife conservation funding. NSSF members can access full historical quarterly breakouts by category by logging in at [nssf.org/members](#) and clicking "NSSF Industry Research" then "Quarterly FAET/Excise Tax Data." Additional research can be found at [nssf.org/research](#).

NSSF Releases iPhone App

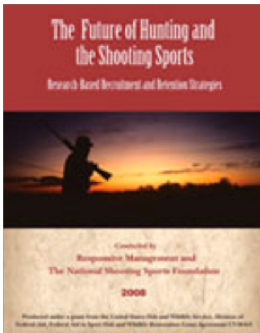
NSSF announced the launch of “Where2Shoot,” a mobile app now available for the iPhone and iPod Touch. The app – available for free in the iTunes App Store – puts North America’s most comprehensive directory of shooting ranges in the palm of your hand. It also includes video tips for shooters, news and firearm safety information. Where2Shoot gives users the ability to search for ranges near their current location as well as by zip code and state. It also provides specifics about each range, including shooting activities offered, accessibility and contact information. The app is modeled after NSSF’s popular WhereToShoot.org website and is updated frequently with range information in every U.S. state and Canadian province. New tips for hunters and shooters are also added regularly. [Learn more and download the app.](#)

Survey: Hunter Approval of Modern Sporting Rifles on the Rise

“Do you approve of the use of semi-automatic AR-platform modern sporting rifles for hunting?” Eighty percent of hunters said “yes” to this question in a recent survey, according to an NSSF supplemental report for April. That’s up from 75 percent in 2010. [Click here to see other findings](#) from the report. NSSF members can log in to view NSSF’s complete April Survey Tracker.

Social Media Has Gone to the Birds

Gobblers that is. With turkey season recently occurring, social media outlets like Twitter, Face book, YouTube and blogs have been abuzz with turkey talk. [Click here](#) to see how mentions of turkey hunting and turkey season fluctuated week to week this spring. “The monitoring of social media by itself is not a tell-all; however, adding it to other indicators such as license sales and retailer views helps the industry obtain a clearer picture of current market conditions,” said Jim Curcuruto, NSSF director of industry research and analysis. Additional research is available at www.nssf.org/research.



Recommended Reading

The Future of Hunting and The Shooting Sports, from Responsive Management and National Shooting Sports Foundation, is a 261-page, research-based book that condenses the findings of one of the largest, most comprehensive studies ever conducted on factors related to hunting and shooting participation, motivations of hunters and shooters and satisfaction with recruitment and retention programs. [Click here for a free PDF download.](#)

Editor’s Note: *I was honored to be on the committee that developed this book and TPWD is doing many of the recommended programs to assist with recruitment and retention. Good reading.*

NSSF Newsletter Motivates Readers to Pull the Trigger

Are you familiar with Pull The Trigger – NSSF’s free monthly electronic newsletter for today’s gun owners? If not, we encourage you to [review it](#) and join the nearly 900,000 people who currently enjoy receiving Pull The Trigger. What sets this newsletter apart from others is its content: video tips for men and women from experts in target shooting, hunting, firearm maintenance, game cooking and other firearm-related topics. The experts include world champion Doug Koenig, members of the U.S. Olympic Team and the instructors at Gunsite Academy, among others. NSSF also encourages those of you currently receiving the newsletter to use Pull The Trigger content in your newsletters, publications, etc. as well as on your website. We hope you’ll also forward Pull The Trigger to your friends who share your passion for the shooting sports.

Speaking of pulling the trigger, Tisma Juett, Manager of NSSF’s “First Shot” program, visited the Indianhead Ranch near Del Rio and took her first Axis doe. She transported the meat back home and is enjoying some fine eating. Congratulations Tisma!



TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Student Training

Great Hunter Ed Course – TSRA Annual Meeting

Just to say a big thank you to Charles Preslar, Don Keith, Mackey Morgan and Game Warden David Bosecker for an excellent course. Their experience, passion and enthusiasm shines through and I must say even my seven-year-old son sat riveted for the duration of the course (exceptional feat as he normally 'has ants in his pants' as boys of this age do) and we both learned a lot. I had to hear him regurgitate the subject matter on the way back to Houston, and he also lamented the fact that he would be going back to school on Monday and would far prefer the Hunter Education Course. Both father and son gained from this excellent course and the experienced people giving it.



Many thanks and best regards,
Clive and Rhyan Wilby, Houston

Instructor Training



Here is a photo of the instructor course taught at Lake Arrowhead SP on February 4. Back row, left to right: Burt Montgomery, Kirk Roybal, Carl Hopper, Lowell Hutchens, Richard Matrogran, Scott Howard, and John Ferguson. Front row, left to right: Cliff Massey, Wendi Howard, Tyler Howard (not certified as an instructor), and Sarah Ferguson.

AC Candidates: Don Miller; Casey Stawicki

Front row, left-right: Kathy Harrison; AC Don Miller; Jose Flores; Cheryl LeJune; Cathi Bray; Michelle Stroud; Charles Miller; Joey Boyett; George Tryon
Back row, left-right: Troy Harrison; Myron Rawls; John Guillott; J.D. McBride; Jeff Argo; Area Chief James Davis; Paul Tyllick; Gary Cox; Area Chief Duke Walton; Area Chief Casey Stawicki



TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Trapper Workshop

Just a quick note to tell you what a GREAT JOB Brock Minton did setting up and implementing the trapper workshop this past weekend. The representatives from the Texas Trappers and Fur Hunters Association, Jim, David and Keith, as always, did an outstanding job. Even though I have gone to four other trapper workshops I learned many new tricks and I can forward them to my hunter ed classes when asked about trapping. It was good fellowship, good weather and great food. The McClaugherty ranch was first class, the ranch foreman, "Cowboy," went out of his way to make us feel welcome and make sure we had whatever we needed. I have included a picture of Jim Brooks and a not so willing coyote in a "smile your on candid camera moment." Once again please let Brock know how much we appreciate the job well done.

Duke Walton, Area Chief, Porter

I attended the trapper workshop this past weekend at the McClaugherty Ranch, between Three Rivers and Tilden. The weekend at the ranch was organized by Benny Ham, an Area Chief Instructor from Tilden, and sponsored by Brock Minton. The stay at the ranch was great. We were welcomed by the ranch manager, "Cowboy," and instantly put at ease. The representatives of the Texas Trappers and Fur Hunters Association led by Jim Brooks and aided by David and Keith, provided an unending stream of knowledge. I have been to two previous trapper workshops, and learned new information at this one, just like the other two.

The knowledge provided and the constant bits of information passed in conversation were most enlightening. We were exposed not just to the technical information, the "how to" of trapping, but the ethical aspects, as well. Every instructor would benefit from the experience. We did not want for food, either. Between the breakfast tacos furnished by Benny Ham, smoked sausage, lasagna, stew, pot roast, homemade venison chili, and even hot pie with Bluebell ice cream and cheesecake, we did not starve.

The ranch manager made it clear that the owner, Chip McClaugherty, would welcome us back for other events. I know that Benny and Brock are working on that, even as I write this. It was a fantastic weekend.

Bob Boswell



Just wanted to take a moment to let you know how much I enjoyed the Trapper Workshop last weekend. The venue was fantastic and I hope you will let the landowner know that. I also want you to let Jimmy Brooks, Keith Jackson and David know that we truly appreciate their time and expertise. That is one group of guys who can share a wealth of knowledge both in the class time and in the field. They also share their knowledge through their many entertaining stories, whether they know it or not. The weather cooperated for us and so did the animals, making this one of the top Trapper Workshops I've attended.

I am so glad that this workshop was of interest to the instructors who attended and that the class was able to make. I have truly missed this workshop the last couple of years. I hope to do it again and again in the coming years and I look forward to more workshops at that ranch. Thanks for your time and effort on this as well. You did good sir.

Sincerely,
Jude Albornoz

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.

February

Efrain Nevarez	Uvalde
Todd Golay	Carrollton
Amanda Sullivan	Kingsville
Katelyn Carley	Spring
Lynette Kirchner	College Station
William Doss	College Station
David Lewis	San Antonio
Moriah Sanders	Poteet
Lowell Hutchens	Ivanhoe
Marcus Nolan	Ennis
Larry Howell	Driftwood
Gayle Ferguson	Corpus Chrsiti
Christopher Mordecai	Eules
Paul Coates	Frisco
Sarah Ferguson	Wichita Falls
Richard Matrogran	Grapevine
Kirk Roybal	Richardson
Ronald Davenport	Floydada
Delmos Hamilton, Jr.	College Station

March

Frederick Pendley, III	Leakey
Roy Thompson	San Antonio
Carl Hallenberger	San Antonio
James Perkins, Jr.	San Antonio
Rudy Gonzalez	Leakey
Michael Pruitt	Seguin
John Tomecek	College Station
Gary Cooper	Seagoville
Gino Attardi	Rockwall
Ted Zimmermann	San Antonio

April

Rodney Townsend	Alvin
Terry Tate	Mertzton
Nigel Benson	Kenedy
Kimberly Hill	Yantis
Kristen Benson	Kenedy
Myron Rawls	Evadale
Jeffery Argo	Columbus

Justin Powell	Tyler
John Guillott	Brazoria
John McBride	Sweeny
Joel Utz	Plano
Catherine Bray	Pearland
Jose Flores	Houston
Kathy Harrison	Pasadena
Dennis Tyllick	Houston
John Binkley	DeSoto
George Tryon	Houston
Gary Cox	Lumberton
Joel Boyett	Silsbee

May

Donald Dobie	Palestine
Ronald Lofton	New Waverly
Jeffery White	Valley Mills
Michael Wallace	La Vernia
Wendi Howard	Wichita Falls
Cheryl LeJune	Houston



Game warden cadets get practice using what they learn by participating in realistic scenarios.

New Cadet Class Underway

The 57th Game Warden Academy began on Feb. 1, with graduation scheduled for Aug. 29. Forty-seven cadets reported for training and so far only four have dropped out. The class includes 38 males and five females. College degrees held by the cadets range from criminal justice to biology and engineering. Two cadets have a master's degree. Eight cadets have prior military service, three were already Texas peace officers, four are from out of state (Missouri, Florida and New Mexico), 13 cadets speak a second language other than English and five had been interns with TPWD.

Topics covered so far include public speaking, communications and problem solving, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, ethics, community oriented policing, emergency medical assistance, swimming, professional policing and an ongoing very comprehensive physical fitness program.

For Your Information

Snake Etiquette

By Andrew G. Gluesenkamp, Ph.D., Herpetologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Spring is a high activity period for local snakes, both venomous and nonvenomous. The most commonly-encountered snakes in our area are non-venomous (Texas rat snake, Eastern hognose snake, Texas brown snake) but Western diamondback rattlesnakes have been found around the TPWD Headquarters campus. Some tips:

- Don't put your hand, foot, or any other part of your body where you can't see it. Most bites are on the hand or ankle. Use tools (or gloved hands) to pick up cover objects.
- Rattlesnakes will rattle if they feel threatened and have the opportunity. Striking is a tactic of last resort. So, listen for the "buzz" when working around areas that could have rattlers.
- If you encounter a rattlesnake, take inventory of your surroundings. Where is the snake? Are there others?
- Do you have a clear path to leave the area? Move slowly away from the snake.
- Snakes avoid noise and vibration so whacking the brush before removal should give them fair warning that you are in the area.
- Most snakes encountered are harmless and most rattlers encountered do not attempt to strike. They would rather leave the scene or hide.
- Have fun!

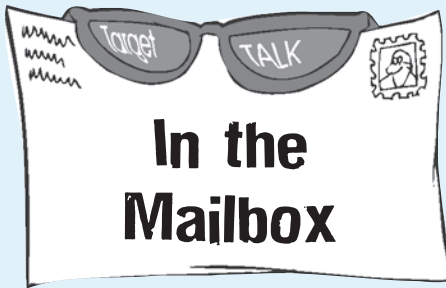
All You Ever Wanted to Know About Feral Hogs and More!

From Texas AgriLife Extension Service

If you are interested in the latest and greatest information about feral hogs, then you must visit this website <http://ferahog.tamu.edu> produced by Texas AgriLife Extension Service. This website, titled Coping with Feral Hogs, has a side bar filled with information you can use in your classroom. You may use the Frequently Asked Questions section to help you answer questions your students may have. A question I frequently get it is, "Where can I sell live hogs I have trapped?" A link to the Texas Animal Health Commission (www.taahc.state.tx.us) is provided and they have a list of approved Feral Swine Holding Facilities. If you're a techie, you may also want to incorporate the short YouTube videos into some of your presentations. There is also a great full length presentation under "Webinars" that gives history, biology and management information. The presentation has some stunning photos of feral hog damage and vital information. An extensive compendium of feral hog publications is also on the site. The publications come from a variety of sources including TPWD, Extension and other state agencies. You may visit the Texas AgriLife Bookstore at <https://agrilifebookstore.org> to order the Extension publications in English or Spanish. This website truly does contain all you ever wanted to know about feral hogs and more.

License Sales for License Year 2011

Paid Hunting License Holders		
LY 2011		
Item	Item Name	Qty
101	Resident Hunting	283,944
102	Senior Resident Hunting	26,648
105	General Non-Resident Hunting	26,525
107	Non-Resident Special Hunting	2,140
111	Super Combo Package	383,654
117	Res Sr Super Combo Package	50,601
118	Non-Resident Spring Turkey Hunting	4,249
120	Non-Resident Banded Bird Hunting	696
157	Non-Resident Five-Day Special Hunting	38,306
169	Youth Hunting	142,804
503	Resident Combo Hunting and Freshwater Fish Pkg	63,907
504	Resident Combo Hunting and Saltwater Fish Pkg	3,337
505	Resident Combo Hunting and All Water Fish Pkg	12,184
506	Resident Combo Senior Hunting and Freshwater Fish	17,879
507	Resident Combo Senior Hunting and Saltwater Fish	705
508	Resident Combo Senior Hunting and All Water Fish	4,432
980	Lifetime Combination License Purchase	353
981	Lifetime Hunting License Purchase	178
984	Lifetime Fishing to Combo Upgrade	1
990	Lifetime Combo License Tags	15,431
991	Lifetime Hunting License Tags	3,014
Total Paid Hunting Licenses-LY 2011		1,080,988
Plus Unpaid		84,260
GRAND TOTAL		1,165,248
Unpaid Hunting License Holders		
LY 2011		
Item	Item Name	Qty
502	Resident Disabled Veteran Super Combo	35,581
510	TX Resident Active Military Super Combo	48,679
Total Unpaid Hunting Licenses-LY2011		84,260



Here are a couple of pictures I took at Laguna Atascosa on their Youth Hunt this past weekend. I set up and did Skill Trail for them on shoot and no shoot scenarios. They had a lot of fun but they only managed to harvest one cow Nilgai.

Shown here is Steven Lock from Temple who got the Nilgai.

Thanks,
 Jr. Munoz, Area Chief
 Resaca de la Palma State Park
 Park Ranger IV-Lead Ranger

Staff,

Just a quick follow up from when we last spoke. No hogs during the weekend as the rain really messed things up I believe, although we did see one and Cody took a shot but unfortunately missed. He did however have a great time with friends, shot lots of clay pigeons and enjoyed the outdoors.

Really want to thank Jan Heath and all the instructors at the Grand Prairie Gun Club that helped this past week in getting Cody ready for the Hunter Education test. He was very comfortable and commented several times of how great this training was compared to the previous online course and his experience in the last field day.

Cody rounded out his week by scoring a 96 on the final exam and is so very happy and ready to once again spend time with me and our friends. Thanks again for the follow up, the help, and for having such great instructors for the Texas Hunters Education program.

Mike Martucci
 Burleson

INSTRUCTOR DISCOUNTS

Alan Madison Productions

Alan Madison Productions has updated its website to include the feature of a shopping cart as well providing more detailed information about the company and its products.

The DVD 5-Pack as well as the “Combo” (which includes The Master and The Last Shot) are both \$99 each. Single DVDs are also available. See the website for further pricing. We have also added a single DVD featuring the titles comprised on the DVD 5-Pack with the addition of Spanish subtitles for \$59. If you believe you have a need for a product such as this, please call.

All our products have long-standing, proven success in hunter education programs across the North American continent. We wish to make all our products directly available to instructors to assist them in their efforts to provide a comprehensive hunter education program.

Your instructors can either call our toll free number (877.404.3311) or go directly to the website (www.alanmadison.com) to purchase videos for their classes.

Thank you for your continued business. We appreciate it.

Geri Hatfield
 Director of Sales/Marketing
 Alan Madison Productions
 PO Box 100
 Chatham, NY 12037
 Toll Free: 877.404.3311

Jim Shockey Dream Hunt 2012

All students that complete the online portion of their hunter education with HUNTERcourse.com are automatically entered into the Dream Hunt Draw. The instructor who taught/ran the Field Day for the winning student also gets to go on the trip. This is an all-inclusive trip is paid for by HUNTERcourse.com. As mentioned, this year it will be held in Albany, Texas at Nail Ranch. Here is the link to the website for more info and a look at last year’s winners. www.huntercourse.com/dreamhunt/

HE Tools

The animations that are used in our online course are taken from HE (Hunter Education) Tools. We purchased this company a year ago and still work with Bryan Tamiatti today. We sell the PC/Mac and DVD version on a state-wide and also on an individual level. The current version is 6.05. It has over 140 features and animations that compliment a hunter education course. We normally sell these individually for \$99.95, but for your instructor base, we have reduced the cost of this latest version to \$35.00 plus shipping (which is the upgrade). You can view the content for what’s on 2011 and some demos by following the link below. If any of your instructors are interested, they can contact me directly.

www.huntercourse.com/hetools/

Greg Gulliver
 Product Manager
 HUNTERcourse.com & HE Tools
 1-877-722-8838 x 250
 Fresh Air Educators
www.FreshAirEducators.com

INSTRUCTOR DISCOUNTS

New Product

Outdoor Tracker Systems, Inc. was recently introduced at the ATA Show in Columbus. Our hardware and software products provide for a level of safety integration never before seen in the outdoor industry. We have an online mapping utility that creates a virtual safety zone around your selected location that can provide an alert to other members if they intend to use the same space. Our hardware products are used to enhance the safety of our customers afield by making available their activity, location and duration to others that may utilize the same area. Our "HUNTER IN AREA" tree markers will also help a hunter to create an actual safety zone near their chosen area minimizing the opportunity for an unfortunate encounter. www.outdoortrackersystems.com

New "TreeBlind" on Market



I want to take you on a [YouTube Video Tour](#) if you haven't had a chance to see this blind in person yet.

Some points to emphasize when you're discussing:

- These are 100% Texas made, with a Texas company backing them. We're creating real manufacturing jobs and selling these all over the country.
- We're willing to give TPWD instructors a good discount, and also mention your education programs in press releases and through our social networking means.
- We now make a wheelchair version of the TreeBlind with a steel reinforced floor for powerchairs, ramp, and 36" wide entry door. So ANYONE can use these blinds.
- These are becoming popular for photographers, nature observers, and birdwatchers so you're not just limited to hunting uses.
- 4" thick closed cell foam insulation on the inside makes them comfortable to be in year round. Plastic, plywood, or popup blinds are always hot boxes in warm weather and give little help in the cold. Our blinds give you a cave effect protecting you from extreme temps and the elements.
- Walking in at ground level helps reduce liability issues by eliminating risks of falls.

For more information, please contact:

Clint Fiore, Business Development, Nature Blinds, LLC, 1905A Junction Hwy, Kerrville, TX 78028, (830) 276-2695

Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

Spending too much on seed for your food plots? Check your local discount store for the bargain bags of birdseed. Read the contents carefully. Many of the birdseeds on the market are largely comprised of wheat and other "goodies" that are safe to sow and well received by deer and turkeys. Last year, a hunter paid \$15 for a small bag of the good stuff and less than \$5 for a bag of birdseed. It worked rather well.

Two New Hunters

By Lee Smith, TPWD Video Producer

There are two more new hunters in Texas. On the final weekend of the spike/doe special season I took two novice hunters to my uncle's place in South Texas for their first hunt. One hunter, Lars Remsen, is an engineering student at University of Texas and the stepson of a friend of mine from high school. His dad called me up and said Lars had made off with his unused Ruger M77 and wanted to start hunting. The other guy is one of our freelance video producers in the Communications Division, Kyle Banosky.

Kyle caught the bug being around TPWD and editing various hunting stories for our PBS series and video news releases. He went to a gun show and bought a Remington 710 with a Weaver scope. Several weeks prior to the hunt, I took them both out to the Austin Rifle Club where we sighted in their new rifles. Lars has done a lot of target shooting with a tricked out AR but the percussion of a .30-06 bolt action was a real eye opener for him.

When we arrived at the ranch we first checked the sighting of our rifles. The day before, Lars had moved his scope forward to give him more eye relief and it was low eight inches and right six inches. We got it back in the ballpark but the group was still pretty wide. We were running out of time for the evening hunt and the stand where I was going to put him was only about a 60-yard shot. I put both of them at spots that had feeders, one a very sturdy platform in a tree with a chair and rest, the other a ground blind up on a stock tank dam. I also corned the roads north and south of these locations for about 100 yards. I guided Kyle on the first hunt and he missed a spike. First a young eight-point came out, then the spike. As they fed they kept passing each other or getting behind feeder legs or fence posts. I think Kyle had a bit of buck fever as he passed on several green



lights I gave him and by the time he shot he was pretty hyped. We heard Kyle shoot up north of us but he missed a shot on a doe.

The next morning I guided Lars. Kyle saw some doe on the corned roads and put a stalk on them. After closing the distance by about 200 yards, he rolled out into the road with a bipod I loaned him and he dropped his doe with a neck shot at 80 yards. I heard him shoot so I left Lars to go up and help Kyle field dress his doe. While I was gone, a doe came in but Lars missed again. This guy is an engineering grad student at UT, races motorcycles, rock climbs, etc. He is used to doing difficult things and doing them well.

When we got back to camp he was visibly distressed and headed straight to the

range. He shot and shot but his "groups" were all over the place. I was getting worried that his confidence had been shattered so I figured we need to spend some time doing real basic sighting in techniques. So, while Kyle and I were finishing up with his doe, I asked Lars to inventory his ammo, set aside five rounds for hunting and we would use the rest for some target work. He came back and said, "I've got 20 of the soft points and 10 of the full metal jackets." Incredulously, I asked, "You've been shooting FMJ?" "Yes," he answered. "Well stop," I replied, "you should have been shooting and hunting with the same soft points that we used at the range back in Austin." I had told him this in Austin, but kids these days.... I explained about the performance of a soft point versus a FMJ on big game, not to mention variances between manufacturers. He went off, fired three rounds and came back with a huge grin and target poked with a one-inch group. Problem solved, or so I hoped.

For the evening hunt, nothing came to the feeder but he saw some on the corned road south of him. He made a play but when he closed the distance they had disappeared. He looked back up and there were some doe on the road north of the feeder. He made a stalk on them but when he rolled out for the shot, they were gone. Looking back down the road as before, the first does were back, he made another stalk, rolled out and there they were. He dropped the largest doe at 100 yards with a neck shot.

Both Kyle and Lars wanted to learn the whole process of game preparation, so I took them through field dressing, skinning, and butchering. We're going to all get together in the next couple of weeks and grind up some sausage. Both got deferrals for this year so next year we may find them in a course.

OUTREACH EVENTS



“Great Outdoors Event” at San Jose Mission in San Antonio

We certainly had quite a bit of fun during the event and we all had the opportunity to show off, handle and explain our set of the non-functional firearms, hunter education and the shooting safety rules.

One young man came by with his parents, but initially only his parents did the talking. They repeatedly tried to get their son (Victor) to ask questions and to let me show him how to handle one of our firearms. He was quite shy, timid and I couldn't get him to even smile.

I asked him several questions about firearms, ammunition and hunting, but he held tight and again, wouldn't even smile. I took the semi-auto shotgun, explained it to him and asked if he wanted to hold it. Victor declined. I explained to Victor that I would not let him leave our area until he at minimum gave me a big smile. He stared at me and his parents (they were continuing to convince Victor to handle the firearms and to ask questions), but I got nothing.

I then took the semi-auto shotgun, explained the firearm in great detail, worked the action several times and then placed it into Victor's hands. He very reluctantly took control of the firearm. I explained and demonstrated how he could work the action. I could tell he was really getting nervous, but I continued. Once Victor had the firearm action locked open I explained how I wanted him to brace the stock on his thigh. Once he had the firearm again secure I asked Victor to please hit the release button to close the action. He did exactly as I had asked and had previously explained. Victor was then quickly educated in the power of the semi-auto. He immediately felt the shock of the action closing on his thigh and almost just as immediately responded with a smile from “ear-to-ear.”

Victor was hooked. He just had to do this all again and to feel the power the firearm had – even without ammo or a controlled

explosion. His parents were delighted in the fact that their son took control of the firearm, worked the action and rewarded them with that same immense smile. I think his dad actually had a tear very close to making an appearance during these moments.

This was the best payment I could have received for my time and energy that day. I'll never forget that smile and feeling of excitement shown by Victor or his parents. I encouraged Victor and his dad to come to one of Hunter Education courses in the future and learn more about our sport. I invited them to attend the next class at Bass Pro Shops on March 10 and 11. Hopefully I'll see Victor again and he'll probably be loaded up with questions and a real desire to handle each of our non-functional firearms.

Mike: Thanks for helping put this on our agenda as volunteers and for asking me to assist. It was a very rewarding weekend.

John M. Rodriguez
Pipe Creek, Area Chief

Everyone!

All those wonderful guests, informative TPWD Hunter Education representatives and a skunk, too? What a great event for the public and instructors to enjoy. I agree with John that this event HAS to become a regular on our calendar. I also second John's kudos to Mike Gonzales for this leadership on this event. And a “Big Hug” to all to participated.

Thanks,

Dr. Peggy Weyel
San Antonio, Area Chief

Howdy all,

First I would like to thank TPWD hunter education volunteers Mike Kloth, Ken Miniard, also Les Remington for arranging this hog hunt. Mike brought up his family and they had the opportunity to fill in with “daddy” as hunters. Ken provided all the cooking duties with Les’s beverage selection.

Here is a picture from the hunt. I have to mention TPWD hunter education doesn’t cover “spotlighting,” but we managed to take down a few. Mike and I did a “cowboy” spot and stalk with .30-30s and knocked down this sow “Wild West” style. Maybe everyone can make it to the WDS Ranch next spring!

Robert Ramirez, TPWD Training Specialist



Study: Youth Hunters, Shooters Can Positively Influence Peers

The more familiar youth are with individuals their own age who hunt and target shoot, the more likely they will be to support and participate in these activities. This key finding and others come from a major new research project commissioned by the Hunting Heritage Trust and NSSF to determine the impact of peer influence on youth participation in hunting and the shooting sports. Results from the project were presented at the 77th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference recently in Atlanta.

[Read NSSF's press release.](#)

KATHY'S CORNER

Hey folks! Yep, that’s right ... me again. We are going into summer and getting ready to crank up for the busy fall season. Have you scheduled your courses yet? Send them in and I will post them on the web. You know how busy we get during mid August, so don’t wait until the last minute.

So far, all incentives have been mailed out. If you did not receive one, it only means you are between point levels. If you received a 200-point vest letter, send us your size so we can mail it to you.

Here’s one thing to remember over and over. **Do NOT send cash in the mail.** Incoming revenue is still receiving cash from some instructors and it is against TPWD policy to send cash in the mail. Then again, some folks are forgetting to send the funding for the class anyway, and sometimes no Final Report. We cannot process courses without the appropriate paperwork and funding for the course.

We are all caught up on student certifications and our total number of students as of May 1 is **942,020**. Terry’s goal is to reach **one million** students before he leaves. Let’s all give it a big push and see if we can make it happen.

I will be at the Ag teachers conference in Amarillo distributing supplies in late July. Come by early and get yours to start courses in school. Until next time, keep those courses coming in and help our students be safe!

THE HUNTER'S KITCHEN

By Pittman Haymore, Area Chief Instructor, Irving

Central Market's Cooking Class

As a volunteer with TPWD Hunter Education, I had the opportunity to assist in teaching two wild game cooking classes at Central Market in Ft. Worth and Dallas recently. The chef was Lisa Freeman, who is NASCAR's head chef, and she cooks a lot of wild game. She has been featured in Safari Club International's award winning magazine three years running. She's a member of Ducks Unlimited Culinary Council and contributor to *The Hunter's Table* cookbook. Plus, she's a pretty good shot as I got to witness! Her website is full of good recipes and suggestions. I can attest that all of the attached recipes are winners as I had the pleasure to dine on them both Saturday and Sunday nights. Her quail and venison recipes will put any restaurant's entrees to shame and make you beg for more. They were the best I've ever eaten!

The cooking class was sponsored by Bozanno Olive Oil which you can buy at Central Market. We also did an olive oil tasting and there is a HUGE difference in olive oils. The Bozanno products are around \$17/bottle at Central Market, but I can attest that there is a difference in the quality and the taste. It is a cheap investment as you do not use that much when cooking, so it should last a good long period and it will affect the quality of the meal.

I've included links to Central Market's Dallas cooking classes and to Lisa Freeman's website. If you are truly interested in culinary delights, Central Market's schools are an excellent value as they normally feed you the menu for the evening and include two glasses of an appropriate wine and you get an education and hand-outs on the subject being taught. This would make an excellent date night for you and your significant other!

Bon appetit and safe hunting to you all and you MUST try these recipes!

www.cookingschoolsofamerica.com/centralmarketdallas/index.php?flag_menu_index=calendar_php

<http://cheflisafreeman.com/>

Venison Pot Roast Chipotle

This recipe features venison that is slow-roasted until it literally falls apart. Chipotles add a smokey flavor and a medium heat. Chipotle Venison can be served as a main dish or used as a filling for tacos or burritos.

Prep Time: 10 minutes; **Cook Time:** 8 hours

Ingredients:

- 3 lbs of venison round
- 1 can of diced green chiles
- 1 can of chopped tomatoes
- 1/4 teaspoon cumin
- 1 can beef broth
- 2 cloves of garlic, peeled and chopped
- 1 chipotle chile canned in adobo sauce
- 1/4 cup of onion, peeled and chopped

Preparation: Rinse the venison and pat it dry. Place it in a slow-cooker (Croc-Pot). Pour the broth and tomatoes over the top. Chop up the chipotle and add it with remaining ingredients so they are all on top of the venison. Cook for 12 hours on low heat or 8 hours on high heat.

KUDOS!



David Douglas, Dayton City Manager



Amanda Wilson, with the Dayton Community Center, is presented a Certificate of Appreciation by Brent Beamesderfer for their support of Hunter Education during the Whitetail workshop held in Dayton.



Also presenting at the Whitetail workshop was Dr. James Kroll.



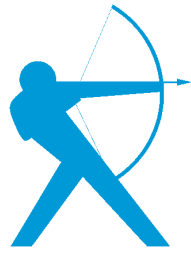
Shown here is Vicente Pena, who provided the DVD "Don't Shoot Young Big Bucks" for instructors.

Heidi:

James Davis's presentation on hunter safety was excellent. The Deepwater people really were engaged on the topics Mr. Davis presented - in fact after his presentation Mr. Davis had a crowd of people around him still asking questions. Thank You very much in sending Mr. Davis to Deepwater's Safety Day. Mr. Davis - thank you for your time and patient in answering all the questions that came your way during and after your presentation. I really appreciate your help and was a major contributor in Deepwater's Safety Day success!

Thank You,

Jim A. Sebastian, EH&S Audit Manager North America Generation



THE BOWHUNTER

TEXAS BOWHUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Summary of Upcoming NASP Basic Archery Instructor Courses

To receive further information or register for any of the courses below, please contact Burnie Kessner, burnie.kessner@tpwd.state.tx.us.

The following information pertains to all courses.

Cost: \$45.00 (Checks made payable to TASP, c/o Teresa Meyers, 6140 Dick Price Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76140); Fee waived for schools.

Certification: Basic Archery Instructor –Texas-National Archery in the Schools Program

Desired audience: PE, Outdoor Adventure, Ag Science teachers, coaches

Clothing: Comfortable – such as shorts and tees.

What to bring: Bring your lunch. All equipment and supplies are provided.

Upcoming NASP Training

June 21, 2012 – Bryan, 7:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at James Earl Rudder High School, 3251 Austin's Colony Parkway

June 23, 2012 – 7:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Cinnamon Creek Ranch Archery facility,
13794 Old Denton Rd., Roanoke, TX 76262.

July 20 – Farmers Branch, Dallas Ecological Foundation Office, 13709 Gamma Road

Archery in the Schools Program

The Archery in Schools Program has taken off across America, including Texas. The course offers two levels of certifications – Basic Archery Instructor (BAI) and Basic Archery Instructor Trainer (BAIT). The BAI course is geared towards PE teachers and is one-day workshop covering the basics of archery, gymnasium range set up, 11 steps to shooting success and safety whistles (commands) and procedures. Geared towards the positive teaching style, this course is a prerequisite for BAIT – a three-day training that focuses on how to instruct teachers in the safe, fun approach to archery, especially in schools. The goal of NASP is to give 4th- through 12th-graders a threshold experience in the shooting sports.

The movie “The Hunger Games” has shown to have spiked an interest in taking up archery by numerous young women.



Texans Attend NASP National Tournament

During the week of May 11 and 12, approximately 180 Texas NASP students traveled to Louisville, KY and competed in the NASP National Tournament. Guinness Book of World Records attended the tournament and officially designated it as the largest archery tournament in the world. The link to the Guinness World's Record site about the record is here: www.guinnessworldrecords.com/world-records/3000/largest-archery-tournament

This year our Texas schools did exceptionally well with many of them scoring their highest respective team and individual scores ever. Lamar Middle School from Lewisville scored 3,233 points and came within 11 points of winning the third place Elementary School Division trophy. They ARE the 4th best Elementary Division team in the nation out of 85 teams from 38 states. No other Texas team has ever come so close to winning a trophy at this exceedingly high level of competition.

Kaufman ISD's Middle School team scored a total of 3,320 points and came in as the 7th best middle school team in the United States. There were 130 total middle school teams at the tournament. Arbor Creek Middle School scored 3,120 points, Poolville Junior High scored 3,054 points, and St. Mary's Catholic School from Sherman scored 3,022 points.

Texas NASP high school teams also had an amazing tournament in the very competitive High School Division. The Texas State Champion Canton High School team scored

an incredible 3,334 points and came in as the 17th best high school team out of 126 teams. Congratulations and farewell to retiring Canton head archery coach, Danny Yarbrough! Manvel High School team also competed in the High School Division and scored 3,084 points.

A few of our Texas archery students did notably well at the individual level. The top three male archers from Texas are Ryan Robenalt from Marcus High School in Lewisville with a score of 292, Justin Taylor from Canton High with 291 points, and Jaydee Chartier from Edgewood High School with a 290. Top female archers from Texas include Ryleigh Kelly from Kaufman, shooting a 283, Laura Vargas from Lamar Middle with a 282 and shooting a 278 were Cheyenne Pool and Kaylie Robertson from Canton, and Audrey Stoltz from Lamar Middle School. There were 103 male archers and 76 female archers from Texas. All of their scores and complete results can be viewed at www.nasptournaments.org.

Each and every student did well at the national tournament and deserve a big congratulations! The schools, coaches, and parents of our NASP students should also be recognized for their work and support.

Thank You,

Burnie Kessner
TPWD Archery Coordinator

IBEP Student and Instructor Course Held at Lake Whitney



New Bow Hunter Instructors

February

William Montgomery

Byers

Life's better outside.®

BIG TIME TEXAS HUNTS

LIFE'S
SHORT,
HUNT
BIG

Now's your chance to enter to win one of seven dream hunt packages on some of the finest private ranches and prime wildlife areas in the state. Desert bighorn sheep, white-tailed and mule deer, pronghorn, quail, waterfowl, sable antelope and more!



Enter by **October 15, 2012**
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/enter

You can also purchase entries by mail,
by calling (800) 895-4248
or at any license retailer for \$10.

Pay only
\$9*
per entry
online

*A \$5 administrative fee is required for each online transaction. You may purchase as many Big Time Texas Hunts entries and any additional hunting and fishing licenses during this shopping transaction for this one time \$5 fee.

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Enter to win a Lifetime License!

ONLY
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Now, wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold, you can buy a chance to win a Lifetime Super Combo License.

This special license gives you the privilege to hunt and fish in Texas without ever having to buy another state license or stamp!

Enter by **June 27, 2012** to be eligible to win. The winner will be drawn **June 30, 2012.**

LIFETIME LICENSE

★ DRAWING ★

Winners can keep the license or give it as a gift to family or friends in Texas. Only Texas residents are eligible to win. Winners also receive a 1-year subscription to *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine.

Visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/lifetimedrawing for complete rules and information.

THE Newsletter of

THEIA Texas Hunter Education Instructors Association, Inc.

Spring 2012

Number 42

OFFICERS OFFICERS

Robert Boswell, Spring PRESIDENT '12-'14 boswellrob42@yahoo.com 361-215-7020	Peggy Weyel, San Antonio VICE PRESIDENT '11-'13 pweyel@sbcglobal.net 210-696-9599	Jeanette Hammonds, Ft. Worth SECRETARY '11-'13 mrdavidhammonds@charter.net 817-236-3158	Rhonda Esakov, Georgetown TREASURER '12-'14 retaxlady@aol.com 512-868-5666
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Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Texas-Hunter-Education-Instructor-Association-> (continued on next line)

[THEIA/219567571403673?ref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Texas-Hunter-Education-Instructor-Association-) **Manager** John Thompson jthompson6@satx.rr.com 210-602-8032

Website: TXHEIA.ORG **Manager:** Jim Schaefer jim.schaefer@ntxha.net

Newsletter Editor: Peggy Ann Weyel San Antonio 210-696-9599 pweyel@sbcglobal.net

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

FRIENDS,

As this letter is written, I have just returned from our Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge competition which was held at the Hill Country Shooting Sports Center near Kerrville. We had a record turnout of instructors, the best by far in my memory. We had instructors who travelled from as far south as Brownsville and as far north as the Texas panhandle. Thanks to all for a job well done.

We are working on a date and place for the 2013 Texas YHEC. Having the competition in San Antonio, as previously planned with the April, 2013 International Hunter Education Instructors Association Conference, would not leave any of us enough time to participate in the meetings and still support the YHEC competition. We all know that this event could not take place without you, so we are seeking a new date and place for the 2013 Texas YHEC. Thanks again for all your hard work this past weekend with the young participants and all the other good work that you do throughout the year. I hope to see all of you in 2013.

As you know, our 2012 Annual Meeting and Hunter Education Instructor Conference and Awards Banquet, was scheduled to be the weekend of March 17, 2012, in Nacogdoches. It was cancelled for financial reasons. The normal THEIA business meeting, including election of officers and directors was held instead at the recent Texas YHEC competition in Kerrville. Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find the current listing of newly elected Officers and Directors. You will notice that some Directors' positions are vacant. I am soliciting recommendations for members to fill these vacancies. They must live in the district. The district boundaries are the same as those for TPWD law enforcement. Your suggestions will be appreciated.

The 2013 International Hunter Education Association Annual Conference will still be held in San Antonio on April 2 – 6. The organizers include our own TPWD Hunter Education staff. It will be a great benefit to all our instructors to have our own THEIA Annual Meeting on the weekend of April 6, both for the exchange of information and our exposure to other organizations and methods. Among other benefits, arrangements are being made for us to shoot at the National Shooting Sports Shooting complex west of San Antonio.

As soon as I finish writing this letter, I am going to complete packing for a New Zealand hunt for Red Stag, Chamois, and other game. I hope to bring back not just the trophies, but an opportunity for other instructors to have an economical trip to New Zealand. I will keep you informed.

Keep your powder dry.

Robert Boswell

HUNTER EDUCATION EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

- April 2-6, 2013 Hunter Education Instructor Conference and Awards Banquet is being planned in conjunction with the International Hunter Education Association Conference, Hyatt Hill Country Resort, San Antonio
- 2013 Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge date and place to be announced
Contact: Peggy Weyel, Coordinator; 210-696-9599, pweyel@sbcglobal.net for information
-

THEIA THANK YOU

Jack Burch, owner of Hill Country Shooting Sports Center, who graciously opened his facility to us.
Hunter Education Instructor William Krebs, of Krebs Kustom Works in Fredericksberg, who designed and produced the beautiful laser-engraved trophies presented at the 2012 Texas YHEC.
Kerrville Convention and Visitors Bureau who helped set up lodging, name badges, and goodie bags for Texas YHEC volunteers and participants
Subway Sandwiches, who got great sandwich lunches out to the competitors in plenty of time.
And all the Volunteers, Team Coaches, Parents and Participants who made the event happen.

A Book Review **TEXAS CONCEALED HANDGUN LICENSE PRIMER** **Legal Considerations & Practical Advice** By Dan Griffin

(a TPWD Hunter Education Instructor and Certified Texas CHL Instructor)

“Do you remember me saying these very words last week to our neighbor who was showing me his big fancy semi-auto with laser sights for home defense?” My husband waited expectantly for me to reply, but I was trying to remember just which words he could possibly mean.

“You know, if something serious happens in the middle of the night you don’t have time to grab your handgun, find and turn on the handgun’s laser sight, find and insert clips, then find the safety and get the gun ready to fire. Instead, I said, you need a simple 5 or 6 shot revolver. Just pull the hammer back; pull the trigger. Very simple, very easy, when you are in a crisis situation in the middle of the night.”

Oh, those, words, I thought. “What brought this up,” I asked.

“It’s that new book you just brought home from your YHEC trip. This guy knows what he’s talking about, so far.” With those words, back to reading my husband went and I got back to getting other paperwork out of the way so I could read this new book, too.

Author Dan Griffin by his own admission is a “recovering attorney” who is offering practical-legal advice on the carrying and using any weapon for protection based upon his legal training and experiences. He writes in a very readable style. The reader is made more aware of their “duties, responsibilities, legal exposure, and preparation” when earning that Concealed Handgun License in Texas and is provided realistic steps in maintaining one’s proficiency and training after licensing.

Topics of the 12 chapters include the Castle Doctrine, After You Shoot, Traveling, Proper Equipment, and Proper Training. He offers appropriate legal concepts and thoughtful, down-to-earth examples of his advice. Women will especially appreciate the helpful hints of how to train, how to carry, and use their gun.

This 8.5 x5.5 inch, 217 page book, with the handy spiral binding, is perfect in size and construction for the vehicle, hunting blind, waiting for your turn to shoot at the range, or leaving it open to the page you want to read next. Just make sure you also mark your page, for everyone in the house is going to be reading and returning to re-read as questions about a self-defense issue arises.

Mr. Griffin offers this work with its many examples to dispel many downright “myths” in some of our CHL understanding. His philosophy holds that our rights and responsibilities given with our CHL license extend beyond the classroom and after the class. Grab a copy of this book, sit down, kick back, have a thoughtful “conversation with Dan” as you read and continue your real-life education. It’ll do you good.

For copies, visit www.WNSRANGE.com. Books are \$19.95 plus \$5.50 shipping and handling.

TEXAS HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION

Regular meeting

On Saturday, May 5, 2012, after the Youth Hunter Education Challenge was completed, THEIA officers, directors, and members met

- To discuss the need for a THEIA conference and fundraiser in 2013.
- To discuss relocation of the TxYHEC 2013 from San Antonio to another site.
- To explore ways of recruiting members and increasing participation.
- To elect officers and directors whose terms of service were expiring.

Faced with a cancelled 2012 Hunter Education Instructors Conference and Awards Banquet, members discussed the need to have a Conference that was a fund raiser to support THEIA scholarships and sponsorships. Further fund raising opportunities were encouraged.

Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge 2013 was originally planned to coincide with the 2013 International Hunter Education Association Conference in San Antonio. Members working on the 2012 Texas YHEC and IHEA 2013 Conference began to realize the probability of THEIA members and instructors stretched too thin to handle all the needs of the conference and YHEC competition, too. Sites for the 2013 Texas YHEC have been suggested and will be visited soon.

Steve Russell accepted an appointment to chair a Board of Director's meeting to explore methods of increasing membership and member participation.

Brock Minton recommended that we connect with the Agricultural Teachers who also teach Hunter Education courses in their programs. Rick Ensor also said he would be our representative at the summer 2012 Agricultural Teacher's Conference.

Newly elected Officers were Robert Boswell, President for a 2nd term, and Rhonda Esakov, Treasurer. Newly elected Directors were: Region 2 Bob Douglas of Van Alstyne to a 2nd term; Region 4 Thomas Connaughton from Richmond to a second term; Region 6, formerly filled by Billy Holt, is currently vacant. President Robert Boswell will talk to another member to see if they will serve. Region 8, Steve Russell of Tyler was elected, having been appointed in 2011 and completed that term. Region 10, Junior Munoz of Brownsville was elected.

The vacancy of Region 9's Director was filled with the election of Rick Ensor of Rockdale.

TEXAS YOUTH HUNTER EDUCATION CHALLENGE

Needs and Requests

Texas Hunter Education Instructors many years ago recognized the benefit of starting a National Rifle Association's Hunter Services Department program in Texas called the Youth Hunter Education Challenge.

Young men and women under age 18 would compete in 4 shooting events - Archery, Muzzleloading, Light Rifle and Shotgun - and 4 responsibility and outdoor skills events - Orienteering, Wildlife Identification, Hunter Skills -or Safety- Trail and a written Responsibility Exam. The only requirements were that each participant would present a copy of their birth certificate and a copy of their hunter education certification card.

New teams are needed across the state as regional YHECs are planned to introduce youngsters to the Challenge. Won't you explore the possibility of organizing a team? We have many coaches who can advise you and responsible parents who understand how to support their coaches and team who can help, too.

Contact Robert Boswell, THEIA President, or Peggy Weyel, THEIA Vice President, to get started.

THEIA DIRECTORS

Directors Regions 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 term of office is 2012-2014; Regions 2, 4, 6,8 and 10 term of office is 2011-2013
Region #1 VACANT Region #6 VACANT

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

Region #7 Will Krebs
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krebsslaser@yahoo.com

Region #3 VACANT

Region #8 Steve Russell
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txhuntered@gmail.com

Region #4 Thomas Connaughton
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Richmond, TX 77406
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JTConnaughton@miswaco.slb.com

Region #9 Rick Ensor
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rickensor@yahoo.com

Region #5 John "Jack" Thompson
8739 Ridge Front
San Antonio, TX
210-602-8032
jthompson6@satx.rr.com

Region #10 Junior Muñoz
1614 El Astro
Brownsville, TX 77401
830-456-1763
junior.munoz@tpwd.state.tx.us

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 Rhonda Esakov

212 River Hills Drive Georgetown, TX 78628

512-868-5666 RETAXLADY@aol.com

NAME: _____

INSTRUCTOR # _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

E-MAIL: _____