

# Target Talk

TEXAS HUNTER EDUCATION NEWS



Quarterly Newsletter

Fall Issue 2018

No. 163

*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 generation*

## Coordinator's Column



Ahhh – it's fall, perhaps our favorite time of year either hunting or teaching – "IT'S WHAT WE DO!" I can't help to think how amazing you are, passing on values that shape the character of people beyond hunter education. Think about it! You teach **R**esponsibility, **R**espect, **R**estraint and **R**esource – the **Four R's of Hunter Education and Conservation!** These qualities permeate throughout a person's life – not just in hunting or shooting. Any one of these qualities influence a person to act and behave better, not just in the outdoors, but as a human. They build **CHARACTER! VALUES! HONOR!** *Responsibility* means learning all you can and behaving in an appropriate manner. *Respect* is a quality of consideration and courtesy towards others. *Restraint* is holding off on actions that are unsafe, illegal or unethical. *Resource* is being part of the whole community (in our case – conservation). **THANKS** for teaching the four R's! - *Steve Hall, H.E. Coordinator*

## Hunter Education Calendar

SAVE THESE 2018 DATES!

- **Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>** – **THEIA General Member Meeting &**
- **Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>** – **Youth Hunter Education Challenge** – Arlington Sportsman - [mrdavidhammonds@att.net](mailto:mrdavidhammonds@att.net)
- **Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>** – **Waterfowl 101 Workshop**, Athens - [heidi.rao@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:heidi.rao@tpwd.texas.gov)
- **Oct. 19-21<sup>st</sup>** – **Disabled Youth Hunt**, San Angelo - [randy.spradlin@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:randy.spradlin@tpwd.texas.gov)
- **Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>** – **Brigades Hunting & Wildlife Expo**, Houston - [heidi.rao@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:heidi.rao@tpwd.texas.gov)
- **Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>** – **Shotgun 101 – Sweeny**, [heidi.rao@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:heidi.rao@tpwd.texas.gov)
- **Oct. 20 - 28<sup>th</sup>** – **NSCA Championship**, San Antonio – [morgan.harbison@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:morgan.harbison@tpwd.texas.gov)
- **Oct. 26-28<sup>th</sup>** – **TX Master Naturalists**, Georgetown - [steve.hall@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:steve.hall@tpwd.texas.gov)
- **Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>** – **Wildlife Expo**, Camp Wood (Area Chief Cecario Guerrero) – [heidi.rao@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:heidi.rao@tpwd.texas.gov)
- **Nov. 2-4** - **Outdoor Woman 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**, Brownwood - [heidi.rao@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:heidi.rao@tpwd.texas.gov)
- **Nov. 9-11<sup>th</sup>** – **Mentored Youth Hog Hunt**, Sweeny - [heidi.rao@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:heidi.rao@tpwd.texas.gov)
- **Nov. 27-29<sup>th</sup>** – **Student Air Rifle (SAR) Program** - Location TBA – Trainer (3 days); Teacher (29<sup>th</sup>)
- **Dec. 1-3<sup>rd</sup>** – **Upland Game Hunting 101 & Hunter Education Staff Meeting**, Roby - [steve.hall@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:steve.hall@tpwd.texas.gov)
- **Dec. 5-6<sup>th</sup>** **CWD Symposium** – Location TBA - [randy.spradlin@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:randy.spradlin@tpwd.texas.gov)
- **Dec. 15-16<sup>th</sup>** – **Inter. Waterfowl 101 Workshop** - Brownsville – [brock.minton@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:brock.minton@tpwd.texas.gov) or [maria.araujo@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:maria.araujo@tpwd.texas.gov)

## Hunter Education Instructor Recognized as TYHP Volunteer of Year



**Shirley Odell, Edna**, was recognized as the *Texas Youth Hunting Program (TYHP) Volunteer of the Year* at the July 2018 Texas Wildlife Association Convention held in San Antonio. Odell and her husband, Harry, are longtime hunter education instructors. She was credited with her many years as an instructor and volunteer, but mostly she was lauded for her passionate involvement in TYHP. Texas Youth Hunting Program Director, Chris Mitchell (right), and Steve Hall (left), Hunter Education Coordinator, were on hand for the honor. Congrats Shirley!



Texas Parks and Wildlife Executive Director, Carter Smith, dropped by to congratulate Shirley Odell for her accomplishments. In Smith's congenial and friendly manner, "I'm sure glad you are on our team!" as he hugged Odell. "You should be very proud -- an outstanding representative of all of the volunteers that dedicate themselves to our programs"! Thanks, Carter!

## Youth Hunter Education Challenge

### *Texans Travel to Pennsylvania in 2018*

By: Jeanette & Dave Hammonds Texas YHEC Coordinators & Area Chief Hunter Education Instructors

"We are all back from the YHEC in PA, still a bit tired, but otherwise okay! It rained on us almost all the way up, from Elizabethtown, Kentucky to Akron, Ohio, and started raining in Mansfield, PA on Saturday afternoon after we had nearly everything set. We had some amazing volunteers and staff doing some incredible things. Kudos to Bob Davis, NRA Hunter Services, and his crew for their excellent attitude under some stressful situations. Several unhappy coaches and parents had to be reminded that SAFETY was the first concern. Ultimately, they had to cancel Shotgun and Archery due to high water. Thanks to all who participated!"



**Texas Rednecks:** (L to R), Coach **Chad Lovell**, **Mason Schneider** (9), **Xander Lovell** (9), **Aiden Lovell** (16), **Braden Parker** (15) and **Melissa Crisp** (12). (Background) Team parents, **John Schneider** and **Patrick Crisp**.





The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, along with the *TSRA Foundation* and *Outdoor Tomorrow Foundation*, are teaming up to host the first-ever **Student Air Rifle (SAR) Program** in Texas on **Thursday, Nov 29th** (Trainers Nov. 27-29th), at a school/facility to be announced. Modeled after the very successful **National Archery in Schools Program**, (NASP), the SAR Program uses the same range & procedures as NASP to increase shooting sports opportunities. NASP and outdoor education teachers (professional educators) are currently being surveyed to ascertain their potential interest in the program.

If a school already uses NASP, SAR teachers need only to attend a **one-day training** and secure the equipment that is added to their NASP equipment/supplies. A total of \$30,000 in equipment is being donated to the first 10-15 schools that participate in the one-day training. The first **Texas SAR Program Trainers** will go through all three days of training. SAR uses a standard pellet air rifle/ (non-lead) ammo in place of bow/arrows and a slightly different target base, quiver (stand) and safety net. However, range design, the "*11 Steps to Success*" and other equipment (e.g. bow racks) are the same. The program also achieves the same results as NASP (e.g. better attendance in schools, better grades, more student diversity, higher confidence levels, firearm safety awareness and responsibility.)

If YOU want to become a teacher or trainer, please email [steve.hall@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:steve.hall@tpwd.texas.gov)



## ORS & HE Regional Staff Support



**Morgan Harbison**



**Monica, Heidi & Randy**

- **Monica Bickerstaff** - North TX HE Specialist  
[monica.bickerstaff@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:monica.bickerstaff@tpwd.texas.gov) - **DFW**  
469-601-8349 w/c
- **Brock Minton** – South TX HE Specialist  
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361-944-3617 w/c
- **Heidi Rao** - Southeast TX HE Specialist  
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713-829-1377 w/c
- **Randy Spradlin** - West TX HE Specialist  
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512-923-3509 w/c
- **Morgan Harbison** – Central TX HE Specialist  
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512-413-0194 w/c – **College Station**
- **Steve Hall**, Statewide Hunter Ed Coordinator  
[steve.hall@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:steve.hall@tpwd.texas.gov) – **Austin**  
512-389-8140 w; 512-550-7330 c
- **Eddie Kleppinger**, Hunter Ed Admin Assistant  
[Eddie.kleppinger@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Eddie.kleppinger@tpwd.texas.gov)  
512-389-8142 w (MAIN CONTACT in Austin)



**Brock Minton**



**Steve Hall & Eddie Kleppinger**

## Economic Impact of Hunting



### HUNTERS/SHOOTERS Help Pump \$93 BILLION INTO US ECONOMY

NEWTOWN, Conn. — New economic reports reveal that more than 53 million Americans consider themselves sportsmen, spending more than **\$93.5 billion in 2016** on gear, licenses, travel, clothing, gas and more in connection with their hunting, target shooting and sport fishing activities. Key highlights of the reports include:

- Nearly 600 million combined days at the range or afield were spent by millions of hunters/target shooters in 2016.
- The number of people who participate in sport fishing, hunting and target shooting represents 16.5 percent of the total U.S. population.
- When factoring in multiplier effects, sportsmen created economic activity in excess of \$220 billion.
- Hunting, fishing and target shooting add \$119 billion of overall value to our nation's gross domestic product and generate \$17.6 billion in federal taxes and \$12.2 billion in state and local taxes.

Download **HUNTING & TARGET SHOOTING** Reports at:

[www.nssf.org](http://www.nssf.org) or [www.southwickassociates.com](http://www.southwickassociates.com)

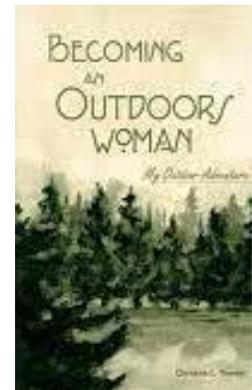


## BOW to Celebrate 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

2018 **Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Workshop**,  
November 2-4, Texas 4-H Center, Brownwood, Texas



\* **Special Appearance - Dr. Christine Thomas** \*



Dr. Christine Thomas, founder of the national **Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Program** through the University of Wisconsin, Steven's Point, came to Brownwood in 1993 to help Texas deliver its first BOW program at the Texas 4-H Center. Since then, Texas has hosted over 70 statewide workshops and spawned 11 **Texas Outdoor Women's Network (TOWN)** programs in cities throughout Texas.

Today, the support group is the **BOW Friend's Group** and Texas BOW is as strong as ever under the leadership of **Hunter Education Specialists, Heidi Rao, Coordinator, and Monica Bickerstaff, Assistant**. Thomas and her former students, Tammy Peterson, Diane Lueck, Peggy Ferrell, and other BOW directors/leaders credit Texas with helping them really launch the program nationally. Many THANKS, too, to the hundreds of TPWD Staff and Volunteer Instructors, many of them BOW graduates, for their countless hours of making BOW the best outdoor training program in Texas, the United States and, perhaps, the world! Join us! Email Heidi at [heidi.rao@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:heidi.rao@tpwd.texas.gov) for more information and to get on the BOW list! Sign up for the **BOW FACEBOOK** ® Page to keep up with BOW!

## Vocational Agriculture Teachers meet at their Annual Convention in Lubbock

A total of 77 Agriculture Science Teachers completed an Instructor Course taught by TPWD hunter education staff. During the indoor session, teachers learned how to use the new [Online Registration System](#) and set up 'private courses' for their students. Ag Teachers certify over 15,000 students a year -- a great "win-win" relationship since 1988!



Volunteer Instructor, **Burt Montgomery of Lubbock**, teaches the Hunter Skills Trail to Agriculture Science Teachers as part of their Hunter Education Instructor Course prior to the VATAT Conference in Lubbock. **Area Chiefs John Dea and Norris Percival, Lubbock, and Tom Fine, Decatur**, assisted HE STAFF with location, set up, skills trail and/or live-fire, and **Game Warden Shannon Chambliss** presented game laws/ethics. THANKS everyone!



**Brock Minton, S TX Hunter Education Specialist**, is shown here distributing hunter education materials at the recent **Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas (VATAT)** Convention, along with **Randy Spradlin, W TX** (staff host), **Monica Bickerstaff, N TX**, **Morgan Harbison, C TX**, and **Steve Hall, HE Coordinator**. Along with materials distribution, staff also exhibited and helped professional educators with the new Online Registration System. Thanks to **Boy Scout Troops # 406 and # 575** who assisted with delivering supplies, including 15,000+ manuals and NSSF's [Project Child Safe Gun Locks!](#)



## Foreign Countries and Hunter Education

The following countries have hunter education similar in nature to the United States and, in some cases, are much more stringent when it comes to basic hunting certifications. If you get inquiries as to whether a card is accepted in Texas, this is the approved list of countries that currently meet IHEA-WORLD standards:

**Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.**



## Air Guns/Bows Legal for Taking Game

In August, the TPWD Commission passed rules making various equipment legal for taking game, including:

- Making air guns lawful for the take of alligator, big game species (deer, pronghorn, bighorn sheep, javelina), turkey, and fur-bearing animals, provided the air guns are pre-charged pneumatics and meet certain ballistic requirements;
- Making arrow guns lawful for the take of alligators (in "non-core" counties"), game animals, and upland (i.e., non-migratory game birds – quail, pheasant, chachalaca) game birds, and fur-bearing animals, provided the arrow guns are pre-charged pneumatics and arrows/bolts conform with archery regulations;
- Establish hunter education requirements for persons hunting by means of pneumatic firearms; and
- Simplify standards for archery equipment and air guns used to take squirrels.



Air guns also are used for therapy as contributed by Roger "O.D." Dwyer and his teaching team at Fort Hood

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## Lonesome Dove Fest a Legacy Event



The **Lonesome Dove Fest Committee** annually donates funds from the Lonesome Dove Festival to the **Texas Hunter Education Instructor Association**. Here they are shown presenting a donation check to TPWD executive director, Carter Smith, who accepted on behalf of the Hunter Education Program and the Association.



**Benny Ham, Area Chief Hunter Education Instructor**, Whitsett, runs the Wildlife "Skins, Skulls and Signs" Station at the annual Lonesome Dove Fest Youth Day event for 250 high school youth from 13 area schools, mainly Agriculture Science students. He made it once again in 2018!



## Lonesome Dove Fest Continued...

**Morgan Harbison, C TX Hunter Education Specialist**, brings the Sporting Clays trailer to the annual event to provide shotgun activities for three days including the youth event, below, here with volunteer instructor Ralph Winningham, San Antonio, in 2016, and family shoots during the community festival itself.



**Brock Minton South Texas Hunter Education Specialist**, takes students through Dove Hunting simulation in 2009 including learning how to maintain muzzle control when passing firearms to other students, dove limits and other regulations and shooting skills.



The Lonesome Dove Festival has been in operation since the 1990s and has served as a South Texas "Wildlife Expo" akin to the 18-year annual event hosted in Austin. During the youth day, schools are able to teach outdoor skills and responsibilities including hunting, shooting, angling, boating, wildlife, raptors, and various other activities.

Festivals such as Lonesome Dove Fest represent **R3** strategies at their best – particularly the **Recruitment** phase including **Awareness, Interest and Trial** in a part of Texas that represents a high diversity of minorities and women.



**Bob and Susan Thornton, Texas Dove Hunting Assn.**, taught the Dove Hunting 101 Seminar in 2016.



**National Archery in Schools Program** is featured at the annual festival youth day. Here Choke Canyon SP staff teach the Lonesome Dove Festival pageantry archery.

## JOIN THEIA & IHEA-USA TODAY!

**TEXAS HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR ASSN.** is the "Friends Group" for the TPWD Hunter Education Program supporting YOU -- the TEXAS Hunter Education Instructor! The **INTERNATIONAL HUNTER EDUCATION ASSOCIATION – USA** was established to support state programs. **JOIN TODAY** at: [www.texastheia.org](http://www.texastheia.org)



**AND --** [www.ihea-usa.org](http://www.ihea-usa.org)

INTERNATIONAL HUNTER EDUCATION ASSOCIATION



## ***In Memory ... Hunter Education Legacies***

The Texas Hunter Education Program lost several longstanding, legacy instructors in 2017/18, leaving us with special memories and empty hearts. They dedicated much of their time and lives to passing on their knowledge, skills and passion to others, particularly the next generations.

Two true mentors that took me under their wings back in 1985, were instructors that I thought the world of ... I miss them dearly, but know that we are continuing their charge!



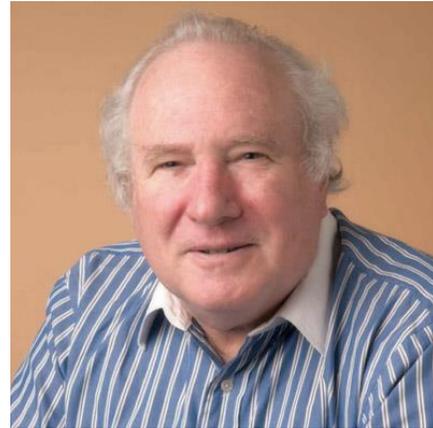
**Albert Ross, Steve Hall, Billy Holt, Terry Erwin (Ret. HE Coord.)**

**Albert Ross, Arlington**, taught me more about Hunter Education, rifles, shooting and LIFE than, perhaps, any mentor that has graced my life and career. I'll never forget when we met in 1985, after I moved to Texas to take on the role of Assistant Hunter Education Coordinator. During the "Rifle, Shotgun, Handgun" workshop at the Texas 4-H Center, Albert would not only answer all of the test questions, but he also would point out inaccuracies in the questions. "Will you teach the workshop next year?" I asked Albert that first year. He responded, "Certainly!" and a lasting friendship began. He was a great hunter, and I enjoyed bow hunting with his entire family at their lease near Leakey. I think of you often, Albert!

**Billy Holt, Breckenridge**, was my "Wild & Crazy" Steve Martin-like mentor! He was always cutting up at the workshops and keeping everyone in stitches. On the serious side, he was a *Pied Piper* in his home town and everyone "Knew Billy!" He was quite the hunter, especially early on when I obtained Brittany spaniels from him and his brother, Darrell (deceased 1989), who coordinated Hunter Education in the 1970's and 1980's and who hired me in 1985. I especially enjoyed quail and turkey hunting with Billy and his son, Will, Sheriff in Breckenridge and hunter education instructor -- following in his dad's footsteps!

- Steve Hall – Hunter Education Coordinator

## ***The Honorable Hunter - Launching a New Ethics Workshop Series in 2019***



**Michael Sabbeth** is a lawyer in Denver, CO. He lectures on ethics and rhetoric, especially among hunting, shooting and conservation circles. He has written the book, "The Good, The Bad and the Difference: How to Talk with Children about Values." He is now working on a book titled "No More Apologizing! Arguments to Defend and Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports."

The Texas Hunter Education Program plans to host a series of workshops throughout Texas featuring Sabbeth beginning in January, most likely at the Dallas Safari Convention, but possibly at another site. In particular, instructors will learn:

- Hunter Ethics in Today's World
- How to Persuade and the Future of Hunting
- Defending and Advancing Hunting
- Being "Honorable Hunters" ... and
- What that Means, Especially to the Public.

Teaching strategies for Reducing Wounding Loss and Taking a Good Shot will be part of the new cause for Hunter Education – to go with decades of success in:

- Reducing hunting incidents;
- Improving hunter compliance to regulations; and
- Enhancing hunter's/hunting's public image.

The purpose of the training will be to reinvigorate the discussions of hunting ethics and, once again, take the lead on behalf of all hunters in defining and making reasonable, rationale arguments. How can we, especially when the emotions of those who oppose hunting -- goes viral in seconds -- explain the facts in a calm, convincing manner to a public that is farther removed from land & conservation?