



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

Training students in the most efficient and convenient manner continues to be a priority with our agency, and is part of the recruitment and retention process as laid out in the *Strategic Plan for Ensuring the Future of Hunting in Texas*. Staff has worked collectively and arrived at a plan of action to address these needs. We have the customary two-day, minimum 10-hour course, the home study packet with a video, manual and workbook, and the online home study version available to be accomplished at the student's convenience.

As an additional resource we will now allow the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) online course to be accepted as preparatory work prior to the field day of testing. Students may go to **IHEA.com** and complete the online course, print out the exams and bring them to the testing site for verification of completion of the knowledge based material. The testing field day will be done in the same manner as in the past.

Staff is now developing a new "provider" course for 2006, which will allow the skills trail and live firing exercise to be completed using the LaserShot System as that portion of the field day of testing. The *Responsibility, Ethics and Game Laws* session, the review and written exam will still be done as usual. Students must still do the preparatory work, by any of the methods mentioned previously and provide proof of completion with a workbook or printed exams from the online course of choice.

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It's Expo Time



It's time to sign up and volunteer your time and efforts to help make the 14th annual Texas Parks & 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, 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 Education Instructors Association (THEIA) has agreed to generously pay for sandwiches and

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Editor's CORNER, continued

"Providers" are entities which have the LaserShot System with the new training software and are willing and able to schedule the training sessions at locations like target ranges and retail centers such as Gander Mountain, Bass Pro Shop, Cabela's, Sportsmen's Warehouse, Wal-Mart and Academy. These are locations where large volumes of hunters can be reached. It will take some time to implement this process, and it will not affect any of the volunteer efforts currently in place. This method will only increase the possibility of courses being provided in times of need, and at convenient locations. It also gives volunteers a new tool with which to partner up with the mega hunting centers and locations.

In addition, staff will begin a new instructor recruitment and training process. A portion of the instructor training will be offered online or as a home study packet beginning in September. There is currently a two-day, 12-hour course for instructors, but it will now be a one-day, eight-hour course. Instructor applicants will be required to do their "homework" prior to attending this one-day instructor course.

We anticipate having the first three or four chapters of the instructor manual online for study prior to arrival. Once an individual files an application, they will note if they have access to the Internet. If so, they may proceed with the "homework" assignment at their con-

venience. If not, they will be mailed a packet for study to bring to the hands-on portion. Upon arrival and registration, applicants will sign an *Acknowledgement and Release* noting they have completed the home work assignment and understand the procedures contained therein. A review will be held to clarify any questions or concerns.

This process should increase recruitment by not requiring the individual to be away from home for two days in a row. It also allows our staff to hone in on teaching skills while covering the Home Study, Skills Trail, Live Firing and testing exercises.

We look forward to implementing this process; it's a good opportunity to increase instructor numbers, thereby increasing student numbers. We encourage each of you to recruit new team members for your area or individuals you feel will enhance the program.

The busy season is upon us, so please schedule your courses now if you haven't already. Thanks for all of your hard work and dedicated efforts to educate Texas hunters in safe, responsible and knowledgeable activities.

Always Be Safe!

Terry Erwin

KATHY'S KORNER

Hi Folks! Yep, it's me and the busy time is coming up. We are currently caught up with entering records, but I look for many courses to start coming in shortly. Remember, you have **seven days** to get the records to us. Do NOT hold them for any reason. If you don't have a Social Security number, don't worry about it, just send the records. Also, **PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH** in the mail. Use a check or money order.

Call us with your schedule so we can put it in the computer. Set those dates aside and schedule them. It will be much more convenient on you and those who are looking for a course in your area. If you need anything, please let us know so we can help you.

K A T H Y

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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT
"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."

You may view this publication through the TPWD Web site. Please notify us by completing a request form at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/enews. Once verified, we will notify you by e-mail when a new version of your selected newsletter is posted at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/newsletters/. Your name and address will be removed from the printed version mail distribution list.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

All inquiries: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744, telephone (800) 792-1112 toll free, or (512) 389-4800 or visit our Web site for detailed information about TPWD programs:

www.tpwd.state.tx.us

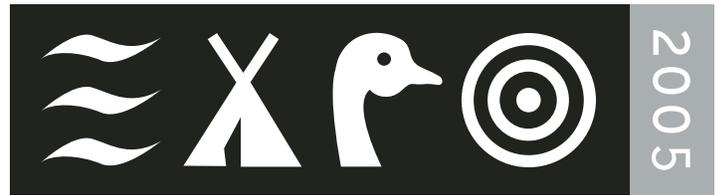
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It's Expo Time, continued

drinks to be distributed during noon work hours of Expo on Saturday and Sunday. We are going to have ARBY'S Market Fresh Sandwiches, which come with an apple, chips and cookies. The choices are usually ham or turkey, and if you were here the last couple of years, you know how tasty they are. Come out and help Expo visitors get acquainted with the shooting sports and other fun events. We have ordered good weather this year, so 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. Call us for a listing of places available.

NOTE: Please call Kathy Powell at (800) 792-1112, Ext. 8140, and give her your verbal R.S.V.P. if you will attend Expo this year. We need you! Once you call in your R.S.V.P., we will send you a map regarding staff and volunteer parking and a list of hotels in the area. Offsite parking will be at the **Met Center**, which is a six-minute ride from the headquarters, and is on a good paved surface, so you will not have to deal with the mess in case it rains. A shuttle will pick you up there and deliver you to the drive near the end of building C, close to wetland pond. The walking distance to the shooting events will be considerably closer than parking in the hay field area.



TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE EXPO



UPCOMING EVENTS

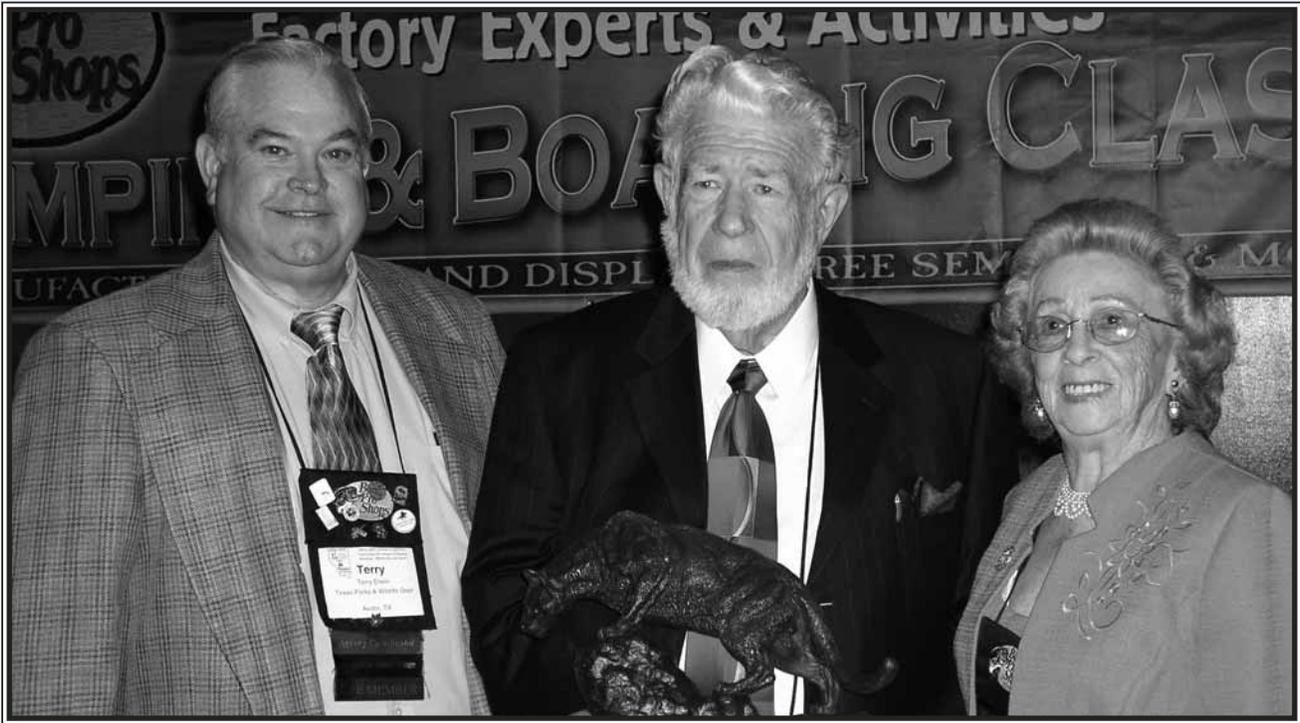
Aug. 27	Wing Shooting Responsibility	Orange
Aug. 28	Wing Shooting Responsibility	Rosenberg
Sept. 9-11	NRA Pistol	Grand Prairie
Sept. 10-11	IBEP Student/Inst. Course	Houston
Sept. 17	Species Specific Ethics (seminar)	Houston
Sept. 17-18	Wildlife Mgmt./Cons.	Kerr WMA
Oct. 22	Species Specific Ethics (seminar)	Beaumont
Dec. 3-4	Waterfowl/Wing Shooting	Houston



Becoming An Outdoors-Woman Workshop Schedule

Contact BAOW@tpwd.state.tx.us or phone
Ashley Mathews at (512) 389-8198
Oct. 28-30 Brenham
Camp For All

Kudos



Texas Volunteer Enters IHEA Hall of Fame

James Parker, III, Malakoff, was inducted into the International Hunter Education Association Hall of Fame at the IHEA Annual Conference recently held in Las Vegas. Parker was honored for more than 50 years of involvement in hunter education. In Utah, he served more than 25 years in hunter education, assisting and befriending A. Lee Robertson, first hunter education coordinator of the Utah Division of Wildlife program and one of the originators of the professional association in 1971.

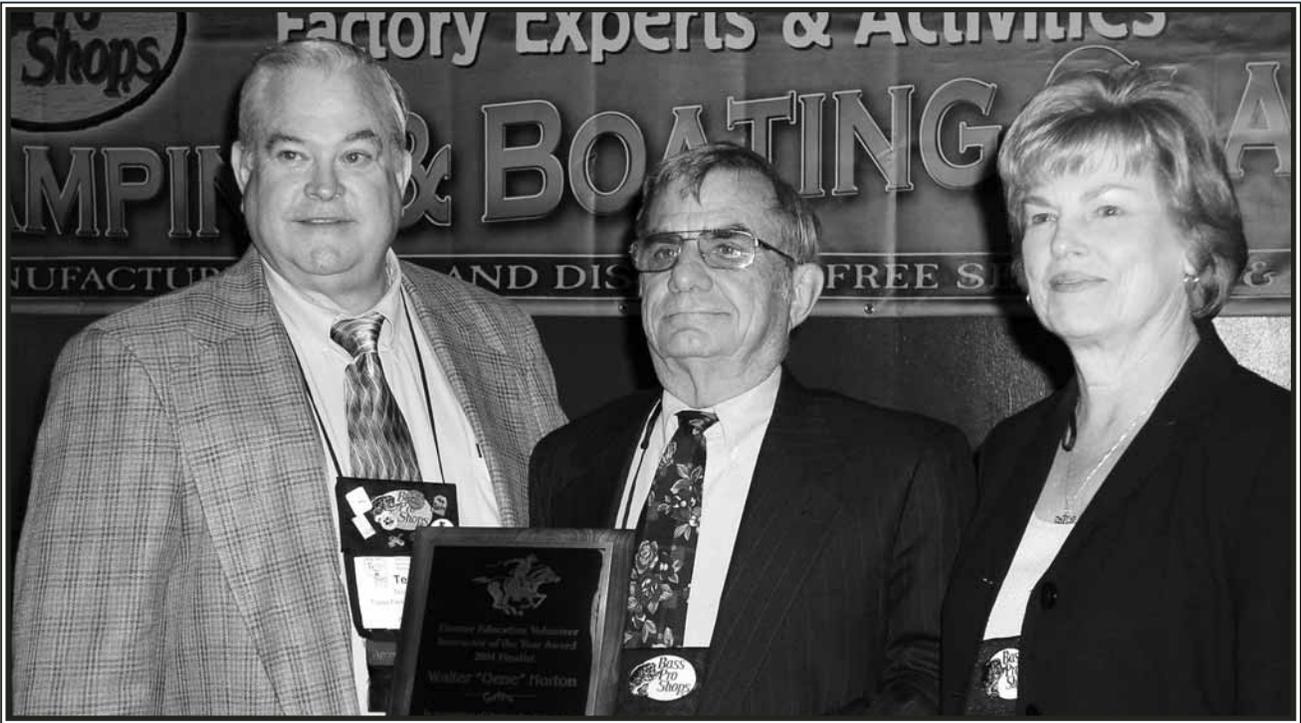
Parker later moved to Texas and became involved in Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's angler, boater and hunter education programs as an area chief and later as a volunteer for the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center. He has since taught many new instructors and more than 1,500 students in hunter education. Only three other Texans have ever attained the award. Parker joins all three former Texas hunter education coordinators, T.D. Carroll, Darrell Holt and Steve Hall as *IHEA Hall of Fame* inductees.

During his acceptance speech in Las Vegas, Parker said, "I always felt that Lee Robertson was a great friend and mentor, and I always wanted to be just like him. He is in the IHEA Hall of Fame, and now I have taken my place beside him. My other mentors were Steve Hall and Terry Erwin when I moved to Texas. It is a great honor to accept this award as a representative from Texas."

Parker is a former two-time winner of the Arlington Sportsman Club "Sportsman of the Year" award. In 2000, at the second annual Lone Star Legends awards reception, Jim and his wife received the Lone Star Legends Award for Outstanding Educational Efforts and Volunteer Service, given by TPWD. Parker was later selected as the Winchester Hunter Education Volunteer of the Year in North America in 2000 and was inducted into the Texas Hunter Education Hall of Fame in 2002.

Jim continues to volunteer his time with TPWD programs and has been busy setting up his education courses for the coming year. **Congratulations Jim!**

Kudos



Gene Norton is “Winchester Volunteer Instructor of the Year” Finalist

Gene has been certified since Nov. 15, 1972. He has taught a total of 241 classes during this time and has certified 6,049 students. He has attended 64 advanced in-service training workshops and gained NRA-IHEA Academy certification. He serves on the Texas Hunter Education Advisory Board. He is a Master Instructor and an Area Chief Instructor. He is capable of training new applicants in Hunter Education, Boater Education and Angler Education.

He attended the five-state Rendezvous in New Mexico in May 1999, and then attended the Western States Rendezvous in Nevada held a few years ago as a representative from Texas. He made a full report upon his return to be passed on to fellow instructors.

Gene retired (after 33 years) as a professional educator, coach and referee for numerous sports. When he retired, he took a couple of weeks off and then immediately returned as a substitute teacher. He commented, “I just can’t stay away from those youngsters. I learn from them constantly, and still want to share with them.”

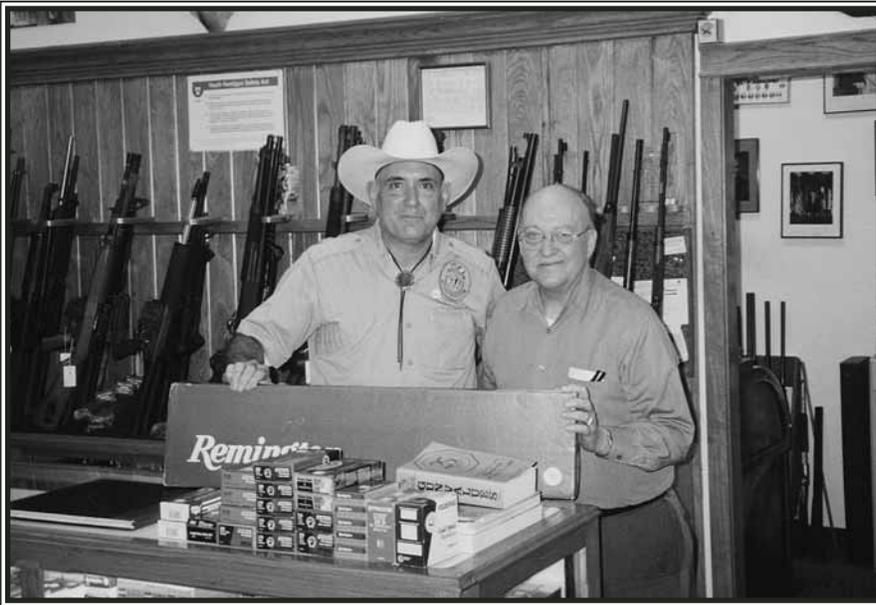
He has attended the Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo every year for the past 13 years and works in the youth shotgun area. This area provides shooting opportunities for over 1,000 youth during the weekend each year. Gene is very persistent with local stores, individual contacts and industry to acquire supplies for his classes and program. He waits until the end of shows, events and expos to visit vendors, who usually give him the remaining literature not distributed or items not sold. He visits chemical plants and refineries to acquire hearing protection, or any other “giveaways” he can use in his classroom. He never turns down an offer or a gift/donation that may be used in his classes. These items are usually passed out to the highest scoring student in his classes, or to some deserving individual. **Congratulations Gene!**

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Kudos

Gene Norton, continued

Winchester's *Hunter Education Volunteer Instructor of the Year* program began in the late 1980s. Texas has been very fortunate in having three winners and 11 finalists during that time. Since most states require Hunter Education certification before they will license younger hunters, volunteers have been called upon to conduct Hunter Education courses. Seeing the crucial need for instructors that play a major role in the future of hunting and shooting sports, Winchester developed this program to recognize and say "Thank You" to volunteers who do so much for hunting. For more information on Winchester® products, visit their Web site at www.winchester.com.



Dear Staff:

I am writing to say thanks for the "shot gun" award I received this year. My wife, Sonja, and I were in Austin in May and went by Joe McBride's to pick it up. Pictured here is Joe and me with my new Remington 870 Express. Joe and I had a good visit. I thanked him for helping our program. I look forward to another year of Hunter Education and our courses.

John Meekins
Area Chief, Cleveland

Congratulations! Wichita County Game Warden Pat Canan was awarded *Officer of the Year* for Texas at the recent National Wild Turkey Federation Conference. The award was based on public relations involvement, positive attitude, professionalism, enthusiasm, dependability and investigative skills.

TWA Huntmaster Program



Shown here in front of the TYHP booth are Chris Sanchez, TPWD Hunter Education Instructor and TYHP Huntmaster, and his son Cody Wallace, both of Cedar Creek, TX.

On Saturday, June 25, the Texas Wildlife Association (TWA) celebrated their 20th Anniversary. The Wildlife 2005 Convention was held in San Antonio at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa. Cody and Chris were in attendance representing the Central Texas Area Huntmasters, part of the Texas Youth Hunting Program (TYHP) co-sponsored by TWA and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

Although Chris was serving in the role as Huntmaster, he was able to incorporate quite a bit of Hunter Education information to those in attendance. Chris said, "Being certified as both a Huntmaster and Hunter Education Instructor definitely comes in handy, no matter which role I'm representing."

Anyone wanting to become a Huntmaster and help with the TYHP youth hunts may contact Jerry Warden at (800) 460-5494 for a listing of the next available workshops. Take a youth hunting, and give something back.

For Your Information

Super Combo Promotion Planned

TPWD is planning to promote more and earlier sales of Super Combo licenses in the upcoming hunting season. Super Combo buyers will be automatically registered for a chance to win a \$1,000 outdoor gear shopping spree at Academy Sports and Outdoors, plus a Texas State Parks Pass. Academy has donated 10 \$1,000 gift cards for the promotion. There will be random drawings held every two weeks after new licenses go on sale Aug. 15. Once customers have bought a license, they'll be in the drawing each time, so the earlier they buy the more chances they have to win. The new Super Combo promotion will be included in Big Time Texas Hunts promotional direct mail in early August to 460,000 hunters, 360,000 of which are Super Combo customers. There is no purchase necessary to enter, and entry forms and rules will be available at TPWD Law Enforcement license sales locations and on our Web site by early August.

Legislative Bills That Passed This Year

Here is a summary of some of the legislation that was recently passed, and of which instructors should be aware. Some will still need to be adopted by TPW Commission during the August meeting.

HB 1076 – As a token of appreciation for the sacrifices being made by active duty Texas service members, this bill directs the TPW Commission to waive all fees for hunting and fishing licenses for Texas residents currently on active military duty. A Texas resident is defined as a person who has resided continuously in the state for more than six months prior to applying for a license.

HB 505 – This bill makes it a Class C misdemeanor to discharge a firearm across a private property line while hunting or engaging in recreational shooting. The bill contains a provision so there is no violation if the person shooting owns both sides of the property line or has obtained written landowner permission.

HB 2037 – This bill permits game wardens to seize personal property and sell, destroy or use it if the property owner is convicted of hunting on private property without landowner consent. Property that may be seized includes items such as a firearm, knife, spotlight, GPS unit, radio, mobile phone or other item, but not a vehicle, aircraft or vessel. Under current law, personal property may be seized for some crimes, but if the violator crosses onto private property and the landowner files criminal charges for hunting without landowner consent, there is no provision for seizing the hunter's property.

HB 2555 – This bill provides a legal defense to prosecution for people who act to show mercy by humanely dispatching a suffering animal that has been left mortally wounded by a non-hunting incident or appears to be a diseased animal or an animal that poses a risk of harm to themselves, people or other wildlife. Currently, a person who finds such an animal or bird can be prohibited from killing it because it may be out of season or because the individual lacks a legal weapon. This bill took effect when the governor signed it on May 24. Proposed rules for implementing this new law will be adopted at the TPW Commission Meeting on Aug. 25

SB 1192 – This bill reorganizes the existing three Texas game bird stamps - the white-winged dove stamp, waterfowl stamp and turkey stamp - into two new stamps. The new \$7 Migratory Bird Stamp will cover all migratory game birds, such as ducks, geese, doves and cranes. The new \$7 Upland Game Bird Stamp covers all resident game birds, such as turkey, quail and pheasants. The new configuration would provide funding to all species currently covered by the existing stamps, as well address concerns about declining species like mourning doves and quail. The new stamps will enable the department to improve its ability to measure hunter participation and harvest of a number of these species. The stamp reorganization would provide much-needed flexibility for TPWD to use stamp funds where the greatest species and habitat needs lie. For example, research is needed for mourning doves, which population surveys indicate have been declining for years. However, white-winged dove stamp funds currently cannot be used for mourning dove research. The stamp reorganization is also expected to provide funding and flexibility needed to research and address quail population declines. This bill was technically effective when the governor signed it on June 17, but as a practical matter it won't take effect until new season hunting and fishing licenses go on sale Aug. 15.

Hunter Education Instructors!

Susie Kiefer, Executive Editor, *Hunter and Shooting Sports Education Journal*

Please take this opportunity to review a great resource that is posted in the Instructor Resource area of the IHEA Web site at www.ihea.com/docs/Instructor_Resources1. Written by John Madson and Dr. Ed Kozicky, this 2nd Edition version of *For the Young Hunter (A Primer on Hunting Ethics)* is now available as a 23-page PDF that is sure to become a resource that you will refer to frequently. Dr. Ed Kozicky who has made this resource available to the IHEA was the first Executive Vice President of the International Hunter Education Association and is still very actively involved in hunter education. Thank you, Ed!



National Hunting and Fishing Day Music Star Will Promote Outdoor Recreation

From NSSF

Multi-platinum selling country artist Tracy Byrd is obsessed with hunting and fishing, as one click to listen at his Web site www.tbyrd.com will prove. "It's my No. 1 passion next to family and music," he says. So it's only natural that Byrd has been named honorary chairman of this year's National Hunting & Fishing Day. Marking its 34th Anniversary on Sept. 24, the day exists to create better public awareness of the important role hunters and anglers have played in conserving America's wildlife resources.

Women's Interests Growing

From NSSF

The *2004 Outdoor Recreation Participation Study for the United States* identifies women among four key outdoor-related markets with the highest potential for growth in the next two years. According to the study, conducted by Leisure Trend Group of Boulder, Colorado, women are also the fastest-growing component of the shooting sports and hunting industries. One factor reportedly responsible for this growth is an emphasis on the physical and emotional benefits of spending time outdoors. Currently, more than two million women hunt in the United States every year and four million women target shoot.

Hunting, America Earns an Average Grade

A new report compares the strength of each state's hunting culture and offers a glimpse at how sustainable those cultures may be in the future. The report indicates that hunting will be most relevant – environmentally, economically, socially and politically – in states where parents have freedom to introduce the sport to their sons and daughters at an early age.

"America gets a C grade in sustaining hunting participation for the future. About half of the states are performing better and half are performing worse. We can and should do a lot better," said Doug Painter, president of NSSF. Titled *Families Afield*, the report is available on the Web site of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), at www.nssf.org/programs/FamiliesAfield.cfm.

NSSF, National Wild Turkey Federation and U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance commissioned research and are currently distributing the reports to lawmakers and policy leaders. The goal is to help restrictive states understand that supervised youth hunting is not only statistically safe, but also vitally important if outdoor traditions and values are to endure.

For Your Information

Editor's Note: *As president of the IHEA, I can say the Board strongly supports recruitment and retention efforts. The Families Afield initiative may be an excellent strategy, but is not the single most important means of solving the declining number of hunters. One of the Board's ends policies states the following: "We support widespread participation in responsible hunting for all eligible ages, genders and skill levels." It remains an individual jurisdictional matter to regulate age, and it is not the Board's obligation, nor recommendation, to become involved with legislative changes to age restrictions regarding participation in hunting. The Board will fully support the continued safety and educational requirements to satisfy jurisdictional mandates of the members represented in the IHEA.*

Tree Stand Safety Harness Recall

Hunter's View has recalled about 500,000 2004 model year Fall Arrest Systems (harnesses). They have model number 3333 and Model Year 2004 written on a white label attached to the harness or the tree strap. They were included with about 47 different models of Hunter's View and Comfort Zone brand tree stands. These harnesses could fail during use, resulting in consumers falling from tree stands and suffering serious injuries or death – so stop using them and contact Hunter's View immediately.

You can call Hunter's View at (888) 878-0440 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. CT Monday through Friday.

Illegal Meth Labs

By Robert Ratcliff, Area Chief

Methamphetamine (Meth) lab operators now favor rural areas for the manufacture of illegal drugs since their discovery is less likely in sparsely populated areas. In Texas more than 2,177 Meth clandestine laboratory incidents have been reported since January 2001. While we're in the business of stressing vigilance regarding hunting safety, the potential danger posed by these illegal labs and their operators should not go unnoticed.

Meth labs are commonly found in secluded rural areas. Because of the illegality of their undertaking and the extreme paranoia these operators may be experiencing, anyone approaching them in camouflage clothing and carrying a firearm can be dangerous.

Meth is made with common chemicals such as cold tablets, solvents, ether, drain cleaners, alcohol (methanol, ethanol), lye, camping fuel, iodine, anhydrous ammonia, lithium metal and various acids. Most of these chemicals are hazardous by themselves; however, when mixed in the cooking process and disposed of, they become toxic wastes. These highly flammable and even explosive mixtures can cause severe health problems or death if handled improperly. Exposure may cause respiratory problems, skin and eye irritation, headaches, nausea and dizziness.

The following items (or empty containers) may indicate the presence of a nearby or mobile Meth lab. Propane tanks (these may contain anhydrous ammonia and may have corroded brass fittings that are bluish colored); coffee filters, paper towels, cheesecloth, other material with reddish-orange stains; empty containers for lantern fuel, Red Devil lye, muriatic acid, acetone, cold tablets, iodine crystals, Heet, lighter fluid, Epsom salts, batteries/battery acid, lithium or common batteries, which may be broken or opened.

Any two or more of the above items may indicate the presence of a nearby or mobile Meth lab. Don't handle these items! Leave them where found! Mark the location and contact authorities so they can properly assess the evidence.

Editor's Note: *Please remind your students about some of the above facts, and advise caution and communication with the appropriate authorities, as stated. While one is in pursuit of game in areas which might seem remote, the chance of finding something as described above is not out of the question. Always be prepared, take precautions, but enjoy your outdoor experience.*



Dear Staff:

Recently, on the Junction Chamber of Commerce Web site, I found a place to lease for hunting that sounded interesting, so I called. The price and location (Fort McKavitt) was OK, and we discussed several things about the place. I asked the lady if we would have all the hunting rights to the place and she said yes, for deer season and spring turkey season. So, Jeff (my nephew) and I drove down Saturday to look at the place.

While looking in the first pasture, she said, "I could have leased this place a hundred times if I allowed bowhunting!" Jeff and I looked at each other in surprise, and I said, "We all bowhunt!" The lady was plumb offended and said, "***Well, if you're bowhunters, you might as well take me back to the house, right now!***"

We couldn't believe what she had just said. I asked her what she had against bowhunters, and she replied, "Too bad of a reputation for wounded animals." I told her that we didn't have that kind of a reputation, but she didn't want anything to do with us, even when I said that we rifle hunt, too. Jeff even said, "what if we're really good shots?" but she didn't reply. She even asked us to let her out at her gate, and said she would walk to her house, about 300 yards away, so we did.

We drove about nine hours, and used up about \$75 worth of gas for nothing. She could have said something before we drove down there, and from now on, I will know to ask that specific question and many others before driving that far. Since when did bowhunting get such a bad name? Year before last, I was on an elk hunt in Colorado and was told that we couldn't bow hunt because the lost arrows ruined their tractor tires. Good gosh! What's this world coming to? I'm sick of begging for a deer lease, paying astronomical prices, then being told we can't shoot anything. Hunting is almost getting to be where it's not enough fun to offset the hassle, the headaches and the expense.

To make matters worse, this lady said she also had some Axis deer crossing her place from time to time, but we couldn't shoot them because they were too pretty. As if she owned them! She ran a hundred head of goats that were kidding on one pasture of about 250 acres, a hundred head of sheep that were lambing on the other 250-acre pasture. There was no place on the whole property that had enough brush to hide a deer. Every blade of grass and all the browse was eaten up as high as the animals could reach. The campsite had no electrical power and no water, yet this lady thought her place was a premier property and wanted premium pricing for it, four people on 500 acres of rocks for \$1,150 per gun. God help us all.

I teach hunter education courses, but I wish there was a mandatory class for landowner education of how to manage their properties to their maximum potential, instead of just get everything you can out of it even if it kills everything on it, plant and animal. There's got to be some places left where an honest group of conservative hunters can go and enjoy the beauty of hunting without being held hostage for ransom and having their trigger fingers broken every time they want to shoot something. We hunt for antlers, but we also use every bit of the meat.

I spoke with another man shortly thereafter about a lease that he manages. Yeah, right! He leases 2,500 acres from one family, then sub-leases it to other hunters and crowds them together like cattle. He had one 320-acre pasture with three spots on it for \$1,500 per gun. It's up close to the Red River, and there are some large deer there, but few of them. He said you might hunt several days without seeing a deer, so bowhunting would be fruitless. Come on! Three hunters on 320 acres in that country for \$1,500 each—get real. He even went on to say that they had a fine of \$500 if anyone shot an eight point or less, or a buck under three and a half years old. We know how to age deer on the hoof and how to count points, and I wouldn't worry about it, but it's just dumb if you ask me. If I was to pay that kind of price, I'd think I could shoot whatever I wanted to, for trophy or for meat.

The "good old boys" that are leasing and sub-leasing are trying to set the scale from \$1,500 to \$3,000 per hunter, and they're pricing those hunters who can't afford those rates right out of the market. They're just lining their own pockets and taking away from the hunters and the landowners. Sure, if the blinds are already set, feeders are

up and full all the time and protein feed is available year round, and there are three- to five-star accommodations, then a place is worth more money. But, prices should reflect what you're getting in return. It burns me just to think about it! And, if I don't find a place soon and get some relief, I might just have to give up hunting all together! Nah! I couldn't do that. I just needed to let off some steam. Thanks for listening. Sorry about the griping though, and I may not be completely done with this one. You might hear another explosion from my direction about this before I cool down. Have a great day.

Rick Cumins
Instructor, Rio Vista

Dear Staff:

WOW! I just took some shooting lessons with Gil and Vicki Ash, owners of **OSP Shooting School** in Fulshear. They teach at American Shooting Center off Westheimer in Houston. It is amazing the difference this type of instruction makes. I have NEVER shot a shotgun like this in my

life. I still have a long way to go, but I am shooting better than ever, I now know why I miss the ones I do and what to do to correct it! Shotgun shooting has never been my strong suit. It was just a way to spend more days in the field hunting. Now, it is so much fun I am going to spend more days at the range sharpening my skills! They have DVDs that provided numerous tips and the lessons learned really made improvement in my game. Now, I can just have a good time when I can get to the range.

Thanks and Happy Trails,
Duke Walton, Area Chief

Editor's Note: *The entire Hunter Education staff met in Houston and took some tips and lessons from Gil and Vicki recently. We hope to incorporate some of their teaching tips and expertise in our Wing Shooting Responsibility workshops in the future. Thanks so much for the opportunity to learn from two real "professionals" in this activity. If anyone is interested in learning more, please contact the OSP Shooting School, P.O. Box 826, Fulshear, TX 77441, or call toll-free (800) 838-7533.*

Texas Instructor Conference

The hunter education instructor conference recently held in Rosenberg had a minimal number of participants. Staff wanted to know why participation was low, especially with at least 138 instructors listed in Houston alone. Local instructor Joe Dever volunteered to conduct a survey of the instructors in Harris County.

He tried to call each one of the individuals listed, and of course, not all were reached. Thanks to Joe's persistence, his efforts helped him arrive at the following conclusions. Bear in mind, this is just for Harris County.

He could not reach 32% because of the following reasons: a wrong number; phone number no longer in service; called multiple times and there was no answer. Of the remaining total: 86% - knew about the hunter education conference in Rosenberg; 59% - knew they did not have to belong to THEIA to attend the conference; 14% - stated the price was too high (\$65).

The vast majority of Harris County Agriculture Science teachers said they really wanted to attend, but they were commit-

ted to local livestock shows during this time of year. Of those who did not attend, it was due to scheduling conflicts (had to work, just started a new job, had family in town over the weekend, going out of town, committed to/working/attending livestock shows, etc.)

**The 2006 Hunter Education
Instructor Conference is scheduled in
Nacogdoches on Feb. 17-19.**

Area Chief Joe Rogers and his volunteers are working on an outstanding event already. Mark your calendar and set that weekend aside to attend and see how much fun it is. Bring the family and join the activities and break-out sessions.

INSTRUCTOR DISCOUNTS

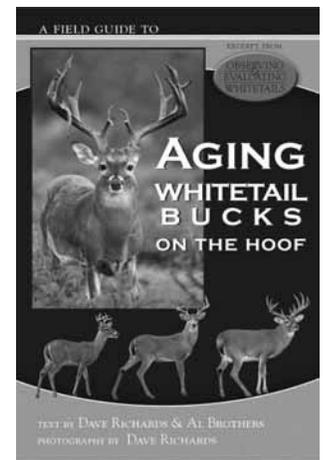
Winfield Galleries Offer

Remember the old calendars and posters of yesteryear that appeared in the hardware stores or on the wall of your favorite hunting cabin? Ever want one of those memorable grand old pictures for your den or office to bring back those thoughts of hunts of the past? Well, now's the time to have what you always wanted, and at a great affordable price. *Winfield Galleries, LLC* has all the old Winchester, Remington and other original famous pieces of art in great reproduction quality. They are offering a 30% discount off retail price plus shipping/handling for hunter education instructors. Go to www.winfieldgalleries.com and see what is available or order a catalog. There is a printable form on the Web site; however, you must submit your order directly to the following address to get the discount. Print out the order form, **Write Your Instructor ID# where it says Company**, and mail it to: Jerry Foust, 2605 Sagebrush Drive, Suite 203, Flower Mound, TX 75028, or phone (972) 899-9779, Fax: (972) 899-9769 or E-mail foustconsulting@yahoo.com Do NOT mail the form directly to Winfield Galleries. Note: For each order, Winfield Galleries, LLC will send a 10% donation to IHEA.

Pocket Field Guide for Aging Whitetail on the Hoof

This book was mentioned in the last issue of *Target Talk*, and it is an excellent pocket guide. Following up on their groundbreaking book *Observing & Evaluating Whitetails*, authors Dave Richards and Al Brothers have teamed to produce *A Field Guide to Aging Whitetail Bucks on the Hoof*, which is printed on water-resistant paper. Published by the Quality Deer Management Association, it's a handy reference for aging live whitetail bucks; and at only 4x6 inches, it will fit in your pocket or day pack! Deer hunters and anyone interested in white-tailed deer will want at least one. The 20-page, full color field guide is loaded with information and high-quality photographs that will help anyone learn quickly to age whitetail bucks on the hoof more accurately.

"Under the best of circumstances," Richards and Brothers write in the book's introduction, "aging white-tailed deer on the hoof is a calculated guess. However, by applying the techniques outlined in this booklet, soon you will be consistently aging bucks on the hoof in your area." Information on aging by behavior, by time of the year, and by a combination of physical and behavioral indicators is illustrated by more than three dozen high-quality photos of whitetails in the field. Priced at \$6.99, this field guide is a perfect companion to the landmark *Observing & Evaluating Whitetails* that Richards and Brothers published in 2003.



The new field guide and the larger observing-and-evaluating volume are both available from QDMA, and can be ordered by phone at (800) 209-3337 or online at www.QDMA.com.

New Training Tool

Renzo's Responsible Hunter kit is available for instructor's use in helping students learn about anatomy and responsible decisions regarding shot placement. The kit includes water-proof cardboard deer silhouettes of a buck and a feeding doe with plastic vital organ overlays of the skeletal and circulatory systems. The standard kit also contains a turkey jake and hen, which make them all excellent for shoot, don't shoot training. In addition, a deer aging booklet is included, plus a cardboard carrying case for the entire kit. Up to 17 different animals are available for use, and all fit into the carrying case. The standard kit cost \$119, plus S&H. For more information, please call (800) 583-5416 or loon on their Web site, www.renzosdecoys.com.



Henry Repeating Arms Company

One of the best offers recently has been through Henry Repeating Arms. Instructors can purchase any Henry Firearm at a considerable discount. For more information, contact Henry Repeating Arms Company, 110 8th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215, phone: (718) 499-5600, or go to their Web site: www.henryrepeatingarms.com.



Editor's note: Please look in the *Instructor Journal* mailed with this newsletter for additional opportunities for instructor discounts.

Training Efforts and Workshops



*(Back row) Bob Stogdill, Charles Krpec, Kelly Kehrer, Joe Drobnik, Walt Chapman and James Kristynik
(Front row) Nancy Kehrer, Krista Kehrer, Daniel Kehrer, Rena Wright, Kitty Haynes and Austin Gilbert*

Outdoor Skills Workshop

The Outdoor Skills/Survival Workshop was hosted by Jim and Kitty Haynes in Rosenberg with the Dutch oven samplings of Bob Stogdill and logistical support by Charlie Wicke. Bob's moose stew was a big hit along with his chicken roast and turkey in a tent as well as two cobblers. Bob looks forward to offering a full-day Dutch Oven workshop. Hands on practice in fire building, shelter building and signaling were offered as well as the subjects of Map and Compass and Outdoor First Aid. Thanks Kitty and Jim for providing this workshop.



Wing Shooting Responsibility

Charlie Wilson and Jimmie Caughron held this workshop in Ozona recently. The purpose of the workshop is to increase awareness of the public on the importance of Wounding Loss, and the factors which are most responsible and what can be done to help change those factors. Watch the workshop schedule and attend one in the future. It will be well worth your while.

Training Efforts and Workshops

National Archery in Schools Program

The National Archery in Schools Program (NASP) is a national initiative started by the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Department in March 2002. The primary purpose of the program is to introduce youth to the benefits and joys of archery. By Feb. 1, 2005, the program has been adopted by 21 states (including Texas), and an additional 15 states have committed to implementing it. Early research indicates that as many as 38% of the participants involved in NASP want to begin bowhunting as one of the many extensions to the archery training. For this reason, archery, a one-time popular camp and physical education activity in many schools, is an effective tool for hunter educators to use in the area of recruitment of new hunters, especially in urban areas.

In Texas, NASP is a joint venture between the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Education Agency. Several archery equipment manufacturers and organizations are also partners. The program promotes student education and participation in the shooting sports. NASP promotes instruction in "Olympic-style" target archery as part of the in-school curriculum to improve educational performance and participation in the shooting sports among students in grades 4-12. Extensions such as bowhunting and 3-D archery competitions occur in after-school programs, hunter education and local archery clubs - many organized by the schools themselves.

TPWD hunter education staff and accomplished archers throughout Texas have been trained as Level II NASP instructors (Sept. 2004); and they began teacher training (Level I NASP) in spring 2005 to introduce the program to 20 "pilot schools" throughout Texas. Teacher training workshops have been held in Austin, Houston and the Valley, and are scheduled for North Texas and Dallas in August.



Shown here is the group who attended the Houston training session with Heidi Rao.

The Texas Hunter Education Instructor's Association received a Community Outdoor Outreach Program (COOP) Grant to outfit a total of eight schools with equipment. The eight schools, a mixture of elementary, middle and high schools, are primarily in urban areas to Texans can further learn more about the effects of archery as a tool of hunter and bowhunter education training and recruitment efforts.

For information about the program, please contact Steve Hall, Education Director and acting NASP coordinator, at steve.hall@tpwd.state.tx.us. Also, look for upcoming training workshops in the 2006 workshop schedule for your opportunity to be trained as a Level I or Level II instructor.

Training Efforts and Workshops

Western Big Game Workshop

Duke Walton did an excellent job facilitating and conducting this workshop for those who have not yet been to the western, mountainous areas of the country in pursuit of elk or mule deer. Tips for preparation for the hunt, how to select a guide service, and general information about the trip were the topics of the day. Hope all these participants will have a great experience and be prepared when that time comes. Thanks Duke!



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

HEATHER SMITH	DETROIT
DERRICK WOLTER	GATESVILLE
MICHAEL JANIS	PADUCAH
ERIC DE LOS SANTOS	JUSTIN
CAROLE ODWYER	COPPERAS COVE
DAVID BROWN	ASPERMONT
CHANCE HILL	ASPERMONT
LANCE BROWN	HAMLIN
DAVID RAINS	EL PASO
MICHAEL WILLIAMS	CHAPPELL HILL
TOMMY TAYLOR	WEATHERFORD

May

JAMES AKIN	AUSTIN
ROLANDO PENA, JR	SAN JUAN
ROBERTO SALAZAR	LOS INDIOS
CLARENCE EARLEY	COMMERCE
PATRICK ANDERSON	WICHITA FALLS
ASHLEY CULLEY	WICHITA FALLS
JERIMY MACLELLAN	LAUGHLIN AFB
CHRISTOPHER MEYER	COTULLA
JUSTIN HAMILTON	LIBERTY
SAMUEL SUMRALL	COLDSRING
JONATHAN HAIRELL	YOAKUM
LARRY LANGFORD	CROCKETT
CYNTHIA JOHNSON	BEDIAS
JOANNA CRUMPTON	HILLSBORO
KRISTIN L. KALLUS	HUNTSVILLE
JOHN TEMPLETON, JR	CALVERT

BRIAN VANDELIST	HUNTSVILLE
JONATHAN CAPLES	HUNTSVILLE
PAUL ODOM	ORANGE
JUSTIN STANFILL	CUERO
CORY SHAW	HUNTSVILLE
JESSICA REDDEN	NEW WAVERLY
LISA SCHAUB	TOMBALL
CASANDRA WILLIAMS	HUNTSVILLE
MARTHA HAMILTON	HOUSTON
KENT HAWES	UNIVERSAL CITY
WILLIAM MORROW III	HICO
FRANK TUCKER	WEATHERFORD
STEVEN KETCHUM	DEL RIO
ASHLEY CRANNEY	SPLENDORA

June

SALEEM EL-ARAMI	UNIVERSAL CITY
MEGAN STASHAK (Asst)	PEARLAND
STEPHEN ROSS	BRYAN
VUBANG NGUYEN	LA MARQUE
DAVID NIETO	HELOTES
JAVIER FUENTES	CRYSTAL CITY
ROLAND FUENTES	CASTROVILLE
CLINT H. GRAHAM	ROUND ROCK
OLUDOTUN OGUNDARE	SUGARLAND
SUZANNE BAKER	TOMBALL
JENNIFER INKSTER	CLEVELAND
STORMY KING	LOCKHART
LANCE LINDLEY	AMARILLO
CHAD E. MOORE	SAN ANTONIO

TEYRAN PATTERSON	SEGUIN
LAURA PETEREK	AUSTIN
JOHN PALACIOS	UVALDE
JENNY SIMPSON	ROCKWALL
BRIAN SCOTT	HONDO
JARED SELF	CHILDRESS
WILLIAM ZAPPE	HALLETTSVILLE
JOHN SCOTT	SIMONTON
KEVIN WILKINSON, JR	KATY
CYNTHIA AGUILAR	SAN ANGELO
GILBERT ALANIZ	EDINBURG
SERGIO BAZALDUA	SAN BENITO
MELISSA BROWN	CLEVELAND
RANDY BUTTON	MALAKOFF
LANA CARAWAY	SAN MARCOS
OSCAR CASTANEDA	SAN BENITO
MACK CHAMBERS	HUMBLE
INGA FROM	AUSTIN
LEANNE WINKENWERDER	SHINER
DANIEL WADDELL	AUSTIN
JILL POPPE	FRANKLIN
JASON CAMPBELL	SATIN
KENNETH BACON	SPRING
RICHARD LEMLER	LEWISVILLE
RICKY NICHOLAS	HOUSTON
CLAYTON RICHARDSON	WOLFE CITY
PERCY RICHARDSON, JR	COTULLA
JAMES COOK	MIRANDO CITY
TYLER J. THOMAS	MIRANDO CITY
WILLIAM BATSON, SR	BROWNSVILLE
FRANCISCO GUERRERO	EDINBURG

TEXAS GAME WARDEN FIELD NOTES



Game Wardens Graduate

The 51st Game Warden Class graduated July 1, and all 35 reported to their new posts across the state. This is Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's most diverse game warden class ever. Today's game wardens have broad roles, enforcing not only traditional hunting and fishing laws, but also have a wide range of other duties from working environmental crimes and performing flood rescues to making numerous public outreach and educational contacts.

"We are pleased and proud to present a class that as best as possible, reflects the face of Texas," said Col. Pete Flores, director of law enforcement at TPWD. The 51st Game Warden graduating class consists of one Hispanic female, nine white females, one male Asian, three male African Americans, eight male Hispanics and 13 white males. The educational background consists of 10 degrees in Conservation, 13 degrees in Criminal Justice or related field and four degrees in Conservation Science, to name some of their fields of study.

The six-month training brought the group from throughout the state to Austin where they lived and trained until graduation. Their training included 1,120 hours of instruction – including the 618-hour basic peace officer course. Also in the peace officer training was 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.



Flores, who is bilingual, says, "The ability to speak a second language is a great tool in a profession that requires the warden to communicate with people of different 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."

Warden Shot While Confronting Alleged Thieves

Recently, Zapata County Game Warden Martin Oviedo was shot in the ankle during a gunfire exchange as he attempted to stop two suspects from taking items from outside his home. The two men are in custody and are facing attempted capital murder charges and one is charged with felon in possession of a firearm. Oviedo, a warden since 2003, is in stable condition after surgery and it is unclear when he will return to work. According to the recently passed HB 1428, a peace officer is entitled to leave for up to a year without deduction in salary for an assault injury that happened in the course of duties. TPWD media representatives did about 10 media interviews with local news outlets in the area about Oviedo's shooting.

Don't Let Personal Views Lead to Law-Breaking

Game Wardens were inspecting the trapping operation in Sun City when, on two separate occasions, Sun City residents began honking their horn at one of the trap sites to scare the deer away. The wardens stopped the residents and advised that this was illegal under the hunter harassment law as this was a permitted process. The residents were issued warning citations. The wardens then asked the trappers if they could move their trap site so the public would not have easy access to it and to avoid future incidents. The trappers complied, and the rest of the operation went smoothly. Sun City had a permit to remove up to 150 deer by the end of March.

You Can Run, But You Can't Hide

A Gonzales County Game Warden arrested someone on felony warrants. The subject had been in hiding from the warden since a poaching incident last hunting season. Warrants from Lavaca County were also served at the time of the arrest. Working with an informant, the warden was able to learn that the subject was coming to visit his mother for Mother's Day. The warden, along with other county officers surrounded the residence where the subject was staying. He tried to escape

arrest by climbing out a back window but saw officers and went back into the house. He eventually came out and was taken to jail. The Attorney General's office also wanted the man for more than \$8,000 in back child support. The warden said he told the subject that he needed to quit messing with outlaw deer hunting. He agreed, then laughed and said, "You know I can sell drugs, steal, rob and shoot people, but I keep getting caught by the game wardens."

Jackpot Part II

A Galveston County Game Warden concluded an investigation that started in December. Charges were filed on an individual who had been hunting in San Saba County under a refused license. The warden utilized cold storage invoices, numerous witness statements, and digital photos obtained from the suspect's camera phone to obtain written confessions about 10 deer illegally harvested during the past two years. The warden recovered five sets of antlers, seized more than 200 pounds of meat, and confiscated a bow and rifle. Cases pending are hunting while a license is refused (class A), exceeding the limit on deer, using another's tag, and no hunter education certification. Additional charges were filed against two others for possession of untagged deer, improperly tagged deer and possession of an illegally killed game animal. Civil restitution fines will be sought on a total of 13 deer.

Jackpot Part III

While patrolling the western side of his county in an area known for road and night hunting, a Milam County Game Warden observed two men in a slow-moving pickup truck swerve and then abruptly turn when they saw him. He stopped the vehicle and found a shotgun propped between the front seats. The warden discovered the passenger was wanted for a parole violation. The passenger had a 30-page criminal history spanning five states. The parolee was taken to the Milam County Jail for the warrant and charged with possession of a firearm by a felon. Cases are pending.



THE BOWHUNTER

TEXAS BOWHUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Pope & Young Scoring In-Service

IBEP Instructors gathered in Austin on April 9 for an in-service session on Pope & Young Scoring presented by official P&Y Scorers, Fred Berg from Del Rio and Ron Collier from Cedar Park. White-tailed deer and mule deer were the specimens scored. Bob Boswell, Area Chief from Corpus Christi, brought his deer taken in 2004 which scored 152 P&Y. Bob is in the front row and middle of the photo. Thanks Fred and Ron for a very educational program.



Jack Jetton and his wife, Carrie, attended the opening ceremonies of the NRA convention in Houston. Jack was fortunate enough to meet and visit with Ted Nugent and Wayne La Pierre (Executive VP – NRA). Jack said, “Both men were a real pleasure to visit with and truly share the passion for firearms / hunting rights.” The Charlie Daniels Band provided the main entertainment at the opening ceremonies with Ted doing the Star Spangled Banner. Carrie was really impressed with the folks who attended the event.

Jack continued, “It was really a good meeting and made me proud to be a Life Member of such an organization.”

Jack summed it by saying, “Ted and I discussed bowhunting and my most recent turkey hunt. We also discussed the possibility of me helping out in his Kamp for Kids effort here in Texas. It could be a neat experience. I would love to share a camp fire with Ted.”



I took a Bowhunter Education class recently in Garland and really enjoyed it. I asked the instructors who I could write to leave some feedback and they gave me your addresses. All the instructors were obviously passionate about the sport. I didn't come away with all their names, but two stood out – Timm Getts and David Lassetter. Their style was beyond the boring “read the manual out loud” type of teaching. I just wanted someone to know that these classes and instructors are appreciated around here.

– Joe Franklin

Editor's Note: Thanks Joe. Here are a couple of photos representing the outstanding coursework mentioned above. When hands-on activities are incorporated into the course, it makes the learning much more enjoyable. Great job guys!

IBEP Kudos

Pictured here is Millie Holland with her six-foot, 300 lb. field-dressed, black bear taken on May 19, 2005, in New Brunswick, Canada. It was Thursday afternoon, the fourth day of a five-day spring bear hunt. Millie climbed into her stand shortly after 4:30 PM. She began to hear bears move slowly back and forth through the woods about 1-1/2 hours later. She sat motionless as sounds continued to get closer until she had to relax and stretch her right arm. As she stretched, she heard cracking of branches and the sound of a bear walking away from the bait – it was 7 p.m. Approximately five minutes later, she heard and saw a large bear approach the bait. The bear approached face on to the bait giving Millie a full view of the White V-Blaze on its chest. He took a piece of bait and walked out of view to eat. He returned moments later to get more food.

The bear turned to leave the bait area a second time – this time using a different direction. Millie drew her bow as the bear walked behind a sapling and held her draw. The bear paused momentarily presenting a classic quartering away shot opportunity. Millie settled her sight pin on the animal's last rib, released her arrow and watched it disappear into the bear's chest cavity. Approximately 30 seconds later she heard the telltale "death moan," a signal that confirmed exactly how lethal her shot had been. This was her second black bear taken with a bow. Congratulations Millie!



IBEP Online

Texas will begin in-service workshops to incorporate this process after Jan. 1, 2006. The online course is located at NBEF.org. This distance learning system will allow students to begin the NBEF's official IBEP bowhunter education course online, and there is a fee involved with the online course. Upon successful completion of the online course, which is confirmed by taking an exam online, students will be issued a Field Day Qualifier Certificate. This Field Day Qualifier Certificate is necessary to obtain entrance into the final portion of the bowhunter education certification process at the state or jurisdiction level, which takes place in the presence of certified instructors in the field. Nebraska is currently using this process for their mandatory course. Cost of the online course is \$20.

After participating in and successfully completing the Field Day portion, students will receive a "Temporary Student Card," and upon processing of all records, the NBEF/IBEP official state-issued certification card will be mailed directly to the student.

Just curious what bowhunter education is all about? Anyone may browse the Web site and take chapter tests to learn more about the world of bowhunting. Take a look and be prepared to come to the in-services in early 2006 to see the final product. It will be very interesting and beneficial. The students will complete the essential knowledge base prior to arrival, and should be able to move right into the field exercises for final certification. Field exercises and testing should take approximately four to six hours. One day and eight hours credit will be given for the online portion of the course completed by the student. Once the students reports for the field day, the total time will equal two days and 12 hours currently required.

The \$10 fee is still charged for the field day and the instructor will retain \$5 for out of pocket expenses, and \$5 will be sent to TPWD for administrative purposes. **Naturally, instructors may continue to teach the two-day course as in the past.** If you have any questions, please contact the TPWD office at (800) 792-1112, ext. 8140.



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