



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.



Editor's CORNER

Occasionally we have questions from students that might prove difficult to answer. The questions might vary from legal to ethical situations, but they still need an answer. One instructor recently expressed concern that TPWD Hunter Education staff members are not providing enough information to adequately answer those "rare" questions fielded from students. Admittedly, it might be a little difficult for us to provide information that covers every possibility; therefore, in these unusual cases, the instructor should say, "That is a good question, I don't have the answer but I will find out and get back to you." At that point, staff should receive a call and be able to help with the answer. If staff does not know, then they will contact the best source for the answer and provide it to the instructor.

The question in reference was, "If someone hits a deer on the highway, can the state issue an invoice to the person hitting the deer for civil restitution?" The answer, according to Game Warden Kris Bishop, Assistant Chief of Fisheries Enforcement and head of Civil Restitution statewide, is "No, only a deer which has been taken illegally, where a citation was issued and a conviction accomplished, is there civil restitution involved."

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TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE EXPO

It's time to sign up and volunteer your time and efforts to help make the 13th annual Texas Parks and Wildlife Expo a huge success. It is impossible to run a successful event without adequate numbers of qualified instructors.

Here's what you'll get for your time - an Expo T-shirt, lunch and drinks on Saturday and Sunday, free BBQ at Saturday night's volunteer appreciation party, a chance at some tremendous door prizes, and a big thank you and a smile from over 15,000 kids' faces, a third of which have never been exposed to the shooting sports. Texas Hunter

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Editor's CORNER, continued

Now, that seemed quite simple, however, the instructor had already asked a "reliable source," and had been told, "yes" the state will issue an invoice for restitution or replacement value. This might seem very confusing and frustrating to the instructor, but possibly the source was mistaken, or misunderstood the initial question. Civil restitution can be charged for violation of a fish or wildlife law and a cost for replacement of that resource assessed. As a matter of fact, those replacement values have increased this year. Please look at the top of page 19 in the new *Outdoor Annual* and read a short explanation.

We will provide a workshop schedule in the Fall/Winter issue of *Target Talk*. Please look particularly at the Responsibility, Ethics and Game Laws schedule listings and sign up for one. These workshops provide a great deal of information which might help to answer some of the unusual queries.

Another topic is on the burner - business cards for volunteer instructors. TPWD has issued a publication policy governing use of the TPWD (square green) logo. Some instructors have produced cards with the old round TPWD seal; however, this is no longer the official seal or logo that may be used. We are seeking clarification, so we can advise you better on how to use the TPWD logo on your business cards. Meanwhile, if you do use the logo, you must indicate that you are a **volunteer**

instructor, no matter which program you are affiliated with. It is necessary for the state to distinguish a volunteer from a TPWD employee. We do appreciate your involvement and would like to support you in every manner possible as a true "partner in conservation." Use of the logo is just one issue of consistency and professionalism - and as we encounter new or revised TPWD policies, we will continue to bring them to your attention in this newsletter.

Last topic is evaluation. We contracted an individual to do an extensive telephone survey evaluation to see how we can improve the hunter education program. If you happened to be one of the respondents, we will do our best to implement your recommendations. The survey will be completed by mid-September, or by the time you read this issue. We will compile the survey results and publish them in the Fall/Winter issue, while at the same time, trying to implement suggestions.

Until then, please keep up the great job, and let us know how we can make things better for you. Have a happy, safe hunting season, and if you get the time take another person hunting, and let them see how great the Texas outdoors really is.

Terry Erwin

2004 Texas Parks and Wildlife Expo, continued

Education Instructors Association (T.H.E.I.A.) has, again, generously agreed to pay for sandwiches and drinks to be distributed during noon work hours of Expo on Saturday and Sunday. We are going to have ARBY'S Market Fresh Sandwiches again. The choices are usually ham or turkey.

Come out and help Expo visitors get acquainted with the shooting sports and other fun events. Let us know if you are interested in attending and volunteering. Note: You might want to make your reservations at local hotels/motels now, because rooms are booking up rapidly. There is a UT vs. Oklahoma State football game in Austin that weekend and hotel space will be at a premium. Call us for a listing of places available.

NOTE: Call us to RSVP if you will attend Expo this year. We need you!

NOTICE

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

IHEA/NSCA Wing Shooting Responsibility Training

Members of the **International Hunter Education Association (IHEA)** and the **National Sporting Clays Association (NSCA)** joined forces to host the first combined Wing Shooting Responsibility training seminar in Texas during April. Attending were Hunter Education Coordinators and volunteer instructor representatives from Wyoming, Kansas, Virginia, Colorado, Mexico and Texas. Two of the three instructors were originally from Alaska. Tony Monzingo is now head of the NSCA in San Antonio and John Mathews is the retired Alaska Hunter Education coordinator residing in Montana. Dan Moseley was the other instructor and resides in San Antonio.

The **Cooperative North American Shotgun Education Program (CONSEP)** has been training folks about “wounding loss” for years with great success but this program will officially end in December of 2006. A proactive approach was initiated by IHEA to provide advanced training and offer responsible shotgun shooting techniques to instructors and then to the general public as advanced hunter education activities. This way, the public may better understand the importance of recovering waterfowl and upland birds that are shot at and not found or retrieved.

Efforts to provide an understanding and avoidance of “wounding loss” have increased recently, and the IHEA has a good infrastructure to carry on this training through the 65,000 volunteer instructors across North America. Watch for an opportunity to attend one of these workshops in Texas so you will become a responsible wing shooter and then possibly pass on this important information.



Charlie Wilson, Ty Harris and Terry Erwin traveled to Alexandria, Louisiana, in June to provide training for Hunter Education Coordinator John Sturgis, his hunter education staff and one volunteer. This group will take the same Wing Shooting Responsibility training and institute it during youth waterfowl hunting areas.



Hunter's Handbook and IHEA Student/Instructor Hunt Winners Announced!

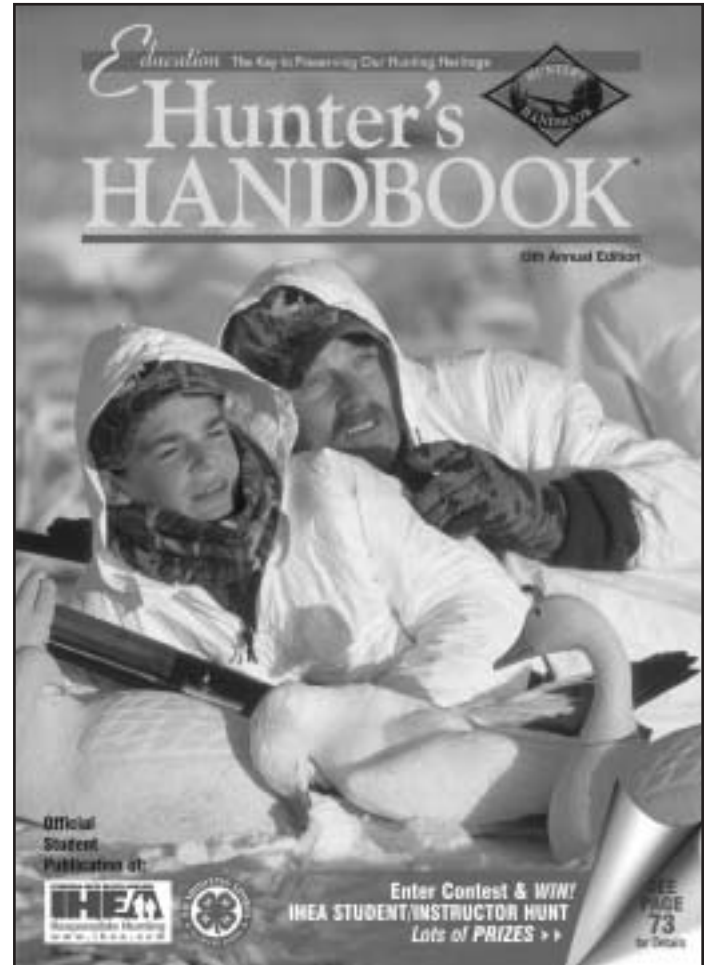
Texas Has a Winner! The drawing was held April 8 for the first annual IHEA hunt. Three very lucky students, along with two instructors, were the Grand Prize winners of an all-expense-paid hunt to J.B. Hunt's exclusive **BIG HORN LODGE** in the rolling hills of southwestern Missouri. Winners will be staying in an 8,000-square foot cedar lodge and treated to fabulous home cooking. One parent of each student will also be in attendance. The hunt will be filmed for airing on television and co-hosted by one of the nation's premier pilots, Maj. Gen. Joe Engle. In addition to being an astronaut, jet pilot and consultant for Bushnell Performance Optics, he is an avid hunter.

The winners will be flown courtesy of **Bushnell Performance Optics** to the lodge in early November where they will enjoy three days of big game and upland bird hunting. **Winchester Ammunition** will supply ammo, **Motorola** will provide two-way radios and several other items are being donated for each winner.

The student winners were Melissa Asher, Iona, Idaho; Justin Parks, Oak Grove, Minnesota; Joshua Simpson, Nevada, Missouri. Instructor winners were Ty Chanley, Eunice, New Mexico and **Marvin Bigbie, Bellevue, Texas**. Congratulations Marvin! Please report on your trip when you return.

The 2005 IHEA Hunt is tentatively scheduled for the special "Youth Weekend" in October in Texas. **Indianhead Ranch Lodge** with over 10,000 acres of land will be the site for the event. The ranch is rated as one of the top three exotic game ranches in Texas.

The only way students or instructors can enter is to complete the form in *Hunter's Handbook* or go to www.huntershandbook.com. The 13th annual edition is



being shipped to instructors for distribution to students. If you have not received your copies, be sure to contact TPWD Hunter Education headquarters staff for your free copies to distribute to your students.

Remember, you can't win if you don't enter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

National Hunting & Fishing Day	September 25-26	
Special Youth Hunting Season	October 30-31	Statewide
NRA Pistol workshop	October 22-24	Grand Prairie
Wing Shooting Responsibility	October 16	Grand Prairie
Wing Shooting Responsibility	October 16	Lubbock
Wing Shooting Responsibility	October 23	Nacogdoches
Wing Shooting Responsibility	November 27	Grand Prairie
Wing Shooting Responsibility	December 18	Grand Prairie

Texas Gets Nine-day Teal Season, Shift in Dove Zone Boundary

AUSTIN, Texas – A shorter teal season in Texas this September won't necessarily mean less hunting success, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. This year's teal season in Texas is set for Sept. 18-26 with a four-bird daily bag limit.

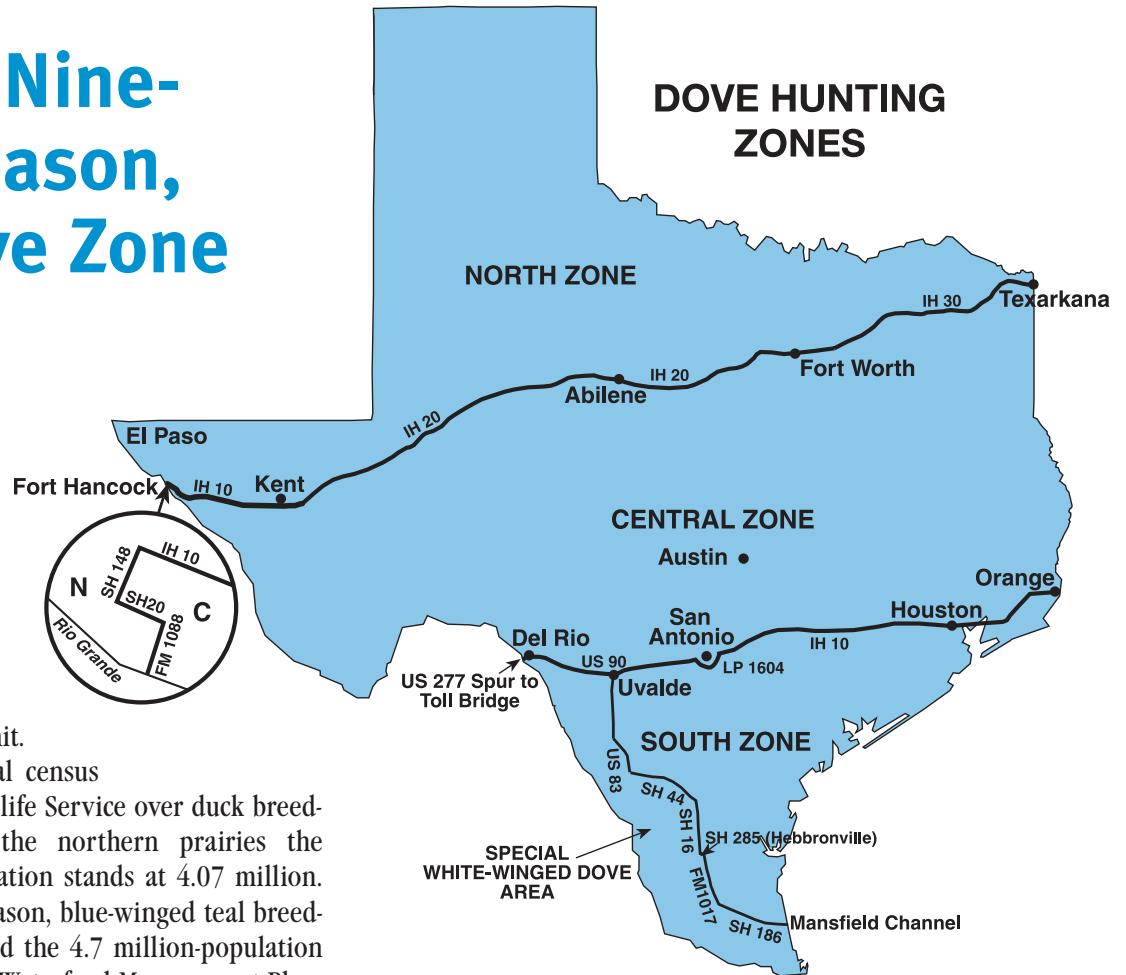
Based on results of recent aerial census surveys by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over duck breeding and nesting grounds in the northern prairies the blue-winged teal breeding population stands at 4.07 million. In order to have a 16-day teal season, blue-winged teal breeding numbers must meet or exceed the 4.7 million-population target set in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

Although the final decision about the 2004-05 Texas migratory game bird hunting seasons still needs formal federal approval, TPWD's executive director has approved dove, teal, rail, gallinule, snipe and woodcock hunting regulations for this fall. In addition to teal, the season dates and bag limits for mourning dove in Texas as approved by the executive director are listed in the *Outdoor Annual*.

The major change to this year's dove regulations involves a shift of the Central Zone boundary to include areas within San Antonio's South Loop (F.M. 1604), which will give hunters earlier access to a huge population of white-winged doves, according to Jay Roberson, TPWD dove program leader.

"In those portions outside the city limits where discharge of firearms is allowed, hunters can capitalize on those feeding flights of whitewings," he said. TPWD conservatively estimates San Antonio's whitewing population to be in excess of 1.25 million birds.

Although whitewing numbers continue to increase in Texas, particularly in urban areas, biologists are concerned about a long-term decrease in mourning dove populations. Recent call



count survey estimates by TPWD are tracking a trend that has seen a 15 percent decline during the last couple of decades.

In order to get a better understanding of mourning dove ecology, biologists in Texas and 27 states are participating in a massive bird banding study. This cooperative effort is hoped to provide information that will update existing information about the biology of this species to improve management. Doves will be marked with metal leg bands containing a unique number and a toll free telephone number (800-327-BAND or 2263) which hunters can call to report the band. Bands may also be reported on the Internet at (<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl>). Hunters may keep the bands. It only takes a minute and doesn't cost a cent and hunters receive a certificate of appreciation that identifies when and where the dove was banded.

Dove hunting prospects for this fall look good, according to Roberson. Moisture conditions have been good for feed production throughout most of the state. "I think we'll see good dove production this year despite the heavy rains in some areas," he said. "We're seeing a lot of young birds collected during our banding efforts. Hunting success should be good, provided feed conditions remain good."

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.

April

John Ploetz	Boerne
Duane Keith	Boerne
Darrin Gilley	Roscoe
Fred Moseley	Hunt

May

John Allbritton	Harrisburg
Tommy Wright	Eden
Timothy Bennie	Vancourt
Pete Abrigo	Weslaco
Jessica Sims	Freeport
Clinton Noll	Falls City
Mark Keithly	Austin
Roseann Mangold	Atascosa
Deborah Mueller	Jourdanton
Jennifer McFatter	Orange Grove
Robert Eads	Laredo
John Orfila, Jr.	Laredo
Jeffrey Short	Lohn
Robert Plato	Oak Point
Daniel Harris	Lewisville
Nichole Burton	Arlington
Adam Jara	Weatherford
Delmar Radde	Sterling City
Timothy Sanders	Sterling City
David Armstrong	Big Lake

June

Larry Duenes	Lubbock
Shanna Dewbre	Morton
Katie Ballard	Whitesboro
Russell Ramsey	Lubbock
Juan Jimenez, Jr.	McCamey
Justin Hunt	Boerne
Bobby Martin	Humble
Cody Moore	La Feria
Jacob Prince	Spring
Jennifer Capeheart	Knippa
Jon Kassaw	Austin
Chad Jones	Austin
James Brown	Austin
Joann Garza	Austin
Erik Nygren	Austin
Aaron Koenig	Austin
Ryan Johnson	Austin
Kirk Jenkins	Austin
James Porter	Austin
Anthony Todd	Austin
Jeffrey Hill	Austin
Phillip Wood	Austin
Chris Wilson	Austin
Chris Daigle	Austin
Curtis Sadler	Austin
Jarrold Bryant	Austin
Brian Peterson	Laredo
Kevin Mitchell	Austin
Eric McCarstle	Austin
Clay Willeford	Austin
Trent Herchman	Austin

Timothy Elmore	Austin
Justin Valchar	Austin
Justin Jackson	Austin
Gary Miller, Jr.	Austin
William Powell	Austin
Jonathan Heaton	Austin
Michael Mitchell	Austin
Christopher Amthor	Iraan
Chris Stautzenberger	Austin
Dennis Foster	Killeen
Benito Garza	Mission
Roel Villalon, Jr	Mission

July

James Ford	San Antonio
Roy Plumlee	Mesquite
Donald Keit4h	Richardson
Dana Bullard	Canyon
Lucas Garcia	Del Rio
Thomas Troutt	Dallas
Marilyn Wessel	Plano
Michael Grigsby	Floresville
William Graswich	Garland
Andrew Cavallero	Universal City
Michael Wolkerstorfer	Corsicana
Jessica Wolkerstorfer	Corsicana
James McNatt	Spring
Lacey Ogburn	Humble
Ronald Kennedy	Deer Park
Sam Woody	Dike
Keith Ebel	Arlington
Ashley Denton	Prairie Hill

WELCOME NEW AREA CHIEFS

*Congratulations to the following new Area Chief instructors.
We appreciate your dedication and efforts to educate our Texas hunters.*

Let's welcome **James Davis** of Pasadena as the newest Area Chief. He was certified in 1995, has taught 55 courses and has certified 610 students. James has attended 26 additional in-services workshops or special events. He actually became an Area Chief in January, but an oversight kept his name out of the Spring issue of *Target Talk*. James will cover the Harris County and surrounding area, and will work closely with Thomas Stashak, Jr. Congratulations James, and we are glad to have you aboard!

Resurrecting Southwest Texas

By Fred Berg, Del Rio

“Every time I meet an individual with the qualities I think would help this program grow, I do my best to recruit them as a new instructor.”

My heritage and the love of teaching prompted me to explore the possibility of instructing Hunter Education. I noticed there was an obvious lack of instruction in the Del Rio area, and I wanted to give back to hunters the heritage my father had helped me come to love. When I instruct those who need Hunter Education I am giving back generations of knowledge in hopes of helping to preserve our heritage while instilling the passion and sense of responsibility in generations to come. These reasons helped me start the ball rolling in helping resurrect the Hunter Education program in Southwest Texas.

I was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, but spent most of my life in and around the Washington, D.C. area as my father, who is now deceased, was employed by the National Academy of Sciences as Executive Secretary. He was a geophysicist. He was well educated and he had a passion for the outdoors/hunting. He introduced me to hunting when I was very young and was with me when I killed my first dove. He never placed a lot of emphasis on big game animals so I wound up pursuing dove, duck, goose and squirrels. I like to hunt a variety of game, which includes white-tailed deer, quail, pheasant, squirrel and turkey. I have been fortunate and have harvested approximately 55 deer with both rifle and bow.

The original idea with Hunter Education was to become a Bowhunter Education Instructor first, but there were no classes in September or October of last year so I took a more “strategic” approach and got the Hunter Education first in September 2003. In the first part of 2004 I had the opportunity to add Bowhunter Education Instructor to my credentials. I am glad I wound up doing it in this order because it allowed me to learn the TPWD system first.

I instruct Air Force pilots in the classroom and in aircraft and this aided my endeavor. Once I made the decision to instruct, TPWD staff gave me the means to teach Hunter Education. Methods of instruction offered in the instructor’s handbook provided me with additional ways of teaching. After that, the hardest part was knowing where to start with regards to location, materials and times. Guidelines set forth in the instructor handbook enabled me to get a general idea of how to get the ball rolling, and if I didn’t know something, I called TPWD to get the answer. Accessing classrooms, advertising, creating an outline and acquiring proper teaching material finally came together a month after the instructor course.

Perseverance has paid off and this portion of Texas is now receiving the attention it is due. I always remember one thing; the student is the primary “target” of all my endeavors, for without them I cannot teach.

Since being certified, I have recruited three new instructors, developed class schedules and offered assistance to established instructors in Brackettville, Rocksprings, Sanderson and Eagle Pass. Every time I meet an individual with the qualities I think would help this program grow, I do my best to recruit them as a new instructor. There are also “seasoned” instructors out there we have been able to bring back and get recertified. Let’s face it, it is much more fun if we have help teaching ... right?! TPWD in Austin has been a great help in showing me where I need to focus my attention.

A story of success? ... you bet! Probably the biggest thing to remind all instructors is we are all in this together. How do we want and perceive our future of hunting to be 20 years from now? If we can keep this in mind, we find the tasks in front of us are not as large as they appear to be. We will make a difference with regards to the future of hunting and every student we certify will pass on this knowledge to the next generation of hunters.

Game Warden Jorge Tamayo has been a big asset to the hunter education program in Val Verde County. His presence helps people understand we need to abide by the written law as well as the unwritten law. He has been very good at conveying this to all students. He also has helped teach when I needed him, especially when I first started, as there was no one else to help out.

The future of bowhunter education is equally important in Texas. Being able to prove to the majority of the populace we are conscious of our “responsibilities” and willing to take the extra step to train the hunting masses bodes well for preserving our heritage. The majority will demand proof in years to come, and we will meet the challenge by continuing to instill in our hunters responsible attitude and assisting them in adopting and following acceptable behavior toward people, wildlife and the environment in which they live – you’re right – a direct quote from the International Bowhunter Education Program (IBEP) manual.

New Game Wardens On Board

AUSTIN, Texas – The 50th Game Warden Cadet class graduated at the State Capitol June 17 and is now fanning out to their new duty stations across Texas. Of the 36 cadets who graduated, 12 have conservation degrees, 13 have criminal justice degrees, two have conservation science degrees, and nine have other degrees. One is an entomologist, one worked Internet crimes in Texas and one was a Nevada Game Warden.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Executive Director Robert L. Cook gave the keynote address. “One of your most important goals should not be how many violators you apprehend and file on but how many folks learn from you the reason, the value, and the importance of conservation of our natural resources in Texas, so they become teachers and leaders in conservation,” Cook said.

Randy Odom, chief of training at the academy, said, “There is a need to fill the slots left by those who have retired (as a result of a statewide retirement incentive last August).” The six-month academy brought the cadets from throughout the state to Austin where they lived until graduation. The academy included 1,200 hours of instruction – including the 576-hour basic peace officer course. Game warden cadet training also includes hunting, fishing, and boating safety regulations, fish and wildlife identification, search and rescue and public speaking. The academy included field trips to ranches for training using mock scenarios and to lakes for instructions in boat operations.

The wardens also took 16 hours of Spanish as required by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education, which is the

licensing agency for peace officers in the state. Lt. Col. Pete Flores of the TPWD Law Enforcement division, who is bilingual, said, “The ability to speak a second language is a great tool in a profession that requires the warden to communicate with people of all cultures as they hunt and fish in our state. Spanish is our predominant second language in Texas and an officer who understands the language and the culture is more effective and safe due to the increased ability to communicate. The knowledge of the culture allows the warden to avoid confrontation by recognizing cultural issues that, left ignored, might lead to a potential misunderstanding.”

For more information about becoming a game warden cadet, call (877) 229-2733 or visit the Web at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/involved/jobvac/gwcadet/



TEXAS GAME WARDEN FIELD NOTES

Justice Served

A Willbarger County game warden and a Hardeman County game warden appeared in district court recently on three felony hunting without consent cases they filed in hunting season. The investigation resulted in 17 deer being located that were killed and left to waste. A Throckmorton County game warden also worked on the case and it resulted in the felony cases being filed and several Class A misdemeanor cases against other suspects. The suspects admitted to the offenses in open court. The judge assessed the following penalty to each subject: \$3,000 fine, 400 hours community service (relating to the care of animals), five years probation, five years license suspension, and as the violators, attorneys, and families breathed a slight sigh of relief, the judge added that they should spend some time in jail and sentenced them to 90 days.



And More

Red River County game wardens testified in a case regarding hunting from a public roadway with the aid of motor vehicle. The offender pled guilty after opening testimony. He received two years probation, more than \$1,000 in fines and court costs, and his hunting and fishing license were suspended for five years.

Ethics and Safety for Instructors

sent in by an instructor

In hunter education we talk a lot about ethics and safety a field for the student, but it is equally important to consider instructor ethics and safety for both the student and the instructor in the teaching situation.

As hunter education instructors we are agents of the State of Texas. This carries obligations including the following:

1. Be sure the information you are teaching is accurate.
2. Make no comments that will be construed as being against any race, sex or religion. Make no suggestive comments.
3. Urge students to vote for issues they favor or candidates who support their positions, but do not suggest they vote for party "A" or candidate "Y."
4. Assure that students are safe from abuse.

In any situation where there is a person in authority (i.e., the instructor) there is a possibility of abuse of this authority or an allegation that abuse was committed. Recent issues in the church, the schools and police forces have shown that no group is immune.

The following suggestions may help avoid abuse or allegations of abuse:

1. Whenever possible have two instructors who are not related.
2. If two instructors are not available, a second unrelated adult present as an aide, is helpful.
3. If you are teaching children and no other adult is available, be sure there are at least two children. (The Boy Scouts require this for merit badge counselors). I'd suggest asking a parent to sit in. Do not have one-on-one sessions. If you must have a one-on-one session, be sure it is held where there is line of sight to other adults.
4. Do not allow students to bully other students.
5. Do not touch a student without their permission. (i.e., ask "May I adjust your sling?")
6. Do not attempt to date students.

Many parents drop their children off to attend class. They may or may not pick them up promptly for lunch or at the end of session. Stay with a child until the parent arrives, and preferably with an additional individual present. These suggestions may not stop all problems, but they will go a long way to protect both students and instructors.

Kudos



Bob Ratcliff is Runner-Up for Winchester Award

Area Chief Bob Ratcliff (center), from Harker Heights, is shown here receiving his award from Mary Ann Ventress, Winchester Event Marketing Director. He was nominated for Winchester's **Volunteer Instructor of the Year Award** and was selected as a finalist. He flew to San Diego, California, to receive his award and was fortunate to be able to visit his brother, Dr. James Ratcliff, and wife Adele, who attended the ceremony with him. Congratulations Bob!

Texas is blessed to have so many great volunteers. The Winchester Award has been presented for 17 years. Texas has had a finalist nine different times and a winner three times. Congratulations to all our volunteers, and who knows, you might be the next one nominated. Keep up the great work!

Winchester Ammunition chose Larry D. McAdow of Halstead, Kansas, as the International Hunter Education Association's 2003 Volunteer Instructor of the Year. Winchester would also like to recognize Robert L. Fraley, of Frankfort, Kentucky, along with Bob who were this year's finalists.

Each year, nominations are sent to Winchester for those who have significantly advanced the cause of safe hunting on a voluntary basis through extraordinary service in training or education. Criteria are based on the activities, experience, affiliations and overall contributions to Hunter Education. Most nominees have years of outstanding experience, and are truly the cream of the crop.



Corpus Christi Area Chief Gilbert Graves, Jr. (right), is shown receiving his Hall of Fame Award from Hunter Education Specialist, Ty Harris. Gilbert was certified in 1988, has taught 283 courses and has certified 1,516 students. He has attended 35 advanced in-service workshops, conducted nine New Instructor Workshops and certified 35 additional instructors. He continues to hold student courses in his area and is following in the footsteps of his father, Gilbert Graves, Sr., who was inducted into the Texas Hunter Education Hall of Fame in 1992. Congratulations Gilbert!

Steve Hall (right), TPWD Hunter and Boater Education Branch Chief, was inducted into the IHEA Hall of Fame during the Annual IHEA Awards Ceremony Banquet in San Diego, California, in May. He is shown here receiving the award from Terry Erwin, who is the current IHEA Awards Chairperson and President-Elect.

Steve came to TPWD in 1985 and immediately took an active role with the IHEA. He served on numerous committees, was Vice President of Region II and then served as President of the IHEA from 1993 through 1995. He has won numerous awards and recognition for publications, serving on major national committees, and is currently Vice President of the National Bowhunter Education Foundation. Congratulations Steve!



Terry Erwin, TPWD Hunter Education Coordinator, received the prestigious Dr. Edward Kozicky Award. Displaying the “coyote symbol,” the award is presented by the current IHEA president. Shown here is Mac Lang of Kentucky making the presentation. “Dr. Edward Kozicky, the first Volunteer Executive Vice President of the IHEA, epitomized the essence of hunting heritage and led early efforts to educate hunters across North America. This award is given to an individual or organization that exhibits exceptional dedication and assists the President of the IHEA in a manner that exceeds a general effort.”



Terry was hired by TPWD in 1988 and has been involved in the coordination of the Texas Hunter Education program since. He has been extremely active in IHEA on projects and committees including the annual IHEA Dream Hunts, Home Study, Internet, Planning, Awards and Nominations. He recently received the nod as president-elect and represents Texas professionally in the organization.

More Kudos



Heidi Rao – Five Years Later

It seems such a short time ago (over six years) that TPWD interviewed this young woman for a position with the Hunter Education program in the Houston area. She came from Southern Illinois University with a Masters Degree in Wildlife and Forestry with emphasis on Human Dimension and volunteer instructors.

She braved the interview, was selected and moved down to Houston all by herself. Now, moving to and living in the Houston area was a culture shock, but as you can see, she has fared well. She fell in love with Texas, met a game warden, fell in love with him, got married, and now they are the proud parents of two little boys, Dominic and Matthew.



Congratulations Heidi, we are proud you made it to Texas as soon as you did!

Livingston Group's Trailer a Big Hit



Shown here are Area Chiefs Lester and Anette Walding when they picked up the Mobile Hunter Education program trailer used by the instructor team in the Livingston area. Area Chief Buffalo Allwright and his team raised funds to purchase the trailer and equip it to hold hunter education courses at any given time or location.

Thanks to Area Chief Bryant Truitt from Hunt for starting the process with his trailer, as previously seen in *Target Talk* and recently in the *IHEA Journal* (Summer 2004 issue). He introduced this team to **Jim Sowels at J&J Signs and Banners, Inc.** in Mountain Home where the montage of photos for the side was generously designed and provided. Jim furnished the entire trailer decals and lettering as a donation to Hunter Education.

Thanks so much Jim for your generosity and hard work!



OK, Area Chief O'Dwyer,



I did my first class of graduates. They were a very good group, and they all gave me good reports after the class. All five passed, with 1-98, 1-94, 1-88, 1-84, and the young woman made a 78. What a deal. I am sending their reports to Austin today. Thanks so much for teaching the class I took, so I could be allowed to share my love for the outdoors with others. I am working with the game warden now to do that class at the sheriff's office I told you about. I hope you and all yours have a great day and a better week.

Thanks again,
Rick Cumins

Dear Mr. Bob Cook,

My son, daughter and I had the distinct pleasure of taking the hunter education course this past weekend at Texas Parks and Wildlife headquarters with instructor Kevin Connally. I had procrastinated about getting my kids to the course for years, perhaps out of fear those eight hours one day and four hours the next day of instruction would be less than a family bonding experience. Boy, was I wrong!

I write in special appreciation of Kevin Connally and the magic which he injected into our weekend. Not only did he make the subject matter come alive and catch our interest, his positive attitude and considerate approach cannot help but win fans for the sport of hunting and enjoyment of the outdoors.

I salute you in your ability to attract wonderful volunteer instructors such as Kevin. I think he truly made all the difference in our experience.

Very truly yours,
Brian S. Greig
Fulbright & Jaworski, L.L.P., Austin



Team Rao Makes Offshore Presentation

Hunter Education Specialist Heidi Rao, Houston, and her Game Warden husband, John, were flown 20 miles offshore to conduct hunting and marine safety presentations for Exxon/Mobil. They arrived at the helipad in Galveston, watched a 20-minute DVD on helicopter safety, and then departed for the GA-209 platform offshore. Heidi spoke to the group about hunting safety, and accompanied the talk with a Power Point presentation. John also gave a Power Point presentation on marine safety issues. They answered many questions about their topics, careers, and TPWD in general. They had a captive audience, with most everyone in the group a participant in the outdoors, especially hunting, fishing and boating. The group thought it was great to have a husband and wife "team" come out to give them a TPWD presentation. Exxon/Mobil does not fly very many non-employees or non-contractors offshore, so Heidi and John felt very privileged to be granted such an opportunity.

INSTRUCTOR DISCOUNTS

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Bushnell Offer

Bushnell has a special pricing for Hunter Education instructors and they would be happy to send catalogs and the Hunter Education instructor order form. The only thing that is required is a copy of your Hunter Education instructor card when placing the order. Please contact Laura Olinger, Public Relations, Bushnell Performance Optics at (913) 752-6105, Fax: (913) 752-3489 or e-mail at lolinger@bushnell.com

Brunton Offers Discount to Instructors

The current 2004 fundraising/discount-pricing offer is for IHEA from Brunton with special prices available only for Hunter Education instructors. Brunton will donate back to the IHEA 10% of all sales from Hunter Education instructors through this exclusive offer through 4/30/05. For additional information please contact Brunton customer service directly at (800) 443-4871 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (MST) Monday-Friday, or look at their Web site www.brunton.com

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“Division Directors Challenge” Tests TPWD Leaders’ Kayak, Archery, Casting Skills



Nine TPWD division directors and other leaders took part in a good-natured “**Step Outside**” competition on May 7 at headquarters. Participants had to maneuver kayaks through a buoy obstacle course, plus try their skills at archery and a fishing “flip, pitch & cast” activity. Deputy Executive Director for Operations Scott Boruff took top honors overall. State Parks Director Walt Dabney scored highest in kayaking. Archery was a four-way tie between Boruff, Dabney, Chief Legal Counsel Ann Bright and Chief of Staff Gene McCarty. The fishing activity was a three-way tie among Boruff, McCarty and Communications Division Director Lydia Saldaña.

Training Efforts and Workshops



Wing Shooting Responsibility

Shown here is a group of Agriculture Science teachers who attended the Wing Shooting Responsibility workshop held in Mission in June. Agriculture Science students represent a captive audience and a good place to start with “wounding loss” awareness. Ty Harris held the workshop at the Mission Trap and Skeet Range.

Good Job, Rodney!

Shown here is Rodney Beamsley (right), Agriculture Science Teacher, McAllen, receiving a special award from Ty Harris. Rodney has been very instrumental in setting up workshops for teachers in the Valley for several years. Thanks and Congratulations Rodney!



How To Teach Workshop

The **Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Education Center** was the location of the How to Teach workshop where instructors brought their personal training aids and gave demonstrations on their use in student courses. Many times instructors have developed methods or aids that can and should be shared with other instructors. What a perfect time to promote what you have done to improve your courses.

For Your **F.Y.I.** Information

Items of Importance – *Outdoor Annual*

There will not be a “special” *Youth Outdoor Annual* printed for use in Hunter Education courses and schools this year, because all alcohol and tobacco advertisements have been eliminated from the pages. Please order and use the regular *Outdoor Annual* that comes with your supplies. Several changes are listed and should be brought to the students’ attention. A “note” is added about minors coming in contact with loaded firearms on page 19 under General Law. The new Hunter Education “deferral” is explained on page 22. Hunter or Blaze Orange requirements are listed on page 53. Please read over the new *Outdoor Annual* for additional changes of importance.

New IHEA Instructor Resources Information

When someone logs into the IHEA Web site, ihea.com, and wants to go to Instructor Resources, they will have to use a new login name. This new username and password for the Instructor Resource section of IHEA’s Web site has also been printed in the Summer 2004 *IHEA Journal* that has been distributed.

Student Exam and Answer Key

Although we are using a new student manual, *Today’s Hunter in Texas*, the test is being redone along with an appropriate answer key. The new key will be available after the first of the year, but will actually remain marked as the current key. The new key will have the new page number for the location of the question answers provided from the new manual. The **current** orange answer key will continue to be valid, but will not have the current student manual reference pages.

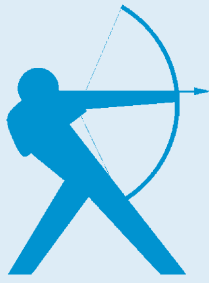
Michigan . . .

With Governor Jennifer Granholm’s signature, Michigan became the 41st state to allow dove hunting. The bill she signed authorizes the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to establish a dove hunting season. Included is a provision that creates a \$2 Dove Stamp with funds raised split equally between game and non-game programs. (*Look how long Texas has had a dove season...*)

KATHY S.
KORNER

Hi Folks, yes, it’s me. I’m ready for ya! All records are currently caught up and processed. I know the busy season will soon be upon us, and Tami Crawford and I are staying busy. Keep in mind to check all forms before mailing. Those little mistakes (*Oops!*) cost us a lot of time making corrections. Remember the seven-day requirement on sending in course records. Also, remember to provide us the information on your courses so we can add them to the Web site. Now, if I can help you, please let me know. I’m just a phone call away. See you at Expo!

K A T H Y



THE BOWHUNTER

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IBEP Courses

Jack Jetton held a student/instructor combination course in the Houston area on May 23, 2004. Pictured here are the new instructor applicants. Standing left to right: Chris Kana, Dena Kana, Bobby Kana, Linda Nix, Andrew Payne, Randy Payne and Jack Jetton. Kneeling left to right: Ed Kana, Joe Kana, Don Polensky and Jeremy Jetton.



Another IBEP student/instructor combo course was held on July 31 and August 1 at TPWD headquarters in Austin. Although some participants were already certified, a total of 21 new applicants went through training and will hopefully schedule courses in the upcoming year. Thanks for taking the time to get involved!

Good Job, Jack!

Jack Jetton (left), outgoing IBEP State Chairman, accepts an appreciation plaque from Terry Erwin, new IBEP State Chairman, for outstanding service and dedication to the IBEP Program in Texas over the past two years.

Jack did a great job providing leadership to the program and hosting several in-service workshops and new instructor courses. Jack will continue to hold student courses and an occasional instructor course in the Pearland/Houston area. Thanks for all your hard work and Congratulations Jack!



More Congratulations Are in Order!

Some of you are aware and some of you aren't but here's the news. On July 29, 2004, Carrie and I flew out to Las Vegas and were married that evening. It had been planned for months and I have to give Carrie credit. She only let it "kind of leak out" to one person that I had asked her to marry me. We spent the weekend in Vegas, flew home and then drove to Fort Worth for a week and an FAA Managers/Supervisors meeting. (She shopped, I worked). We are finally back home, and just wanted to pass on the news to everyone.

Jack

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