



TPWD Mission: To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



COORDINATOR'S CORNER

I recently conducted a new instructor program orientation workshop which represented the most diverse group of participants I have ever encountered. There was a buyer from H-E-B food stores, a propane dealer, a retired teacher, a husband-and-wife inner-city teaching team, four agriculture science teachers, a Dell computer employee, three deputy sheriffs from three separate locations, a paramedic, a coffee house manager, a photography store salesperson, a landscaper, an accountant, two U.S. Marine recruiters, a sales associate and a safety trainer for LCRA law enforcement. When they introduced themselves and gave the reason they were attending the training, it was fascinating to hear each individual's answer.

They all wanted to get involved, "make a difference," and be able to give back something to the community. Others wanted to educate the inner-city youth to promote the outdoors by giving kids a chance to enjoy activities not otherwise available to them. It was one of the best courses I have been involved with in quite some time. The group participated very well, although the temperature was near 104 degrees during the skills trail and live fire training. Comments on the evaluations alluded to the fact that the outside activities were the best, even though it was steaming out there. It shows again that hands-on training creates a far better learning environment.

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License Sales on Track in Early Days of New Hunting Season

Fiscal year 2010 Texas hunting and fishing license sales revenue from Aug. 15–Sep. 7 is up compared to the same time period during the last two years. In the early weeks of this year's season, license revenue increased 13 percent compared to the same period last season in FY 2009, but up only 4.9 percent compared to the year before. Fiscal year 2009 revenue was down significantly last fall because of Hurricane Ike, so FY 2008 is a better year for comparison with what's happened so far this season. In terms of total licenses sold during this early time period, 827,029 licenses were sold in FY2008, 787,048 in FY 2009 and 813,417 in FY 2010. Even though slightly fewer licenses have been sold so far in FY2010,

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Coordinator's Corner, continued

Most had already gone through their game warden interview and were impressed with the professionalism encountered during their local warden's visit. Many of them asked if game wardens would be available to assist with their courses. At that point, I was very proud, as always, to be associated with the game wardens, because I had been involved with training many of them in our programs over the past 21 years, and some have become good friends. We have some of the finest folks in the world out there upholding the laws and guarding our natural resources.

The next day I just happened to receive a call from an instructor asking for his/her instructor's number to do a "home study" course for an individual. Curious, I asked how the instructor was going to conduct the skills trail, live fire and ethics, responsibility and game laws portions for just one individual, since that is a mandatory requirement of the home study course. The individual responded, "Oh, it is a law enforcement officer so he doesn't need to do all of that," meaning the individual was going to get an "abbreviated" version of the course and receive certification.

I immediately stated that although the person was in law enforcement, it does not mean that course procedures can be altered to fit a certain experience level. Hunter education experience levels are some things we cannot assume (just like with military personnel). As certified hunter education instructors, we must continually strive to set a good example by not taking "shortcuts" in the learning process, especially for friends, associates or family members.

We should expect all instructors to uphold the integrity of this program with no exception. This past summer, an instructor was decertified due to not following program policies and procedures, using inappropriate language and charging excessive fees. When applicants are trained, they are given the instructor manual, which lists what instructors "should do, and

are expected to do." If an instructor is found to be in violation of these policies, it can result in dismissal from the program.

When an instructor does it the right way, we can expect students to gain the appropriate knowledge, skill and attitude (especially the latter), becoming advocates for safe, responsible hunting and shooting practices – our mission in hunter education!

NOTICE:

Please mark your calendars for March 19-20, 2010 for the next Annual Hunter Education Instructor Conference and Awards Banquet to be held in the Houston area at the American Shooting Center.

Rooms have been blocked at Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 2205 Barker Oaks Drive at Hwy. 6 in Houston, (281) 497-9888. This hotel is about four miles from American Shooting Centers. There are 40 rooms blocked at the state rate of \$90 until March 4. After March 4, the room rate will go up. There are 19 rooms with two queen beds; 17 rooms with a king bed; and four rooms with a king suite at this discounted rate. Instructors MUST make their reservations under "Texas Parks and Wildlife" to obtain this discounted rate.

A variety of break-out sessions will be available; plus, a great guest speaker, Dick Turpin of Nebraska, is scheduled to be there. He missed last year due to medical problems, but is doing fine now. His passion is making custom turkey calls and telling stories around the campfire. For additional information, visit his Web site at www.turpincalls.com. The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo will be winding down as well, so there will be plenty of things to do. Bring the family and make a weekend of it.

Until next time ...

Safe hunting!
Terry Erwin

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



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IHEA 2009 Conference in Ontario – Bring 'em In! Bring 'em Back!

The week started with an IHEA board meeting. The National Shooting Sports Foundation also sponsored a Best Practices for Recruitment and Retention of Hunters workshop for those arriving early. Disseminating this information in a workshop the day before the conference allowed administrators the opportunity to accomplish multiple tasks/trainings during one event.

Thursday started with opening ceremonies conducted by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the host of the conference, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. After the opening ceremonies, Mike D' Abramoni discussed how to reach Generation Y and Millennials during his presentation on Youthography – Attitudes toward Hunting and Fishing – “What does our Future Look Like?” Afterwards Bill Troubridge and Lee Zimmerman held a session on Alternative Opportunities for Recruitment and Retention, dealing with crossbows.

During the IHEA Awards Luncheon, Federal Premium awarded the IHEA Instructor of the Year award to Ray Johnson of North Pole, Alaska. Bob Davis, Manager of NRA Hunter Services Department, was presented the Dr. Ed Kokicky Award by President Mark Birkhauser for his service to the IHEA. There were three inductees to the IHEA Hall of Fame: James Bell (GA), Wayne Jones (NY) and Dave Kubas (CT). Jim Wentz received the Executive Director's Award in recognition of his service with the IHEA online hunter education program and his efforts in hosting the IHEA Web site and listserve.

The Gladney Davidson Award went to Winchester Ammunition for their many years of support of IHEA. The NRA Hunter Services Department Manager, Bob Davis, was given the Industry Award for NRA's outstanding contributions to the IHEA. In recognition of his development of the Southeastern States Hunter Education Program, Dr. Jim Neale received the Innovations in Technology Award. Tim Coleman of West Virginia was honored for his service under adverse circumstances with the Darrel Holt Memorial Award. Thomas Saldias, Zone IV instructor representative from Peru, received the Past President's Award for his efforts in developing the Spanish version on the IHEA course and his efforts with South American countries. David Dodson of Virginia received the Professional of the Year Award and Mark Birkhauser of New Mexico was the recipient of the Outgoing President Award.

After the awards luncheon on Thursday, afternoon sessions included a marketing workshop and round-table discussion hosted by Wayne East. There was also a session on the IHEA Web site orientation and the National Archery in the Schools Program. Committee meetings finished out the remainder of the afternoon.

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters hosted a vendor's reception and wild game hors-d'oeuvres on Thursday evening. Several vendors participated offering many new products and special discounts to hunter education programs.

Friday's activities were all demonstrations of hands-on activities to assist in teaching hunter education students the skills needed to be a successful hunter. Hunter Safety Systems provided additional demonstrations on how to safely install and use a tree stand.

Saturday started with a plethora of seminars and activities. IHEA Zone I Volunteer Instructor Representative and host of the IHEA conference, Bill Blackwell, led a Wild Turkey Hunter Education Program Seminar. Tim Lawhern (WI) provided a New Administrator Orientation. Thomas Baumeister (MT) and Kalkomey Enterprises gave an overview of the new IHEA On-Line Instructor Training Program for Hunter Education in North America. Jerry Soukup (AK) led an overview of the new Muzzleloader Education Program. Rick Wyatt, Ontario Chief Firearms Officer, gave an overview of Canadian Firearms Laws, Border Crossing and U.S. Relevancy.

There were also seminars and activities of interest for instructors who desired to attend the conference. Tim Cameron discussed Class Related Techniques and Tools. John Louk (TMA) provided a Tree Stand Safety Seminar, and Dr. James A. Tantillo (Cornell University) discussed Hunting Ethics for Instructors.

The annual meeting was also a time for elections, and the following individuals were elected to serve.

Tim Lawhern (WI) President

Jeff Hopkins (IL) President-Elect

David Windsor (IN) Secretary/Treasurer (ran unopposed)

Zone II Elections:

John McKay (NV) Vice President Zone II, replacing Lance Meek (OK)

Dave Bauer (CO) Instructor Representative Zone II (retained his position on the board of directors)

FUTURE CONFERENCES

Colorado will host the 2010 IHEA conference June 2-5, 2010, at the Stanley Hotel (www.stanleyhotel.com) in Estes Park. Try to make this conference and take a little vacation at the same time to enjoy some of the mountains and cool weather.

North Carolina was awarded the bid and will host the 2011 conference at the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort in Wrightsville Beach, NC, which is scheduled for June 1-4.

Texas Teens Take Home Honors From Ag Clays 381 State Trap Shoot

The Second Annual Ag Clays 381 State Trap Shoot took place June 8 at the Hill Country Shooting Sports Range in Kerrville, where 121 shooters representing 23 schools formed 28 teams, including 10 mixed teams, 15 all-male teams and three all-female teams.

The Ag Clays 381 Trap activity was started three years ago by Charlie Wilson, Mobile Shooting Range coordinator for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The shoot is for those students enrolled in the Agriculture Science elective course, Ag 381 – Wildlife and Recreation Management. The event is open to any student currently or previously enrolled in Ag 381 who has completed hunter education certification as part of the curriculum. This means that a student can enroll as a sophomore and compete in the event for three years until they graduate.

The requirements follow the usual UIL rules of no pass, no play, but have much more stringent requirements through the Future Farmer's of America (FFA) Career Development Education (CDE) rules. "We look at it as a recruitment tool for young people to learn a sport that may be carried on throughout their entire lives," said Erwin.

There was more than a 100 percent increase in shooters from last year with more than half of them beginning as new shooters in the program. River Star Farms, a company who produces items as fundraiser products for FFA chapters, donated and catered the noon meal with sloppy joes, chips and drinks. There were 82 male and 39 female shooters from high schools as far north as Littlefield in the Panhandle, as far south as Corpus Christi and east at Wills Point.



All-Female State Champion

Brazoswood High School

Kelsey Firkins, Ashley Slaughter, Taylor Self and Kaitlyn Garrett

2nd Place: Whitharral ISD

Molly Presley, Alisha Pecero, Sarah Myatt, and Breanna Hays

3rd Place: Belton High School

Jessica Mebane, Haley Thorne, Ashley Sanders, Kaitlyn Ellis

All-Male State Champion

New Braunfels High School

Tyler Martin, Blaine Floerke, Adam Hunt and Nelson Reuwer

2nd Place: Whitharral ISD

Tell Rutledge, Keaton Samsel, Corey Nickelson and Ryan Lorenz

3rd Place: Corpus Christi

Mary Carroll High School

Dustin Almendariz, Payton Sienkiewicz and Ryan Sijansky





Mixed-Team State Champion

Littlefield High School

Tucker Foley, Shelby White,
Jake Blackwell and Kylon Blackwell

2nd Place: Brazoswood High School

Dean Tumlinson, Kelsey Firkins,
Cody Wilson and Zack Henderson

3rd Place: Bellville High School

Collyn Tiemann, Tanner Vecha,
Garrett Rinn and Brittney Klein



High Overall Male State Champion

Tyler Martin of New Braunfels,
who shot a score of 96 out of 100.



High Overall Female State Champion

Raylea Underwood of
Borden County ISD
(Gail, Texas), who
shot a score of 93 out
of 100.

Information about the Ag Clays 381 program is on the TPWD Web site (www.tpwd.state.tx.us). For details or questions, contact Charlie Wilson at agclays381@yahoo.com or (512) 413-0194.

License Sales, continued from front page

revenue is still greater than in FY 2008 because license fees increased by about 5 percent across the board this season. License revenue for FY 2009 actually finished ahead of FY 2008 primarily due to a \$4.8 million increase in lifetime license sales. The surge occurred mostly in August and was due to a significant price increase for lifetime licenses that took effect Sept. 1. Although it's interesting to compare license sales in the early weeks of each season, when the start of dove hunting drives a high percentage of TPWD's annual sales volume, a few weeks is still too early in the season to draw significant conclusions about hunting and fishing participation or license revenue trends for the year as a whole.

TRAINING WORKSHOPS

New Instructor Workshop

From the Aug. 15, 2009 workshop at Kleberg County Trap & Skeet Club in Kingsville (left to right): Richard Ball, Goliad; Jason Klar, Poth; Lisa Klar, Poth; David Vanderhider, San Antonio; Lance Solomon, Falfurrias; and Richard Esparza Jr., Rio Grande City (not pictured).



Reading the Weather – Fort Worth

Attending the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Reading the Weather workshop were, back: Ron Bobo; front left to right: Robert Ramirez, Tom Townsend, Walt Chapman, Jim Schaefer, Jessica Shultz, David Lassiter, Bob Wright and Pitman Haymore.

An additional Reading the Weather workshop was held at NOAA in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) in Brownsville on June 8 for several volunteer and agriculture science teacher hunter education instructors. Barry Goldsmith, NOAA training meteorologist coordinator, put on an excellent eight-hour presentation, which included but was not limited to Weather 101, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Hurricanes, and SkyWarn training, with certification to boot. Barry mentioned that one of NOAA's goals in FY 2010 is to increase the number of volunteer-trained spotters for the purpose of broadcasting more accurate information out to the public at a faster pace. With this in mind, Barry is planning on conducting several training sessions in the RGV for FY 2010. Anyone interested can contact Barry at (956) 504-1631, ext. 223.

El Salvador

Thomas Saldias, TPWD Instructor Trainer and IHEA Regions IV Volunteer Board representative, spent several weeks in South America promoting hunter education. Pictured here is a group of individuals he taught the student course to in El Salvador. Thanks, Thomas, for spreading the word!



Dutch Oven Workshop

A Dutch Oven Workshop was held on Saturday, May 23, in Weatherford at Horseshoe Bend. This workshop was held on the banks of the Brazos River in conjunction with the Fourth Annual Horseshoe Bend Knapper's Guild Knap-In coordinated by Hunter Education Instructor Ray Thorpe. The backdrop was a chuck wagon that belongs to Hunter Education Instructor Mark Spillman. Mark is a full-time firefighter and enjoys the history and techniques of "Cowboy Cooking." Topics that were discussed were Dutch oven care and seasonings, fire techniques, recipes and cooking techniques and precautions.

All participants had their bellies full from morning to evening. Some of the dishes that were prepared were range coffee, biscuits, eggs, and breakfast tacos. Lunch was more adventurous with alligator, catfish and rattlesnake. Dinner consisted of chili, stew and cornbread. Cobblers were the dessert of choice as they were highly requested.



Left to right: Mark Spillman, Daniel Butcher, Laura Butcher, Jerry Couch, Ron Bobo, Joy Bobo. Front: Ray Thorpe, Faith Ramirez and Lauren Schmidt



Buffalo Soldiers (Hunter Ed. instructors): Rosie Leeta "Lee" Reed, Frank Arellano (not an instructor) and Wendell Prince.



Ray Thorpe, Laura Butcher, Daniel Butcher, Mark Spillman, David Hammonds, Jerry Couch and Robert Ramirez

Hunting Watercraft Safety Workshop

A Hunting Watercraft Safety Workshop was held on Sunday, May 24, at Horseshoe Bend near Weatherford. There was introduction, discussion, and field exercises with different watercraft used in hunting. All activities occurred on dry ground to keep everyone safe. The workshop consisted of water safety, boarding a boat with firearms, kayak introduction, boating with impairment, hunting boat zones of fire, hypothermia safety and boating accident survival.

The highlight of the workshop was the use of the impairment goggles that volunteer students used to demonstrate how prescription drugs and alcohol can impair one's ability to conduct simple task. The exercise was loading a Jon boat to go hunting. The instructors were amazed at how it affected the student's ability to be safe. The "teachable moments" were numerous and this activity really opened everyone's awareness of how accidents can happen when alcohol or drugs are used before or during hunting.



Wildlife Management Workshop

Instructors took advantage of a Wildlife Management Workshop held June 6 at the Katy Prairie Conservancy. The workshop began with a “White-tailed Deer Nutrition” presentation by Wildlife Biologist Ryan Schoeneberg. Participants went to the field for very informative hands-on sessions. “Deer on the Half-Shell” was conducted by Game Warden Susan Webb. Webb explained how to properly field-dress a deer, then identified and examined each and every internal organ. After thoroughly examining the stomach compartments and contents, instructors then moved to the next station—“What Do Deer Eat?”—conducted by Wildlife

Biologist Jon Hayes. Instructors handled and identified first-, second- and third-choice browse plants for deer. Wildlife Biologist Keith Crenshaw then took instructors to the field to identify and evaluate habitat. Schoeneberg then demonstrated when to identify the rut by measuring the size of the deer fetus. Numbers were calculated into a formula to accurately identify the date of conception. This is a benefit to hunters so they may hunt the rut! After a lunch break, the afternoon concluded with the presentation “Controlling Feral Hogs” by Hayes, and the final presentation, “Habitat Protection for Quail,” by Jim Willis with the Wildlife Habitat Federation. Many thanks to Jaime Gonzales of the Katy Prairie Conservancy for hosting a successful and educational workshop!

Thank You!

I just wanted to pass on that I know we have many volunteers who go far beyond the call of duty when it comes to teaching our hunter education courses. Some include special sessions like the one I had the pleasure of assisting with in San Antonio at Audie Murphy V.A. Hospital.

Mr. John Ploetz (hunter ed instructor from Boerne, Texas) invited me to assist in providing a special class to several of our wounded warriors currently in rehabilitation.



Over the past few years John has provided several of these special courses. John always displays a tremendous concern and attitude towards these special-needs students, and his ability to convey hunting laws, ethics and safety concerns earns him extremely high marks and words of praise from his students. John deserves immense credit and recognition for his unselfish work in this area. I’m proud to assist when possible and proud to say that I can rub elbows with someone of his caliber. I’ll expect to hear more stories of John’s abilities later this year as I hope to visit some of these warriors again during an upcoming hunt and gathering of these amazing people.

Sincerely,
John Rodriguez

Agriculture Science Teachers Attend Training



Two sessions for training instructors in the Ag Clays 381 program were held in July. Shown here are the participants during those two days.



Pictured at left are teachers who took the New Instructor training and will begin to teach the Agriculture Science 381 curricula, or who have been out and are getting recertified.



Two Public Hunting Lands workshops were held recently in Mt. Pleasant (right, bottom) and in Fort Worth (right, top). During these sessions, participants were provided information on how to apply, what to expect, what animals were available and locations of public lands. It was very informative, and hopefully instructors will pass this information on to students.



Kerr WMA Workshop

Pictured at left are the instructors who attended the Kerr WMA workshop Sept. 12, 2009. From left to right, back row: Ed Knetsch; David Vanderhider; Jason Klar; Jack Thompson. Middle row: Lisa Klar; Bryant Truitt; Daniel Pike. Front row: Doug Bowers; Miguel Amador; William Moulder.

The Hunt of a Lifetime

By Duke Walton

My grandfather gave me a BB gun for Christmas when I was seven years old and I found out that I was a hunter. At first it was birds; then, as I grew up, it went from small game to ducks, geese, hogs and deer. When I lived in Santa Fe, New Mexico, I took a monster mule deer, mountain lion and a black bear. Through the years I have hunted many animals.

I have collected all of Robert Ruark's books on Africa and even have *Into Africa: The epic adventure of Stanley and Livingstone* and *Death in the Long Grass* by Peter Hathaway Capstick. I had never given serious thought to really going on safari until David Hammonds brought a donation of three hunts from outfitter Louis Loots of Ka Maoto Safaris in South Africa for THEIA to use as a fundraiser. Bob Boswell bought two of the hunts with a winning bid of \$4,800, and when he ask me if I wanted to split it with him, it didn't take me long to say yes! I had to sell some of my firearms that I had collected over many years to come up with the money to go, but I think it was worth it.

When we arrived, I was like a kid in a candy store on Christmas morning! My first week was with Bob at Ka Maoto Safaris in Ellisras, South Africa, which is so much like South Texas it was unbelievable. The first day we saw 15 different species and over 200 animals. I had a case of jet lag, and it took a couple days to get into the routine of the hunt. Bob added eland, N'yaala and bushbuck to his bag of five animals and I added a gemsbok, bushbuck and a black-back jackal to mine. The professional hunters, food and lodging at Louis Loots' concession can't be beat at any price and they all work very hard to make sure you get

your animals and have a great time. It truly is the hunt of a lifetime!

I still had three more weeks and two more hunts ahead. Bob and I had a great hunt together and became better friends. Bob had to leave on Monday and I had more adventures ahead, so I went to meet Abraham on Sunday. The next day we were on the road again to Plainsburg Game Reserve, where we stayed at a hotel in Sun City (a lot like Las Vegas). All I can say is WOW! It would take many pages to describe, so I will just say if you are ever in South Africa, don't miss it! On Wednesday we met some of Abraham's hunting buddies for a hunt near Messina on the Zimbabwe border to hunt at Sheldrake game ranch, where I hunted with Gehard Minnaar. This area is a lot like the Texas Hill Country. The hunting is very tough—all walking for many kilometers—but I did sleep at night after a long day in the field. On this hunt I took several impala and a monster wart hog that took 14 km and much tracking. I passed up a great gemsbok bull and a more than 27-inch impala as I still had another week's hunting to go.

My last hunt was west of Pretoria just past Zeerust near the Botswana border. This area was a lot like the Christmas Mountains of West Texas near Terlingua. I just thought the walking was rough the week before. This area is all 30-40 percent up or down with lots of rocks, and everything sticks or scratches you. I brought a waterbuck, springbuck, another gemsbok and two kudu to the taxidermist to add to my other animals. It looks like I will have to remodel my game room!

I have hunted elk, deer, turkey and exotics, but this was without a doubt the hunt of a lifetime! The only thing that would have made it better was to have had my dad and my best buddy, Dennis Rock, with me; and both could have been, as outfitter Louis Loots can and does cater to a hunter's abilities and limitations.

They say once you hunt Africa you will want to return again and again. With me it is true, as I will have a piece of Africa in my blood and hunter's soul forever!



For Your Information

NOTICE: New Supply Order Method Takes Effect

Instructors are entering a new era for literature and supply distribution and are encouraged to use the new online procedure for ordering supplies. Mac Almond is now assigned to the warehouse staff, but will continue to fill orders. Direct communication via phones with Mac will be difficult because of his new location, so it will be much more efficient to email the order directly to him via the address on the order form. To get to that form, use the Web address below and you will need a user name and a password to access the form. Please begin this process immediately if you have not already. It will quicken the process for orders and supply delivery.

If you do not have e-mail capabilities, you are still welcome to mail the form in or contact our office and we will assist you with your order. Thanks for your cooperation.

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/hunter_education/instructor/

Hunting Citations

The following information was provided by Law Enforcement regarding enforcement (citations/warnings) of hunting activity. It appears that hunter education is being taken to a little higher degree. There was an increase in student certifications for FY 09 (38,914). There was increase in hunting citations overall (mostly from hunting license violations), but a decrease in hunter safety citations.

FY 2008

Hunting citations (all)	9,493
Hunter safety (included in above)	2,907

FY 2009

Hunting citations (all)	10,020
Hunter safety (included in above)	2,661

Thanks for all your dedication and hard work!

New Changes Listed in the *Outdoor Annual*

Additional Counties with Antler Restrictions

Fifty-two (52) additional counties now fall under the 13-inch antler restrictions. Please refer to the *Outdoor Annual* under County Listings to see which ones are now included. We do have a new 10-minute DVD available for instructors who wish to show the restrictions to their students. It shows several deer that are legal and some that are not legal and basically what to look for. If you would like a copy, please contact Kathy Powell at (800) 792-1112, ext. 8142.

Legal Shooting Hours for All Game Animals and Non-migratory Game Birds

From one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. For information on sunrise/sunset hours, please look on page 55 or at www.sunrisesunset.com/usa/Texas.asp

Crossbows

The department has approved a bill signed by the governor to make crossbows lawful for any person during the Archery-Only Open Season in all counties except Grayson County. Those rules had not been finalized when the *Outdoor Annual* was printed.

Laser Sights

The department has approved rules that would allow the use of laser sighting devices by disabled hunters during lawful hunting hours in open seasons, provided the hunter is assisted by a licensed hunter at least 13 years of age who is not legally blind and the hunter possesses a physician's or optometrist's statement certifying that the hunter is incapable of using a traditional firearm sighting device.

Check the TPWD Web site or call (800) 792-1112 for any further information on the above changes.



Dear Mr. Wilson,

You asked me to e-mail you regarding how I did last year at the Texas 4-H State Round-Up with my educational presentation, *Shooting Sports in the Schools*.

My first presentation was in Brazoria County at County Round-Up. Several men in the audience came up to me afterwards to tell me how much they enjoyed the presentation. Apparently, they bow-hunt and were unaware that Mathews had developed an archery program for schools that had been so well received. My next presentation was at District Round-Up in Navasota. I placed second there. I don't mean to sound like sour grapes here, but I felt that one judge in particular was anti-gun. The other two enjoyed my presentation.

I presented the program at State 4-H Round-Up at Texas A&M University. I placed fourth there. All judges were familiar with shooting sports. One judge was so excited about the news that there are shooting sports in the schools that he wants me to give an update on the two programs for next year's Round-Up! Some of the judges' comments were that these sound like great projects that have been started in our state. Many people were impressed that the shooting sports in the school programs have been positive motivators to increase grades and attendance.

I had several questions regarding the shotgun program from members of the audience after the awards ceremony, and with the information you and Mike Firkins had given me, I was able to answer them. I recently heard of a rifle program in the schools, so that could be incorporated into a future presentation.

I am glad I got to meet you at our On-Target Whiz Bang. Thank you for your help in this project. I am now a State 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador. If I can help you promote shooting sports at some point and time, please let me know.

Sincerely,
Danica Yates



Pictured left to right is Jim Sutherlin – J.D. Murphree WMA Manager; Hunter Beamesderfer; and Brent Beamesderfer with TPWD Hunter Education at the Jimmy Dunks Dedication that was held at the J.D. Murphree WMA on August 29 in Port Arthur. Thanks to Jim Sutherlin and his staff who made the dedication ceremonies a huge success.

Brent Beamesderfer
Instructor



I wanted to let you know that I presented a program on May 21, 2009, for the Progressive Farm Safety Day. My topic was gun

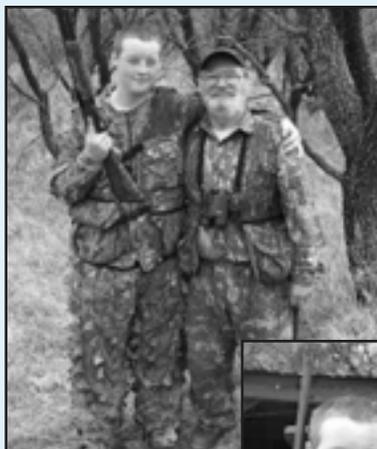
safety, and the audience was 103 eighth-grade students from Bowie County. It was held at the Woodstock Rodeo Arena north of New Boston, TX. I had eight groups of about 13 for the 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. period.

The topics discussed were safe gun handling in and around a vehicle, proper ear and eye protection, use of blaze orange

clothing, handing a firearm from one person to another, and ways to safely cross fences with a firearm.

Each student was provided a pair of foam ear plugs, a paper with the “Ten Commandments of Shooting Safety” and a paper with the parts of a rifle and shotgun depicted.

Thanks,
Charles W. Snowden, Jr.
Area Chief, Linden



These pictures were taken on the youth turkey hunt bought at last year's annual meeting donated by Billy Holt! Jeremy didn't get a bird but he saw birds that did what turkeys sometimes do.



He did tell me on our last hunt on Sunday morning that it was his very best hunt ever, even without pulling the trigger! It made me walk a lot taller with more spring in my step to know that he finally got it! The experience is in the hunt, not in the shot, and we will be back next year. Thanks to Billy for helping build a lasting bond between Jeremy and his Paw Paw, an old turkey hunter.

Happy Trails
Duke Walton

Heidi,

I would like to send a big thank you to Quail Forever and David Knoeppel (right), their chapter president, for their sponsorship of my Hunter Education class. I also hope that many other instructors will get a chance to work with them, as they are a great bunch of guys. I would also like to dedicate this class to Marvin Free. He



was enrolled to take this class, but the day before he had to have a triple-bypass heart surgery. Before they took him back he told me to take care of the students and let the doctors and nurses take care of him. He was saddened that he could not be there to be in the class. Marvin is not only my father; he is my best friend, mentor, and my hunting and fishing buddy.

Thank you,
Clinton Free, Hunter Education instructor

Dear Staff:

I recently took again the course for safe and responsible hunting. (I took it many years ago in order to hunt in California.) I am astonished about some facts, so I will try to explain myself. To begin with, it was mainly for members of the Club Safari Mexico as well as members of the Order of St. Hubertus.

I found myself surrounded not only by very experienced and seasoned hunters but a lot of youngsters, which with all their attention



followed the explanations, pictures and videos very well. Time ran swiftly and at the end there was only great satisfaction about the course. The “white heads” found, again, the old principles in hunting, conservation and safety, and the “green hands” learned them the right way.

I congratulate IHEA, you, the Club Safari Mexico, the Mexican Hunting Federation and the Order of St. Hubertus for promotion of this course. We will keep in touch. Mario Alberto Canales (President of the Club Safari Mexico) and Carlos Moreno (President of the Mexican Hunting Federation) are working very well together, and the Order of St. Hubertus will keep its support up for them. (They both are distinguished Knights of the Order.) We are planning to do another course focused mainly on youngsters that now are coming on holidays.

Good (and safe) hunting always!
Jesus Yuren, Mexico

Dear Staff:

I got to thinking back to 1999-2001 when I had an Outdoor Club at Roosevelt High School. I had as many as 15 kids who went fishing at Boerne Lake, Calaveras Lake and a couple of other places. I took them to a rifle range with their parents, and everybody, young and old, got to use .22s for the first time. We did the work through the new Venture Scouting program that allowed girls to participate with the guys.

When we got a new vice principal who was in charge of clubs, he called me in and asked if I realized how dangerous fishing – being so close to the water – was. I said everyone had learned to swim as a kid and parents went along. I said it would be a good idea for our kids in the club to take a life-saving course at the YMCA/YWCA and he said, “Absolutely not! It is too dangerous.” Within a couple of days I was informed that the Venture Scouting club was “too dangerous” for student participation and no longer existed. The Girl Scouts were allowed on campus that same year.

When I asked a San Antonio regional Girl Scout leader at an area presidents’ meeting if I could work with her to offer TPWD Hunter Education to Girl Scouts, she replied, “Girl Scouts don’t get into violent activities like that.”

All I know is that many adults seem to be so afraid of injury and lawsuits that all they want their kids to do is sit on that soft couch in front of a TV or computer and not go anywhere outside where gangs or sweat or the possibility of scraped knees can get to their kids. Many other adults are willing to take chances to introduce kids to “dangerous outside activities,” but they need legal and financial support to do so.

The Master Naturalist group here in San Antonio had a wonderful program for fourth-graders, getting them outside for science class, but there is not much else that I am aware of besides the new Archery in the Schools program. I hope we can get regional Expos going. That may be a super way to attack part of the problem – get adults and kids outside.

Dr. Peggy Weyel
Area Chief, San Antonio

Dear Staff:

Chris Lena made such an impression on Paul that my wife told me yesterday Paul held a hunter education class for his two younger sisters here at the house. He’s like that. Some things just consume him for a while. Paul loves to be outdoors as much, if not more, than I do. Don’t misunderstand; Paul and I have our disagreements/arguments like any father-son relationship, but in the end, we always end up sitting next to one another by the fire at the end of the day.

Paul and I spoke Saturday evening, while eating our steaks, and we wanted to send a letter of appreciation to Chris for taking the time and patience to teach the class to us and share his knowledge. There were times I felt that Paul and I were the only people in the room and the class was being held just for us. Paul will be sending Chris an e-mail, after he sees the letter sent to him. He has been writing one out on a tablet to send Chris since Sunday morning. If you see the interpreters again, please extend our appreciation for their patience and assistance as well.

Chris truly has a wealth of knowledge that I believe more people need to be exposed to and share. I am particularly interested in seeing how to set a coyote trap. I got a sense during the class that Chris has a wealth of outdoor experiences that would take days and weeks by the campfire to share with someone. Maybe Chris should write a book? Paul and I were delighted about the class he taught, and I have been telling some friends to only attend one of his classes when their child is ready for their hunter education training.

Right now I am trying to convince my 11-year-old daughter to attend his next class. I have two more daughters who need to be educated by the best!

Universal Forest Products, Western Division
Keith D. Soechting

Good Morning,

I wanted to thank you for allowing me to interpret sign language in your hunter education courses. I have really enjoyed doing this for several years, and I have lost count. It still amazes me that I still learn something from each course. You have very good instructors that do a fantastic job teaching.

The last class held July 17-18 was great, and Chris Lena is a great instructor. This was a large class, but this didn’t stop Chris. The class felt comfortable enough to ask him many difficult questions and he did a fabulous job answering them well. He managed to hold their attention the entire time. We can see and feel his passion for hunter education. Several young children were there including the one that I interpreted for (Paul). I was amazed that Chris kept them engaged, including Paul. Paul jumped right in and added his questions, comments, and concerns without hesitation. Paul was so thrilled to receive his certification. He plans to hunt with his dad.

Thank you again for the many wonderful opportunities to interpret in your hunter education courses. Please let Chris know how much I appreciate his passion as an instructor.

Have a blessed day,
Lori Petty

IN THE NEWS...

From National Shooting Sports Foundation

Firearm and Ammunition Excise Taxes Jump 43%

\$109.8 Million Generated for Conservation in 1st Quarter

Firearm and ammunition manufacturers paid \$109.8 million in excise taxes in the first quarter of 2009, up 43 percent over the same period last year. Released by the U.S. Department of Treasury, excise tax figures are one of the industry's best indicators of performance. Manufacturers pay the tax – a major source of wildlife conservation funding – on all firearms and ammunition sold (11 percent on long guns and ammunition, and 10 percent on handguns). Between Jan. 1 and March 31, \$33 million was collected for pistols and revolvers, \$38.9 million for long guns and \$37.8 million for ammunition. Compared to the same quarter in 2008, collections were up 65.5 percent for handguns, 42.9 percent for ammunition and 28.3 percent for long guns. Using the latest collections as an indicator of sales, a projection of \$1.03 billion was generated in the first quarter. These statistics do not reflect retail markup or final retail sales and are based solely on U.S. civilian sales.

Big Growth for Hunting and Shooting Equipment in 2008

According to a new National Sporting Goods Association report, hunting- and firearms-related equipment was the only sporting-goods equipment category to see double-digit sales growth in 2008. Sales rose 16 percent, while overall sporting-goods equipment sales declined 1 percent compared to the previous year. Hunting- and firearms-related equipment ranked second only to exercise equipment in 2008, NSGA reports. Included in the “hunting and firearms” equipment category are rifles, handguns, shotguns, ammunition, airguns, reloading equipment, paintball and cutlery. NSGA reported sales in the hunting and firearms category were \$4.6 billion in 2008, up from \$3.9 billion the previous year.

From Delta Waterfowl: Hunter Numbers Not as Bad as they Appear

Several anti-hunting groups were quick to take credit when news of declining hunter numbers broke, but a closer look at the data suggests the numbers are more reflective of changing demographics than changing attitudes, said a release by Delta Waterfowl.

According to the release, while it's true hunting participation has dropped precipitously from its 1975 peak and hunting has been losing market share, concerns about the future based strictly on the license sales ignore two undeniable forces that have dramatically skewed the numbers—the baby boom generation and urbanization. This index shows hunting has not kept pace with the overall population growth, but that's only part of the story. According to the national survey, 49 percent of all hunters are rural males, 91 percent of all hunters are males, and rural residents are four times more likely to hunt than urbanites. These statistics, which have changed only slightly since the 1991 survey, clearly define the prototypical hunter as a rural male. While the total population has increased steadily since 1955, the pool of likely participants—rural males—has increased only fractionally. In 2006 rural males (13 percent of the 16 and older population) comprised a disproportionate 49 percent of hunters over 16. Twenty-three percent of rural males hunt as opposed to just 6 percent of urban males. Hunting grew twice as fast as the rural population through the mid-1970s and early '80s, but that growth was fueled by 80 million baby boomers that by 1980 comprised nearly 60 percent of the hunting population.

Hunter numbers tapered off in the last two surveys as baby boomers began dropping out, and future decreases are inevitable as boomers age and the urban population continues to expand. Given these demographic realities, it is unlikely hunter numbers will ever return to the glorious levels they once enjoyed. The prototypical hunter of the 1970s and '80s is slowly fading from view, and the pool of candidates to replace him is shrinking. If hunter numbers are to remain stable in the post-boom era, outdoor interests must create a new mold from which to cast the next generation of hunters. Meanwhile, we can take comfort in the knowledge that the numbers aren't as bad as our critics would have us believe.

KUDOS!

Huntmaster is Volunteer of the Year for TWA

by John Jefferson



Austin Woods & Waters Club Chief Huntmaster and 2008 Sportsman of the Year Doug DuBois, Jr., was awarded the 2009 Volunteer of the Year award by the Texas Wildlife Association during their annual convention in San Antonio in June. While newly elected TWA President Tina Buford of Harlingen presented the award, TWA CEO Gary Joiner enumerated Doug's many contributions to TWA. Chief among them is serving as the chairman of the Texas Youth Hunting Advisory Committee for TWA, along with serving as the Heart of Texas (Area 9) area coordinator for TYHP and chief huntmaster for AWWC. Additionally, Doug serves as TWA Region 4 co-chairman for membership development and outreach. As a TYHP area coordinator since 2005, Doug has supervised and/or personally run over 25 youth hunts, including the last four "Super Hunts," which AWWC conducts in cooperation with the Cave Creek Wildlife Management Association in eastern Gillespie County. The person who really should have received the award is Doug's wife, Tricia, for allowing him the time to devote to these worthy causes. The Texas Wildlife Association is a statewide nonprofit organization founded in 1985 to represent private land stewards, land managers, conservationists, hunters and anglers from across the state of Texas. It is one of the key partners with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in the Texas Youth Hunting Program.

Davis Baxter (left), Crockett High School principal, accepts the Nature Heritage Society 2009 Civilian Conservation Corps Tribute Recognition Award from Glenn Miller during a Safari Club International (Austin Chapter) Family Fun event held at the Texas Disposal Systems Exotic Game Ranch and Pavilion. Congratulations, David!



Hunter Education Hall of Fame

Robert Ramirez (left) presents William Tatsch, Jr. with his Hunter Education Hall of Fame plaque earned in 2008. William was certified in 1983, taught 127 courses and certified 2,288 students. He also attended 16 additional in-service workshops over the years. Congratulations, William!

Dedication Plaque to Honor Commissioner John D. Parker

taken from the *Lufkin Daily News*



The Pines Sporting Clays held their annual meeting on August 18. Members and guests along with family and friends attended the plaque dedication of Skeet Field #2 to honor the late John D. Parker, the first president of the club. Mr. Parker went on to be appointed as a TPW commissioner by Governor Rick Perry and was instrumental in securing a grant for renovations currently underway. The local 4-H shooting teams use the range on the first and third Monday nights of each month. There have been as many as 52 4-H shooters utilizing the facilities to further their shooting skills and expand their knowledge of proper gun safety. The Pines Gun Club welcomes the opportunity to open the facilities for the youth of Angelina and surrounding area.

This was one of Mr. Parker's objectives as TPW commissioner – SUPPORT OUR YOUTH. Mr. Parker is missed by many in the shooting sports communities.

Louisiana Peer Review

Members of a peer review team gathered in Baton Rouge in July. John Sturgis, Louisiana coordinator, has an excellent program, and hopefully, the peer review findings will assist him in making it better. Left to right are Terry Erwin; Wayne East, Executive Director of IHEA; Brie Darr, USFWS Division of Federal Assistance, Albuquerque; Wayne Waltz, USFWS Division of Federal Assistance, Charleston, South Carolina; and Ray Metzler, Alabama Hunter Education Administrator.



KATHY'S CORNER

Hi folks, yep, it's me again. Here are some house-cleaning items you need to remember. Please collect the "Deferral" slips and mail them in attached to the student registration form so we know when you have a deferral participant in your course, and don't forget to mark it on the registration form. If the deferral was purchased during the current license year, the student gets a \$5 discount on the course. If the deferral is older than the license year, then the full \$15 is charged.

Please send in the Final Reports with the student registration forms! Courses are still being received with no Final Reports attached. If this happens, the paperwork will be copied and returned along with a Final Report and return envelope so you can complete the forms. Note: The class will NOT be processed until that report is provided.

Do not send in cash! Also, please do not send in a check made out to you, the instructor, because TPWD cannot accept the check. Also, "counter checks," the ones that are blank (provided by the bank on occasions until personalized checks are obtained) are not acceptable either.

We are keeping up with certifications, and cards are getting out in a timely manner. We also have been fielding about 250+ calls per day and nearly the same number of online request for duplicates, especially at the beginning of dove season. Keep up the great work and let us know if we can help you in any way.

SOUTH AFRICAN SAFARI

By Robert Boswell

At the annual Hunter Education Instructors' meeting, I was fortunate enough to be the high bidder on a South African Safari donated by outfitter Louis L. Loots, of Lephalale, South Africa. The game animals included were blesbuck, impala, warthog, blue wildebeest and zebra. The hunt included ground transportation while in South Africa to and from the Johannesburg airport, lodging, meals, daily transportation, a full-time professional hunter, tracking, skinning and transportation of the trophies and hides to the taxidermist.

Duke Walton and I traveled together on British Airways by way of London, arriving in Johannesburg on June 21, with our baggage arriving in good condition. Customs and passport inspection was routine, with the passport clerk telling me to "shoot a lot of animals, we need the meat." Duke has his own adventures and has his own story to tell.

At the ranch, we were treated like family. We stayed in the outfitter's home and ate with his family and the professional hunters. On the first day, we hunted, each with our own hunter, tracker and hunting car. We were actively hunting, but really getting a feel for the country. I saw literally hundreds of game animals, including 15 different species that first day, ranging in size from impala to giraffe, and the largest antelope, eland. In addition to the five animals included in the base safari, I arranged to try for N'yala and eland, both species I had not had the opportunity to take on a previous trip. Before the hunt was over, I also took a bushbuck, a very reclusive and hard to find antelope.

I took two rifles, a Browning Model 1885 in 7 STW (sort of a 7 Magnum on steroids) loaded with 160 grain Barnes-X bullets, and a Browning Model 78 in .338 Magnum as a backup. When you are 12,000 miles from home, spare equipment is a good idea. Fixed power scopes or variables on the lowest power are preferred, because many of the shots are close, and almost all must be taken quickly, with no time for adjusting scopes, slings, or anything else. Rapid, accurate shooting from improvised rests or shooting sticks is the norm. The professional hunters' preferred shot is broadside, centered on the lower third of the shoulder. This requires a bullet that will give maximum penetration for maximum destruction of tissue and bone, disabling the animal immediately. The "cop" term DRT (dead right there) comes to mind.

On the second day, we hunted impala successfully, taking a good, mature male with a shoulder shot. He leaped, switched ends, and fell in his tracks. The remainder of the day we saw giraffes, red hartebeest, eland and warthogs. The next day we saw dozens of gemsbuck, zebras and an African wild cat. We stalked zebra and a herd of eland without success, and later stalked within shooting range of a blesbuck that the hunter decided we could better.

On the fourth day, we found a really old blue wildebeest. It was truly a beautiful example of a mature male, with a very dark coat. A frontal chest shot dropped the animal in his tracks. This was an exception to the hunter's usual preference, but was successful. In the afternoon, we hunted warthog until dark, seeing only immature males and females with young. While waiting, we were visited by an entire family of giraffes – father, mother and two young, both last year's and this year's offspring. They are unbelievably graceful for something that appears to be so awkward. We also had time to admire some of the beautiful birds; the most striking one was bright red, with a back and wings of brilliant black, the two colors being divided by a thin white stripe.

The next morning, we hunted zebra, but were unable to make a successful stalk. In the afternoon, we hunted another ranch for N'yala. These antelope are related to kudu and have similar markings; and while their horns are twisted, they do not have the extreme curl of the kudu. As we drove onto the ranch, we saw a large male. The hunter and I looked at each other and voiced the same thought, "It can't be this easy." We took a closer look at the bull and proceeded to hunt the remainder of the ranch. We covered some 5,000 acres and looked at 15 more bulls, deciding late in the afternoon to go back and try to find the first one we had seen. I rated the chances of finding him as slim and none, but after we had covered about a half mile from where we first saw him, were pleasantly surprised (at least I was; the hunter acted like he did this every day) to find the bull browsing in some scrub brush. After making sure that this was the bull we wanted, I made a shoulder shot as he stepped clear of the brush. He dropped right there, but when we tried for photographs, realized that we were losing the light. We relocated to a clear area on the western boundary of the ranch and took pictures. As we were preparing to load the N'yala, the outfitter saw a herd of eland and we immediately proceeded to stalk them. I brought my .338 to use on eland, but the opportunity found me with my 7 STW in my hand. After a short stalk, I managed a broadside shot on a large eland bull. The bull stumbled a few yards and fell, not needing a second shot. The 160 grain Barnes-X penetrated both shoulders, stopping after breaking the skin on the off side. This is the only bullet I recovered. The bull weighed 1,999 pounds, (might as well say a ton), when hung in the skinning shed. This was a great day. Grilled eland filets are as good as the best beef I have ever eaten.

The sixth morning, we hunted zebra again, this time successfully as I took an old but fat, very dark, animal with a shoulder shot. We spent the afternoon hunting bushbuck in heavy cover along the river. We saw several, but did not have a shot. We did finally successfully stalk a warthog, shooting him at about 175 yards from shooting sticks. This was another shoulder shot. The next day, we hunted blesbuck, ending a brief stalk with a shoulder shot at 7:20 a.m. We spent the remainder of the day hunting bushbuck, seeing some 28, five of which were shootable males. Very late that evening, we managed to get a shot at a good male, but the shot was deflected about two inches by a limb I did not see in the poor light, causing a wound, and a tracking job. We recovered the animal after a 1,000-yard tracking job by the hunter and his tracker, climaxing in a 10-yard shot in heavy brush. I was glad we recovered the animal, but sorry that I did not see the deflecting limb. This brings home a point. If that solid copper Barnes bullet can be deflected, anything can.

By this time, I had all my animals, so I spent some time with my host watching rugby, as South Africa played the English. They feel about the English about like we did in the 1800s, so it was a very emotional game. We also got in a little bird hunting. There are a variety of doves, sand grouse, and francolin, a bird like an oversized quail. After this, all that had to be done was arrange for the taxidermy, which is much less expensive in South Africa, and the outfitter acts as your agent. The trophies and hides are shipped to a port of entry in the United States and you pick them up from the shipping agent. The outfitter dropped me at the airport on his way to scout a new hunting area near the west coast. The return trip on British Airways was routine, but long. My trip through customs was uneventful, as all my paperwork was in order, and I was on the road home from Houston. They say that you start plotting a way to return to South Africa as soon as you get home. In my case, I got it planned when I was still there, and will go back in late August or early September, 2010. Yes, I REALLY did enjoy South Africa.

*The U.S. contact for Louis Loots is
Richard Matsler, 4005 Three Oaks Drive, Arlington, TX 76016, (817) 366-3256.*

Preparation Is the Key to Success

By James Bartay, Victoria Area Chief

Hunting is safe and getting safer because of hunter education.

Aside from firearm safety issues, a variety of incidents can occur while in the outdoors. Unfamiliar terrain and climate change are just a few of the vast challenges we face when going into the outdoors after our favorite game. A successful hunt begins with careful planning and preparation. The process of planning is just as important as the hunt itself.

Mental preparation, such as educating yourself about the game you will be hunting, is the most critical and will increase your success and add to the enjoyment of the experience. Learn as much as you can about your chosen hunting area by obtaining the most current state regulations, and familiarize yourself with the terrain.

Hunting often demands more physical exertion than what we are accustomed to. Getting physically fit before your hunt will greatly increase your chances of having a successful outing. Sharpen your shooting skills by practicing at the desired ranges whether you are using a rifle or bow.

Clothing also can affect your ability to perform safely and responsibly, so select the right clothing based on the weather you expect to be in, while being prepared for the worst. The most important piece of clothing that should be included is daylight fluorescent orange. No other color in nature matches this color, so it makes it easier for a hunter to spot and recognize another hunter while wearing daylight fluorescent orange.

Last, tell others your hunting plan that includes where you will be, routes and destinations you plan to travel, who you will be hunting with, and when you expect to return. Leave the plan with a family member or friend. This could be vital in case you get lost or injured.

A memorable outing is not just filling a tag or bag limit but the experience of the outing and the life-long stories to pass along for generations to come. So, whether it's a once-in-a-lifetime dream hunt or a trip to your local hunting camp, a successful trip is all about preparing yourself for the opportunity.

*Always plan your hunt,
and then hunt your plan.*

*Hunter
Education Roses
Instructor
Hugh Phillipus*

Hugh Phillipus had three, well four, loves in his life. I can't begin to provide the order he'd put them in, but I know from listening to and watching him for the past 15 years that his love of family would come first, closely followed by Texas A&M University, hunting and TPWD Hunter Education.

I first met and worked with Hugh at the Hunter Education class at Camp Bullis, just northwest of San Antonio. Here he held everyone's attention demonstrating and explaining a wide variety of sporting arms, their sights, safeties and how they were to be respected and treated in the home and in the field.

Hugh shared important first-hand stories of safety in the field from his work as a professional guide at the Triple 7 Ranch and as owner and guide in his own guide service. It became one of my jobs to let him know, from the back of the room, that he was running out of time and we had to get the students to the shooting range – pretty darned quick. That was my toughest job. He liked to talk as much as I did.

Hugh, and I saw it over and over again, was dedicated to teaching hunter education and to working with anyone who wanted to learn more about hunting and all that term entails. When Camp Bullis closed to the public we worked together at the National Shooting Sports Center, where he helped instruct modern sporting arms and run the rifle range in a four-day Outdoor Course that included Hunter Education. Hugh continued working with that program for several more years, telling me how much fun he was having.

Hugh loved Texas A&M. He was an Aggie, class of '54 and Aggie Band Drum Major his senior year. You can't get more "Aggie" than that. Enough said. Above all, Hugh loved his family: from his beloved wife of some 56-plus years, Barbara "June" Smith Phillipus, to his children, and most especially, his grandchildren. All were the lights of his life. Hugh, we all miss you, but "Old Army" has its Drum Major back and anyone who ever enjoyed hunting is sharing your tales.

Editor's Note: Hugh was certified in 1990, certified 257 students in 56 courses. He was always available for courses and loved to guide youth hunters.

By Dr. Peggy Weyel

Regional YHEC Held in Houston

Jim Harris (left) accepts an appreciation plaque from THEIA President Duke Walton during the regional YHEC held at American Shooting Center. Below are the participants from the day's activities. Congratulations to all who participated and thanks to the volunteers who made this a successful event.



Commissioner Martin Visits State 4-H Shoot

Pictured left to right are Dr. Ron Howard, 4-H Shooting Sports Director; Don Snyder, Executive Director, National Shooting Complex, San Antonio; TPW Commissioner Margaret Martin, Boerne, who is Chairperson of the Education and Outreach Committee; and Charlie Wilson, Mobile Shooting Range Coordinator. Over 500 shotgun shooters participated in the popular "Whiz-Bang" event, a shotgun event reintroduced to this year's 4-H State Shoot.

How Hot Is it in Texas?

This photo is from an exotic ranch in Edwards County. There have been more than 62 days of triple digit temperatures this summer. Be careful with your corn feeders, or this might happen. ...

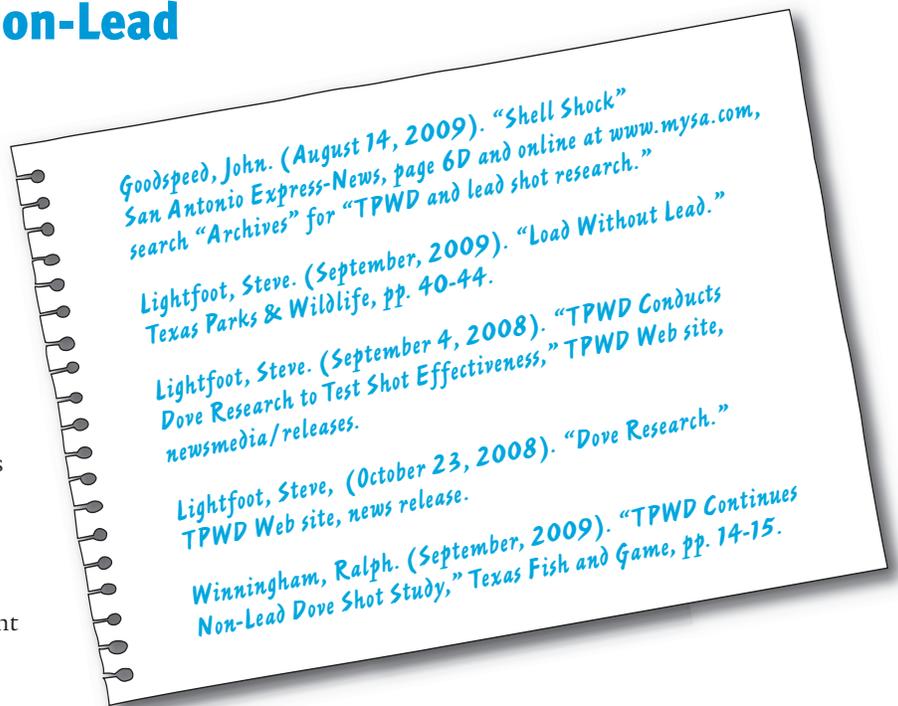


TPWD Studying Lead vs. Non-Lead Shot and Dove Mortality

By Dr. Peggy Weyel

TPWD's groundbreaking research on lead vs. non-lead shot is underway. This five-year research seeks real numbers and documentation on effectiveness of lead and non-lead shot in hunting situations and in dove mortality. Researchers also want to look at hunter attitudes toward different shot, the effectiveness of hunters in the field using both types of shot, and the result of birds ingesting the shot. A final study report is expected in 2012 or 2013.

There are several published articles and TPWD news releases available, so the public might be asking us, as hunter education instructors, questions in class. It might also behoove us to sign up for a Wing Shooting/Dove workshop in the next couple of years.



Tom Roster inspects mourning dove specimen during observer training.

In the meantime, check out the articles above.

Steve Lightfoot writes that this "research is the first of its kind ever for doves, and the results are anticipated for use in decision-making on an international level." State and international wildlife agencies are awaiting the results of the study in order to help them "continue to run and defend legal hunts of ... bird species." Thank you, TPWD, for groundbreaking research, again.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October TBA

Home Game Processing

Grand Prairie

December 19-20

Waterfowl Workshop

Sulphur Springs

March 19-20, 2010

Annual Conference

Houston Area

INSTRUCTOR DISCOUNTS

Conservation DVD

An outstanding DVD, "Opportunity For All," is now available just for the asking. The story of the North American Model for Wildlife Conservation, narrated by Shane Mahoney, is an excellent explanation of conservation over the last 100 years. Please contact Kathy Powell at (800) 792-1112, ext. 8142, to obtain your free copy for use in your courses.

Antler Restriction DVD

We do have a new 10-minute DVD available for instructors who wish to show the 13-inch restrictions to their students. It shows several deer that are legal and some that are not legal and basically what to look for. If you would like a free copy, please contact Kathy Powell at (800) 792-1112, ext. 8142.

Amazingly Easy to Use Sharpener

Sharpens both sides at the same time.

- Pre-Loaded Spring Tension
- No Assembly Required
- Diamond Sharpener
- Adjustable Angles

The V Sharp is the world's first adjustable, (17°, 20° and 25°) freehand precision knife sharpener that sharpens your knife at a consistent angle every time. It uses two high-quality, natural diamond honing rods that sharpen the blade on both sides simultaneously. It's ideal for kitchen, filet, hunting and most other flat-blade knives. For special pricing contact Paula Singleton (254) 780-7280 or email paulas@centex.net

Columbia Clothing Available on IHEA.com

A significant number of Columbia hunting clothing items have been donated to the IHEA, and are listed on their Web site cataloged and priced at 70-75 percent off MSR prices. Take a look and see if there is something you just can't live without, and it will help the IHEA.

Take a look on the IHEA.com Web site and watch the monthly auctions. Sometimes there are some outstanding items available. Also look on gunbroker.com at "Charity Auctions" that will benefit the IHEA Foundation. Some genuine bargains are available there, plus **Henry Repeating Arms has a new 60th Anniversary Hunter Education .22 rifle available with only 500 being offered.**

Note: We will also have one to raffle off at the Annual Conference in Houston next year on March 19-20, at the American Shooting Center. Come and join in on the festival and buy a chance to own one of your own. See additional information in this newsletter about the conference.

Kansas Hunting Fatality DVD

The Kansas Department of Wildlife has shared a short, six-minute DVD of a hunting incident that occurred while a young man and his friends were goose hunting. Someone stopped on the road and fired a rifle at the goose decoys, thinking they were real geese. The bullet hit the young man and killed him. Good to show during the course. If you would like a copy, please contact Kathy Powell at (800) 792-1112, ext. 8142.

New Item on the Market



During a recent Wounding Loss workshop, Barry Hamblett presented a new product for use by hunters. It is called the **Gamebag**.

It comes in three different sizes and may be used for deer/antelope, dove/quail or ducks/geese/pheasant while in the field or for freezer storage. Intended for field use, the hunter may put his/her daily bag limit in these bags with a designated place for clearly marking what is in the bag. This is especially helpful for multiple hunters to keep individual limits separated for legal purposes.

Please visit www.gamebagg.com for more information.

Unseen Hazards Threaten Hunters, Campers and Hikers

From Jerry Genesisio's Web site

There are unseen hazards in forests and fields that threaten those who enjoy hunting, camping, and hiking. Pathogens commonly found in wildlife can inflict unspeakable suffering and even death. Rabies, tetanus (lockjaw), tularemia (rabbit fever), brucellosis (undulant fever), Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and borelli (Lyme disease), are six of the most virulent microorganisms lurking in nature's hidden world patiently waiting for an opportunity to infect the unsuspecting and unprepared. But knowledge and simple protective measures can shield even the most vulnerable.

Jerry Genesisio has written an 86-page book containing vital information about these perilous pathogens. Each is described with symptoms, treatment, history, carriers, geographical risk areas and significant incidence reports. The book also contains advice provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, on how to avoid vectors such as ticks, and how to properly remove ticks.

In 1993, rabies was confirmed in 20 deer in the state of New York. Tetanus is commonly found in the intestines of wild animals. About 200 cases of rabbit fever are reported in the U.S. annually. There are 100 to 200 human cases of Undulant Fever reported nationally each year with most reports originating in Texas, California and Illinois. In 2003 and 2004, more than 1,800 cases of Rocky Mountain spotted fever were reported each year, but less than 2 percent of all cases are actually found in the Rocky Mountain states. Of 27,444 cases of Lyme disease reported in 2007, 87 percent were confined to 10 states, including Connecticut and Wisconsin.

UNSEEN HAZARDS that Threaten Hunters, Campers, and Hikers: What you should know about pathogens commonly found in wildlife (ISBN 978-1448605118), is available for \$7.95 plus shipping and handling. It can be ordered online through Amazon.com, Amazon's Kindle Store (\$4.95), or at <https://www.createspace.com/3387093>. Also see featured books on www.wildlifepro.net, www.besthike.com and www.rodnrifle.com.

Jerry Genesisio was employed by Cutter Laboratories in their Biological Products Division for nearly 20 years. He has written and published numerous articles, including a natural history series focusing on zoonotic diseases that was featured in New England Outdoors magazine. He lives in Bridgton, Maine, and Wilmington, North Carolina. For more information, contact: Jerry Genesisio, (207) 647-8143 or jerrygenesisio@gmail.com



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Drawings will be held December 30, 2009 and June 30, 2010.

Enter for a chance to win a Lifetime Super Combo License, giving you the right to hunt and fish in Texas without ever having to buy another license or stamp! Visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/lifetime for more information or to enter.

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Entries can be purchased online or at any license retailer. Winners can keep the license or give it as a gift to family or friends in Texas. Only Texas residents are eligible to win.



THE BOWHUNTER

TEXAS BOWHUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Congratulations, Burnie!

Burnie Kessner, state archery coordinator, received a 200-level award from the National Archery in Schools executive board at their recent meeting in Arkansas. Since Kessner was hired in 2006, he has trained more than 350 instructors as “basic archery instructors” and has conducted two state tournaments.



Camp Bullis IBEP News

Three years ago the Camp Bullis IBEP Instructor Team held their first “Attend IBEP and Win Something Cool” Contest. The rules were simple: successfully complete the IBEP Course (including the written test) and enter a drawing for a Grand Prize. Each year the drawing for the Grand Prize takes place at the end of the last class for the year.

The Camp Bullis IBEP Team held their third “Attend IBEP and Win Something Cool” prize drawing on August 19, 2009. This year’s featured prize was an Ameristep DOG HOUSE “Pop Up” Ground Blind. This year’s winner was Air Force Staff Sergeant Lenn Bassett, Trainer Hale Road, San Antonio, TX. SSgt Bassett completed the IBEP course at Camp Bullis in July 2009. Upon receiving his new ground blind, SSgt Bassett thanked the instructor team and said he would be sure the blind was put to good use, if not this season, then next bow season. When asked why he wouldn’t be using the blind this season, SSgt Bassett that he would be deploying to Kirkuk, Iraq the week of August 24.

IBEP Training

This group below took the IBEP instructor training in Grand Prairie. Bob Wright (back row, left), past president of Lone Star Bowhunters Association, and Robert Ramirez (front row, right) did the training at the North Texas Education Center.



The Camp Bullis IBEP Team would like to thank the following manufacturers and businesses for their continued support of Bowhunter Education: G5 Outdoors, Quest Bowhunting, Alpine Archery, Art of Deception TV, Ameristep, Outdoor Edge Knives, Hunter Safety Systems and Korbin’s Archery.

Thank you.

Rick Holland, IBEP Instructor, San Antonio

Aim to Be “Bulls-Eye Perfect”

Dear Staff:

Here was my favorite archer at the show. It took her a while but she finally popped a balloon. She was very determined. I let her shoot more than four arrows for sure. I thought to myself, "We are going to sit here all night if we have to." She finally got one after about 10 or 12 shots, and that really seemed to make her day. We ran a lot of kids through for sure. We could not have done it without all the IBEP instructors, Lone Star Bowhunter Association and Texas Bowhunter.com volunteers. We had a great weekend.

David Lassetter
IBEP Instructor Trainer



Deer Hunter Habit Survey Online

As we all know, deer hunting is a very popular outdoor activity throughout the USA. Many hunters, including bowhunter and gun hunters, use elevated stands to hunt deer. This involves using a fixed-in-place or self-climbing elevated stand and often involves climbing 12-30 feet in the air. This is often done before daylight or after sunset, in inclement weather, and by hunters who may be sleepy, tired, cold or otherwise impaired. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reports that from 2005-2007, there were almost 19,000 elevated stand injuries and 41 elevated stand-associated deaths (Mike Karen, CPSC letter to TMA, March 6, 2009).

Several hunter safety groups have highly recommended the use of safety harnesses and other safety devices aimed at fall prevention and safety after an arrested fall. However, despite advances in design and convenience, many hunters fail to use safety equipment, or they use it improperly.

If reasons could identify why hunters fail to use safety equipment, researchers would be in a better position to design equipment and to teach hunter safety classes in such a way to increase usage, and consequently increase hunter and bowhunter safety.

Please look at the following Web site and take the short, 28-question survey and help with this research. It is being done jointly by Dr. Eric Jones of Stephen F. Austin University and Dr. Phil Bishop of The University of Alabama. This research may help prevent serious injury or death in the future. Thanks.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=ndn5Sk9FgNrTzTj6cjRSdQ_3d_3d

Bowhunter Education New Instructors

JUNE

Glenn Norris	Grand Prairie
Noe Salazar	San Benito

JULY

Luke Leissner	Dallas
James Rhoades	Fort Worth
Gregory Goodrich	Mabank
Teddy Byrd	Cotulla

AUGUST

Gary Witt	Kerrville
Cary Balcar	Caldwell
Craig Gardner	Harker Heights
James Wilhelm	Springtown
Daniel Calderon	San Antonio
Thomas Townsend	Fort Worth



TARGET TALK

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Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
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