

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

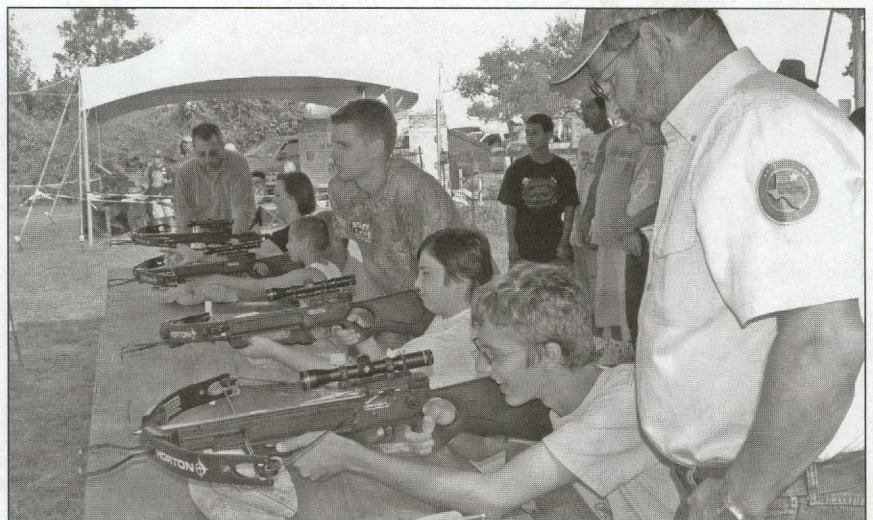
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY! Yes, that's right. In 2008 we reached the 20th anniversary of "Mandatory Hunter Education" in Texas. Can you believe how fast it has gone by? Just to give you an example, 161,013 students were certified between 1972 through 1987. Since "mandatory" hunter education began in 1988, with your help 617,816 students have been certified through May 2008—or 20 years of the mandatory program. See what a great job you are doing? We couldn't have done it without you.

Included with this newsletter is the 2009 Workshop Schedule. Twenty years ago we were doing six workshops per year plus one or two advanced workshops. Now, look at the workshops being conducted, including all the advanced topics from which to choose. These workshops enable you to enhance the quality of your training, which has been their purpose since 1977, the year the first workshop was held. Be sure to mark your choices and send the form to Kathy.

The following is a summary of fiscal year 2008 accomplishments reflecting all you've accomplished in one year. Please give yourself a big hand!

- 31,187 students were trained in 3,303 courses conducted statewide.

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2008 Expo Near-Perfect Event

When the last visitors trickled out of the Austin headquarters grounds late Sunday on October 5, a total of 37,575 people had enjoyed the 17th annual Texas Parks and Wildlife Expo. That's down from about 42,000 visitors last year, but considerably more than the close to 8,000 who attended the first Expo in 1992. In the event's early years, it seemed that bigger was better. But after a record 46,800 visitors rocked staff back on their heels in 2000, organizers and leaders saw how longer crowd lines and the strain of growth tested the event.

TPWD has since focused on the quality of the visitor experience as the most important measure of success. And by all accounts, based on glowing customer feedback over the weekend, Expo XVII was superb, with almost no problems and

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Editor's Corner, continued

- 335 new instructors were certified in 52 12-hour workshops.
- 7,481 students were trained using the Internet/Hunter Skills Trail method.
- 12,453 students participated in live-firing activities.
- 18,673 students participated in field activities.
- A total of 287 teachers, 17 trainers, four statewide trainers and 190 schools were trained in the Texas Archery in Schools program.
- A total of 8,619 students participated in archery outreach events.
- TPWD received \$580,880 of in-kind contributions from hunter education volunteer hours.
- 8,042 people shot in 41 sporting clays events conducted by staff.
- 15,209 people participated in 96 firearm safety presentations, hunting seminars and related outreach activities provided by staff.
- 13,029 people participated in shooting activities at the annual Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo held in Austin the first weekend of October.
- TPWD approved \$278,000 in Target Range Construction Grants.

Hunter Education introduced thousands more to safe, responsible hunting activities and we look forward to working with you in 2009!

Speaking of 2009, please mark your calendars for the annual **Hunter Education Instructor Conference** to be held in Corpus Christi on February 21. It will be held at the Brighton Park Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 3418 Airline Road.

The Red Roof Inn located at 6805 S. Padre Island Drive is the host motel and has a block of rooms reserved for the event. Prices are as follows: Queen Standard and Business/King – \$50.99; Deluxe – \$62.99; Suite – \$110.99 plus tax on each. You

may contact them at (361) 992-9222, or fax them at (361) 992-7008. Please do this now! **Look for the registration form in the packet with this newsletter.**

We will have a very special guest speaker, **Dick Turpin**, of Nebraska. He is the former Hunter Education coordinator and director of law enforcement. He is the host of *Bowhunting, a Timeless Tradition*, a DVD used in our program. He is quite a story teller, speaker, custom turkey-call maker and band member. You will not want to miss his presentation. Here is what some of his references have said about him.

“Dick Turpin is truly a Blood Brother of the Great American Outdoor Dream, and when he creates his artistic, magical turkey calls or celebrates our cherished hands-on conservation lifestyle in his writings and speaking presentations, souls are touched and lives are upgraded.”

Ted Nugent, *Ted Nugent Spirit of the Wild*

“Any audience that has ever had the pleasure of listening to one of his knowledgeable, insightful, and absolutely hilarious presentations has walked away with a greater appreciation of the subject at hand and thoroughly entertained. Better than any speaker I have ever met, Dick has the unique ability to draw his audience into these stories while providing an educational discussion on just about any outdoor-related topic.”

Jeff Rawlinson, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

For more information about Dick Turpin, visit his Web site at www.turpincalls.com

Again, thanks for all you do for hunter education, and we do look forward to a great year!

Always be safe,
Terry Erwin

Executive Director
Carter P. Smith
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.”

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

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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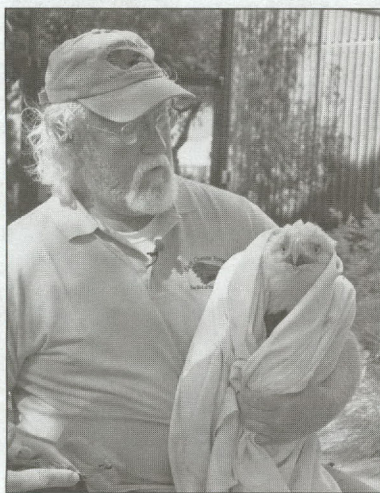
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Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo, continued

a multitude of stakeholders singing our praises. The department's flagship outreach event continues to be an effective way to reach youth and families, as again this year about half of the attendees were children.

New activities this year kept the event vibrant and appealing to urban audiences, including the new Be A Diver SCUBA pool, new spokespeople like husband-and-wife pro anglers Hector and Diane DeLaGarza, new Xtreme shotgun shooter Patrick Flanigan, and the evolved and expanded Fishing FUNdamentals area and Green Zone sustainable living area. Close to 600 people tried SCUBA diving for free at Expo, and staff set an efficiency record for working visitors through the activity the fastest since the pool began making the rounds at festivals across the nation 10 years ago.



Tried and true Expo staples continued their strong draw, with thousands of youth experiencing shooting sports, fishing and many other activities. Master falconer John Karger, whose educational birds of prey show has thrilled crowds since the first Expo, was in the spotlight Sunday, as TV news crews came to cover the story of an injured bald eagle found in East Texas and brought to Expo for care.

"I can't say enough good things about my first Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo as executive director," said Carter Smith. "Words can't come close to capturing the enormity of this event, its power to communicate the fun and importance of outdoor recreation



and conservation, and most importantly, how the Expo brings into sharp relief once again the dedication, commitment and effectiveness of this agency's staff. So many people came up to me and to Ernie and others and thanked us for a job well done. The credit goes to all of us, and to our wonderful sponsors, partners and volunteers. Great team effort!"

Shooting Tops Expo Favorite Activity Survey

Attendees were asked to indicate their favorite activity. When individuals attending with children were asked this question, the parent typically asked the child what their favorite activity was while attending Expo. The open-ended responses were reviewed, and the responses were coded into a variety of categories. The frequency of responses were examined and the results are presented in the table below. The shooting activities ranked the most popular, followed by fishing activities and the birds of prey demonstrations. All of the primary response categories are presented.



ACTIVITY	PERCENT
Shooting Activities	32%
Fishing Activities	31%
Birds of Prey	16%
Kayaking	12%
Scuba	4%
Fire Fight	3%
Turtles	2%
SeaWorld	2%
Climbing	1%

Whiz-Bang Highlights Youth Shooting

The 15th Annual Whiz-Bang 4-H Shooting Sports event was hosted by Charlie Wilson, TPWD's shooting sports coordinator, on Friday, October 3. The top five shooters in the Senior, Junior and Intermediate divisions were invited to attend. Senior Division winners were in this order: First Place, Logan Gaskins, Knott; Second Place, Kyler Ford, Burseson; Third Place, Leo Ybanez, Corpus Christi; Fourth Place, James Bryan, Lake Jackson; and Fifth Place, Tyler Martin, New Braunfels.

Junior Winners were: First Place, William Onderdonk, Spring Branch; Second Place, Colton Anderson, Spring Branch; Third Place, Zach Gauntt, Teague; Fourth Place, Konner Worthington, Childress; and Fifth Place, Colt McBee, Brady.

Intermediate winners were: First Place, Zach Charbula, Alvin; Second Place, Phillip Jungman, Caldwell; Third Place, T. J. Tuttle, Boerne; Fourth Place, Jacob Perrine, Helotes; and Fifth Place, Colt Woods, Kountz.

First-place winners were awarded lifetime hunting and fishing licenses sponsored by Fort Worth Sportsmen's Club, and second-place winners were awarded a Browning X-Bolt Rifle in either 7mm-08 or .243 cal. provided by Browning Arms. All participants were awarded trophies for their respective class which were provided by Browning Arms.



First Place winners, left to right: Zach Charbula, Intermediate; Logan Gaskins, Senior; and William Onderdonk, Junior.

Additional prizes awarded included custom gun fittings, shooting coats, vests, caps, a custom gun case by Americase, trap throwers, gun cleaning kits by Otis Technologies, videos and several other items valued at \$28,000.

Wharton County Jury Returns Guilty Verdict in Trial of Man Accused of Killing Game Warden

AUSTIN, Texas – A Wharton County jury took just two and a half hours to return a verdict of “guilty, capital murder” in the trial of 27-year-old James Garrett Freeman, of Lissie, who shot and killed Texas Game Warden Justin Hurst on March 17, 2007. The sentencing phase of the trial began on November 4, and Wharton County District Attorney Josh McCown has indicated he will seek the death penalty.

The jury reached a verdict in the punishment phase of the trial of James Garrett Freeman, who was found guilty of capital murder on Monday November 3. The jury sentenced Freeman to the death penalty. Freeman shot and killed Texas Game Warden Justin Hurst on March 17, 2007.

“We are all very relieved by the verdict that was rendered by the jury today,” said Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Executive Director Carter Smith. “It is a fitting decision given the horrific nature of the crime committed against our colleague, Texas Game Warden Justin Hurst. Our prayers and thoughts remain with Justin’s wife and son, and with his parents and family, as they continue to cope with his loss.”

Freeman was suspected of poaching, and opened fire on Hurst and other law enforcement officers following a high-speed police chase on the eve of the game warden’s 34th birthday. Hurst died early the next morning at Hermann Memorial Hospital in Houston, leaving behind a wife and infant son.

Seventeen game wardens have died in the line of duty since 1919. “We feel for the families that were affected by the senseless killing of Game Warden Justin Hurst and are grateful that in the end, justice was served,” said Col. Pete Flores, TPWD’s Law Enforcement Division director.

Hurst began his TPWD career as a wildlife biologist and spent six years at the 15,612-acre wildlife management area formerly known as Peach Point WMA. The wildlife management area, where Hurst conducted research on mottled ducks and other wildlife, was renamed in his honor on Oct. 12, 2007.

Hurst graduated from the 48th Texas Game Warden Academy in August 2002, and after a year in Brazos County, transferred to Wharton County.

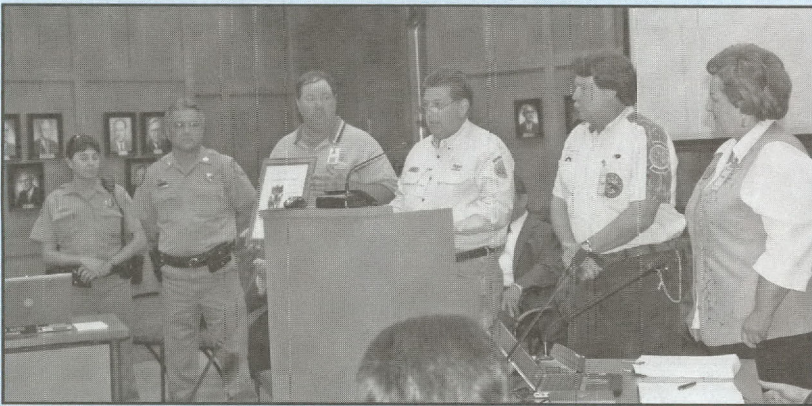
KUDOS!

Gene Norton Certifies 7,000th Student

Twelve-year-old Hunter Medlin of Baytown, Texas, registered for Gene Norton's hunter education course recently, and little did he know he would make history. Gene knew just how many students he needed to reach the 7,000 mark and was careful with the registration process. Gene verified the number and marked Hunter's registration form when he came in. As everyone was finishing up the final exam, Gene stopped the class and stated, "I have just graded my 7,000th student, and he is Hunter Medlin." During the course, Hunter was accompanied by his mother, Julie, who was very surprised at the announcement. Hunter received a stuffed bag full of items as a remembrance of the occasion. Congratulations, Gene and Hunter!



San Antonio River Authority Honored



Members of the South Central Texas Hunter Education Instructors Association presented the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) with a "Certificate of Appreciation" for their support and contributions to the Hunter Education program during one of the SARA board meetings. Shown here (left to right) are Game Warden Kathleen Stuman; Capt. Danny Villalobos; Brock Minton, TPWD training specialist holding the plaque; John Rodriguez making the presentation; Ross Walker, president; and Dr. Peggy Weyel, secretary.



First Deer

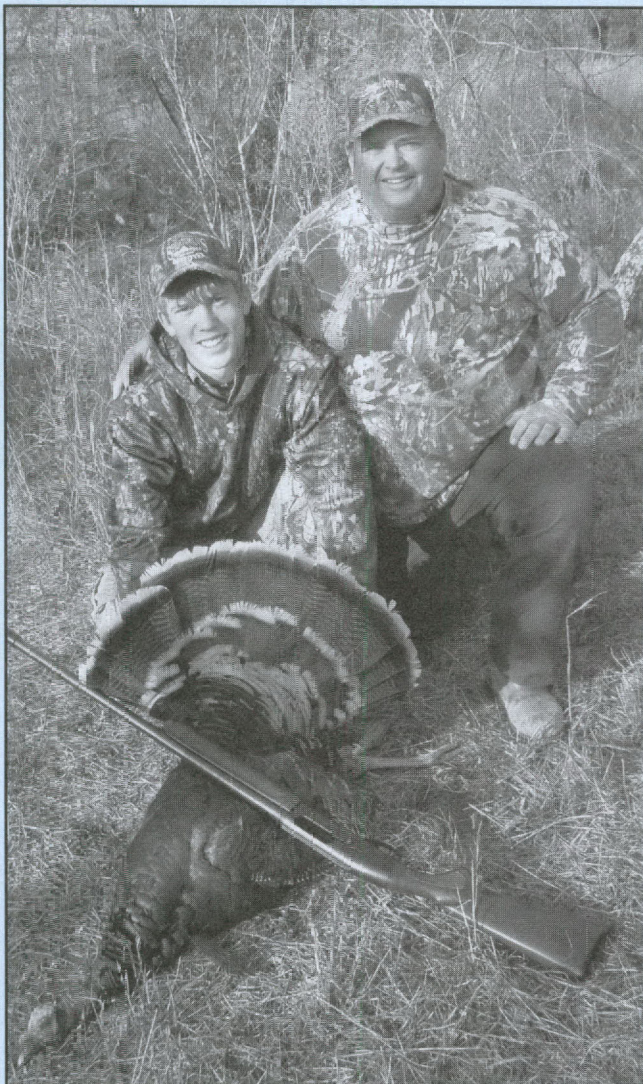
Jesus Franco of McAllen, middle, poses with his first deer. His little brother on the left holds his rifle carefully, and his father, Jesus Franco, Sr., smiles very proudly. Jesus, Sr., is a hunter education instructor and also is a technical biologist employed by TPWD in the Valley.



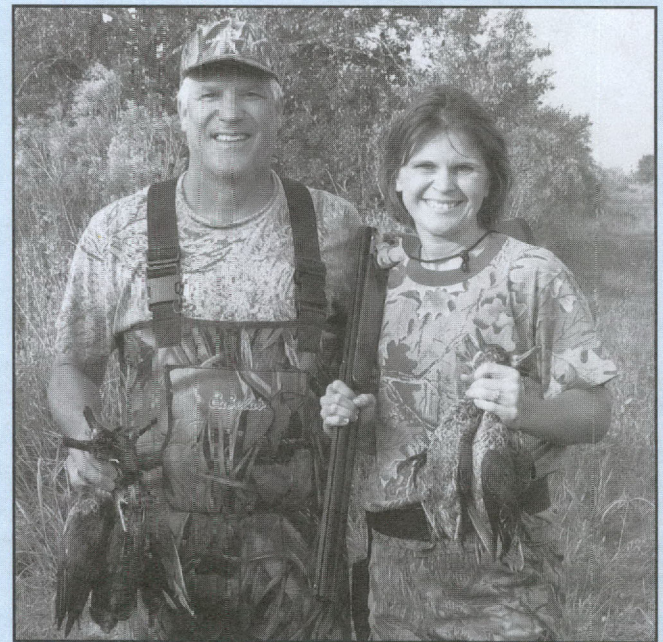
Gerald Chapman Retires

Gerald Chapman sent a very nice letter of resignation recently explaining why he was leaving the program. He began teaching in 1972 and held 179 courses certifying 1,425 students. He attended 19 workshops and gained NRA/IHEA Academy recognition. He said, "I just can't stand up all those long hours anymore, although Gander Mountain in Amarillo wanted me to continue."

How fitting that he earned the Texas Hunter Education Hall of Fame Award last year, and is the first one listed on the new Hall of Fame plaque donated by the Dallas Arms Collector's Association, Inc. He is pictured (above, left) with his wife and Terry Erwin during a visit to the Hunter Education office over the Thanksgiving holidays. His daughter lives in Leander, north of Austin. Congratulations, Gerald, for so many years of service!



Ryan Hall shows off a nice 18-pound gobbler with a 9-inch beard and 1-inch spurs taken near Cotulla. Guiding him on the hunt was Chris Meyer, Hunter Education instructor from Cotulla. Congratulations, Ryan!



Steve Hall, education director and Heidi Rao, Hunter Education training specialist, were among the few who limited out during the early teal season in September. This was the first time they had hunted together, and their host was Ed Gerhardt of Houston.

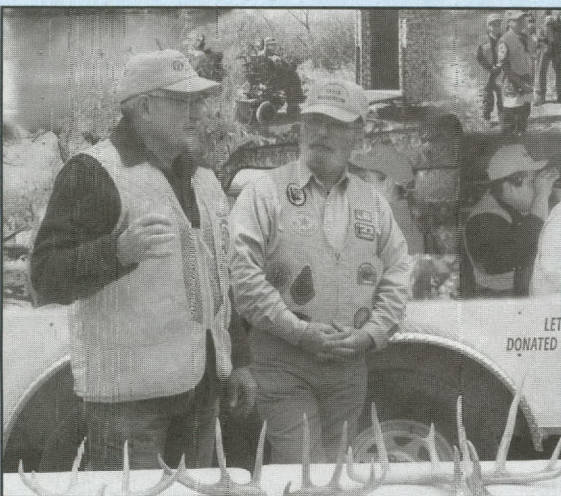
Firearm Incentive Award

Danny Odom, area chief from Orange, receives his 3,000-point rifle incentive award from an employee at McBride's Guns in Austin. Danny added some money to the gift certificate and purchased one of the new Browning X-Bolt rifles in .270 caliber. Congratulations, Danny!



On the left is Thomas Saldias, TPWD hunter educator, instructor, IHEA Board Representative, SCI Representative from Peru, and PhD graduate student at A&M University, who is presenting a memento of appreciation to General Ganiku, the Director General of Firearms Control in Peru. As part of Thomas' graduate studies, he is working to legalize hunting activities in Peru and to promote legal and ethical hunting practices in that country. Anyone who enters Peru for hunting purposes must go through General Ganiku to obtain a firearms permit to enter the country.

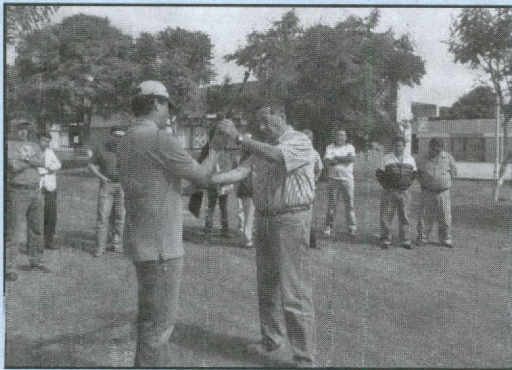
This group of youth was drawn to attend the hunt on the Faulkner Ranch near Kerrville. Standing third from left, is Kathy Powell, with her granddaughter, Ashley, directly in front of her. They were guided by Duke Walton, kneeling in front.



Bryant Truitt, area chief from Hunt, and Duke Walton, area chief from Porter, conducted the Hunter Skills Trail during the Faulkner Ranch Youth Hunt as a refresher of what the students learned during the hunter education course and to better hone their skills during the hunt, especially in what to look for in judging a buck deer. Thanks so much for your help, gentlemen.

Mexico Courses Continue to Progress

Edgar Werzel, instructor from Puebla, Mexico, has certified over 200 students since May. He may very well have set some high goals for others to follow and try to reach in Mexico. Congratulations, Edgar, and keep up the great work! Edgar will undergo additional training and will begin to certify instructors in his area next year to assist him next year.



Hunter Education Instructors – A Message from Horton

This information is brought to you on behalf of the North American Crossbow Federation (NACF). The NACF has established an educational Web site at www.crossbowed.org

This Web site contains a 20-minute crossbow educational video titled *Crossbow Education – 101*. This video is broken down into 15 chapters, so it loads quickly for users that do not have a high-speed Internet provider. It is also possible to download the video to a disk.

After going to this Web site you may find that due to high level of firewall protection that may be on your computer, you may NOT be able to run the video. If this is the case, you will need to burn the video to a disk to view the contents.

This site also contains a PDF copy of the latest edition of *Crossbow Dynamics – Second Edition*. The new edition of this publication provides information about the functional dynamics of crossbows, and the benefits and effects of crossbows in states

where crossbows are used in the archery season. Also covered are state agency-supplied usage and harvest data along with hunter survey information about crossbow usage.

Further, this site contains a PDF that shows a list of states and Canadian provinces and their current regulations on crossbows. If you feel the explanation of the crossbow season in your state or province on this PDF needs editing, please advise us.

On behalf of the NACF we hope you find this Web site useful as a supplemental educational source that you will share with the Hunter Education instructors and staff. If you have any questions, please contact me.

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Welcome, New Area Chief

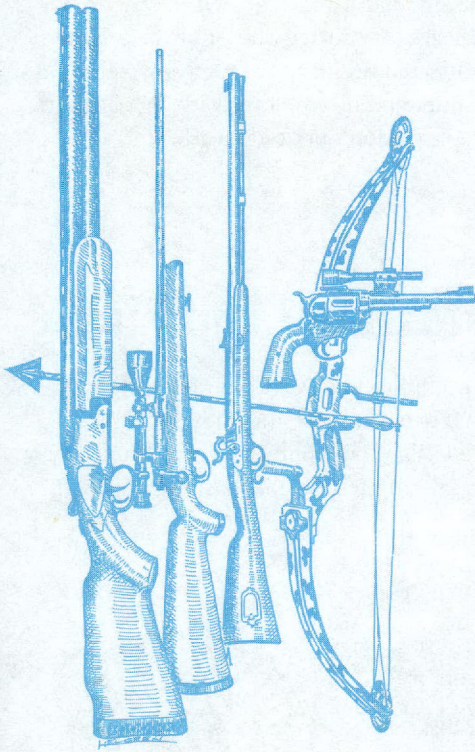
Dr. Kyle McGregor of Stephenville began his duties recently by certifying graduates of Tarleton State University's Agriculture Education majors. Many of these new instructors will become Agriculture Science teachers in high schools across Texas.

Dr. McGregor was initially certified in 1996 and was teaching Ag. Science in high school, so he has firsthand knowledge of the needs of these students and how to deal with a captive audience. He later moved to take the position at Tarleton as associate professor in the Department of Agricultural Services & Development. He will be responsible for training Ag. Education graduates from Tarleton and any other nearby instructor applicants in the Erath County. Welcome aboard.

Lead in Venison: A Personal View

[What one informed hunter is telling his friends and relatives]

by Jeff Davis, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, Editor *Whitetails Unlimited Magazine*



My friends and relatives know that I pay close attention to things like this, and have been calling me asking about what they should do this hunting season. Frankly, there isn't one clear answer, and because of that I'm not comfortable in telling them what they should do. So, I've been telling them what I'm going to do, and why; and that they should draw their own conclusions. I'm sharing those conclusions here, but remember that I'm not telling anyone what they should do, just what I'm going to do this hunting season. I'll start with the what, and then the why.

The first conclusion I've made is that even if I change nothing this year, everything will still be fine. (No one anywhere has reported any symptoms of lead poisoning from eating venison, and lead levels in the blood of hunters are not elevated.)

Second, based on the very conservative level of risk that I'm willing to accept, I am going to change a few things this year: I'm going to spend more time at the range, to

In a departure from our usual press releases, this is a completely personal view, and not information or a position from my employer, *Whitetails Unlimited*. Both personally, as a hunter who enjoys consuming the deer I kill, and in my position as editor of *Whitetails Unlimited* magazine, I have been very interested in the lead in venison story. I have read everything about it I can get my hands on, and have formed my own independent opinion based on what I've found.

make sure that my first bullet will hit exactly where I want it to, to ensure a one-shot kill. (I work hard to know my range and skill level, and I pass on any shots that have a low chance of success.)

I will discard more meat around the wound channel. Proper bullet placement and using one bullet will reduce how much meat needs to be discarded. (Tiny bits of lead have been found a foot away from the bullet path in some test carcasses.) I will not rely on washing the carcass to eliminate the lead. (Tests have indicated that washing just moves the lead around, rather than actually washing it away.)

I will not feed venison to any friend or relative of mine under the age of six, or a woman who is pregnant, trying to get pregnant, or nursing. I have no hesitation in eating it myself, or serving it to anyone else I care about. (Young children, babies and fetuses are at the most risk from lead, and it just seems prudent to try to eliminate all the risk you can. This may be overcautious, but there is nothing lost by being over-careful in this situation.)

I'm going to keep reading everything I can about the topic, and if something changes I will re-evaluate my position. Ignoring an actual problem is just as brainless as overreacting to a nonexistent problem. I face risk every time I get in my car, and yet I still drive, but I do so in a manner that reduces my risk as much as possible. Hunting, and eating what I shoot, is no different.

What I've decided to do this hunting season is based on the level of risk that I am willing to accept. A couple of people I know want to be safer than me, and have asked how to reduce the risk closer to zero. Here is what I've told them:

Take up bow hunting. Use a muzzleloader or shotgun. (Tests using muzzleloaders and shotgun slugs report much less lead fragmentation. I believe that this is because slugs and muzzleloaders travel much slower than rifle bullets, and fragment less on impact.) Switch to a bullet that does not contain lead. Or use a bonded bullet, and combine that bullet type with a caliber that moves more slowly, reducing the likelihood of fragmentation.

Hunting is a wonderful experience, and consuming what I take is part of that experience. There is no need to put myself, or those I care for, at risk. But by being informed and taking some simple, prudent precautions, I can reduce that risk to a level with which I am completely comfortable.

Again, these are my personal conclusions, based on my research, and this is simply what I am going to do this year. It is incumbent on all hunters to make every aspect of their hunting experience safe for themselves and those around them.

Do your research, have fun hunting, and enjoy your venison!

Warden Saves Snake Bite Victim's Life

To Whom It May Concern:

On Sunday, June 29, Russell Southard was bitten by a Formosa cobra. His first phone call was to Game Warden John Rao. Without delay, John told Russell what hospital to go to and what to do in the meantime. John made all the right phone calls. He called Stan Mayes of the Houston Zoo, who found the antivenin before the ambulance arrived. He was waiting in the ER as the ambulance pulled up. He instructed doctors away from two different, wrong antivenins, which if administered, would have killed Russell. He also comforted our family before the doctors even came out and talked to us. If it hadn't been for John, Russell wouldn't have made it. Russell owes his life to him, and we would like to express our appreciation to John, who went out of his way to save Russell's life. You have an outstanding employee with a great heart who deserves credit for his part in saving Russell. If there is anything we can do to return the favor, please don't hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Russell Southard and family, Houston, Texas



Support IHEA: www.ytbtravel.com/ihea

If you would like to contribute to the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA), then begin booking your travel plans with YTB Travel. For each trip you book, including air fare, motel, rental car or vacation, YTB will contribute a fee to IHEA. Your contribution will collectively raise much-needed funds for the association to promote safe and responsible hunting practices.

Texas Hunters for the Hungry

The economy is down, people are hungry, and now is the time to be thinking about sharing with those less fortunate. Hunting season is winding down, so if you or anyone you know has any extra venison or wild game to share, please contact the Texas Hunters for the Hungry at (800) 992-9767, ext. 506, or visit them at www.tacaa.org/hunters.htm

Looking at the HFTH brochure, it is rewarding to see how many FFA chapters process this meat for their local communities. Many of these youth hunt and then donate the meat. More importantly, these youth are learning a lifelong activity that builds character, self-esteem and a sense of worth in their school. Let's help these folks while we help our youth. You won't be sorry you did.



KATHY'S CORNER

Hi Folks! Yep, it's me again. Suddenly, we have had a "rash" of paperwork coming in with no final reports, incomplete reports, (e.g., funding, dates, grades, signatures). What is going on? This really causes us a lot of intense labor and slows down the processing.

Customer service is one of our top priorities, but with incomplete reports, it creates a breakdown in that service. When students call in and ask about their cards, it creates a lot of animosity. Please help us by going over the registration forms and completely filling in all required spaces before processing and mailing.

Another thing ... **DO NOT SEND CASH IN THE MAIL.** Our incoming revenue staff has cautioned us about instructors sending cash in the mail. The instructor is responsible for the funding until it arrives and is posted by the department. If it were to get "lost" or not show up, guess what? The instructor must come up with the funding for that course. Do us all a favor and please send a cashier's check, money order, or personal check so no one has to experience such a loss.

With this new year comes another 3,000(+) courses. I look forward to continuing to serve you—the best instructors in North America!

2009 HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR WORKSHOPS

Mark your calendars for the upcoming workshops. We've scheduled additional programs in different areas of the state. Hunter Education Specialists and Area Chiefs will host most of these workshops. Again, our goal is that each volunteer instructor, professional educator and game warden will attend at least one of these workshops scheduled across the state.

These workshops offer advanced training and hands-on experience in each of the disciplines taught in the Hunter Education course. They give instructors a chance to learn new techniques, teaching skills and receive new material. The workshops offer an opportunity to visit other areas of the state, to "get away" and meet new friends. Exchanging ideas with other instructors is perhaps the best way to learn about new techniques.

A number of well-qualified individuals, such as biologists, game wardens, land managers and hunter education

instructors will assist with the new knowledge and training in each of the workshops. Like you, these folks volunteer their time and expertise to pass on the necessary information used to effectively educate hunters, as well as other outdoor users, to be safe, responsible, knowledgeable and involved.

GENERAL FORMAT INFORMATION

Most workshops are just one day now, on Saturday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. **Read the information letter for exact times and details of each workshop.**

Registration, Lodging & Meals

Mark workshops you would like to attend, or desire information on, complete the attached registration card and return it to Austin. Information cannot be mailed out if the sign-up forms are not returned. This does not commit

you to a given workshop, but it does assure that you will receive an information packet for that workshop. Austin staff will send specific information on reservations, lodging, meals, directions and agenda items about four to six weeks prior to each workshop. Don't put it off—mail it today!

Other Reminders

Dress for the workshops is casual: shorts and t-shirts, sport shirts and jeans, tennis shoes or boots. Be sure to bring warm clothes and rain gear in case of bad weather. We have seen rain, sleet, hail, snow and sunshine at the Outdoor Skills/Survival workshop in the past years.

For more information, please call (800) 792-1112, ext. 8142 or (512) 389-8142. We will try to see that you have successful workshops and that you go away with a sense of accomplishment and increased knowledge. We look forward to seeing you at the 2009 workshops. **Be Safe!**

2009 WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS



Program Orientation/Standards/ Home Study Field Activities

This is a 12-hour workshop, and the first four hours must be completed online at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/hunter_education/instruct.phtml. New applicants must attend the remaining eight-hour workshop in person. Veteran instructors are encouraged to refresh their knowledge online and attend the one-day session and learn how to conduct "Home Study field activities and testing." Learning takes place with a higher retention of knowledge when hands-on activities are incorporated into the process. We will continue to train individuals and teams of instructors across the state to set up these testing sites and conduct field exercises.

Outdoor Skills/Survival

This workshop gives participants a philosophical background and hands-on experience in situations and exercises including map and compass use, fire starting techniques, shelter building, outdoor cooking and desert/mountain survival. Participants might experience a "camp-out" reviewing the

materials learned that day. Be prepared for a great outdoor experience with adequate needs rather than luxurious facilities.

Muzzleloading and Archery

These workshops acquaint you with teaching methods and concepts of muzzleloading and archery. We will offer National Rifle Association (NRA) instructor certification and International Bowhunter Education Program (IBEP) student and instructor certification. In addition, we will offer archery training through the new Archery in the Schools Program and 4-H Shooting Sports Training Team.

Rifle, Shotgun and Handgun

These workshops are conducted by Texas 4-H Shooting Sports and NRA Training Counselors. They offer NRA instructor certifications in each of the above disciplines. However, each participant may be certified in only one of the three disciplines at a time. Each discipline is limited to 25 participants and is on a first-come, first-served basis. NRA certification is strictly up to each individual, and is the sole responsibility of the individual.

2009 WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS, continued

Responsibility, Game Laws and Ethics

This workshop reviews Texas game laws and gives information regarding violations from a game warden's point of view. Training on "how to teach" using the *Texas Outdoor Annual* is an important portion of this workshop. The workshop covers important aspects of hunter responsibility by introducing participants to different teaching concepts, such as "trigger films," open meetings, brainstorming and dilemma methods.

Wildlife Management/Conservation

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department personnel plan to give participants an overview of wildlife management/conservation of game and non-game species. A tour of wildlife management areas is usually planned, and professional biologists will be prepared to answer questions concerning the department's efforts across the state.

ADVANCED IN-SERVICE WORKSHOPS

Archery in the Schools Program

The Archery in the Schools Program has taken off across America, including Texas. The course offers two levels of certifications—Basic Archery Instructor (BAI) and Basic Archery Instructor Trainer (BAIT). The BAI course is geared towards P.E. teachers and is one-day workshop covering the basics of archery, gymnasium range set up, 11 steps to shooting success and safety whistles (commands) and procedures. Geared towards the positive teaching style, this course is a prerequisite for BAIT—a three-day training that focuses on how to instruct teachers in the safe, fun approach to archery, especially in schools. The goal of NASP is to give 4th–12th graders a threshold experience in the shooting sports.

Huntmaster

The Huntmaster Workshop is approximately 14–16 hours long and is mostly hands-on application. It provides the necessary training for organizing and running a youth hunt with additional support from the Texas Youth Hunting Program office. Friday evening is for registration with the course continuing all day on Saturday and

until Sunday noon. **"Take a kid hunting!" Please contact TYHP at 2800 NE Loop 410, Ste. 105, San Antonio, TX 78216, or call (800) 460-5494.**

Laser Shot Simulator/How You Teach

Come in for a day of instruction on set-up and use of the Laser Shot system. Learn how to check out this mobile unit for your courses or special events. No instructor will be allowed to check out or use this system unless they have been trained and certified in the appropriate care, transport, use and troubleshooting. The "How You Teach" workshop will bring instructors together in a "show-and-tell" atmosphere of how he or she teaches. Instructors will demonstrate their favorite teaching techniques relating to various topics. Please bring your best training aids to share with the other instructors, and be prepared to show and tell how YOU teach.

Trapper Education

Instructors will become familiar with seasons, fur-bearing animal regulations, equipment, means and methods and general trapping knowledge. Texas Trappers and Fur Hunters Association members will provide instruction. Running trap lines to varmint calling will be on the agenda. The workshop will be enhanced with mostly hands-on activities. This workshop is one of the most popular, so don't miss it!

Wing Shooting Responsibility

Come to this new workshop and learn what it takes to become a successful wing shooter with respect to waterfowl or upland game birds, and how to become a more responsible hunter. This workshop emphasizes the importance of judging distance and knowing when to shoot and when not to shoot, resulting in fewer "lost" birds. Bring your favorite shotgun and non-toxic shot for a rewarding day. Remember, practice should begin long before the season opens.

Dove Hunting

Ever wonder why you just couldn't hit that little dove when it came in? Learn about dove biology, identification, flight patterns, ecology, habitat, favorite foods, watering

and roosting patterns. Take some notes from the specialists. It could mean the difference in becoming a successful hunter and bringing home some tasty morsels for the table. Remember, you must practice well before the season!

Waterfowl Hunting or ID

Texas has some of the best waterfowl hunting in North America. Learn different techniques on how to set up decoy spreads and call in those birds. Professional guides and personnel will be on hand to lead the activities. Hands-on training will be the focus of this workshop including necropsy of some species. Individuals will possibly have the opportunity to pattern their shotguns with steel shot.



Mark the workshops that interest you and we'll send you the specific information packets about four to six weeks prior to each workshop.

THE Newsletter of

T H E I A

Texas Hunter Education Instructors Association, Inc.

Fall-Winter 2008-2009

Number 32

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

The TPWD EXPO '08 went off quite well again this year even after the storm "Ike" showed up. I hope that everybody faired OK and that most things are starting to get back to life as we know it. I know there are many people whose lives will never again be the same. I just pray that the peace of the Lord be with them.

I have been so busy but it doesn't look like it. There will not be any rest for we have decided to move the Youth Hunter Education Challenge to the new shooting facility in Kerrville at the Hill Country Shooting Sports Center. I will be making several trips there to pick out spots for the events and start getting is set up for the May 2, 2009 competition. If anyone is interested in volunteering to work with the kids of Texas T.H.E.I.A. needs all of the help we can get. Just contact me at 281-354-4594 or better yet e-mail me at dukesaralyn@yahoo.com. I am please to report that the Event Coordinator Ms. Betty Allen and most of the Event Directors will be moving with us, but we will need help. There are a lot of questions that I can't answer yet, but as I get the information I will send it out ASAP!

Life Memberships are selling well and the first fifty (50) to sign up will become "Charter Life Members." For \$125.00 you receive your individual Charter Life Membership, a Charter Life Cap, and custom etched Outdoor Edge pocket knife. Hurry, because only the first 50 will get the "Charter Life Membership" and about 20 are all ready sold. To sign up for your Life Membership, just mail your check to Donnie Kee. A Family Life Membership is \$150.00, but you only receive one cap and knife.

The new THEIA web site will be up and running by the time you read this and it will have a "General Store" for instructors to buy items at a discounted price on line. The format will be quite different than before and we are working on links to other sites to get you more up to date information. Check out www.THEIATEXAS.ORG and please give us your ideas and suggestions.

The ticket sales for our annual fundraiser, a 7-day African Safari for 5 plains game animals, is going very slowly. The ticket price is only \$10.00 and the money raised goes to help THEIA fund several projects including YHEC, Youth Hunts, and some Hunter Education Programs. It also helps to cut the cost of all Instructors wanting to attend the Annual Meeting. Contact Kathy Powell, Duke Walton, Donnie Kee, or any THEIA Director to get tickets.

The Annual Meeting will be February 20-22, 2009, at the Brighton Park Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 3418 Airline Road, Corpus Christi, Texas. Brock Minton has blocked rooms at the Red Roof Inn South at a very discounted price of \$50.99 King, \$62.99 Deluxe, or \$110.99 Suite per night. Call 1-800-733-7663 and ask for the TPWD rate. Don't forget, the start date is Friday, February 20, 2009

The THEIA sponsored youth hunts, designed for kids who want to get outdoors, but who don't have a place to hunt, are in full swing! These hunts also include parents and introduce their parents to the joy of watching their kids grow into the ranks of hunters. The first youth hunt that THEIA underwrote was for a single mom's son who had never hunted before. Look for the pictures and letter from his Mom in this *Target Talk*! They had a great time on the King Ranch. I wish I could have been there! The next youth hunt will be at the Faulkner Ranch for five YHEC kids and it also should be a great time. We will have a very special youth on this hunt that I will have the great pleasure of guiding the youth and will have the story and pictures in the next issue!

Last year's THEIA fundraiser of the whitetail deer hunt at the "Windy B Ranch" was won by Mr. Bill Dixon. It is to take place very soon so I hope he gets the pictures to Austin in time for this issue.

I also had the great pleasure of being involved in a youth hunt that was donated by Mr. Bill Carter of the Carter's Country Stores in Houston. That was given away at the S.C.I. sponsored hunter education class in August at the Harris County Farm and Ranch Club. Pictures from that hunt will also be in this issue of *Target Talk*. Congratulations go to Damien Stowe of Crocket, Texas on the GREAT 225-pound, 8½-year-old, 9-point white tail buck that is currently in 1st place in a youth division of a big buck contest in South Texas!

I have started to receive recipes from a few instructors that will be included in the THEIA cookbook that will be printed this spring. If you have any family special recipes, helpful ideas for cooking, or just recipes of good old food please send them to me, Duke Walton, at 22648 2nd Street, Porter, TX 77365 and I will include them along with recipes for meats, casseroles, vegetables, salads, soups, breads, desserts, and miscellaneous snacks. Include the name of the dish, ingredients, and preparation. Be sure to include your name and town.

'Till next time, happy trails,
Your President, Duke Walton

HUNTER EDUCATION EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

February 20-22, 2009 Annual Hunter Education Instructor Conference, Corpus Christi.

Location: Brighton Park Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 3418 Airline Road, Corpus Christi

Rooms: Red Roof Inn South \$50.99 King, \$62.99 Deluxe, or \$110.99 Suite per night.

Call 1-800-733-7663 for room reservation.

May 2-3, 2009, Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge, Hill Country Shooting Sports Center near Kerrville, Texas

May 3, 2009 THEIA meeting at YHEC - Kerrville after announcements.

October, 2009 EXPO'09 at TPWD Headquarters in Austin - It's the 18th Anniversary!

THEIA THANK YOU ...to all you instructors, family and friends, who helped introduce so many new Texans to exciting and fun outdoor activities at EXPO '08.

Message to Congress, December 1907

To waste, to destroy our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children the very prosperity which we ought by right to hand down to them amplified and developed.

Theodore Roosevelt

Twenty-sixth President of the United States of America

Founder of the Boone and Crocket Club

Have You Checked These Sites Out?

Texas Parks and Wildlife

Our favorite website offers so many nooks and crannies of information we could fill this page with sites to visit. However, in the interest of actually providing hunter instructors and hunters with useable information, the following few are suggested:

1. **Weekly Migratory Bird Hunting Report.** Dove and duck hunters should enjoy wandering through the weekly report that is updated on Wednesdays. Just like the famous fishing reports that make the Thursday morning newspapers, these reports let migratory bird hunters know just what the feathered fiends...er, friends, are doing. Media contact Steve Lightfoot offers us a look at different Texas regions and on what lakes, bayous, rivers, rice fields, etc., the birds have reached in their migrations and where they are happily nibbling away. He even provides a suggestion of hunting pressure that the flying visitors from the north have faced.
2. **Hunting Report.** Another look at reports from across the state on the deer, sheep, quail harvest and other issues that crop up from time to time like the fever-tick infestation and quarantine currently being dealt with in several South Texas counties. It also includes the **Game Warden Reports**...which is worth the price of admission by itself.

Journey North

This site should be on your list of regularly visited websites. Click on www.journenorth.org and follow the fall and spring migrations of hummingbirds, monarch butterflies, and **whooping cranes**.

If you look at no other topic on the webpage, check out the daily logs of an intrepid group who raise and train baby whooping cranes in Wisconsin to follow ultralight airplanes to Florida. Over the past several years, this experiment has been successful in establishing an Eastern flock of 66 whooping cranes in Florida. The young birds, most of which were born in Pautuxant, Maryland, spend their summer at "flight school" in Wisconsin. By the end of October they are learning the way south following behind and alongside the ultralights.

In following these ultralight airplanes, these young cranes are learning the route to Florida where they will spend the winter and join the Eastern Flock. In the spring they will follow adult whooping cranes of the growing Eastern flock back to Wisconsin and begin their families at the refuge there.

This year there are 14 youngsters making the journey. It is such fun to read about the first few days as some of the young birds do NOT want to leave and after flying a couple of miles from their "home" turn around and have to be caught and crated to the overnighting areas on the route to Florida. You can also see a photo of each chick, read about his/her personality, and about their training. In 2006 there were 18 young birds I got to follow on the daily logs. While they reached Florida safely and were learning how to catch crabs and stay away from bobcats, they could not avoid an unusual hurricane that hit Florida that year. All birds in that cohort were lost.

Our Western Flock, the original wild flock, has grown from 15 wild birds that remained in the world in the early 1940s. It is comprised of 266 birds this year which winter at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge near Austwell and Rockport. You can follow their flight this spring on Journey North as they will also be reporting on those birds. Other reports on other website are from a Rockport guy who flies over Aransas and checks on the Texas "whoopers." I do know from the past two years or so that there is one young whooper who has never made it to Aransas NWR. As a 6 month old he over flew Aransas and landed at South Padre Island where for the last two years he has returned. I haven't seen any reports so far as to his travel this year, but, South Padre Island? Three years running? This is no dumb bird.

THEIA DIRECTORS

Directors 2, 4, 6, and 8 are newly elected

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fredchaney@ridgewoodcable.com

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Breckenridge, TX 76424
H/B 254-559-8010-
bwtelephone@att.net

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pweyel@sbcglobal.net

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H-956-425-7749
jinglesjesus@sbcglobal.net

THEIA

TEXAS HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Membership Application

INSTRUCTOR MEMBERSHIP 1 year-\$12; 3 years-\$25

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$125 FAMILY LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$150

Must be currently certified by Texas Parks and Wildlife as a Hunter Education Instructor

SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP available for THEIA friends 1 year-\$12 3 years-\$25

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP available to junior instructors 1 year-\$6 3 years-\$15

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP available to our friends in business 1 year-\$300 3 years-\$750

make checks payable to: THEIA

send to: Donnie Kee, 1007 E. Denman Ave., Lufkin, TX 75901

W-936-699-3483 dkee1@farmersagent.com

NAME: _____

INSTRUCTOR # _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

2009 HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR WORKSHOPS

INSTRUCTIONS

Choose which courses you would like to attend, cut out the blue panels, fold and tape, then mail it in. You are not committed to attend—rather, you will be sent an information packet as the workshop approaches.

Program Orientation/Standards/Home Study

Look on our Web site for current listings:
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/hunter_education/instruct.phtml

Survival & Outdoor Skills

- Mar 28-29 Houston area

Rifle, Shotgun, Handgun

- Mar 13-15 (NRA Shotgun) Grand Prairie
 May 22-24 (NRA Rifle) Grand Prairie
 June 26-28 (NRA Muzzleloading) Grand Prairie
 July 18-19 (NRA Range Safety Ofcr) Grand Prairie
 Sep 11-13 (NRA Handgun) Grand Prairie

Bowhunter Education - New Instructor or In-Service

- Feb 7-8 Student/Instructor Brownwood
 Mar 7-8 In-Service (Hog Hunt) Brownsville
 Mar 28-29 Student/Instructor Brownsville
 Apr 17-18 Student/Instructor Pearland
 May TBA Student/Instructor Arlington
 May 16-17 Student/Instructor Lubbock
 June 28-29 Student/Instructor College Station
 Aug 1-2 Student/Instructor Austin (ACP)
 Aug TBA Student/Instructor Huntsville
 Sep 18-19 Student/Instructor Pearland

Responsibility, Game Laws and Ethics

- Jan 31 College Station
 Feb 23 Amarillo
 Mar 21 Big Lake
 Mar 21 San Antonio
 Apr 4 San Angelo
 June 13 Northeast Texas
 July 25 Houston area
 Aug 8 Corpus Christi

Wildlife Management/Conservation

- Feb 7 - NEW WORKSHOP (Managing Lands for Wildlife) Houston
 Mar 28 (Mason Mtn. WMA) Mason
 TBA (Matador WMA) Paducah
 June 6 Katy
 Sep 12 (Kerr WMA) Hunt
 Oct 24 (Welder WMA) Sinton

ADVANCED IN-SERVICE WORKSHOPS

Dutch Oven Workshop

- May 23 Horseshoe Bend

Hunting Watercraft Safety

- May 24 Horseshoe Bend

Public Hunting Lands Workshop

- June 6 Mt. Pleasant
 July 18 Grand Prairie

Big Game Scoring Certification Workshop

- July 11 Austin (ACP)

Basic Archery Instructor (not IBEP)

See Web site for information
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/archeryinschools/

Trapper Ethics and Education

- Jan 30-Feb 1 (Coletto Creek Res.) Edna
 Apr 17-18 (Spring Trapper Rend.) Jacksonville
 Oct 16-17 (Fall Trapper Rend.) Junction

Tree Stand Safety

- Sep 12 East Texas

Turkey Hunting

- Mar 7 Brownwood
 Mar 28 NE Texas
 Apr 5 College Station

Laser Shot Training & How You Teach

- Feb 28 Grand Prairie
 Apr 20 Lubbock
 May 16 Corpus Christi
 Aug 2 Corpus Christi

Conducting Live Fire and Skills Trail

- Apr 4 SW Houston

Home Game Processing

- October TBA TBA

Dove Hunting Workshop

- Sep 26 TBA

Reading the Weather

- Apr 18 (NOAA) New Braunfels
 May 2 Lubbock
 June 8 (NOAA) Brownsville
 June TBA (NOAA) Ft. Worth

Muzzleloading

- Oct 10 (NMLRA) College Station

Sporting Dog Workshop

- April TBA NE Texas

Wing Shooting Responsibility

- Apr 4 San Antonio
 Apr 18 Midland
 June 6 San Angelo
 June 20 Kingsville
 July 11 Amarillo
 Aug 8 College Station

Waterfowl Workshop (Wing Shooting)

- Jan 31 (ID Techniques) Ft. Worth
 Mar 14 (Guadalupe Delta WMA) Bay City
 Dec 19-20 (Cooper WMA) Sulphur Springs

SPECIAL EVENTS

Annual Instructor Awards Conference

- Feb 21-22 Corpus Christi
 Dick Turpin, former Nebraska HE coordinator and director of law enforcement will be the special guest speaker. You won't want to miss this!

Youth Hunter Education Challenge

- May 8-10 (State Event) Kerrville
 Hill Country Shooting Sports Complex

IHEA Annual Conference

- Apr 22-26 Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo

- Oct 3-4 Austin

Name _____
 Address _____

 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____

Save the panel to the right so you have a list of courses and dates.

2009 HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR WORKSHOPS

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2009 HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR WORKSHOPS

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SW Houston

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TBA

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TBA

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Corpus Christi

Youth Hunter Education Challenge

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IHEA Annual Conference

Apr 22-26 Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo

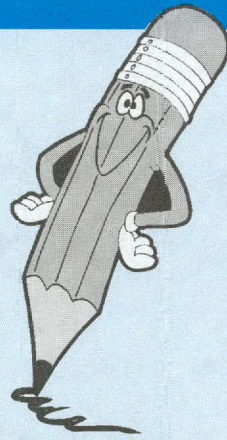
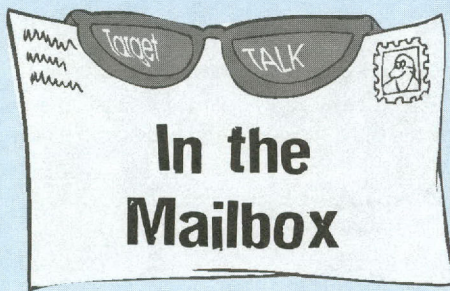
Oct 3-4 Austin

Place stamp here

**TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPT.
 HUNTER EDUCATION
 4200 SMITH SCHOOL ROAD
 AUSTIN, TX 78744**

(fold here)

(staple or tape here)



Dear Mr. Duke Walton:



Thank you and everyone involved in helping make my son's dream of going hunting come true. Attached is a picture of his success! Pictured are my 10-year-old son, Hunter Wright, along with his first deer, his rifle instructor, Josh Vacek (of Hot Wells Shooting Center), and myself, Jeanne Troyano. The experience was truly one my son will treasure for the rest of his life! You all made a huge difference in this young boy's life!! Thank you again so much for your generosity, guidance and willingness to help make my son's dream of going hunting a reality. You're terrific!

Sincerely,
Jeanne Troyano

Staff:

Our hunter education course on August 23-24 was sponsored by the Houston Gulf Coast Chapter of Safari Club International (SCI) and the Houston Safari Club. All registration fees and meals for students and instructors were covered. I want to thank the team of instructors for doing such a great job; but this is not about us, but the young man that won the drawing for a whitetail hunt on the Sombrerito Ranch in Laredo. The hunt was donated by Mr. Bill Carter of Carter's Country Sporting Goods in Houston.

The week before the class started, I received a call from Mr. Wayne Yargo of Crockett. He asked if it was true that we were putting on a hunter education course that was free. When I told him, "yes it was true," he wanted to know if it would be okay if he brought four kids (his son, two nephews and his preacher's son) and slept in the back of his pickup truck because he couldn't afford a motel. I told him to come to my house and stay in my "camp house" at no charge and I would get him and the boys to the course and back. Little did I know how much that would change my life!

I know the Lord works in mysterious ways, but sometimes it still amazes me. Shane Kaiser, president of the Houston Gulf Coast Chapter of SCI, drew the winning ticket, and it was none other than Mr. Yargo's nephew, 10-year-old Damien Stowe. I just could not believe it was that little boy, as there was not a more deserving kid in that room unless it was his big brother.

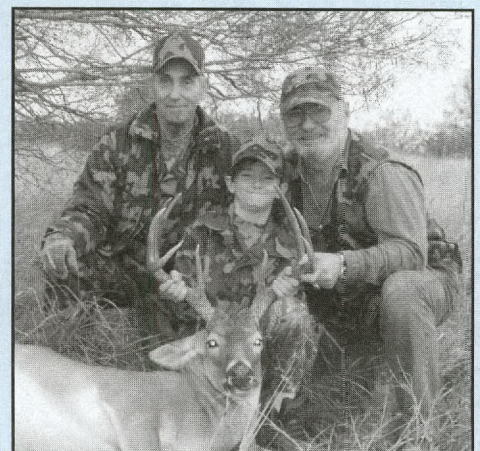
I learned that the boy's mom and dad had been killed in an auto accident the year before and the boys were to be separated in the foster care system. Their uncle, Wayne Yargo, wouldn't let that happen, so he went to court and was awarded guardianship of the boys. Three months later, while working as a truck driver, Mr. Yargo had a wreck and is now disabled, can't work and is raising three boys on his disability check!

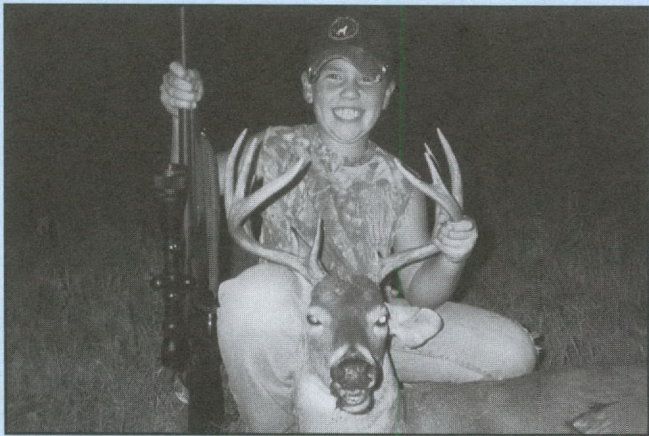
Damien Stowe had the time of his life on this hunt. For everyone on the ranch, from Mr. Carter, who was his guide, to the ranch hands and the SCI team (Shane Kaiser and family), it was a most memorable weekend. Tim Gonzales of Austin/Ryan Productions came and filmed Damien's hunt, to be aired on TV this month sometime. The guys from Zarco Camouflage donated blue camouflage for Damien and his Uncle Wayne that was a big hit.

Damien's 8-1/2-year-old, 225-pound, 9-point, whitetail buck is currently in first place in the Los Cazadores deer contest! Damien is eligible for a first Texas Big Game Award also. It was my pleasure to take them to the ranch and back just to be part of such a great time in a young man's life.

Happy Trails,
Duke

Wayne Yargo,
Damien Stowe
and Duke Walton





Above is Colton Hunter with his 10-point buck taken near Mason, Texas, on December 8. Colton loves to hunt, and they spend a lot of time together according to his father, Ron Hunter.

Editor's Note: It appears that some youngsters are beginning to hunt at an early age, mostly because of their parents' involvement. Colton is 10 and is now certified since the ruling was changed in 2008. Congratulations, Colton!

Dear Casimer Stawicki:

I thought I would send you a thank-you note. The hunter education course was informative and entertaining. The knowledge acquired will lead to a long and safe lifetime of hunting from Shelby. He and I, with a couple of relatives, went shooting yesterday at the American Shooting Center. Shelby did well for his first time out trying to hit moving targets. I had asked my brothers to quiz him on hunter safety and general hunting while at the range. They were surprised at how well he could answer their questions and properly handle the firearm on the range. Now all I have to do is get him to lead the target and to not stop the gun when pulling the trigger. Thanks for the interesting class and for furthering Shelby's education.

Douglas M. Barnhart (Barney)
Barnhart Motor Sports

Good morning, Mr. Stawicki:

My son, Hunter Wright, truly enjoyed the Hunter Education course at Gander Mountain. I, too, was impressed with your skill in teaching such a wide range of students. I appreciate your ability to relate to the youngsters as well as the adults. I want to thank you for your encouragement in motivating Hunter to practice safety all the time and to pursue his interest in the great outdoors.

Thanks again!
Jeanne Troyano, Hunter Wright's Mom

Dear Sirs:

My Son and I took the hunter education course at Farm & Ranch on August 23-24 in Houston. I would like to thank Duke Walton for his hard work and dedication. I would also like to thank all of his instructors and SCI for putting on this course. Keep up the hard work and dedication for those of us who love the outdoors and hunting. I can't say it enough. Thanks again.

Jim Burgess

Staff:



Here is a photo of the first Hunter Education class held at the new Washington County Hunter Education and Marine Junior ROTC facility at Brenham High School. The class was held on August 16th at Chappell Hill and on August 17 at the new facility in Brenham. We had 22 students. Hunter Education instructors Charles Wicke and Bob Stogdill were assisted by Capt. Ken Tofel, Senior Marine Instructor, Cadet Lieutenant Brad Schramm and Cadet Gunnery Sergeant Cassie Clay as range officers. Live firing was conducted on the new Mike and Nina Hopkins Shooting Range, which is a 25 position 10-meter air-gun range. The students greatly enjoyed using the state-of-the-art air rifles. The new classrooms have superb audiovisual facilities. TPWD contributed \$450,000 toward the construction of this range, which is available for teaching hunter education courses in Washington County.

Sincerely,
Bob Stogdill

Dear Staff:

My 13-year-old son, Logan, and I went through the hunter education course in Houston on August 23-24. Two days after Hurricane Ike blew into town our daughter called to see if we had lighter fluid. Stores were out and neighbors were out. I remembered something from the "survival skills" portion of the weekend and told her about cotton balls and Vaseline creating a wonderful firestarter. Her friends laughed, until they saw the raging

charcoal inferno and enjoyed a hot meal. So, even though it wasn't out in the field, we had a chance to apply what we learned.

I have taken Logan dove hunting once. He had a great time and remembered the safety lessons. We're going to go hunting with Grandpa in Roswell, NM, over Thanksgiving and everyone is looking forward to that! Thanks for volunteering your time to teach the safety class. It really does matter!

John Mitton
President
Mitton Media

Hello Sirs:

This should be directed to the Hunter Education instructors. I am a deer hunter and have been seeing deer corn bags all over the highways on the way to our deer lease in East Texas. I think this just adds to the bad image that some people feel toward hunters. I think it would be a good idea for all of the instructors to mention in their classes for hunters to secure their empty corn bags so they won't blow out of the back of pickups, etc. By the way, I have taken the hunter education course once with my 14-year-old son when he was 12, and sat in on a class with my other son, who is currently 12. I was very impressed. You guys did a great job putting the course together.

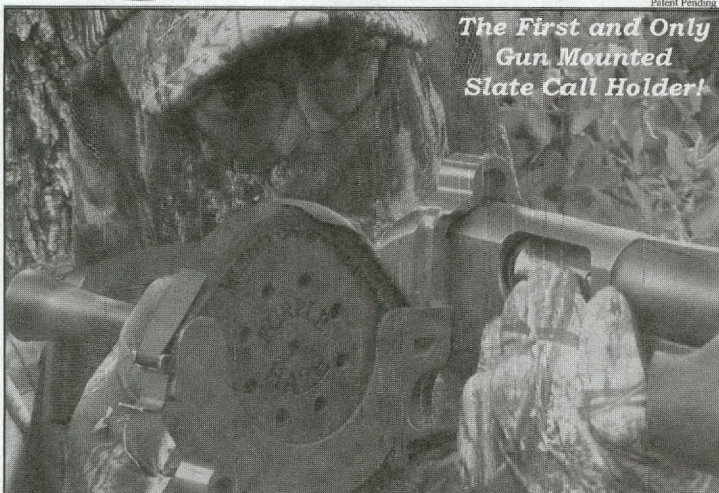
Jeff Reissig
Montgomery, Texas

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IHEA has a central Web page that lists numerous discount offers for instructors. This site can be found at www.ihea.com/instructors/special-offers-for-instructors.php, or go to www.ihea.com, click on the Instructors tab on the green bar, then click Special Offers For Instructors. You don't have to be a member of IHEA (although it is encouraged) to receive a discount. All instructors qualify, but the vendor will require that they provide documentation to prove that they are a state certified HE instructor. To get to the page, you might have to use the following username and password.

Username: instructor Password: gohunt

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.

June

Michael Hughes	Woodville
Matthew Abernathy	Spring

July

Casey Thompson	Arlington
Matthew Townsend	Centerville
Matthew McLelland	Texarkana
Emily Stashak	Pearland
Mickey Phillips	Carrizo Springs
Judith Phillips	Carrizo Springs

August

Fred Wardell	Clyde
Mark Sitka	Lufkin
Mark Spillman	Springtown
Peggy Elliott	Sandia
Melinda Brooks	Highland Village
Howard Pearlman	Dallas
Patrick Loughan	Arlington
Joanna Marsh	Katy
William Conner	Huntington
Rowdy Myers	Fort Worth
Sara Best	Blum
Daniel L. Odom	Kirbyville
James Strickler	Cypress
Matthew Harrison, Jr.	Sandia
Wayne Bullock	Newcastle
Tamara Christian	Penelope
Patrick Sesco	Garland

September

Jon King	Carrollton
John Graf	Vernon

Marc Moran	Lewisville
Shawn Boles	Ranger
Brian Smith	Abilene
Terry Carpenter	Lone Oak
Christina Capps	Normangee
Steven Sutton	Gilmer
Howard Crenshaw	Cooper
David Johnson	Argyle
Rachel Burchfield	Seabrook
Rebecca Curry	Lindale
Jim Reed	Vernon
Maria Araujo	Austin
Paul Harvey	Carthage
Brian Garmer	Snyder
Linda Scales	Eules
James Mattern	Alvord
Melissa Broussard	Alba
Richard Triplitt	Gouldbusk

October

Scott Schams	College Station
Kyle Baker	Cuero
Anthony Beggs	Rising Star
Lloyd Corder, Jr.	Kerrville
Daniel Noack	Georgetown
Daniel Graeber	Paradise
Brady Rasco	Alvarado
Wesley Fikes	College Station
Mitchell Gentry	San Angelo
Leon Smith	Creedmoor
Thad Smith	Groves
Dusty Ford	Godley
Greg Morris	Ladonia
Shaine Nixon	Diana
Brent Williams	Decatur
Jason McKibben	Houston
Greg Morris, II	Ladonia
J. Mark Fletcher	Granbury

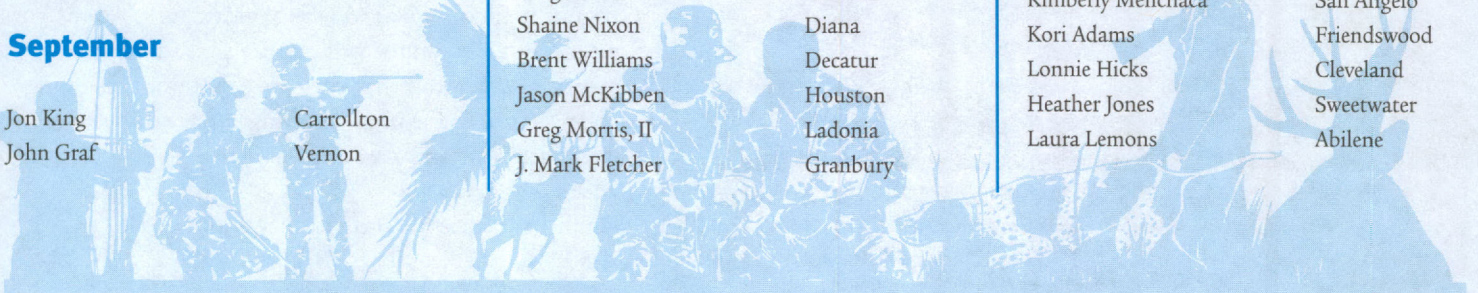
Stephanie Rankin	La Porte
Charles Chadwick	Frisco
Patricia Stevens	Fort Worth
Stan Psencik, III	Goliad
Terry Teems	Athens
William Dover	Lufkin
Gerald Hewitt	Montgomery
Wesley Seibold	Colorado City
Mark Welty	Cedar Park

November

Tyler Frey	Big Lake
David Bell	Midland
Lanny Pullig	Big Lake
Chad Chacchia	Frisco
Stephen Carter	Athens
Connie Vaughan	Bullard
Landham Woodall	Big Lake
Sara Lyles	Plano
Andres Maldonado	Raymondville
Cindy Dockter	Coleman
Douglas Bowers	Rockport
Jimmy Spake	Munday

December

Cody Cook	Spring Branch
Michael Burns	The Colony
Yancey Dempsey	Happy
Leslie Doolittle	Bryan
Joshua Hopkins	Graham
Leslie Harris	Breckenridge
Kimberly Menchaca	San Angelo
Kori Adams	Friendswood
Lonnie Hicks	Cleveland
Heather Jones	Sweetwater
Laura Lemons	Abilene



For Your Information

High Winds Cause Accident

Tami (TPWD administrative assistant) and Frank Moore, Austin area instructors, were on their way to a bow hunt at the Laguna Atascosa Wildlife Refuge the first part of December, when exceptionally high winds caused their travel trailer to begin to whip back and forth. The wind and trailer's momentum was so intense that it flipped the trailer, causing the truck to overturn and skid down the highway on its side, as you can see by the photo. Frank had cuts and glass in his left arm and elbow, and Tami was banged and bruised and suffered injuries to her back and wrist. We are thankful they were not injured more severely.

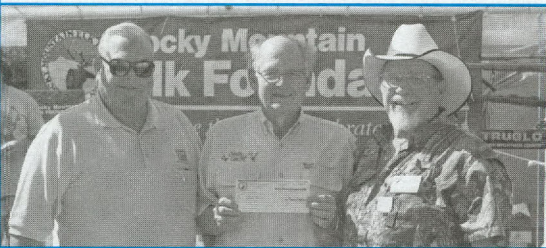


Editor's Note: November and December have not been good on our staff.

Colorado Deadline

In case anyone is wondering, and I'm sure someone out there must be, the deadline for submitting big-game license applications in Colorado is the first Tuesday of April every year. **For 2009, it will be April 7.** I thought I'd mention it in case anyone wants to get the word out so that instructors can post some classes in March for folks in your state wanting to apply for a license in Colorado. Hope all are enjoying safe and successful hunting!

Mark A. Cousins, Hunter Education coordinator, Colorado Division of Wildlife (303) 291-7264 (303) 291-7470



Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Makes Donation

Bryant Truitt, area chief, Hunt (center) is shown accepting a \$1,000 check from RMEF representative Al Swertfager (right) for upgrades on the Mobile Hunter Education Program trailer. Bryant attends many youth hunts and conducts the hunter skills trail portion of the hunt.

Duck Populations Remain Above Average

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service reports that the preliminary estimate of total ducks from the 2008 Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey was just over 37 million, which is a 9 percent decline from last year's estimate, but still 11 percent greater than the 1955-2007 average. In the U.S. and Canadian prairies, population estimates of many species declined, while populations increased in the boreal forest to the north, likely reflecting, in part, those birds that overflew the prairies because of drier habitat conditions there. The Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey, the largest and most comprehensive survey of its kind in the world, samples 2 million square miles and estimates the number of ducks on the continent's most important nesting grounds.

Spanish Course Held

Shown here is a group of Spanish-speaking students who attended a course held by instructor Ivan Benavides in Pasadena in October. Ivan hosts at least two courses per year in that area. Thanks, Ivan, for a job well done!

Editor's Note: If any instructors wish to hold a Spanish Hunter Education course, please let us know so we can list it in the computer and it will show up on the Internet.



IN THE NEWS...

From National Shooting Sports Foundation

CDC Study Shows No Health Risk Associated with Traditional Ammunition

A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) study on human lead levels of hunters in North Dakota has confirmed what hunters throughout the world have known for hundreds of years—that consuming game harvested with traditional ammunition poses absolutely no health risk to people, including children; and that the call to ban lead ammunition was and remains a scare tactic being pushed by anti-hunting groups to forward their political agenda.

Today, additional information became available about the CDC study, originally released yesterday, that is important to disseminate to hunters, their families and the general public about the total and complete lack of any evidence of a human health risk from consuming game harvested using traditional ammunition. For instance, in the study the average lead level of the hunters tested was lower than that of the average American.

In the CDC's study, children's lead levels had a mean of just 0.88 micrograms per deciliter, which is less than half the national average for children and an infinitesimally small fraction of the level that the CDC considers to be of concern for children (10 micrograms per deciliter). Yet, despite the total and complete lack of any evidence from this study of the existence of a human health risk, the Department of Health nevertheless urges that children under six and pregnant women not eat venison harvested using traditional ammunition. The North Dakota Department of Health's recommendation is based on a "zero tolerance" approach to the issue of blood lead levels that is not supported by science or the CDC's guidelines.

To further put in perspective the claims concerning the safety of game harvested using traditional ammunition, consider this statement from the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) – a state agency that has conducted an extensive panel of blood-lead testing for more than 15 years: "IDPH maintains that if lead in venison were a serious health risk, it would likely have surfaced within extensive blood-lead testing since 1992 with 500,000 youth under six and 25,000 adults having been screened." It has not.

Health of Needy Put at Risk From Unwarranted Fears of Traditional Ammo

With media reports about families struggling for food and the need for hunters to donate more venison, scientifically unfounded claims by some in the upper Midwest and anti-hunting groups like the Humane Society of United States (HSUS) that consuming game harvested using traditional ammunition poses a health risk, may actually be leading to adverse health effects. "Healthy, high-protein food should not be taken out of the mouths of the hungry when there is simply no scientific basis for concern. If donated venison, including ground venison, is not available to food pantries, the needy may substitute that food source for less-healthy alternatives," said NSSF senior vice president and general counsel Lawrence G. Keane. In a news article published this weekend, John Plowman of the Pennsylvania Hunters Sharing the Harvest program went a step further. "I do not foresee any problem with the quality or edibility of donated deer meat and I eat it all the time. It should be noted there have been no advisories issued by the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Department of Health or any other public agencies about any lead problems with Pennsylvania venison. The NSSF is right on target," he emphasized, referring to the NSSF statement on the safety of eating game taken with lead ammunition.

Editor's Note: John Plowman is the driver of the Suburban in the Alan Madison DVD *Hunter's Path* in the segment with the dove hunters who are doing all things wrong on the hunt.

New Guide To Hunting Opportunities on Wildlife Refuges

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has posted, in PDF format, the first comprehensive guide (www.fws.gov/refuges/hunting/) to hunting opportunities throughout the National Wildlife Refuge System. More than 300 hunting programs are covered. The bulk of the guide is organized by state. The guide highlights species that can be hunted and offers directions to the refuges.

New Rule Lifts Ban on Guns in National Parks

Under a new rule set to take effect in January, visitors to most national parks and wildlife refuges will be allowed to carry concealed firearms, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced Friday. The new rule will allow gun owners to carry if they have a permit in the state where the national park or refuge is located. The decision to overturn the 25-year ban was hailed by Second Amendment supporters.

TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Instructor Workshop

These applicants recently went through an instructor workshop near Lampasas at the Austin Gun Club Range. Taking the photo is Steve Hall, education director. He and Robert Ramirez conducted the course. Included in the training is Tami Rodriguez (second from the right), wife of Hunter Education training specialist, Robert Ramirez, who is on her right. Standing directly in front of them is Faith Rodriguez, Robert and Tami's daughter. She loves to hunt with her dad.

Editor's Note: The photo was taken on November 25, just three days before Robert Ramirez was involved in a near-fatal auto accident. He was returning home from hunting on Friday, November 28, when he lost control of his Jeep and it veered into oncoming traffic and was struck by an 18-wheel tanker truck. The impact sheared the Jeep in half, pinning in Robert. He had to be removed with the "Jaws of Life" and flown by Life Flight to John Smith Peters Hospital in Fort Worth with critical injuries. His injuries included a severely lacerated scalp across the eyebrows, lacerated left elbow, fractured left clavicle, fractured left ribs with collapsed lung, fractured left femur completely shattered left Tibial Plateau (knee), and fractured left ankle.



(Left to right) – Austin Gun Club staff Glynn Tyson, Julie Clark, Michael Tyson and Darren Morphis; TPWD staff Robert Ramirez (middle), his wife Tami and daughter Faith.

Robert had three surgeries to repair all the fractures and spent 17 days in the hospital. We are pleased to say that he is home and progressing very well at this writing. He hopes to return to work by spring. In the interim, please keep him and his family in your prayers.

A special account has been set up to receive donations to help the family with expenses during his time off. If anyone wishes to contribute, please send the contribution to Robert Ramirez, 5411 Robinson Road, Grand Prairie, TX 75052. Fernando Reyes, co-worker, will receive them and see that Robert and Tami get them in a timely manner. Thank you very much for your consideration.



THE BOWHUNTER

TEXAS BOWHUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Quest Bowhunting Company Offers Special Pricing

The Quest Bowhunting Company (a division of G5) is now offering their Quest 33 and Quest 31 bows at VERY SPECIAL pricing for instructors. These bows retail at \$750 and are definitely top-of-the-line quality! You can go to their Web site at www.questbowhunting.com for specifics. You must call the NBEF office to find out the special pricing and to place your order. To place your order we will need your draw length, draw weight, and credit card information. And don't forget, the G5 Metrao Bowstring and Cable Set have been added to the G5 Broadhead offer at special pricing along with the Optix sights, Expert Drop-Away Rests, Meta Peeps, and Sharpeners. Call (479) 649-9036 for pricing.

Marilyn Bentz,
Exec. Dir./NBEF

A Note from David Lassetter

Hey everyone! I finally got to go back out to hunt again. This is only my second time for the year to get back out. Bummer! At any rate, I was blessed with a very good day. I guess it was just my time finally. My hunt started on Saturday morning, December 6. I was hunting with my bow southwest of San Saba, Texas. This nice eight-pointer presented himself and gave me the shot I needed.



Expo archery area – Shannon Carter, one of the NASP Instructors who is legally blind, facilitates archery for an Expo attendee who is totally blind. Note the chair placed in front of him so he knows where and how to stand.



Bowhunter Education New Instructors

AUGUST

Barry Coker

Brady

SEPTEMBER

Michael Egloff

Austin

OCTOBER

Shaine Nixon

Diana

Seven-Year-Old Takes Buck with Bow



I'm Will "Young Buck" Oliver and this is my story. My dad, David Oliver, is helping me write and type this. I'm 7 years old, and I started shooting a compound bow about six months ago. I bought a Darton Ranger II from Archery Country in Austin. I bought it with my own money that I saved for the past few years. At first, I could only pull back 20 pounds, but I have shot so much that I can now pull back 37 pounds. When bow season got here, my dad was surprised that I could pull that many pounds back and decided to let me hunt.

For over a month my dad and I hunted hard. We hunt in San Saba, and we normally don't have any problem getting covered up with deer. But the hunting was slow, and we even got "skunked" several times. We could have shot at several deer that were 15 or 20 yards away, but dad said that it had to be around 10 yards or less for my first. Last Saturday we got in a ground blind made out of hog panel and wrapped in carpet. My five-year-old brother was with us. He is very quiet, and he will be a great hunter some day. We hadn't been there long when we started seeing deer. We saw this huge four-point coming our way. Dad's plan was to let me kill a doe first, but this 3-1/2-year-old four-point was a great cull buck. He gave me the "OK" and I got ready. Dad told my little brother to lie down and don't move. The buck came right in and stopped at 12 yards. Dad uses sign language to tell me what pin to use. He holds out three fingers and the top finger means 10 yards, the middle finger means 15 yards, and the bottom finger means 20 yards. I can only use my 15 and 20 yard pins at pigs. Anyway, dad points at his top finger meaning 10 yard pin. I drew back and the buck looked right at me. I held it until he put his head back down, and I let the arrow fly. I hit him good and we saw the arrow hanging out the other side as he ran away. He disappeared into the brush and we heard a loud crash. Dad made me wait 30 minutes before we could go look for him. That was the longest 30 minutes ever! When we got out we found the arrow. There was blood on the ground, but dad couldn't see it because he is color blind. We walked to where we last saw him run into the brush, and there he was. I was so excited. I called my uncles and cousins on the radio and told them what I had just done. They came to our blind as soon as their hunt was over. When dad dressed my deer, he showed me the heart. He poked his finger through it where the arrow went right through the middle.

Editor's note: Will is the grandson of retired Hunter Education range coordinator Scotty Oliver. As you can see, Scotty has raised his sons and now his grandsons to be one of the best outdoor families around. Congratulations, Will, I know your dad and the family is extremely proud of you.

Aim to be "Bulls-Eye Perfect"

Tomorrow is Today

The spring migration, the electronic call sounded.
At four points east of the Mississippi we gathered.
Our mission for the future of our sport is primed.
The annual migration is nature's way of survival.

...or What I Learned in Illinois

Our numbers grow old and weary, and too few.
Nature's law demands succession without passion.
Clouds signal the inevitable change, they surround us.
The response is vital, to what direction is our choice.

By Wendell Kam, Retired Hawaii Coordinator

The challenge is at hand and urgent, we learned.
Love of the chase is not always love for the land.
Learn our history and ethic well, both good and bad.
This knowledge is the strength of our resolve.

Collective wisdom is our force for the future.
Advice, action, and aspirations fill this caldron.
Replete with hindsight, it guides human kind.
A humanity that is distinct from other creatures.

Ethics is the embodiment of our being, our essence.
The spiritual DNA of every hunt into the future
Gifted from our ancestors, its history must be told.
Our sport, our wildlife and our lives lay bare before it.

Teach with reverence the history and ethic of our sport.
It is your passion for this history that will carry the day.
Great successes and great failures, they all must be told.
Without them, our bond with wildlife will be severed.

Recall the revelations of your past. The sparrow lives.
The excitement and energy of youth can be reborn.
Welcome all who love wild things and the wilderness.
With childish warmth include those of different likes.

Heed not and those wild things we love will not exist.
We, the lovers of things wild and free, will suffer greatly.
A living death will beckon us and our beloved wildlife.
In a wilderness that is no more ... yet could have been?



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