



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

Soon, I will be entering my 20th year of employment with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. It seems like only yesterday when I moved to the Austin area and took this position. I really appreciate the fact that I have been able to work with so many great folks, especially you volunteers. This program is fully supported by some of the greatest people I have ever met, and I hope to be around several more years to have the honor of serving all of you.

We have had a few ups and downs over the years, but overall, it has been a fairly smooth ride. I do have some housekeeping to bring up, so here goes. Don't be surprised if some of these items hit close to home, so let's try to get them corrected to ensure program successes.

First, when an instructor takes a student through the Home Study Field Testing Skills day, it may not be done in less than four (4) hours. **LIVE FIRING** and **SKILLS TRAIL** exercises **MUST** be completed along with an ethics, responsibility and game laws presentation and then a review before the written exam, requiring an 80 percent passing score. The exam is being revised and we'll have a new edition after the new year. There are no exceptions to these requirements. If you have questions about procedures, please give staff a call.

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Expo Breaks Saturday Crowd Record

Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo drew a record 26,247 visitors during the 16th annual event on Saturday. Sunday was slower at 16,322 folks, bringing the weekend total to 42,569 visitors, our highest Expo crowd count since 2002. One interesting trend is that in the past four years, youth visitation has increased from 35 to 51 percent, helping advance a strategic goal to reach the next generation of conservation supporters.

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Editor's Corner, continued

Second, the structured course must be done in at least 10 hours over a minimum of two days. **NO** one-day courses will be allowed. We have had several one-day courses this year, and the explanation was, "That is the only time I had to do the course," or "The students all agreed to go the entire day to finish up." Sorry, this is not allowed. Course paperwork was returned for completion.

Third, several courses were submitted without the corresponding funds. A \$5 student fee must accompany each student form, unless it is a "deferral," and that documentation needs to be paper-clipped to the student registration form for our records. A "Final Report" from each instructor must be completed and submitted for each course, and only one course per final report is allowed. When in doubt, contact our office for clarification.

Fourth, we need more courses offered in areas throughout Texas. Therefore, I would like to challenge each of you to recruit at least one new instructor applicant! We have learned a lot over the years, and we are trying to make the certification process much easier. That is why the first four hours of instructor training is now being provided via the Internet. Full directions for certification are listed at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning.

A new form is now required for all employees and volunteers. It is called the *Authorization and Consent for Disclosure of Criminal History Information* (Form 1039). It must be signed and returned to our Human Resources Division for processing prior to anyone being certified or gaining employment. If you have not signed one, please do so, and return it to our office. A copy can be found on the last page (23) of this newsletter.

At least two instructors were recently decertified for falsification of student records, or providing certification without doing the training this year. Remember that on the bottom of your application is a statement that obligates an instructor to teach the proper course prior to certification. We hope all instructors will maintain a high level of integrity as you continue serving one of the best programs in the country.

By the time you read this newsletter, the holiday season will be behind us. We hope you had a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year, and are ready to start the next year off with enthusiasm. Don't forget to contact our office and give us your course schedule so we can place it on the computer.

How many of you found your instructor number in the last issue of *Target Talk* and called to get your prize? Well, it was only a four out of the 10 numbers printed. Let's give it a rest and we will return next issue with some more numbers.

Finally, included with this newsletter is the latest copy of the *Instructor Journal*. Inside, you will find a new DVD for your use in teaching ethics. It was narrated by Shane Mahoney and sponsored and produced by The Boone and Crockett Club, Cabela's and the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA). It should make a good addition to your teaching tools.

The **2008 Workshop Schedule** is contained within this newsletter, so mark your calendar and return the form to us so we can notify you of any logistics for each workshop. Thanks for all your hard work and we look forward to continuing our productive partnership together!

Always be safe and responsible,
Terry Erwin

Executive Director
Robert L. Cook
Editor, *Target Talk*
Terry Erwin



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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT
"To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations."

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

www.tpwd.state.tx.us

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16th Annual Expo Draws Diverse Visitors

In other highlights, almost 700 youth and adults came Saturday on 14 “outreach buses” from Houston, San Antonio and Laredo. Ninety-one percent of these bus riders were ethnic minorities, helping TPWD achieve its goal of engaging non-traditional customers in the outdoors. In an international first, about 25 members of a Mexican hunting and fishing club headed north of the border to Expo for the first time. They intend to bring their families next year.

And there was more formal recognition of how our event’s positive benefits radiate far beyond Texas. On Saturday evening, Weatherby Foundation International presented

TPWD with an award for leadership in providing a model that has spawned similar expos now held in 17 other states. What’s more, the Weatherby folks said they learned recently that countries such as Spain, Mexico and Austria are now considering similar expos, as they face similar issues.

Department leaders said the event was one of the smoothest-running ever, a fact borne out by Texas Festivals and Events Association members who were on-site Sunday and were all extremely impressed with the teamwork, problem-solving attitude and communication. You, the volunteers, were fantastic, once again!

SHOOTING EVENT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	TOTAL
Muzzleloading	1,103	967	2,070
4-H Airgun	992	912	1,904
Crosman Airgun Challenge	397	378	775
Horton Crossbow	825	809	1,634
Briley Sporting Clays	296	290	586
TPWD Sporting Clays	467	381	848
Youth/Women Shotgun	490	475	965
Bowfishing	468	432	900
LSBA Archery	1,566	1,431	2,997
LaserShot	190	160	350
TOTALS	6,794	6,235	13,029



Student and Instructor Attend IHEA Heritage Hunt



Bryan Thurston, publisher of the *Hunter's Handbook*, contacted our office earlier this year. It seems he had drawn the winners of the IHEA Heritage Hunt to be held on the Indian Head Ranch in Del Rio, and one of the winners was from Texas. He was unable to contact the youth, Carson Anderson, and asked for assistance. A call was placed to the phone number and Steve Anderson answered the phone. When he was told of the event, he explained he had received a phone call from Seattle, Washington, and thought the whole thing was a "scam." He said he had no reason to hunt in Washington, and was not going to return the call. He was assured it was for real, and was given the information and encouraged to contact Mr. Thurston for details. The rest is history.

Terry, Once again thank you, for contacting us about being drawn for the hunt of a lifetime. I really believed it was a scam. Carson had a great time and it is something he will always remember. The ranch was unbelievable. The hospitality that Diane and Laurent Delagrangé provided was top notch and we were all treated great.

The following sponsors provided each winner with different items: Cabela's provided hats and hunting vest; Bushnell provided binoculars; Tasco provided clothing and the taxidermy; Safari Club International (SCI) gave a plaque, year's membership and airfare; and Careco Productions provided the camera crew.

Carson hunted all Friday afternoon and Saturday morning and was never able to get a clear shot on an animal. Finally Saturday afternoon he was able to harvest a scimitar-horned oryx. The kids also enjoyed visiting with former astronaut, General Joe Engle. He gave a great program on NASA and the space program. Every winner (student and instructor) harvested an animal during the hunt. Emily Berg, instructor from Dalhart, was really enjoyable to be around. She harvested a four-horned sheep.

Thanks again,
Steve Anderson, Sergeant, DPS, DLD
Mt. Pleasant

One of the instructors drawn to attend the hunt was unable to go, so an alternate was drawn, and it turned out to be an instructor from Texas who had just been certified. Emily Berg should probably go buy a lottery ticket. She was certified in December 2006, entered the drawing and was drawn in early 2007 to go on the hunt in October. She was skeptical at first, but when she got to the ranch and saw all that was involved, she was impressed. Pictured here is Emily with her four-horned ram taken during the hunt. It actually only has three horns, so the ranch owner wanted it out of the group. Emily made a fine shot, and will have the memories of the hunt each time she looks at the mounted trophy, thanks to SCI.



Whiz-Bang Winners

This year marked the 15th Annual Whiz-Bang Finals. Top winners were: Senior Division—Leo Ybanez, Corpus Christi; Junior Division—Zach Charbula, Alvin; and Intermediate Division—Kyler Ford, Burleson. Top winners were awarded a Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License provided by Sportsmen’s Club of Fort Worth, while the second place winners were all awarded a new Browning Gold 12-gauge shotgun.

Additional prizes awarded were valued at nearly \$24,000 and included trophies for each place provided by Browning; three additional club shotguns by Browning; various trap throwers from La Porte USA, Promatic, R&R Trap Sales and Service and Lincoln; for the top three place winners, Montana Silversmith belt buckles from Mark Faggard, Beaumont; other winners received gift certificates for product;

gift certificates for custom work on shotguns; private shooting lessons; gun cleaning kits by Otis; 40 cases of ammunition from Focchi, Winchester, Rio, and Remington; shooting glasses; travel bags with over \$150 in content from the IHEA; memberships to National Sporting Clays Association and a myriad of other smaller items.

This year’s event had the first female participant, who was an outstanding contestant. All shooters are in the 4-H Shooting Sports in their local areas. Participants will have an additional opportunity to participate in the new shooting sports activity introduced in schools this year by TPWD, known as “Ag. 381 Clays.” This new program is offered in the high school elective titled “Wildlife and Recreation Management.”



KUDOS!

Kudos to Kathy!

Dear Staff:

I would like to put an “atta girl” in for Kathryn Powell. She has to be one of the finest assets y’all have put in this department for instructors to deal with. She gets it done and is always pleasant and goes “above the call of duty” for us instructors, especially those of us who that don’t have our act together. We can always depend on her. Thanks for putting number one “draft choices” like her in place to make this program tick. She seems to really enjoy working with us and knows what the program means. She keeps us wanting to do this. She really makes me feel like I really have TPWD “connections.”

Instructor #6640 would also like to put in an “atta boy” for Kaufman County game warden Eric Minter always coming to our class and sharing his knowledge of the law and regulations and any changes with our class. Lee Koning, Kathy Wren and I have been doing this since the ’80s and we have been spoiled with great and dependable game wardens. We went from Danny Shaw to Eric so you cannot have more informative guys that really have fun in the class, and the students really enjoy them. Eric does a great job in the classroom with us, so we know he does a great job in the field too. He is very passionate about his job and it shows. Again, a special thanks to Eric from our teaching team, including our rookie instructor Anthony Heimen.

Mike Robinson
Terrell

Kathy:

I received my hunter education card in the mail. Just letting you know. Thanks for all the help and very fast response. I was very impressed by the service you provided. I figured it would have taken a while to hear back from you guys, but it didn’t. Have a great weekend!

Thank you,
Donald Sapp

And Congrats to Sheri!



Steve Hall presents Sheri Harper with her 15-year award for employment with TPWD. Sheri is the Hunter and Boater Education branch assistant and handles everything from purchasing to monthly reports as well as hundreds of calls for information. Congratulations, Sheri, we appreciate all you do for us!

KUDOS!

A very surprised Saralyn with the governor's proclamation naming her a "Yellow Rose of Texas"



Texas Navy Brotherhood of Admirals Inducts New Member

by Don Meehan

As a crowd gathered on the Military Plaza of the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas, there was a look of curiosity and puzzlement on their faces. The gentlemen wearing yachting garb certainly looked dignified, and there seemed to be an air of solemnity when bugler Bill Smallwood sounded the start of the ceremony with military precision. What was up? Senior Admiral of the Brotherhood of Admirals of Admirals of the Texas Navy **Duke Walton** orchestrated a series of events, as Admiral Kevin Paetzel read the Proclamation of Grandest Importance and presented Dr. Ben Bradshaw, distinguished professor of demography at the University of Texas, San Antonio, with his commissioning papers from Texas Governor Rick Perry, appointing him as an Admiral in the Texas Navy. Dr. Bradshaw was duly welcomed into the "Brotherhood of Admirals," a small and non-elite, pro-active group within the membership of Texas Admirals, as well! A surprise presentation was made to **Saralyn Walton**, awarding her the coveted "**Yellow Rose of Texas**" designation, also signed by the governor, for all her good deeds to and for the citizens of our great state! This award was presented by Janie Burruss and Johnye Harriman, former executive director of the Chili Appreciation Society International, a nationwide group that raises money for local charities from the proceeds of chili cook-offs!

Finally, under the thoughtful direction of **Admiral Duke "Ducky" Walton**, the attending Admirals, guests, and attentive onlookers paid tribute to Senior Admiral Ed "Chill Lee" Paetzel, founder of the Brotherhood of Admirals. Famous (or near-famous) cowboy poet Walt Perryman read an original poem in honor of Ed. There was humor and pathos in his tome and the people "lightened up," even though they didn't know anything about the gentleman he was talking about! They had to figure he was special. Both of 'em!

Smiles and grins were evident in the crowd when the Admirals raised their Kazoos to accompany Bugler Bill in a medley of traditional Texas songs. They had kazoos too! I think this is how Ed Paetzel would have liked to be remembered. He was a great planner and organizer and never forgot that these kinds of "happenings" were all about having FUN!

Editor's Note:

Duke Walton is an Area Chief instructor from Porter, and has been honored in the past as an "Admiral," but his wife, Saralyn, received the honors this time for her outstanding contributions and assisting Duke with all their activities. Congratulations to you both!

KUDOS!

110th Congress
1st Session

H. Con. Res. 193

In the Senate of the United States

October 16, 2007

Recognizing All Hunters Across the United States For Their Continued Commitment to Safety

Whereas in 2006 there were over 16,000,000 hunters in the United States of which only .0013 percent incurred an injury during the past hunting season;

Whereas in 2006 this injury rate was lower than many other forms of recreation;

Whereas there are 70,000 hunter education instructors teaching hunter safety, ethics, and conservation to approximately 750,000 students successfully each year;

Whereas State fish and game agencies began offering hunter safety programs in 1949, and since then, more than 35,000,000 people have been certified;

Whereas much of the success of hunter safety can be contributed to hunter education training and the role of responsible hunters in the field;

Whereas Congress commends Pennsylvania hunters for setting a new State safety record in 2006;

Whereas hunters continue year after year to improve their safety record; and

Whereas hunters are the vital link in preserving and maintaining the great natural resources in the United States, including wild places: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—(1) recognizes all hunters across the United States for their continued commitment to safety; and (2) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Pennsylvania State Game Commissioner and the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Attest:

Kasey Ericsson

Secretary.



Program Offers Easy Way to Donate Venison

With deer season almost over, many hunters will soon find their freezers packed with venison. The Hunters for the Hungry program offers a convenient way to donate extra venison to help feed people in need. Interested hunters can take their legally harvested, late-season deer to a participating meat processor, who will process and package the meat for a nominal fee to help cover basic costs. Meat processors make arrangements with local food assistance agencies to distribute the meat to people in the community who need food.

Last hunting season, hunters donated nearly 176,000 pounds of meat to the Hunters for the Hungry program through 90 participating meat processors in 64 counties. This year, donate deer at one of 96 participating meat processors in 69 counties, with new processors joining the program throughout the season.

Organizations providing food always need protein sources—an important but often expensive food category. Low in fat, venison nutritiously fulfills the protein category in a healthful way. The venison donated to the Hunters for the Hungry program goes to food pantries, soup kitchens, churches and shelters.

Individuals and families impacted by ill health, job layoffs, domestic violence, natural disasters, and other personal crises benefited from the venison last season. All were appreciative of the delicious meals that resulted from Hunters for the Hungry donations and the generous hearts of the hunters and meat processors who made it possible.

**Be part of the solution to hunger.
For a complete list of participating
meat processors, visit
www.taca.org/hunters.htm**

The list of processors grows every season. Additional processors are always needed. If the processor you use is not on the list, encourage the business to participate by contacting program staff during business hours Monday – Friday at (800) 992-9767, extension 506. Monetary donations to support the program are always welcome.

TEXAS GAME WARDEN FIELD NOTES

Warden Prompts Lawyer's Backpedal

A Kimble County game warden, continuing an open investigation on two suspects involved in harvesting an axis deer and two black buck antelopes without landowner consent, interviewed the younger of the two suspects via telephone in mid-April. Shortly thereafter, the older suspect (who happened to be an attorney and soon-to-be father-in-law of the younger suspect) called the warden. The attorney/suspect accused the warden of violations of attorney-client privilege and playing favorites, but the warden wasn't having it. He explained to the lawyer that intimidation tactics would not be tolerated and would not have any influence on the investigation. Consequently, the attorney quickly changed his tune and said they would be willing to make restitution on the animals. The warden is following up with the landowner and the county attorney to present the case.

Told You So

On August 20, a Harris County game warden received information that a field near Cypress had been baited and that the subjects might have already been hunting earlier that week. The warden located the field and found cracked corn and grain along with dove decoys hanging on the barbed wire fences. The following Sunday, the game warden watched the field in the evening and observed four subjects shoot skeet for an hour before the temptation of all the doves got to them. The subjects shot doves until 8:15 p.m. before deciding to pack it up. As the game warden made contact with the surprised subjects, he overheard one say: "I told you guys this was not a good idea." Cases and restitution are pending.



IN THE NEWS...

From National Shooting Sports Foundation

New Report Shows Immense Economic Impact of Hunting and Fishing

A new report released last week by the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation demonstrates that by any measure America's hunters and anglers are among the most prominent and influential of all demographic groups. Spending more than \$76 billion a year on hunting and fishing, the country's hunters and anglers combined would rank in the Top 20 list on the Fortune 500. The report shows that hunting and fishing remain a very powerful force in American recreation, countering recent news reports that focused on declining numbers of hunters and anglers. "Hunting pumps \$23 billion into the economy, benefiting not only the manufacturers of hunting-related products, but everything from local mom-and-pop businesses to wildlife conservation in every state in America," said Doug Painter, NSSF president. CSF's report uses the results from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation and compares hunters' and anglers' impact on the economy with other industries and constituencies. A press briefing on the report, taped last week in Washington, D.C., is available for viewing at www.versus.com.

Gun, Ammo Sales Up 14 Percent; \$70 Million for Conservation

Sales by gun and ammunition manufacturers grew by 14 percent in the first quarter of 2007 compared to the same period a year earlier, according to one of the firearm industry's best economic indicators. The statistics are taken from the latest Pittman-Robertson federal excise tax collection report. Excise taxes are calculated as a percentage of wholesale receipts, paid quarterly by firearm and ammunition manufacturers, and earmarked for state wildlife conservation and habitat restoration programs. From January through March, \$70 million was generated for conservation, compared to \$61 million in 2006. The latest tax collections suggest overall sales of \$653.9 million during the quarter, not including retail markup or final retail sales. The increase was seen across the board in sales of handguns, long guns and ammunition.

New Data Show Young People Represent Growing Portion of Hunters

America's oldest outdoor tradition may be growing younger. New data from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service show that young people represent ever-larger portions of America's ebbing hunting population. The ratio of hunters age 6-15 has grown nearly 4 percent since 2001. Of the three outdoor activities tracked by the federal conservation agency, only hunting showed an increase in the percentage of youth participation. The ratio of young anglers fell more than 5 percent while young wildlife watchers showed the largest decline at 10 percent.

Excise Tax Contributions Top \$3 Billion

The latest report of Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax Collections released by the Department of the Treasury indicates that firearm and ammunition manufacturers paid more than \$76.6 million in the second calendar quarter, up 36 percent over the same time period in 2006, and bringing the 15-year cumulative industry excise tax contribution to more than \$3 billion. The second-quarter increase was driven by strong handgun sales, up 44.8 percent, long-gun sales, up 37 percent, and ammo sales, up 29.2 percent. It is projected that \$715.5 million in sales was generated in the quarter, not including retail markup or final retail sales. Excise taxes are calculated as a percentage of wholesale receipts, paid quarterly by firearm and ammunition manufacturers, and earmarked for state wildlife conservation and habitat restoration programs.

National Teachers Group Recommends QDMA Program

The National Science Teachers Association has announced its review and recommendation of “Living with White-tailed Deer” for classroom use by middle and secondary school students. The interactive classroom program on urban/suburban deer issues was produced by the Quality Deer Management Association and includes a three-part, DVD-based video and an interactive CD-ROM with printable support materials.

Online Forum a Hit With Young Shooters, Coaches

NSSF has launched an online forum for Scholastic Clay Target Program shooters and coaches. The SCTP Online Community allows teams across the country to connect online. It’s a place to share tips and experiences with other SCTP participants and a way to get some expert advice from Olympic medalists, top-level instructors, collegiate champions and others. If interested, look at the following Web site: www.nssf.org/SCTP/Community/

President Directs Agencies to Increase Hunting Opportunities

President Bush issued an executive order titled “The Facilitation of Hunting and Wildlife Conservation.” The order directs federal agencies that have programs and activities that have a measurable effect on public land management, outdoor recreation and wildlife management, including the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, to facilitate the expansion and enhancement of hunting opportunities and the management of game species and their habitats.

KATHY'S CORNER

Hi folks, it's me again ... I need to bring something to your attention. Some instructors will call in and say, *“I sent you an extra \$30 for videos, and the check is inside the envelope with my class.”* Just to let you know, our office (Hunter Education) does not receive the mail directly, and we never see the funding when it arrives. The mail comes into the department’s “Incoming Revenue” and they process the funding according to procedures. They forward only the student records to us for processing. (By the way, we are caught up right now!) Therefore, mail in only student fees (\$5.00 per student for volunteer instructors, \$15.00 for TPWD staff and game wardens). We are still receiving records without funding. Don't forget to send it in so it does not hold up processing.

When you fill in your time on the final report, please just put down the actual time spent teaching and testing the course. Any other time should be considered “prep time,” but does not include time spent talking on the telephone

explaining the course or answering questions. Prep time is considered actual time spent preparing to teach the course, e.g., ordering materials, setting up the classroom, grading exams, etc.

Please do NOT send order forms for materials and supplies in with class registration forms, as they may be lost in processing. If lost, you will not receive your supplies in time for your course. Please send the supply order forms separately, fax them, or simply go online and complete the forms.

When an instructor is presented with a “Deferral” slip, please look at the date. If the date is prior to August 31 of the **previous** license year, the student does not get the discount on the course. If the deferral is in the **current** license year, the discount is honored. Remember to attach the deferral slip to the applicable student registration form in lieu of the student fees.

Drive-Through Certification, It's Not

by John Rodriguez, Area Chief



Early one evening the phone rings and my wife answers (I'm already engaged in another conversation via cell phone), and a long-winded conversation begins on hunter education certification and what is required. Though my wife is not certified to teach, she does assist me with paperwork and grading of papers and has heard many previous conversations with other callers. She understands and explains the Texas Hunter Education Program extraordinarily well.

Several minutes elapse with the conversation sounding much like a broken record. My wife attempts to

explain the options to the caller on how to complete the course: (a) structured two-day course, minimum 10 hours over a minimum two-day period; (b) home study including completion with an instructor in a minimum of four hours; or (c) the one-time deferral for \$10.00. Their conversation (or at least one side of the conversation) is becoming humorous as the caller is insistent that the course could be conducted in a lot less time. My wife patiently waits for an opportunity to talk again and take control of the conversation.

My wife finally gets her chance and explains that I'm available, but now the caller believes he can find more answers elsewhere, and ends the call.

The following Saturday morning, the phone rings, and I'm quickly summoned. A younger sounding male voice begins a very personable introduction and asks how my morning is going. Then, rather abruptly, he begins asking questions. He indicates that he is "very aware that he must have this certification before he can buy his hunting license and wants to know why he just can't order it (his certification) via his home computer like he does so many other things these days." He continues, explaining

that he's met all the state law requirements already to get his certification. He's of good character and a person that obeys and respects the law. He's never been convicted of any crime and for \$10.00 we're putting a lot of pressure on honest, law-abiding citizens over something that should be as simple as purchasing his certification on his home computer.

This caller has now had his 90 seconds' worth of fame. He's winded. He's now out of words. He's probably frustrated and bitter, but now is my chance to explain the hunter education program to him.

I begin my introduction, just as personally, with positive comments to him for his interest in the program and also thanking him for wanting to be legal and securing his certification. I begin correcting some of his statements including the fact that in Texas he's not required to have his hunter education certification to buy a license. The fee for the Texas Hunter Education course is now \$15.00, and current Texas state law does not permit anyone, regardless of honesty, integrity or experience to purchase their hunter certification via any computer, and certainly not without some instruction.





Then, I'm stopped cold by the caller. "I know all that stuff already as I've probably spoken to your wife earlier this week. I just need my certification now. I've been invited out of state, and I won't be able to go if I don't get it. Can't I just buy the certification from you for say ... \$300.00 now and when I return we can sit

down and do the paperwork for the record?" Another

attempt on my part to interject, and again, I'm halted. "Don't read me the riot act or something ...

get serious about all this, why don't you," the caller explains. I begin explaining the Texas hunter education program; again, he hangs up the phone.

We have had many calls in the past few years concerning hunter education, and we have supplied as much information as necessary to answer customer questions. I'm sure many of you have had similar calls and receive offers to buy, trade, or expedite the hunter certification process. Special requests such as "please just cut short" the state law time requirements for certification, especially for a home study course may occur. We most probably have never heard of these individuals (callers) before. We're

being asked more frequently to make an exception and just provide a service much like a drive-through window at Jack-in-the-Box, Wendy's or Dairy Queen.

Nowhere in the Texas law books is there a statement that allows us to amend the law to meet a situation or condition. In our job assignment, we must teach each hunter education course (structured two-day or home study) with the highest regard for integrity and respect for existing state laws. We must be professional, ensuring that certification is only given to those that meet these requirements. We must submit to the state all pertinent paperwork supporting our request that this certification be given.

We signed an agreement that states, "Instruct student of all ages in the Hunter Education program as prescribed by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department" and "Violating any provision of the Hunter Education program, falsifying records or acting in a manner which is detrimental to the program could lead to instructor decertification." Additionally, we "accept responsibility as a certified instructor and will not knowingly certify any person who has not met the minimum age and training requirements," and we are warned that "knowingly making false certifications or false student documentation may constitute a third-degree felony under the penal code punishable by a fine, confinement or both."

Once certified as a Hunter Education Instructor, we receive our "Welcome to the ranks of the greatest volunteer effort" letters from the executive director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. We are summoned to "protect the integrity and future of hunting and that by accepting the job and role of a hunter education instructor we will be

coaching new and veteran hunters and shooters to be safe, responsible, and knowledgeable and involved (the purpose of hunter education)." We are further instructed, that "if we ever have questions or need assistance, to be sure to call our hunter education staff. They pride themselves on providing the best possible assistance for you to get the job done in your area of the state."

Knowing that we have agreed to serve as hunter education instructors and fulfill our obligation regarding hunter education certification, call the hunter education staff and get any of your questions answered. Request additional training and get the job done correctly. Let's continue to work together as a professional organization and team showing the highest regard for integrity when being confronted by these callers. Let's always remember that "Drive-through certification, it's not," when it comes to anxious, demanding, unethical and sometimes obnoxious callers seeking a quick solution to secure their Texas Hunter Education certifications.



TRAINING WORKSHOPS



New Instructor Training in Abilene

These new instructors completed their training with Area Chiefs Rodney Sturdivant (on the left) and Billy Holt.

Ag Clays Training

Agriculture Science teachers from Yoakum, Columbus and Victoria attended one of the latest Ag Clays training sessions for teachers who wish to offer this new shotgun program in their Agriculture Science 381 curriculum. At least 43 teachers were trained in July during the Agriculture Science Conference held in Arlington. This exciting new program should boost enrollment in this elective course, and will help youngsters become involved with the shooting sports, which can last for a lifetime of enjoyment.

If any Agriculture Science teacher is interested in attending one of these training sessions, please contact Charlie Wilson at (512) 413-0194, or via e-mail at agclays381@yahoo.com.



TRAINING WORKSHOPS



Hunter Education Workshop Held for Mexico

COTULLA, TEXAS – An international cooperative educational program was held at the Chaparral Wildlife Management Area on October 29-31 to train a delegation from Mexico that will implement a renewed Hunter Education Program (Programa Mexicano de Caceria Responsable) in that country.

The training session was sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) and was organized by Maria Araujo, International Affairs Director for TPWD. A student and instructor Hunter Education course was conducted by Terry Erwin, IHEA board member, J. Thomas Saldias, Peruvian Hunter's Association (a group affiliated with SCI), Jesus Franco, TPWD Border Project Coordinator, and TPWD Hunter Education staff, Jimmie Caughron.

The delegation included representatives from the Mexican Hunting Federation (FEMECA), which has been designated as the authorized entity to implement, conduct and monitor the current Hunter Education Program in Mexico. Delegates included members of conservation agencies and different hunting clubs from Mexico City and the states of Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon, Hidalgo, Puebla, Michoacan and Jalisco. A 12-member committee was formed with the delegates of these states and organizations to assist with implementation of this cooperative program under the supervision of FEMECA.

FEMECA has been selected and will sign an agreement with SEMARNAT (Mexico's federal wildlife agency) to be responsible for coordination and delivery of Hunter Education courses in all Mexican states, and to provide information to SEMARNAT and IHEA about all instructors and hunters that have taken the course for reciprocity purposes of those entering the U.S., Canada or other countries to hunt. In addition, some of the participants in this workshop are members of Mexico SCI, and will be certified by FEMECA as instructors to develop this program within their respective jurisdictions.

NEW INSTRUCTORS

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.

July

Dan Mannering	Carrollton
Billy Garza	Alvord
John Price, Jr.	Valley Mills
Michael Baker	Oglesby
Kevin Korchek	Waco
Joshua Hauke	Waco
Paul Nowak	Waco
Donald Johnson	Springtown
Mark Cole	Trinity
Rob Cook	Richmond
Philip Garcia	Corpus Christi

August

Edwin Rodriguez	McAllen
Debra Hargrave	Hockley
Patrick Moeller	Victoria
Virgil Frick	Panhandle
Chelsea Wilson	Crosbyton
Martin Edwards	Hico
Cristen Fowler	Plano
Cathy Eckert	Fredericksburg
Christie Michalcik	Hallettsville
Chad Simmons	Garwood
Amanda Simmons	Garwood
Clinton Free	Tomball
Zachry Tappan	Malakoff
Michael Blohm, Jr.	Waco

September

Joseph Delahoussaye	Lago Vista
Peter Burke	Spicewood
Michael Odle	Flower Mound
Will Cauthen	Mont Belvieu
Mark Yanda	Dallas
Justin Taylor	Somerset
Rodney Balckmon	Georgetown
Beldon Rudloff	Coldspring
James Green	Durant
Heidi Schneider	Wallis
Robert Frederick	Dripping Springs
Richard Cospier	Georgetown
Travis Quirk	White Deer
Chad Vasiliasuskas	Lewisville
Jeremy Bonds	Taylor
Vance Lemons	Hereford
J. Thomas Saldias	Bryan
Robert Stickle	Hallsville

October

Jason Chapman	College Station
David Pigg	Leakey
Edgar Gerhardt	Houston
Amanda Kacal	Anderson
David Culbert	Merkel
Kristina Brooks	Round Rock

Russell Hayward	Abilene
Melissa Clifton	Abilene
John Beamesderfer	Dayton
Byron Short	Huntsville
Lawanna Monk	Lovelady
Amanda Greathouse	Universal City
Kelly Wehba	Nolan
Robert Sager, II	Wheeler
Greg Epperson	Georgetown
Larry Cunningham	Amarillo
Scotty Walker	Mansfield
Eric Davis	San Antonio
Manuel Perez, III	Falfurrias
Jesus Franco	McAllen
Brady Goen	Shallowater
Norman Stone	Spring Branch
Samuel Henderson	Gordon
Weldon Rainey	Seguin

November (up to Nov. 13)

Joshua Hodges	DeLeon
Nathan Howard	Greenville
Roger Jones	Gilmer
David Wilbanks	Elkhart
Nancy Rue	Longview
Michael Driscoll	Clyde
Kevin Cunningham	Houston
Charles Wise	Atlanta
Megan Stokley	Dayton

Top Ten Reasons for Children to Play Outdoors

- 1) Are healthier physically and mentally.
- 2) Do better in school.
- 3) Have higher self-esteem.
- 4) Have good self-discipline.
- 5) Are more cooperative with other children.
- 6) Feel more capable and confident.
- 7) Are good problem-solvers.
- 8) Are more creative.
- 9) Feel connected to nature.
- 10) Will be tomorrow's conservation leaders.

New Area Chief Instructors

Scot McClure, Argyle — Scot is a professional educator in the DFW area, and has an outstanding Outdoor Education course in his school system. He was certified in 2001, has certified 471 students and is working closely with the Dallas Safari Club to get more schools involved with outdoor activities. He will cover the Denton County area and work closely with the Dallas hunter education specialist. Welcome aboard and congratulations, Scot!

Rodney Sturdivant, Coleman — Although Rodney lives in Coleman, he works primarily in Abilene, and will cover Taylor and Coleman counties plus the surrounding area. Rodney was certified in 1999, has certified 522 students and will work closely with Jimmie Caughron, TPWD specialist from Ballinger. Welcome aboard and congratulations, Rodney!

Ross Walker, San Antonio — Ross lives on the northeast side of San Antonio and teaches near Marion. He was certified in 2000 and has had 638 students pass through his courses. He has arranged several in-service workshops in his area and will cover Bexar County and the surrounding area with the other Area Chief instructors. He will work closely with Brock Minton, TPWD Specialist from Corpus Christi. Welcome aboard and congratulations, Ross!

Don Murray, Waxahachie — Don was certified in 1996 and has certified over 100 students. He has hosted numerous TV shows and has hunted across the United States and Canada. He is an architect, and was very helpful with designing an accessible entrance to the TPWD offices in Grand Prairie. Don will primarily cover Ellis County. Don also has been a regular volunteer with Wildlife Expo and has helped with the sporting dog area. Welcome aboard and congratulations, Don!

Deer Hunters May Be At Risk

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Deer hunting could be a dangerous endeavor for men with heart disease or risk factors for it, research findings suggest.

Several men showed potentially dangerous heart responses to hunting that didn't show up on a treadmill test. In a study of 25 middle-aged male deer hunters, researchers found that the activities inherent to hunting—like walking over rough terrain, shooting an animal and dragging its carcass—sent the men's heart rates up significantly. In some cases, this led to potentially dangerous heart-rhythm disturbances, or diminished oxygen supply to the heart.

Of the 25 hunters, 17 had established coronary heart disease, while the rest had risk factors such as being overweight, smoking or having high blood pressure or cholesterol. The findings suggest that for men like these, hunting could boost the risk of heart attack or cardiac arrest.

For the study, the researchers outfitted each man with a portable monitor that continuously recorded his heart's electrical activity during a day of deer hunting. For comparison, the men also had their hearts monitored as they exercised on a treadmill on a separate day.

In general, the researchers found that deer hunting put the men's hearts under more strain than did the treadmill. Ten men exceeded the maximum heart rate they logged on the treadmill, and several showed potentially dangerous heart responses to hunting that did not show during the treadmill test.



Three men had signs of impeded blood flow to the heart during hunting, but not on the treadmill. Similarly, three of the men with heart disease had heart-rhythm abnormalities while hunting that did not show up on the treadmill test.

The combination of physical exertion, an adrenaline rush and the stress of rough terrain and cold weather may explain the “excessive cardiac demands” seen with hunting, according to the team.

What's more, they point out, most of the men in the study were taking part in an exercise program to treat their heart disease, or were regularly physically active. Hunting could be an even greater strain on the heart in men who are usually sedentary, the researchers note.

The Politically Incorrect Truth about Hunting

by Bill Steigerwald

Ted Nugent isn't the only guy in America who's not afraid to say hunting is good for the country. Frank Miniter—the award-winning editor of *American Hunter* magazine who's stalked game on five continents—has written *The Politically Incorrect Guide to Hunting*. The latest in Regnery Publishing's "PIG" series, it defends hunting from its know-nothing media critics in the big cities and spells out how it benefits conservation, cuts crop damage and saves human lives.

Q: What's your book about and why did you write it?

A: I've been reporting on these things for more than a decade. I worked for *Outdoor Life* magazine and now *American Hunter* magazine, and after digging into what hunting actually does, I found all these facts that the mainstream media are not telling. I see hunting as the conservative environmental movement, actually. When you get really deep into it, that's what hunters really are. They're doing so much good, but that word just isn't getting out there. I thought this should be in a book and it should be out there for people to completely grasp, so I went to Regnery with the idea and it worked.

Q: Is there any one major thing that the general population isn't told about hunting that every American citizen should know?

A: When you talk to people against hunting, their ideas are usually based on an emotional side. They think that hunters want to go out there and kill for pleasure. That's not true at all. You're in Pennsylvania, and you're around that culture a lot. You've got a million hunters there. But when you talk to people in these real urban centers, they don't know that hunters are nature lovers. I tell them facts like, "Did you know that every animal in this country that has a hunting season on it has increased in number

after a hunting season is placed on it?" They don't get that. I say, "Look, once you put a hunting season on an animal, you actually end up with a constituency of hunters fighting for that wildlife species." This has happened with elk and deer and turkey and all these other game animals.

Q: Is hunting an endangered pastime? The number of hunters has dropped from 19 million in 1975 to 12.5 million last year.

A: It's a fading pastime because we're becoming more of an urban nation than ever before. Even the rural states—you go into the red states and those people move out to get the jobs in places like where I am now, Fairfax, Virginia. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey numbers have been slowly going down, though there are some bright spots. The number of women is up 72 percent in the last five years. Some of the youth programs now just coming on are bearing fruit. I see that as an important thing. When I talk to a hunter, he usually knows about the ecosystem he's hunting in. He knows where the deer are, and where the grouse are, and what the turkey are doing and this kind of stuff. I think he cares about that resource because he's involved in it so much. When you talk to a non-hunter, they may have a real compassion for wildlife but they don't often understand what the wildlife need, what they eat, what they're doing.

Q: What are three top reasons hunting is good for America?

A: I'd start with money. Hunting and fishing pay for conservation in this country. If you add taxes on our sporting goods (10 or 11 percent depending on what product it is) on the consumer and the manufacturer with hunting license fees, it's just over \$1 billion a year just going into habitat restoration and all the other things game agencies do.

Non-hunters don't pay that stuff when they go hiking or mountain biking and those kinds of things. Second, hunting actually saves lives. Two hundred people are killed a year in deer-auto collisions and 25,000 people injured out of a 1.5 million accidents nationwide. That's a big deal—and that's with hunters killing 8 to 10 million white-tailed deer every year. You're five times as likely to hit a deer in urban America as you are in rural America, because you just cannot control deer populations in those areas.

The third—and this is one thing the environmental movement is starting to understand—is the ecological disaster that occurs from an un-hunted population of deer or elk and other species. In our Eastern forests, when we let a deer herd go completely uncontrolled, they actually end up eating all the vegetation they can reach. You end up with this sort of

ecological desert under the canopy, because everything below six feet is gone; there's no vegetation whatsoever. The New Jersey Audubon Society in the last year opened up all its lands to hunting and they published a report that said we can't look at ourselves in the mirror anymore because not allowing hunting is destroying our own songbird populations on their own properties.

Q: How do you reverse the downward trend of fewer and fewer hunters?

A: To tell you the truth, it's happening. I don't know if you can completely reverse it. But there are youth programs in many states. I think 11

states now have passed different laws to bring more youth into the sports—by basically lowering some of the age requirements, and taking away some of the course requirements for the first year; they can try it with a hunting mentor for the first year, that kind of stuff. And the women programs have certainly done that. But there is a change going on in this country right now. The Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation is actually the biggest caucus in Washington. The NRA has taken a huge interest in hunting now; it has done a lot for hunting rights. Beyond that, if you look in the mainstream, the *New York Times* magazine recently had a pro-

hunting story; they were anti-hunting until just a couple years ago. *National Geographic* has a feature on the benefits of hunting, both nationally and internationally.

Internationally, hunting has literally saved the white rhinoceros and lots of other species, because suddenly it gives the private landowner an incentive to have these animals there because they can make real money off of them. So you see the mainstream is starting to get it. If we can continue as a hunting community to get that word out there with books like mine and articles, there's hope. I guess I'm optimistic.

Editor's Note: This article came from FrontPageMagazine.com on November 13, 2007 and is reprinted with permission. Bill Steigerwald is the associate editor/columnist with the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*. Some of these answers might be helpful when teaching a hunter education course.

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When you decide to purchase, you will need to forward the following to Cathy Hale's attention:

- Your request stating the model, and caliber submitted with your name, address and phone number.
- Check made out to Savage Arms Inc. for the total amount. (Note that Savage Arms covers the cost of shipping.) If you want to place this order on credit card, I will need the number, expiration date, and also the three-digit code on back. You can call me with this information.
- Copy of FFL (Federal Firearms License), with original signature, from the dealer who will be receiving the firearms on your behalf. (Note: If the dealer sends FFL separately, they need to include your name or this will delay your order.)
- If this purchase is for a muzzleloader you do not need an FFL. We can ship directly to your address.
- Certified Hunter Ed Instructors, send a copy of your current Hunter Ed Certificate or other valid certification. Limited to one rifle per year.
- Savage Arms covers the shipping charges.

Should you have any further questions, please call Cathy Hale at (413) 642-4121

CZ-USA Offers Discount

Contact Alice Poluchova at CZ-USA to secure a great discount on CZ-USA centerfire, rimfire and shotguns. To obtain firearms at the discounted price, a person must provide proof that they are a hunter education instructor, send the FFL license information where they want the gun delivered, plus include a check or credit card for the purchase price plus \$15.00 shipping and handling. Orders can be sent to CZ-USA, Inc. P.O. Box 171073, Kansas City, Kansas 66117-0073 or call (800) 955-4486.

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THE BOWHUNTER

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Consumer Product Safety Commission Study

In a recent study TMA conducted in conjunction with the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), incidents reported to the CPSC between 1998-2005:

- 82 percent of the incidents reported, the hunters were not wearing any fall-restraint and the incident could have most likely been avoided if they had been connected to the tree correctly and had chose to wear a full body harness.
- 75 percent of the falls were hunters between the ages of 30 and 60 or an average age of 44.
- The average distance the hunter fell was 21.4 feet.
- 10 percent of the incidents involved the use of homemade stands.
- An average of 18 incidents were reported annually.

The conclusions to this study include:

- Most incidents involving Treestands can be avoided if the hunter chooses to wear a full body harness and properly connects it to the tree from the moment they leave the ground until they are back down.
- The current system of reporting treestand incidents is inconclusive and must be revised in order to establish credible facts to support any recommendations by the CPSC or TMA. IHEA has approved (May 2007) a revised report. States have been asked to use it when reporting all incidents involving an elevated hunting position.
- Hunters should become familiar with the Treestand Safety Guideline to reduce the risks associated with hunting from an elevated hunting position. It is also recommended that hunters watch the "Safe Treestand Hunting Strategies" DVD being included with all Treestands after June 2007.

Bowhunter Education New Instructors

JULY

Tom Hooker, Sr.	Katy
Rodney Ham	Bryan
Jerry King	San Antonio
Christopher Rodriguez	San Antonio
Lloyd Corder, Jr.	Kerrville
Dylan Livingston	San Antonio
John Barron	San Antonio
Clayton John Barron	San Antonio
Jonathan Barton	San Antonio
Ross Walker	San Antonio
Steve Cole	Alvin

AUGUST

Robby Kruse	Ingram
Danny McElroy	Aransas Pass
Juan Cruz	Aransas Pass

SEPTEMBER

Ray Starr	Angleton
Lynette Starr	Angleton

Camp Bullis IBEP News

Congratulations from the Camp Bullis IBEP Instructor Team to Ms. Katy Ortman, San Antonio, on being the lucky winner of the **Attend IBEP and Win a NEW Alpine Compound Bow** drawing. Mr. Drew H. Butterwick, host of **Art of Deception TV** and Alpine Archery donated the bow to the instructor team so it could be presented to a lucky bowhunter who successfully completed IBEP.

Katy, who attended a May course, was selected at random from a group of 70 names of students that completed one of the courses taught at Camp Bullis this year. The drawing was conducted on August 19 at the end of our teaching year. When asked what she thought of her new bow, Katy replied, "It's like Christmas in summer."



Special thanks to Drew H. Butterwick for lending his time as guest instructor throughout the year, Art of Deception TV, Alpine Archery, G-5 Outdoors, Outdoor Edge Cutlery, Barkley's Wildlife Sportsman and The Sportsman's Warehouse for their generous donations of promotional material and door prizes.

Dear Staff:

I am aware that I do not need to complete a bowhunter's course in order to bow hunt. I took the hunter education course, instead, to bow hunt in Arkansas this season. I thought that I couldn't possibly learn much since I've hunted the last 30-plus years. Well, I was wrong. I did learn things that the 30-year experience left out and I feel better now that I've taken the course. I now want to take the bowhunter education course but can't find one near me. Is there a way that the study guides can be done online (like I did for the hunter education course) and attend the field day? I want to go through that class as well for I'm sure I can learn from it as I did the hunter education.

Russell Crawford

Editor's note: *Thanks for the letter. IBEP does have an online course (look at NBEF.org) that anyone may take, but it will involve attending a field day to complete the certification process. Please have students look on our Web site next year to see where the "Home Study" field day courses will be located.*

FYI

There will be a Basic Archery Instructor TRAINER (BAIT) Course on January 15, 16, 17 including a Basic Archery Instructor (BAI) Course on Thursday, January 17, 8:00–5:00 at Kingwood High School, 2701 Kingwood Dr, Kingwood, TX 77339. Kingwood is off Hwy. 59 on the north side of Houston.

NOTE:

To become a Basic Archery Instructor Trainer (BAIT), you attend all three days.
To become a Basic Archery Instructor (BAI), you need only attend the last day.

You must e-mail/RSVP with me if you can attend the training.

Burnie Kessner, TPWD Archery Coordinator

office (979) 862-7341 • cell (281) 793-5135 • fax (979) 862-7750 • burnie.kessner@tpwd.state.tx.us



Authorization and Consent for Disclosure of Criminal History Information

In connection with the evaluation of my suitability for employment or volunteer status, I give my consent for TPWD to obtain criminal history information related to my application for employment/volunteer status. I understand that criminal history information includes any criminal conviction records for deferred adjudication, misdemeanor or felony offenses at age 17 or older. Any such information will be used solely for employment/volunteer status related considerations and not for any other purpose.

I authorize, consent, and grant permission to any person or entity to release to TPWD or its agent(s) any and all information regarding my criminal history. I waive any and all claims I may have with respect to providing such information. I understand that TPWD and its agent(s) are not responsible for the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in such reports. I release TPWD and its agent(s) from any and all liability, claims, and lawsuits with respect to the information obtained from any or all the sources used by TPWD and its agent(s).

I understand that this authorization is not an offer of employment/volunteer status by TPWD and that any false or misleading information I have provided to TPWD may result in a refusal to hire, promote, reassign, or continue employment/volunteer status. I also understand that this authorization is a continuing authorization and will remain valid until such time as I inform TPWD in writing that I revoke this authorization.

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Print Name: _____
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(MM / DD / YYYY)

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Signature of Applicant Date

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NOTICE: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department maintains the information collected through this form. With few exceptions, you are entitled to be informed about the information we collect. Under Sections 552.021 and 552.023 of the Texas Government Code, you are also entitled to receive and review the information. Under Section 559.004, you are also entitled to have this information corrected.



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