

Target Talk

TEXAS HUNTER EDUCATION NEWS



Quarterly Newsletter

Spring Issue 2018

No. 161

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 Column



2018 is flying by! I hope you were able to get out during the spring turkey season as a hunter, hunt MENTOR and/or hunt MASTER! When you read this, we will have enjoyed our annual **Texas Hunter Education Instructor Conference** near Wimberley, sponsored by your **Texas Hunter Education Instructor's Association (THEIA)**. (See summer issue of *Target Talk* for photos.)

We are *over the hump* with the new **Online Registration System (ORS)**; but we continue to make enhancements to continually improve registration & data tracking processes. I want to THANK YOU for using ORS this past year!

Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation



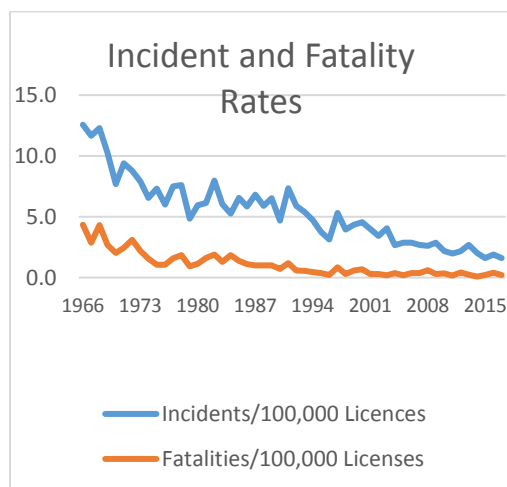
SAVE THESE 2018 DATES!

- **May 3-6th – NRA National Convention**
Dallas, TX www.nraam.org/attend
- **May 21-23rd – R3 NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM**
Lincoln, NE – www.cahss.org
- **June 3-5th – AG Clays Statewide Tourney**
S. Antonio, morgan.harbison@tpwd.texas.gov
- **June 4-6th – NSSF Summit**
Hilton Head Island, SC www.nssf.org
- **June 25-28th – IHEA-USA Annual Conference**
Anchorage, AK - ihe-a-usa.org
- **July 23-25th – Student Air Rifle in Schools (SARS)** – TBA, steve.hall@tpwd.texas.gov
- **Sept 8th - Wildlife Management (101)**
Kerr WMA - brock.minton@tpwd.texas.gov
- **Nov. 2-4th - BOW 25th ANNIVERSARY**
Brownwood - heidi.rao@tpwd.texas.gov
- **Apr. 26-28th 2019 HE INSTRUCTOR CONF.**
Corpus Christi – steve.hall@tpwd.texas.gov

2017 Hunting Incidents



- **Texas Hunting Incidents**
 - 21 Hunting Incidents
 - 2 Fatal, 19 Non-fatal
 - Self-inflicted – 8, two-party - 13
- **Category Numbers**
 - Carelessness (7), Zone-of-fire (5)
 - 13 Shotgun, 5 Rifle, 3 Handgun
 - 10-19 yr. olds (7), 20-29 (5)
 - Dove – 8, Hog – 4, Deer – 2
- **Other Factors/B Incidents**
 - Violated Game Law – 9
 - Completed Hunter Ed – 5
 - Drownings – 6 (Waterfowl)



Wear your life jacket.



Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation R3



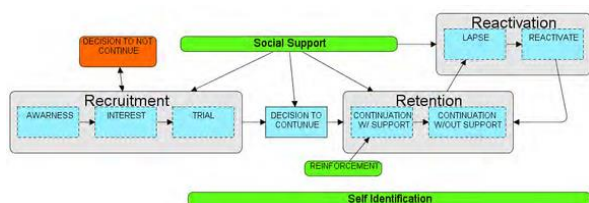
Many of you have seen or heard about "R3" - **Recruitment, Retention and Re-activation**. The concept arose from the realization that with the decline in hunting & shooting sports participation in America comes the decline in species and habitat conservation (*North American Wildlife Conservation Model*). The decline is such that many in the conservation community are hugely concerned with the **BUSINESS MODEL** of fish and wildlife conservation for the next 50 years and beyond. This is akin to issues that Aldo Leopold and others posed with the vast wildlife declines back in the early 1900's.

Enter the *Council to Advance Hunting and Shooting Sports* and its National Action Plan that seeks to bolster strategies to overcome the threats and barriers to participation. Those leading the R3 charge are hosting a National R3 Symposium May 21-23rd in Lincoln, NE to begin the broad awareness and support for the plan. Texas has begun to put its State's plan in place and will seek YOUR advice soon!

YOU, as Hunter Education instructors, have taken the lead for many existing strategies for the last 50 years. Given continued funding

levels, I expect you will continue to play one of the more critical roles in future strategies such as engaging new and more diverse customers, mentoring and training new hunters, gaining access to hunt on private lands, funding the development of ranges and maximizing mentor and youth opportunities on shrinking landscapes.

Here's to YOU -- for continuing to play an integral role these next 50 years -- you are serving as hunter education INSTRUCTORS, hunt MENTORS and hunt MASTERS!



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ORS & HE Regional Staff Support



Keep in Touch with YOUR Staff!

Hunter Education Staff (L to R): Morgan Harbison, Randy Spradlin, Brock Minton, Heidi Rao, Steve Hall and Monica Bickerstaff



Houston Area Instructors Gather!

Heidi Rao, SE TX Hunter Education Specialist, hosted a "Meet-N-Greet" at Bass Pro in Houston and also a new instructor's course. Note the hunter skills items & trailer vital to field courses!



Houston Area Chiefs, Instructors and Asst. Instructors pause to take a 'snappy' photo.

Texas - National Archery in Schools Statewide Tourney Biggest Ever!

The 13th annual Texas-NASP State Tournament & Scholarship Championship and 3rd annual Texas-NASP State IBO 3-D Challenge Tournament were held at the Bell County EXPO Center on March 21 & 22nd, and the event was another BIG SUCCESS!



(L to R): **Monica Bickerstaff** (NTX), **Heidi Rao** (SE TX), **Randy Spradlin** (W TX), **Danny Deaver** (Lone Star Bow Hunter's Assn.- LSBA), **Steve Shedd** - LSBA, **Travis Glick** (TX-NASP staff member) and HE Instructor **Larry Holland** joined IBO national coordinator, Ryan Bass, in serving 454 participants at this year's IBO 3-D Challenge.



A total of 454 participants competed in the 3-D Challenge (Hunter Education-assisted) with 188 girls and 266 boys. A total of 2,134 students competed in target archery, 113 more than last year, including 11 more schools.

Dorothy Cobb, Allen High School 12th grader (R), shot a record 292 in 3-D and a 297 in the bullseye tourney (both out of 300) -- highest scores among all archers at each tournament. THANKS to the Texas Hunter Education Instructor's Association for their sponsorship of TX-NASP (see THEIA banner/logo at back). Congratulations Dorothy -- take National!



San Antonio Rodeo Shoot Out!

Over 900 youth participants and \$150,000 in scholarships were awarded at the recent *SALE Junior Shoot-Out* -- held at the National Sporting Complex in San Antonio in February.



Statewide Shooting Sports Team Lead, **Morgan Harbison, C TX Hunter Education Specialist**, taught safety clinics on Wednesday; assisted with setup of stadium field on Thursday morning; then educated shooters at the *Fiocchi Frenzy* field with professional shooters Cory Kruse and Trevor Jensen (Thursday - Saturday).

SALE Junior Shoot-Out winners:

Trap: **Palmer Duke**

Sporting Clays: **Connor Smock**, Katy 4-H

Modified Trap: **Francisco Ramirez**, Webb Co.

Super Sporting: **Trent Allen**, Guadalupe Co



Trapper Education Celebrates 25th!



L to R: Brock Minton – S TX; Earle Blakney, TTFHA; Jimmy Brooks, TTFHA; Monica Bickerstaff – N TX; Keith Hernandez, TTFHA and Randy Spradlin - W TX

A West Texas Trapper Education Workshop was held at San Angelo State Park February 16-18th, and over 30 HE Instructors and their guests were in attendance. Once again, the *Texas Trapper and Fur Hunters Association* led the instruction, assisted by HE Specialists. The Specialists honored the TTFHA instructors with a commemorative 25-Year Anniversary of the Partnership. Participants, once again, learned the art and science of responsible trapping techniques (*Best Management Practices*).



Jimmy Brooks has taught TPWD trapper education workshops for 25 years. Here he shows basic trapping techniques prior to students setting their own afield. Trapper education is one of many new "Hunting 101" offerings for students/instructors.

Hunter Education Instructors Certified in Tree Stand Safety

Monica Bickerstaff, N TX Hunter Education Specialist, coordinated a Tree Stand Safety Instructor Certification Workshop taught by **John Louk**, Executive Director, Tree Stand Manufacturer's Association (TMA). Assisting Louk was **L.J. Smith**, expert litigator in tree stand and hunting incidents, former MS Hunter Education Coordinator (retired) and former president of the International Hunter Education Association.

Special thanks goes to **Texas Hunter Education Instructor's Association (THEIA)** for providing breakfast, lunch and refreshments. Thanks, too, to TPWD's Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center for providing an excellent venue for the training!



Front Row (L to R): Instructors **David Hammonds**, **Lindsay Hodgdon**, **Travis Tidwell** and **Glen Hayes**. Back row: Instructor **Larry Holland**, TMA's LJ Smith, **Mike Bira**, TMA's John Louk, HE Specialist, Monica Bickerstaff, **Steve Russell**, **Brent Heath**, **David Pasternak** and **Lloyd Love**.



Lindsay Hodgdon, THEIA president, 'student' teaches how to successfully climb into and out of a hang-on stand, including a controlled fall/recovery out of and back into the stand.



TMA's LJ Smith. (2nd from L), former MS HE Administrator explains some of the investigations involving ladder stands as (L to R) Area Chiefs Brent Heath and David Hammonds along with professional educator Lloyd Love assemble the ladder stand at the Tree Stand Safety workshop.

The number one hunting incident category in North America is falls from tree stands. In Texas each year, between one and five incidents are reported, but many more falls occur – that don't get reported. As a "Type B" non-firearm-related hunting incident, tree stand safety is part of the hunter education curriculum and should be taught as part of every course since accident prevention is the main priority in hunter education. **TEACH ON!**

A New Era in Teaching Ethics and Preserving the Hunting Heritage

Enter **Michael Sabbeth**, a champion of hunter education instructors throughout the nation! Many of you met Mike at the 2017 Hunter Education Instructor Conference in Abilene when he gave the keynote speech at the annual luncheon. You will be seeing a lot more of him as he assists with presenting workshops in Texas related to teaching students about ethical, virtuous hunting – being HONORABLE – his handle (www.thehonorablehunter.com).

“So, you’re saying!”

Don’t Let Others Misrepresent Your Words!

“So, you’re saying killing animals is good!”

Imagine you, a hunter, are having a conversation with a non-hunter about the benefits of legal regulated hunting. Presumably, you want to have a respectful fact-based exchange of ideas. You inform that legal hunting accomplishes virtuous goals such as improving the health of animal herds, reducing animal starvation, reducing human fatalities with some species and providing livelihoods and tourism dollars. You talk about scientific game management and land carrying capacity. If the non-hunter makes a good point, you acknowledge it and, if justified, amend your arguments. You hope to persuade the non-hunter that, in the totality of all the circumstances, hunting, whether in general or regarding a specific species—a grizzly bear or a black rhinoceros, for example—is beneficial.

Your non-hunter conversationalist then looks at you with a ‘Gotcha!’ sneer and retorts: “So, you’re saying killing animals is good!”

A shock runs down your spine. Your body stiffens. You challenge yourself to reply respectfully. “I’m not saying that at all,” you exclaim. You repeat that

hunting involves a limited number of animals based on scientific game management and ethics. You talk about animals lost to disease, poaching, predation, starvation and injuries. The non-hunter responds dismissively without addressing any of your points. “Okay, let’s move on.”

The conversation continues until the non-hunter interjects: “Okay, what I hear you saying is that hunters save animals by killing more of them! That strikes me as absurd!”

The nature of the challenge has just ramped up. You silently ponder how a person can ‘hear’ you say something you did not say. Testing the limits of your grace, you reply, “What does killing more of them mean? You use a phrase that has no meaning! More than what number?” You restate that animals die for the reasons you explained before.

Lessons can be learned from these two examples, which are not hypothetical. I have had these discussions. In the first example, please note that the non-hunter has illogically and probably intentionally misrepresented your statement, asserting that you said all killing was good. This misrepresentation is morally obscene. Then the non-hunter treats you like an ideological enemy and disrespectfully dismisses your points by saying ‘let’s move on.’ In the second example, the non-hunter rejects all logic and judgment by using the meaningless phrase “saving animals by killing more animals.” More than simplistic and false, the charge is ethically reprehensible. The exchange treats the hunter as a mindless killer while ignoring the points you made.

My point: we hunters must be aware of the structure of the verbal attacks against us, not only to defend hunting but to defend ourselves.

Michael Sabbeth is a lawyer and writer in Denver, Colorado. See his book *The Good, The Bad & The Difference: How to Talk with Children About Values*. At Amazon.com <http://tinyurl.com/c5flmmu> and available as a Kindle EBook.

Game Wardens Trained in Hunt Ed



January 30-31st, GW Academy

(L to R): **Morgan Harbison**, C TX Hunter Education Specialist and **Renan Zambrano**, TPWD Target Range Manager, evaluate cadets at the Game Warden Training Academy near Hamilton.

HE Staff were present to conduct everything an instructor completes (Live-fire/shotgun, Hunter Skills Trail, Classroom and Teaching Exercises) -- plus Hunting Incident Investigations and working/recruiting volunteers in their counties. Once settled in -- sometime this fall -- we hope you call up and visit the new wardens and assist them with our mission as they learn their new roles and communities! WELCOME aboard!



Becoming an Outdoors-Woman to
Celebrate 25th Anniversary

Begun in the fall 1993 at the Texas 4-H Center near Brownwood, TPWD Staff and Volunteer Instructors will return to the Center to host the **2018 Fall Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) Workshop, November 2-4th**, 25 years later. If you are interested or know someone who is interested, be sure to let Heidi Rao know by emailing Heidi.Rao@tpwd.texas.gov!



JOIN THEIA & IHEA-USA - Professional Associations!

TEXAS HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR ASSOCIATION 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



www.ihea-usa.org

