

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

A concerned member of the public relayed the following incident to me. During an archery event recently, an individual came up with a white-tipped cane, escorted by a companion and asked what the activity was and if it could be explained. A volunteer working at the event looked at the individual and commented something like, "with someone in your condition, why bother?" How do you think that made that "blind" individual feel? Now, I know the volunteer didn't mean anything by the comment, never meant to hurt anyone, and perhaps was just joking, but it was the perception of the statement, no matter how it was said or who heard it.

During employment at TPWD, we are all required to go through ADA (Americans with Disability Act) training. Training usually last two days and covers most conditions of disability, e.g., physical limitations, blindness, hearing impaired, etc. When you have to spend a day in a wheelchair, or wear a blindfold being escorted by someone, or have your ears plugged so you can't hear it makes a tremendous difference on how you get around in everyday life. And, this is the purpose of the training ... awareness.

Half of the participants of the ADA training are required to assume the role of physically challenged individuals, while the other half become escorts or companions. A team might include a blindfolded individual and an escort who must describe everything to him or her. Descriptions might include pictures, outside scenery, plants, animals, etc. The sighted individual has no idea what a blind person goes through until he or she dons the blindfold.

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Expo a Success Despite the Rain



Ever try to do an outdoor event in a pouring down rain? It is difficult, especially when it comes to setting up shooting activities at an Expo. Yes, we were "nearly" rained out, and we didn't open up some events until the ground dried out enough to safely accommodate the activity. But, we did manage to get things going, and we had an overwhelming attendance

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IHEA Dream Hunt

By Rick Flint, Missouri Hunter
Education Coordinator

Instructor Marvin Bigbie, Bellevue, Texas, recently returned from his IHEA “Dream Hunt” in southwest Missouri. He was randomly drawn from thousands of entries. These entry forms are found in the middle of the Hunter’s Handbook. I am pleased to report that the IHEA Youth/Instructor IHEA Dream Hunt sponsored by the Focus Group was indeed a huge success. The accommodations provided by JB Hunt Bighorn Lodge were excellent. What a fantastic setting for this opportunity of a lifetime.

The ranch itself provided a challenge to the hunters but also yielded some really class animals. The student hunters all harvested animals on their first day of hunting. One lucky student drew for an elk and successfully bagged a large 5 X 5 elk. Our female student harvested a 140 class whitetail and the remaining student bagged a 150 class whitetail. The instructors hunted hard and finally, at the last hours of the hunt, both hunters collected 12- and 13-point white-tailed deer, respectfully. The success of the hunt was not only be measured by the hunters taking quality animals, but the entire experience was a first for those attending.

Astronaut, General Joe Engle added a special text to the hunt. He provided each participant with pictures from space and an official patch worn by the astronauts. Joe was truly a gentleman and an outdoorsman as well. It was a pleasure to get acquainted with him. The host guides and cooks were outstanding. We had two guys from Texas that heard about the hunt and traveled to the ranch to serve as guides. Both were regular visitors at the ranch and served well as additional guides. They volunteered their time and expense of getting there. Jim George was the lead guide and was a supreme host

and bent over backwards to provide a successful hunt and experience for all.

Focus Group’s Brian Thurston and John Galaspie spent hours organizing the media and overall organization of the event. One does not know the work nor can appreciate what goes into this event unless they have seen the results. I gained a new appreciation for Brian and his efforts to make this whole thing happen. And certainly the generosity of JB Hunt is beyond words. JB has a special feeling for youngsters and hunting and proved that by supplying his first class operation for the event at no charge. Thanks should also be extended to Bushnell/Tasco for their support in the event. I was honored to host the first of the Dream Hunts sponsored by Focus Group. Hopefully Missouri will get the opportunity again in the future.

Editor’s Note:

*Now, if you want a chance to go on the next IHEA Dream Hunt, to be held at the Indian Head Ranch near Del Rio, Texas, fill out the entry card found in the Hunter’s Handbook and send it in. **Congratulations Marvin!***

NOTICE

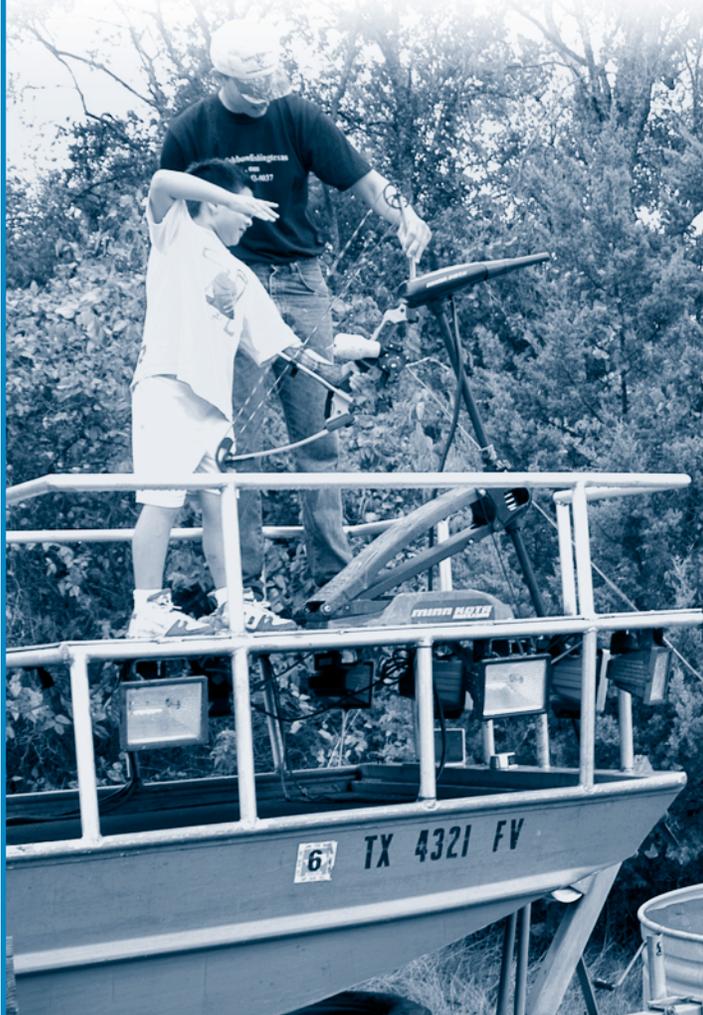
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department receives federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975,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

Expo a Success – continued

despite the bad weather. Thanks to all of you who braved the weather and managed to arrive via car, bus, “boat” or whatever. It was very challenging, and we really appreciate your efforts.

Here is a summary of the shooting activities: Archery - Youth, 1,298; Bowhunter Challenge, 144; Bow Fishing, 751; Horton Crossbow, 693; Youth Shotgun, 749; 4-H Air Gun, 1,179; NSSF Air Gun, 458; Shoot Where You Look Air Gun, 2,734; Winchester Sporting Clays, 546; TPWD Sporting Clays, 498; Muzzleloading, 1,153; and LaserShot, 2,305 for a **GRAND TOTAL** of **12,508**. Survey showed that 8% of these were first-time shooters.

We are already planning next year’s event, and hope you all will attend. If the weather cooperates, we will continue providing opportunities to thousands of new shooters. Thanks again!



Mark Malfa, Big Fish Bowfishing Texas, will be back next Expo with more exciting activities.

Editor's CORNER, continued

In 1999, I was in New York at the annual IHEA conference. During one of the breakout sessions and at the industry display area in a large ballroom, I saw a man walk in with a female, and I later found out it was his wife. She was assisted by a seeing-eye-dog, but the strange thing was that while holding the dog's harness, the woman was carrying a compound bow, quiver and several target arrows.

As they walked to the far side of the large ballroom, I saw an archery backstop and target set up in a safe location along the wall. I stood there as the man positioned his wife at 20 yards from the target. He got directly behind her as she knocked an arrow and drew back. Her husband carefully looked over her shoulder through the sights and directed her so the pins aligned with the bull's eye on the target. She released the arrow and it hit almost dead center. She repeated the feat two more times, and the three-shot group could have been covered with a six-ounce Styrofoam cup bottom. Three arrows, all striking within a two-inch circle, was not that great of a task for an archer, but from someone who was totally blind? It was truly incredible and everyone applauded.

Can you imagine how I felt watching this? This was absolutely amazing! Her husband later described their hunting adventures and how she did not let her physical impairment deter her from doing what she loved – shooting her bow and hunting.

We are often asked by instructors, "Can a blind person take the hunter education course, and how can someone hunt if they are blind?" Yes, they certainly can take the course! You must let them attend, because of the "Rehabilitation Act of 1973," and because hunter education is a federally funded program. More importantly,

though, you must do it because it is the right thing to do. In fact, many instructors recruit people with disabilities to hunter education.

I know of an individual who is blind and uses his rifle with an off-set mount and a handgun scope, which has a longer eye relief. His hunting companion leads him into hunting territory, and when the opportunity arrives, the companion looks over the shooter's shoulder, lines up the crosshairs and "calls the shot." The word is that he has taken an antelope, mule deer and an elk.

"Sensitivity training" might be part of upcoming workshops in the future because we all should be reminded that just because we can do something but don't understand how someone else can do it, we should still help the individual reach his or her goals or potential. It might just make the difference in someone's life, and help extend it, too.

I know exactly how much it means to someone who has limitations, because I have personally "been there, done that." I won't go into detail, but I experienced limitations and I had to learn to walk again.

So, the next time someone walks up and asks for a description of an activity, reach deep down inside, use your imagination and do your best to accommodate him or her. You will feel better, and think how it will make that person feel. I hope you all have a great holiday season and bring in a happy New Year with a renewed passion to "make a difference." Our staff appreciates each one of you, and we will do our very best to assist in your efforts to produce safe, responsible, knowledgeable and involved hunters.

Sincerely,
Terry Erwin



*Scotty Smith,
of North Texas
Challenged
Sportsmen,
hones his
skills at Expo.*

INTERNATIONAL HUNTER EDUCATION ASSOCIATION



2005 IHEA Conference

Come to fabulous Las Vegas for one of the greatest conferences in the history of the IHEA! The 2005 International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) conference will be held in conjunction with the 2005 Western States Instructor Rendezvous, April 25–May 1, 2005, at the Silverton Hotel and Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World, in Las Vegas, Nevada, and nearby at the Spencer W. Kimball Boy Scout Camp.

The theme of this year's conference is "Improving the Image of Hunting and Hunters—Marketing our Sport." The conference will begin with a meet-and-greet on Monday evening, April 25, at the Desert Lake Country Club & Shooting Sports Park, near Boulder City.

On Tuesday, after the opening ceremony, interactive roundtable sessions will be held with a variety of outdoor and hunting organizations and media and marketing people from a variety of cable, broadcast, print media and marketing and catalog companies that specialize in hunting and outdoor programming and sales. Tuesday evening will be an informal and optional networking session in the reception suite (beverages and snacks provided).

Wednesday, April 27, will be an all day professional workshop on how to improve the image of hunting and hunters with a facilitated session presenting supplemental information about public attitudes and demographics and strategy building.

Committee meetings will be held Thursday morning and the IHEA business meeting in the afternoon, followed by the industry/partners reception in the evening.

On Friday morning, an optional "Rendezvous Preview" will provide interested coordinators and staff from all the states and provinces with the opportunity to see how the Rendezvous has been

organized, tour the Scout camp and see how logistics will be handled, as well as participating in the development of a "blueprint" for future instructor rendezvous.

For registration information, go to IHEA.COM and scroll to the bottom of the page.



Western States Instructor Rendezvous

April 29–May 1, 2005

Spencer W. Kimball BSA Camp
Silverton Hotel/Bass Pro Outdoor
World - Las Vegas, Nevada

Friday

Trailblazer Program - BSA Camp/Banquet - Silverton

Saturday

A.M. & P.M. Workshops/Lunch/BBQ/Trading Blanket - BSA Camp

Sunday

Side Bar Presentations/Coordinator Roast - Silverton

Lodging – Silverton Hotel - 200 rooms @ \$39 per room per night*

RV Park

BSA Camp - Car/Tent Camp (free)

*Silverton Reservation Code – "IHEA" – Reservation Deadline April 1, 2005

Fee - \$35 per participant

**Mark Your Calendar Today!
Don't Miss This Great Event!**

Training Efforts and Workshops



Alligator Workshop

TPWD biologists K.J. Lodrigue and Amos Cooper conducted the 2nd Alligator Workshop on July 30-31, 2004, at the J.D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area near Port Arthur. Participants who arrived on Friday evening spent some time in the classroom to learn proper conditions to conduct an alligator survey. They

were then taken by boat on a nighttime spotlight census. Participants were certified to do their own alligator night counts on private land; TPWD can ultimately use these counts to issue tags for private landowners.

Saturday morning, participants enjoyed a fabulous Power Point presentation given by K.J. and Amos. Alligator anatomy, biology, habitat, farming, hunting methods, rules and regulations were discussed. After a lunch break, the group then moved outdoors to participate in some hands-on activities with live 'gators. Various biological techniques relating to research and data collection were demonstrated. Everyone then headed to Lost Lake on the J.D. Murphree WMA for a boat ride to visit alligator

habitat and view some actual nesting sites. Here, the group experienced more hands-on alligator activities.

Many thanks to the staff at the J.D. Murphree WMA for the countless hours dedicated to making this workshop a tremendous success! Thanks to biologists K.J. Lodrigue and Amos Cooper for conducting this workshop; Jacob Vidrine for driving the participants in the boat; and to the rest of the Murphree staff who spent long hours preparing for this very successful workshop.

Note: Seating was limited to 20 participants, and these slots filled in TWO (2) days. There are 10 people on the waiting list, with hopes this workshop will be held again in 2005.



Ethics Workshop

During mid-August, the weather was hot, so we decided to do a workshop held entirely inside an air-conditioned building. Game Warden Rod Chalmers came from his duty station in Bandera County to provide excellent training on how to use the new *Outdoor Annual*. He even brought his local Justice of the Peace to gain knowledge on the hunter education program and game laws as well. Thanks to all the attendees and especially for all the challenging questions posed.

Spanish Course

Jose Garcia is shown here with his first Spanish course taught in Irving. He is bilingual, and does a great job with volunteering at Wildlife Expo in the muzzleloading area. Thanks Jose for all your hard work. Keep up those Spanish courses!



Wing Shooting Workshop

A Wing Shooting Responsibility and Awareness workshop was held on Aug. 28 at American Shooting Centers in Houston. Twenty-four participants attend this one-day training. They were first given a PowerPoint presentation regarding wing shooting awareness and wounding loss issues. The group then moved into the field for hands-on activities. Twelve participants were taken through a shooting exercise with sporting clays, which simulates actual birds in a hunting scenario. Everyone was given a chance to hit eight clay birds crossing at 20 yards.

The other twelve simultaneously engaged in hands-on activities. Everyone was asked to guess the yardage of various waterfowl silhouettes positioned at different heights. After this activity, students brought their unloaded shotguns to another set of waterfowl silhouettes where they learned and practiced “subtending” (judging distance relative to the muzzle of the shotgun). After this exercise, students returned to the first distance judging activity and practiced distance judging using the newly acquired skills.

After a short lunch break, the two groups switched hands-on activities. Later, the entire group went through a patterning exercise. The workshop was concluded with a shoot/don't shoot video, and many good questions and comments followed.

Thanks to instructors Kitty and Jim Haynes for assisting with this workshop, and to Jim Harris, American Shooting Centers, for his continued support for the program. Thanks to all participants for making this a fun and successful workshop!



National Archery in the Schools Program

Texas recently initiated this well-known national program (NASP). Staff and participants were trained by Rod White, Olympic Gold Medal winner, during a three-day workshop held at Ojeda Jr. High School in Austin. Shown here is the group, which came from different parts of Texas to begin this program in their respective schools. TPWD staff will host training sessions this spring in different parts of the state. If you know of interested school officials or anyone who is interested in this program, please let us know. There is some funding available for equipment procurement if the program is done in schools. Contact TPWD Hunter Education office at (800) 792-1112, Ext. 4999 for more information.



Outdoor Sports Shows

August is a busy time in Houston. This past summer, local instructors were called upon to assist with hunting shows. The first big show was the Texas Trophy Hunters Extravaganza in early August. A Hunter Education booth was set up and several Houston volunteers donated many hours to this event. Thanks to Charles Krpec, Paul and Katie Milligan, Jim and Kitty Haynes, Joe Drobniak and James Davis. They distributed 30 cases of gunlocks and 12 cases of *Outdoor Annuals*, along with hunter education program brochures and course information during this show in Houston.

Shown here is Area Chief Duke Walton who constructed a free-standing board that held a variety of his personal mounts and a TPWD display board. Duke said he was thinking about working the upcoming show and could not sleep one night. He got up at 2 a.m. and began construction. The next show was the Houston Gulf Coast Chapter of Safari Club International's *First For Hunters* 8th Annual Hunting Show in late August. A Hunter Education booth was set up and, again, hunter education

volunteers donated their time to cover this event as well, which included Duke Walton, Dawn and Gene Lilly, Terry Andrew and Suzan Rector. They distributed hunter education literature and course information, and even recruited some new instructors. A sincere "thank you" to all volunteers who assisted in these events!

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.

August

Jeffrey Geer	Fairfield
Teddy Behrens	Mercedes
Cody King	Slaton
David Freeman	Buffalo
Brian Lawson	Rusk
Alan VanValkenburg	Fort Hood
Michael Barkley	Colorado City
Greg Schilling	Shallowater
Lynita Foster	Madisonville
Mark Stroman	China Spring
Erik Seward	Denton
Joe Tarter	Llano
James Heinrich	Lubbock
Ben Flanagan	Van Horn
Rolando Diaz	Brownsville
Susan Poffenroth	Flower Mound
Richard Martinez	Kerrville
Ross Andrew	Flower Mound
James Andrew	Flower Mound
Shari Crawford	Lancaster
Christy Clawson	Fort Worth
Kenneth Cooper	Cleburne
Ruben Gutierrez	San Benito
Reggi Sain	Denton
Danell Woolery	Center
James Janacek	Weimar
Heath Ressler	Crosby
Philip Saucier	Wichita Falls
Corbee Wunderlich	San Antonio
Emily Ashby	Gilmer

September

Kevin Wink	Boyd
Phillip Gilbreath	Lewisville
Bennie Whitworth	Garrison
Shannon Dahlstrom	Del Valle
Edwardo Cano	McAllen
Thomas McReynolds	Van Vleck
Deanna Roeder	Brookeland
Bill Binder	Tahoka
Jose Rodriguez	Rio Hondo
Eric Owens	New Braunfels
William Moulder	San Antonio
Jeffrey Staff	Garland
Gary Antley	Groveton
John Morgan	Pearland
James Willson	Lubbock
Don Harris	Bandera
Mark Aunspaugh	San Antonio
Jose Gaytan, Jr	Lubbock
Leland Fellows	Wolfforth
Norris Percival, III	Lubbock
Juan Cavazos	San Benito
Warren Waldrip	Plano
Edward Waynick	Mesquite
Tracy Yarbrough	Aubrey
Rebecca Clemons	Seabrook
Martin Garcia	Ingleside
Darrell Dunn	Florence
Nikki Reed	Waller
Joseph Forsyth	DeKalb
Charles Parmenter	Copperas Cove
Shirley Parmenter	Copperas Cove
Jeffery Glasier	Ingleside
Walter Baldree	Lipan
Samuel Tipton	Lipan

Jesse Fant	Granbury
Alford Spencer	Lipan
Shaun Martinez	Corpus Christi
James Hill	Huntsville
Ramiro Cardenas	Brownsville
Sean Wilson	Bishop
James Miller	San Antonio

October

Lance Dieterich	Crawford
Mark Fisher	Allen
David Milam	Gainesville
James McFarland	Denton
Mellisa Coffelt	Meridian
James Horton	Haskell
Robert Avary	Grand Prairie
Robert Wolford	Plano
JasonThompson	Mineral Wells
Leah Wright	Magnolia
Benjamin Stutzman	Carrollton
Alisa Meredith	Spring
Roger Kroschel	Freeport
Craig Smith	Knippa
Brent Kiefer	Baytown
Bryan Heidaker	Saginaw
Mark England	Mineral Wells
David Lopez	El Paso
Mark Bethea	Dayton
Kelle Hardin	Azle
Stephen Bennett	Houston
Kent Morrison	Huffman
Jeremiah Price	Crosby
Shaun Dorsey	Crosby
Roy White	New Caney
Gregory Cummings	Houston

INSTRUCTOR DISCOUNTS

Wildlife Enterprises of Kerrville, Texas, has a new training aid on shot selection and placement for white-tailed deer. For information and pricing, please contact Mike Kasberg at (830) 257-4538.

You may look on their Web site www.wildlifeenterprises.com for additional items, such as deer aging plaques, a handy deer-aging pocket tool, "judging buck deer on-the-hoof laminated poster and videos.

Texas Big Game Awards Has New Deadline for 2004-05 Season

SAN ANTONIO – For more than 13 years, the Texas Big Game Awards (TBGA), a partnership of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Wildlife Association, has been the leader in recognizing the contributions that landowners, land managers and responsible hunters make to managing and conserving wildlife and wildlife habitat on Texas' private lands.

The purpose of the Texas Big Game Awards is to emphasize the important role ethical hunting and habitat management play in a healthy ecosystem. According to this program, awards are given to all "Scored Entries – that meet minimum regional requirements and there are no entry fees."

Hunters who harvest a white-tailed deer, mule deer or pronghorn antelope this season meeting the minimum *Boone and Crockett* (B&C) requirements for their respective Region may be eligible to receive recognition in the *Scored Entry* category as well as the landowner of the property where the trophy was taken. Hunters of any age who harvest their first big game animal in Texas are eligible for the First Big Game Harvest category. And, any youth hunter (younger than age 17 when they purchase their hunting license) with a Special Resident Hunting License who harvests a white-tailed deer, mule deer, or pronghorn antelope is eligible for the Youth Division whether they harvest a buck or doe, regardless of score.

Some new changes, great additions and regular features will kick off this October for the new hunting season. **The major change will be the new deadline date of Mar. 15.** But we highly encourage hunters to mail their entries in early, as the TBGA will continue the "Early Entry Special – whereby those entries entered early during the months of October through January will be eligible for drawings to receive great prizes including a Grand Prize of a Lifetime Hunting License."

Also, the top five entries in each TBGA category in each region must have been scored by an official B&C scorer before results become "official." Once the final "unofficial" standings are determined,

the top five entries, unless scored initially by a B&C scorer, will be re-scored by an official B&C scorer. That score will stand as the "official" score for that entry.

The TBGA Web site for this season will include the \$20,000 College Scholarship Program sponsored by Carter's Country Outdoor Stores. Scholarship applications will be available in November and due by Mar. 1. All program information, program history, entry rules and minimum scores are also featured on the Web site. Also this fall, keep up with news on the TBGA program and current hunting issues with the TBGA News Link.

You can also find a local scorer in your area for official entry forms, or download the First Harvest/Youth Division forms on-line, as no scorer signature is required for those entries. The TBGA Web site will also feature photos of entries that are entered this season. Last season more than 700 photos were mailed in. You can check out links to great TBGA Sponsors, and see last season's rankings by region too.

The Texas Big Game Awards is proudly sponsored by statewide sponsors Hixon Land and Cattle Company, Carter's Country Outdoor Stores and Anheuser-Busch. Texas regional sponsors include: Remington Arms, Leupold and Stevens, Gerber Legendary Blades, Horton Crossbows, C. Young and Company, DoskoSport, Tecomate Wildlife Systems, Smith's Abrasives, Hunter's Specialties, Moultrie Feeders, ThermaCell, Wildlife Innovations, Michaels of Oregon, Solar Edge, All Seasons Feeders, Universal Scoring Products, Academy Sports and Outdoors, Eastman Chemical Company, The Hunting Directory and Sportsman's Choice Premium Game Feeds.

For more information on the Texas Big Game Awards, entry information, or for a local certified TBGA scorer, please visit the Web site www.TexasBigGameAwards.com or www.tbga.org or call (800) 839-9453, Ext. 114 for more information. The final deadline to enter the Texas Big Game Awards for the 2004-05 season is Mar. 15.



TEXAS
BIG GAME AWARDS

**Habitat
and Wildlife
in Balance**

A Near Tragedy Turns Around

By Charlie Wilson, TPWD Shooting Sports Specialist

Have you ever stopped to think of how fast your life can change? It could be quicker than the blink of an eye, or how about the “pull of a trigger.”

The story I’m about to relate will be enlightening, to put it mildly. The evening before leaving to go on that long awaited hunt or to a national shooting event, you decide to get in a little more range time. It’s late in the afternoon, the day has cooled and your family is with you. Everything is great. Everything is ready. You have your favorite shotgun and are at the field with anticipation. Suddenly, you call for the bird, pull the trigger and your firearm evaporates in your hands. The next thing you know, 36 hours later, you wake up in a hospital intensive care unit with tubes running everywhere, bandages on your head and face, people in white uniforms running around and worried looks of loved ones all around you.

This very thing happened on Aug. 19, 2004, in Crockett, Texas, and it involved a very talented young shooter. The individual’s name is Levi Coppedge. He and several of his teammates were getting in a little more practice before leaving the next morning for the spring selection matches in Colorado Springs, Colorado. They had completed station one and had moved to station two as Levi called for his next clay bird.

That’s when his life changed. The next shot literally exploded the shotgun and sent Levi hurling backwards to the ground. Quick medical attention and excellent first aid was rendered, because there were trained EMS personnel among the by-standers. This immediate response quite possibly saved his life.

Levi was shooting reloads, and what happened may never be known, but one can only speculate. Several scenarios have been offered as to the cause of this accident. 1) The base wad became loosened with age or repeated loadings causing it to become lodged in the forcing cone creating an obstructed barrel. 2) The shell had been “double-wadded” or the wrong wad was used. 3) The wad was set askew in the hull. 4) The wrong powder had been used.

The real reason may never be known as to what might have caused this near tragic and unfortunate accident. The pressure created by any of the above scenarios is above calculations and certainly way out of safety margins.

“If you are a qualified reloading instructor, set up a class and make sure everyone knows and follows safe procedures.”

We as instructors and/or reloaders need to stress all the rules of safe reloading to any and all persons involved. Dr. Ron Howard, Director of 4-H Shooting Sports, has several Reloading Workshops scheduled in the near future to help individuals learn about safety and precautions. I’m sure all of our lives can stand a little change, but not in this manner. If you are a qualified reloading instructor, set up a class and make sure everyone knows and follows safe procedures.

I don’t enjoy sharing this kind of story, but I am very happy to report that as of this writing, Levi is expected to make a complete and full recovery. He is anxious to begin shooting again, and sees this as a blessing from above. He must certainly still have a purpose in his life.



*Levi is shown here with Charlie Wilson being presented with a new shotgun to continue the sport he truly loves. Thanks to **Browning Arms Co.** for their generosity in providing the firearm. Remember, if you shoot in front of the target, you just might hit it. ...*

IN THE NEWS...

Presidential Proclamation

President George W. Bush issued a proclamation recognizing sportsmen and women on Saturday, Sept. 25. "On National Hunting and Fishing Day, we celebrate the remarkable progress we have made in conserving our environment and recognize those who have worked to conserve our natural resources. America's hunters and anglers represent the great spirit of our country and are among our nation's foremost conservationists. These citizens have worked to protect habitat and restore fish and wildlife populations. They volunteer their time, talents and energy to countless conservation projects, because they recognize the importance of maintaining the natural abundance of our country for future generations. My administration is committed to achieving a cleaner, safer and healthier environment for all Americans, including our hunters and anglers."

Animals Lethal in Traffic

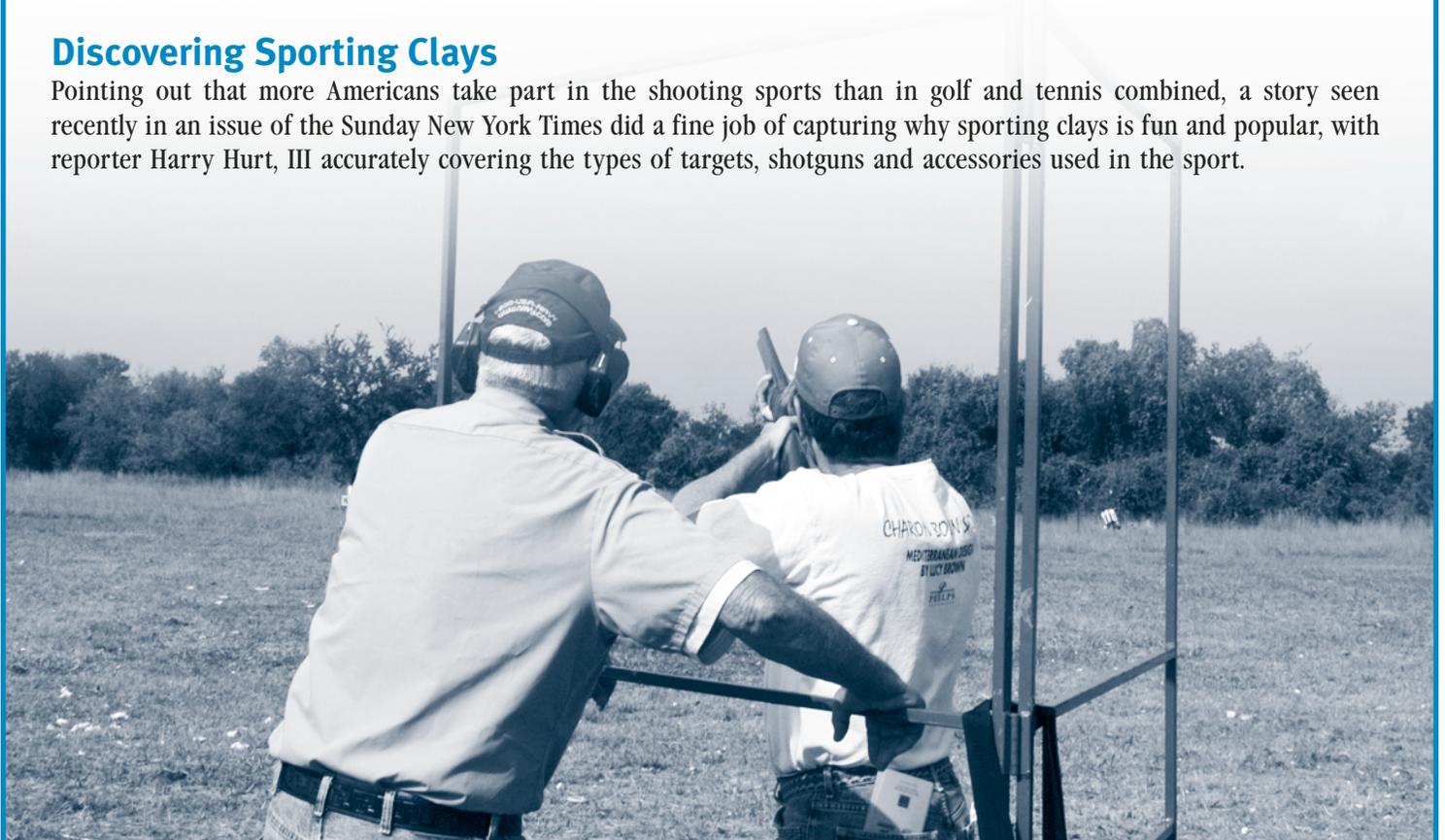
Deer, cows and even squirrels are to blame for about 200 deaths and more than 26,000 injuries along the nation's roads each year, the government said. It is the first time the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has ever examined how many people suffer non-fatal injuries in car accidents involving animals, whether the animals were hit or the crashes happened when drivers tried to avoid the animals. There were 247,000 crashes involving animals in 2000, the CDC said. (*Now, when you see that Geico Insurance commercial on TV, you will be reminded of this.*)

Discovering Sporting Clays

Pointing out that more Americans take part in the shooting sports than in golf and tennis combined, a story seen recently in an issue of the Sunday New York Times did a fine job of capturing why sporting clays is fun and popular, with reporter Harry Hurt, III accurately covering the types of targets, shotguns and accessories used in the sport.

Once-a-Century

President George W. Bush is calling for a *President's Partnership Conference* on wildlife conservation to provide the first venue in nearly one hundred years to outline priority conservation needs with the Executive Office. The idea for such a gathering is reminiscent of the May 1908 conference hosted by President Theodore Roosevelt. First conceived by Boone and Crockett, the conference suggestion was then promoted by the American Wildlife Conservation Partners (AWCP), a loosely affiliated group of more than 40 wildlife conservation organizations who meet several times annually to develop and make recommendations on wildlife and natural resource issues to Congress and the Administration. Jeff Crane, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation's Director of Policy, is the incoming Chairman of the AWCP, and you can learn more about the conference at the CSF Web site, www.sportsmenslink.org



For Your Information

2003-2004 Super Combo License Survey

Recently, TPWD did a survey to see who might purchase a Super Combo License in the upcoming year. Here is a summary of the results. The survey was mailed to 1,142 respondents, which resulted in a 32% response rate. The respondents' demographics were: Average age 48.1, with 96% Males and 4% Females.

The hunting or fishing activities the respondents participated in 2003-04 season looked like this: Muzzleloader 9%; Trout 20%; Archery 28%; Waterfowl 37%; Turkey 54%; Dove 60%; and Saltwater 67%.

Those who intend to buy Super Combo license next year was 97% of all respondents. The following best describes the respondent's outdoor interests. There was 28% more interested in hunting than fishing; 12% more interested in fishing than hunting; and 60% equally interested in hunting and fishing.

The average number of days each respondent said he or she hunts/fishes in Texas during 2003-04 seasons was 21.99 days hunting, and 19.90 days fishing. Average number of stamps used (of the 7 stamps included in the Super Combo license): all respondents = 2.7 stamps; will buy Super Combo again = 2.8 stamps; will not buy Super Combo again = 1.4 stamps; primarily hunters = 2.6 stamps; primarily fishers = 2.0 stamps and equal interest fishing/hunting = 3.0 stamps.

Average number of stamps intended to be bought next year (if no Super Combo license was available) was: all respondents = 3.0 stamps; will buy Super Combo again = 3.1 stamps; will not buy Super Combo again = 1.7 stamps; primarily hunters = 2.8 stamps; primarily fishers = 2.3 stamps and equal interest hunt/fish = 3.3 stamps.

Now, if you want to help make this survey become a reality, go out and purchase your Super Combo license if you haven't already, and for certain, purchase it next year and take someone hunting or fishing.

Hunters Take Aim at Hunger in Texas

It is once again that time of year when hunters are "heading to the woods." For more than a decade now, Texas hunters have combined their skill, love of the outdoors, and their generosity to help **Hunters for the Hungry** (HFTH) feed hundreds of hungry Texans.

During the past hunting season, Texas hunters, meat processors and other program supporters joined forces to donate almost 127,000 pounds of wild game (almost 508,000 servings) to help families struggling to make ends meet. While wild game donations have continued to increase each year, there remains an enormous need for supplies of meat. An estimated 1.1 million children in Texas are hungry or at risk of hunger.

The success of HFTH depends on the combined efforts of hunters, meat processors and food assistance providers.

Hunters take their legally harvested deer to participating meat processors, who process and package the donated meat for a nominal fee to cover basic costs. Meat processors then notify local food banks, food pantries and emergency feeding sites, which distribute the meat to families in need.

Any organizations, processors or individuals interested in providing a monetary donation or wild game to Hunters for the Hungry, or who want more information, can contact staff at the Texas toll-free number (800) 992-9767, Ext. 506 or visit our Web site at www.taca.org. An updated list of participating meat processors for the 2004-05 deer season is available.





Jim Schaefer:

I attended your Hunter Education course recently. My thought on taking this class was none too exciting at first. After being there and taking in all the information I was amazed at how much I didn't know. I applaud you and your great "little" helper on a very fine job. You captured my attention from the start and held it through Sunday at close of business. I returned home to encourage my son and wife to attend as soon as possible.

I came to work today and all my buddies razzed me about taking "the class" so we went to your Web page to check it out. How surprised were we to see you in the pictures of the Texas Big Hunt winner, I say that because we too got the pleasure of hunting with Bay Prairie Outfitters; evening ducks and morning geese. What a blast. In closing you have my endorsement to anyone I come in contact with in searching for a hunter education course.

Thanks again,
Mark Rash

Kevin Connally:

Thank you very much for volunteering to teach the Hunter Education course last weekend. As a true beginner, I am glad that I took the two-day live class instead of the Internet or home study. Although I expected the class to be limited to general safety issues, I was very pleasantly surprised that we covered a much broader range of topics that provided me a new perspective of hunting and hunters. I have always been in the "undecided" camp on hunting, and have recently begun so that I can accept some invitations from clients and friends. As a result of the class, my views on hunting and hunters is dramatically different and much more positive.

On a personal level, I certainly received a benefit far greater than the nominal \$10 fee for the class. As a small

token of thanks, I would like to make a donation to a conservation organization on your behalf. If there is a specific one where you would prefer to direct the contribution, please let me know. Otherwise, I will select one of the ones you mentioned in class.

Thanks again - the class made a big difference for me.

Lance J. Ramsey, Attorney
Austin

Dear Mr. Erwin:

Thank you so very much for the letter and 2004 EXPO patch. TPWD has an utterly AWESOME open house of their statewide programs during EXPO! I do enjoy volunteering at EXPO annually and where I can assist in my local area. I love the education workshops, and I learn so much at each one. I can hardly wait to share information with others. Guess you know - I'm hooked on hunter education and safety!

Respectfully,
Suzan Rector
Houston

Dear Kathy,

We got to Austin and couldn't find the school we were supposed to park at, since the pass we had was NO GOOD, so we just came back home. It rained all the way there and all the way home. We tried. Again, the volunteers have gotten treated like ugly stepchildren!

Later,
Upset Instructors

Editor's comments:

Dear Instructors:

So sorry you were inconvenienced, but I sincerely appreciate your efforts to make it down to Expo. We did miss you, but knew the weather probably had something to do with it. Nearly four inches of rain fell Saturday morning. We had a difficult time dealing with opening the Expo and had to go to "Plan B." It was the first time we have been actually rained out, but we did eventually open and

things went well. We managed to get things going, but the mud created some difficulties with movement of supplies. We had a final tally of 12,508 shooters in two days, and a little over 22,000 visitors during the weekend.

Yes, it was extremely inconvenient for staff, vendors and especially volunteers with having to park at Nelson Field and be bussed over. All parking passes were null and void when the Ojeda Jr. High School parking lot filled up. Everyone was routed across town to park.

I am terribly sorry you felt like the volunteers were "Again, treated like ugly stepchildren!" We could not control the weather, and did the best we could under the circumstances. I hope you understand that it was a situation we had to deal with, and no matter who had passes, they were all "NO GOOD." Please accept our apology for the inconvenience. I look forward to working with you next year, and maybe the weather will cooperate.

Dear Staff:

Well, hello from Del Rio! We are doing things well – just finished a course in Rocksprings and the result was very positive. We have three more events for the year – one more two-day course in Del Rio and two wild game dinners. We will make a difference in southwest Texas.

I do have a concern I would like to share with you. I had three members of a family who took a home study course in San Antonio and they all failed the exam. Their explanation was they received no review or guidance before the final exam. This took place at "A Place To Shoot" range during November of last year. They attended my latest course and all three did well, scoring a 96, 98 and 90, respectively, on the final.

I give a very thorough review before the exam, because I believe it helps the students leave my class knowing more than they knew coming into the class. I was told this really helps by two parents that attended the second day of class recently. The above students explained to me they never received a review of the material they 'learned' online and therefore did not know what to expect during the actual exam.

If we are truly "teaching" individuals about hunter education, we need to review the material they looked at online. I will not go through a class without giving a thorough review of that material prior to the written exam, or at least ask if there is anything anyone wants to go over before proceeding. To do so would defeat the purpose of holding the course ... **teaching**. We need to inform, instruct, and educate people associated with our "sport," and not turn them away or alienate them towards hunting.

I know we are volunteer instructors, but this does not relieve us of the responsibility of teaching students proper ways of handling themselves safely and responsibly, not only in the field, but also out of the field.

Best Regards,
Fred Berg

Editor's Comments:

*Fred, you are certainly right on the money here. It **IS** our responsibility to **teach**, no matter which course the student is taking, structured or online. Some students, but not all, will require an additional bit of attention. Learning takes place through an educational experience, especially during hands-on activities, and we should be "teaching" during these exercises.*

*We, as instructors, have the "flexibility" to go over a review or an exam to help the students understand what was missed, and we **SHOULD**. They might have just read the question wrong, or misunderstood it. If a student does not make a passing score of 80%, but only lacks a couple of questions, it is very acceptable to go over the exam and ask the student to read the questions over and answer them again. Without giving them the answer, see how they do, because it will only take a few minutes. This effort might just make the difference in whether a student continues to pursue hunting or just gives it up! It's no wonder some kids stick with soccer. Self-esteem can be elevated, or trampled into the ground by an instructor who just doesn't care, or is too rigid or inflexible. "Teaching" takes a compassionate and patient individual to be able to share knowledge. Keep up the great work, and keep reviewing your "teaching" efforts.*

Timeless Wisdom

Author Unknown - submitted by Wisconsin Hunter Education Coord. Tim Lawhern

An elder Cherokee Native American was teaching his grandchildren about life. He said to them, "A fight is going on inside me ... it is a terrible fight, and it is between two wolves. One wolf represents fear, anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego. The other wolf stands for joy, peace, love, hope, sharing, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, friendship, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith. This same fight is going on inside you, and inside every other person, also." They thought about it for a minute and then one child asked his grandfather, "Which wolf will win?" The old Cherokee simply replied with a soft smile... "The one you feed."

Ode to the West

By Dr. Joseph W. Berg, Jr.

The West in passive turmoil lay a vast and gallant land of abundance, with cities sparse and peoples proud ... a place of longing and desiring. Its beauty and riches offered a preponderance of all necessities for living needed by this country ... from gold to air.

Shrouded with space, ephemeral with a long down time.

Now sucklings draw from breasts what the land provides in abundance.

Though sucklings sometimes are amiss and perverted, still she is a raving beauty and thine.

Do not dismantle her with thoughtless deeds ... a kiss, a pluck, and then forgotten.

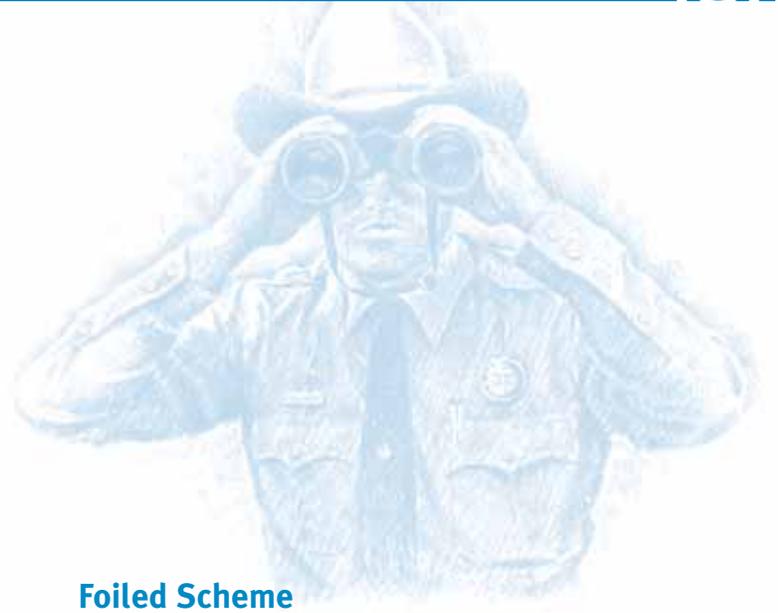
Treat her as she deserves ... a ravenous beauty with graces that bloom like every lovely flower.

Let not fall come too soon, for the West, like all of God's creations shall have:

Youth, maturity, old age, and then die.



TEXAS GAME WARDEN FIELD NOTES



In the News

A Grayson County Game Warden cited a Denison man for killing a timber rattlesnake after the man had his picture with the snake put in the local newspaper. The suspect was quoted in the paper as saying, “The only good snake is a dead snake.” The timber rattlesnake is listed as a threatened species in Texas. TPWD regulations prohibit the taking, possession, transportation or sale of any animal species designated by state law as endangered or threatened without the issuance of a permit. Case pending.

What a Dope!

A Freestone County Game Warden responded to an “Operation Game Thief” hunting call in Navarro County. The warden found five students shooting skeet on a lighted range. To enhance their shooting ability, the men were drinking beer and smoking marijuana. One of the subjects attempted to ditch his stash of dope by throwing it out of his vehicle. The warden easily identified the owner of the marijuana since the subject’s name was written on the bag. Cases are pending. (Not the sharpest knife in the drawer.)

And More Illegal Baiting

State and Federal Game Wardens made a sweep recently on a baited dove field in western Coryell County. The landowner had spread out 5,000 pounds of milo for his guests. There were 17 state violations for which citations were issued. In addition, the landowner was cited by the federal officials for putting bait out for the hunters.

Foiled Scheme

Recently, Palo Pinto and Wise county Game Wardens, along with Federal Wardens went onto a ranch that had been suspected of being baited in years past. Upon entry, there were 15 hunters in the field. The area in which the hunters were hunting was a wheat field that had been shredded. A careful examination of the field showed it to be baited. Two hundred twenty-three doves were seized and a federal citation was issued to the landowner.

Wardens Didn’t Come ‘Down the Shoot’ Yesterday

Recently, a Cooke County Game Warden filed a hunting case where the subject made a u-turn in front of the warden and shot dove off the highline wires from the road. When stopped, he had freshly killed birds in his truck and empty shotgun shells caught in his windshield wipers; yet he insisted he was not road hunting.

Daily Limits Means ONE DAY

A Taylor County Game Warden was checking an evening dove hunter who was cleaning his birds. He thought he had killed a limit but only had 11. The warden commented that the birds were flying really well in that location. The man commented that they were even better that morning. The warden asked if he had gotten any that morning. He advised that he had taken a limit that morning. The warden advised that 12 birds was the “daily limit.” It took a minute to sink in, and then the man said, “I don’t guess I will be seeing the wife and kids tonight.”

Kudos



Area Chief **Brock Minton** (right), Sanderson, is shown receiving his Hall of Fame award from TPWD Hunter Education Specialist **Jimmie Caughron** recently during a Challenged Youth Hunt in San Angelo. Brock was unable to attend the instructor conference in Waco because of school. He is finishing up his degree in Wildlife Management. He started in the Hunter Education program in 1989, taught 126 student courses, certified 664 students and attended more than 60 workshops or events. Brock is also an IBEP instructor.

Sorry this was late, but Congratulations!

Congratulations to Goliad County Game Warden **Jesse Garcia**, who was named Game Warden of the Year by the 2004 Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Also, congratulations to Hale County Game Warden **Mark Collins** for being selected as the Shikar Safari Club Texas Game Warden of the year for 2004.

Athletes of the Year

USA Shooting, the governing body of competitive shooting in the United States, named **Kim Rhode** of El Monte, California, and **Matt Emmons** of Browns Mills, New Jersey, as **USA Shooting's Athletes of the Year**, based on their outstanding performances in major international competitions in 2004. The 25-year-old Rhode won her third Olympic medal at this summer's games in Athens by capturing her second gold medal in women's double trap. Emmons, 23, turned in superb performances in three events at the Spring Selection Match to win Olympic spots in all three, then followed with a gold medal in men's prone rifle.

Kim Rhode was at Wildlife Expo this year to promote shotgunning sports and helped Charlie Wilson with the Whiz Bang shoot-off. She is pictured here giving out awards to the finalists. Winners of this year's event were L-R:

Senior Division:

Chris Meszler, Spring Branch

Junior Division:

Joseph Rogers, Roanoke

Sub-Junior Division:

J. William Henderson, Mansfield

Congratulations to all winners!



NOW IS THE TIME TO HELP OUR YOUTH BY BECOMING A HUNTMASTER!

- Join an elite group of trained volunteers who run safe and educational youth hunts.
- We will provide the training to certify you to plan and run TYHP hunts.
- All you need is a weekend and we will provide the rest ... food, lodging, etc.
- Detailed information is available at www.texas-wildlife.org

2005 Huntmaster Workshop Schedule

March 4-6	Dallas/Fort Worth Area	April 29-May 1	San Antonio Area
March 11-13	Austin Area	April 29-May 1	Rio Grande Valley Area
March 11-13	Panhandle Area	May 13-15	San Angelo Area
April 1-3	El Paso Area	June 3-5	Houston Area
April 8-10	East Texas Area	June 10-12	Dallas/Fort Worth Area
April 22-24	Laredo Area		

Copy, complete and return the form below and, as it gets closer to the date of the event, we will send you the details of the workshop you would like to attend.

To help cover the cost of the training workshop and Huntmaster manual, which is yours to keep, we ask that you submit a fee of \$50. You may send us a check or money order, you may call us at (800) 460-5494 and charge the fee to a credit card, OR you can give us your credit card information below (Visa, MC or American Express). Please contact us, if the fee is a problem.

Complete, clip and return to TWA:

**Texas Youth Hunting Program
401 Isom Rd. Ste. 237
San Antonio, TX 78216**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day phone () _____ Evening phone () _____

Location & date of workshop you can attend _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Name as it appears on credit card _____

Texas Hunter Education Program Loses Instructors

Bill Lynn



Bill Lynn's last deed on earth was a good one. A year ago when Lynn taught a Hunter Education course at the Girl Scout camp, he noticed the Girl Scouts were sitting on wobbly benches, and, told his daughter, Sarabeth Erickson, that the situation upset him very much. He set out to replace the six benches, building new ones from recycled wooden pallets.

On the morning of Sept. 22, 86-year-old Lynn and his dog Pepper had gone to the camp to deliver the newly built benches. Returning to Brownwood, Lynn was killed when his car swerved off the road in an area known as "Dead Man's Curve" on Texas Highway 279. The officers who investigated said he appeared to have over-corrected.

Wayne Keith remembers meeting Lynn for the first time. Keith was a young Boy Scout at Camp Billy Gibbons and Bill Lynn was the man checking the boys health information forms before their first swimming lessons.

"I remember him, because we'd give him our papers and he'd study it, then for every one, he'd say, 'It says here you're allergic to girls.' It wasn't funny, but it was funny, because he was just such a nice man and you knew he really cared about everyone and what we were doing."

Years later, when Keith's bride-to-be brought him to Brownwood to meet her family, Keith realized the man who had diagnosed him as "being allergic to girls" was about to become his grandfather-in-law.

Minnie Cutbirth said she worked with Lynn at GTE. He was in the engineering department of the telephone company, and Cutbirth said she remembers how beautiful his handwriting was and how precise and perfect his diagrams were. But, she said, for years they had been members of the same church, and, after she retired from GTE, she began hunting and signed up for the Hunter Education course Lynn taught.

Lynn earned the rank of Eagle Scout when he was 14 years old, and family members said, he took seriously the part of the oath that said as an Eagle Scout, he should give something

back. For more than 72 years he worked with Boy Scouts, volunteering time, energy and effort. He was a member of the Brotherhood of the Otena Lodge Order of the Arrow and had received the Silver Beaver Award in 1968.

Lynn taught hunter safety courses in Brownwood for more than 50 years and LeRoy Polnick, a game warden with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, said anyone who knew Lynn knew how dedicated he was to hunting safety. "His main goal was to make sure all kids knew how to handle guns safely," Polnick said. "He was a very good teacher. He taught people hunting ethics and responsibilities."

George E. McNeill, Sr.

George E. McNeill, Sr. was born June 23, 1921 in Little Rock, Arkansas. He passed away on Saturday, Oct. 30, in Hillsboro, Texas. He came to Weatherford in 1967 to make his home. An outstanding volunteer, he worked in the Scouting program for over 30 years. George started an outreach program for Boy Scouts in Fort Worth where he would go into the inner city to recruit his Scouts. He once said, "I was never afraid, because I had a motorcycle gang that always protected me. Once on the highway, a bunch from this motorcycle crowd escorted me through traffic, so I could make my meeting in time, so I felt pretty special. I had never had a motorcycle escort before."

He served as Field Sports Director at the Sid Richardson Scout Ranch for many years. George was a volunteer for the Soil and Conservation Service and received the Outstanding Volunteer Award. He was a Hunter Education instructor for over 15 years, and was honored as the Winchester Volunteer Hunter Education Instructor of the Year in 1999.

George was a tremendous asset to the Hunter Education program in Texas, especially in Weatherford. He traveled to Amarillo several times to help with the survival workshops, and always kept your attention to detail. He will be missed by all those who knew him.

Animal Rights Groups to Announce Plan to Merge, Ban Bowhunting

(Columbus) - The U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance (USSA) has learned that the nation's principal anti-hunting organizations will announce a merger on Monday, Nov. 22. In announcing the merger, the unified anti-hunting group will reveal its intention to target bowhunters for extinction.

The USSA, a national organization founded to protect the rights of sportsmen to hunt, fish and trap, has been following a rumor that the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and the Fund for Animals are preparing to combine forces.

The HSUS, located in Washington, D.C., is the nation's largest animal rights organization raising nearly \$60 million in 2002. The Fund for Animals is the most vociferous anti-hunting organization and is headquartered in New York City. It raised \$6.7 million in 2003. Scripps Howard News Service reporter Lance Gay confirmed the merger announcement to USSA late Friday afternoon. Gay stated that sources within the groups confirmed that the new organization would seek to ban bowhunting as a first priority.

In response, USSA announced an emergency meeting of bowhunting organizations, businesses and publications to prepare to counter the attack. The Alliance created the Bowhunter Defense Coalition to defeat a series of attacks on bowhunters during the late 1980s.

"The merger announcement serves as a wake up call to bowhunting groups to reunite to defeat what promises to be a powerful attack on our heritage from this monstrous anti-hunting group," said Rick Story, U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance senior vice president. "To win, we will need to energize the vast grassroots network of sportsmen across this country."

Over the years, the Fund for Animals and HSUS have been the two most formidable organizations working to ban hunting. While the Fund for Animals has been openly hostile to hunters, HSUS has attempted to mask its intentions by raising funds using puppy calendars for promotions. Earlier this year, HSUS appointed former Fund for Animals official Wayne Pacelle to the position of CEO. Combined with the merger announcement, Pacelle's appointment leaves little doubt about the agenda of the newly-merged organization. According to public filings the new organization will have combined assets of as much as \$97 million to implement its anti-hunting agenda.

The U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance protects the rights of hunters, anglers and trappers in the courts, legislatures, at the ballot, in Congress and through public education programs. For more information about the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance and its work, call (614) 888-4868 or visit its Web site, www.ussportsmen.org

Hi Folks:

Yep, it's me. I must bring this up and insist that instructors NOT send CASH with the student records. We have had some come in like that lately, and the mailroom and incoming revenue departments were surprised to see cash. If the cash is missing, it is **your** responsibility, and you will have to make up the loss. Instructors must send a personal check, money order or bank cashier's check.

We are caught up on all entries as of this writing, but want you to remember ... You have seven (7) days to get the records to us after completion of the course. We are still receiving courses taught last year, or several months ago. Please don't compromise your instructor status by holding on to these courses.

NOTICE: A NEW Fee Schedule began January 1, 2004. The fee for structured or home study courses is \$10, of which the instructor may retain \$5. However, there must be a \$5 fee submitted for EACH student, no matter which course is taken. If a student is under age, fails, drops out, etc., the student form and fee must still be sent in.

Handling the Deferral Option - When someone comes to your course who has purchased the Hunter Education Deferral Option # 166, remember to PLEASE take up the "Deferral" and attach it to the student registration form. We will be tracking all deferral options of students who take the course.



THE BOWHUNTER

TEXAS BOWHUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

New Law Levies Fair Taxes on Archery Gear

President signs bill to close tax loophole on foreign arrow makers/importers, reduce tax on broadheads and eliminate tax on youth bows.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – President Bush signed the 2004 “Jobs Bill” on Oct. 22, which includes the Arrow Excise-Tax Simplification Act that closes a tax loophole which gave foreign arrow manufacturers a competitive advantage over U.S. arrow makers the past seven years.

When the act takes effect in late November, it will impose the same 12 percent federal excise tax on both foreign and domestic arrow manufacturers. Foreign arrow manufacturers and importers have not had to pay the 12.4 percent federal excise tax paid by arrow component manufacturers since the loophole was mistakenly created in 1997. The loophole allowed foreign manufacturers to sell Americans nearly \$14 million in untaxed arrows in 2003 alone. In all, approximately \$55 million in untaxed arrows were imported into the United States from 1997 through 2004. As a result, state wildlife agencies missed out on \$6 million to \$7 million in federal aid during those years from the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Program.

The revised federal excise tax on arrows will not be levied on archery retailers and dealers. The law applies only to the manufacturer or importer of an arrow, and includes a provision to prevent double taxation when arrows are assembled from components.

In addition to creating equal taxation for arrow manufacturers, the 2004 Jobs Bill also reduces excise taxes on broadheads from 12.4 percent to 11 percent, and eliminates the 11 percent excise tax on bows with draw weights less than 30 pounds.

Jay McAninch, CEO and president of the Archery Trade Association, praised the tax reforms. “This has been a long haul for everyone involved, but our Board of Directors believed it was vital to correct the mistakes and oversights in that 1997 legislation,” he said. “The Board’s core belief was that everyone in the same market segment of the archery industry should shoulder similar tax burdens, and they were determined to see this through.”

McAninch said the tax reform was critical to the future of America’s archery and bowhunting industry. “Historically, archery is an American industry. All the businesses that make archery equipment have their roots here in America,” he said. “Closing this loophole levels the playing field, eliminates the cost advantage for arrows from overseas, and allows American companies to compete on equal footing. That’s all

domestic companies ever wanted. Just as importantly, this allows America's archery and bowhunting industry to restore the funds for state wildlife agencies that allow them to do their conservation work for sportsmen."

Erik Watts of Easton Technical Products and chairman of the ATA's board of directors, said the tax reform is a victory for archery and bowhunting because it will generate an additional \$1.2 to \$1.5 million annually for the Pittman-Robertson fund. "The archery industry has always supported the Wildlife Restoration Program, so it was frustrating the past six years to see one-third of the arrow business go overseas to take advantage of a loophole and avoid funding wildlife habitat, archery education and shooting-range programs," Watts said. "It's been tough for the industry to focus on creating new archery programs with such a large hole in Pittman-Robertson funding because of tax-collection disparities. Now we can make sure everyone pays the appropriate amounts and focus industry efforts on archery promotion."

McAninch said eliminating the tax on light draw-weight bows was also critical to the future of archery and bowhunting. "Eliminating that 11 percent tax on youth bows will make them less expensive," he said. "That should help reduce equipment costs for the National Archery in the Schools Program, 4-H Clubs, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, youth camps and other organizations with youth archery programs."

Kevin Stay, president of Brennan Industries, maker of the Genesis bow, agreed, saying the move will help create new archers. "Those funds can now be used to provide additional direct grant money for initiatives like the National Archery in the Schools Program," he said. "Obviously, our long-term hope is that we'll create so many new lifelong shooters that we'll see a net gain in Pittman-Robertson funding for wildlife restoration. That will happen as new archers upgrade their equipment when they join archery leagues or take up bowhunting."

McAninch added that he was also glad to see lawmakers change the classification on broadheads and reduce the excise tax paid by broadhead manufacturers to 11 percent. "Broadheads should have never been classified as arrow components in 1997, which meant they were being taxed at 12.4 percent the past seven years," McAninch said. "Now they're properly classified as an accessory and subject to the 11 percent tax."

Michele Eichler, CEO of Muzzy Products, said it was unfortunate an IRS misinterpretation of the 1997 legislation caused a seven-year battle to resolve the error, but said the bigger issue was gaining equal taxation on arrows and removing excise taxes on youth bows. She said the process proves the industry must work together whenever it requires governmental help.

Schedule Those Courses Now

It's time to schedule IBEP courses. Let's get ahead of the game this year, and schedule courses well in advance. Some students will take advantage of the opportunity, yet some will not. It invariably causes great stress and "heartburn" to look for a course, only to find out one "was just held." Call the TPWD office at (800) 792-1112, Ext. 94999 and set up your course in the computer. Remember, if you schedule the course and then hold it, you gain an additional five incentive points.

Keep your string waxed, your fletchings dry, your broadheads sharp and always be safe.

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