

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

# Young Hunters Save Fellow Hunter's Life

While on a deer hunting trip to Runnels County, an almost fatal accident occurred the day before Thanksgiving. But thanks to the swift actions of two college students, their mother and their cousin, this hunter will live to visit the woods again.

Kenneth Mitcham of Irving, 44, had traveled to hunt deer near the small west Texas community of Norton, located between Winters and Ballinger. He ventured out to his tripod on the morning of November 26, and was climbing up when he dropped his loaded 30-06 rifle. When the rifle hit something on the way down, it discharged striking him in his upper right arm. He screamed when hit and began bleeding profusely. He was only a short distance from the tripod when he was found.



Shown here (L-R) in back are Robby and Cody Cook, seated (L-R) are Cheryl Mitcham, Kenneth Mitcham and Jill Halfmann. Both Robby and Cody, as well as Jill Halfmann, have had hunter education. Kenneth, who is most grateful for the immediate responsible actions of all involved, will never forget those who helped him. Thanks to the heroic deeds of these individuals, this man is alive today.

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We've come a long ways. Let's take a short recap on hunter education history. Look at the photo of T.D. Carroll, first hunter education coordinator, taken in early 1972. He was putting together a slide presentation on wildlife identification. Great



strides and numerous changes have been made to improve the hunter education program over the past 32 years. From an original voluntary six-hour course in 1972, to a voluntary eight-hour course in 1982, to a mandatory 10-hour, two-day course in 1988, to an improved home study Internet course in 1999, Texas has kept, and sometimes set the pace, for proactive improvement over the years.

Darrell Holt was hired in 1972 to help T.D. with the program until 1980, when T.D. retired. Darrell

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## Editor's CORNER, continued

hired J.D. Peer to be an assistant from 1981-84, and then J.D. left for Oklahoma to become State Coordinator. He remained there until his retirement in 2002. Steve Hall was hired in 1985 as Darrell's assistant and was then coordinator from 1988-90.

I came along from the volunteer ranks in 1988 as Steve's assistant and worked with Darrell until his death in 1989. In 1990, I became coordinator when Steve moved on to Education Director. We both remain in these positions today.

We have a new manual, *Today's Hunter in Texas*, with a CD Rom PowerPoint and Instructor Guide. The CD also has most of our forms and a supply order sheet, and most all of the TPWD Wildlife Division publications so instructors have them for ready reference. If interested in receiving the CD, please contact our Kathy Powell at (800) 792-1112. When the menu answers, punch in 98142. **REMINDER: You must use all of the old manuals before ordering new ones.**

We have seen many new and exciting changes, and with the help of such great volunteers, we will continue to meet the calls and needs of this great state. We do, however, have to bring up some minor "housekeeping" items to clarify questions and comments from volunteer ranks.

**NEW POLICY:** Only nametags issued or approved by TPWD Hunter Education staff will be allowed while presenting courses or representing the Hunter Education program at special events. The nametag provided upon certification is the approved and accepted item. Badges that look like any type of law enforcement or game warden badges are not allowed. It appears we need a clear understanding of what may and may not be worn so we do not misrepresent ourselves to others as possibly something we are not.

**NEW POLICY:** Any instructor who does not teach at least **one course per year** will become **inactive**. This means those instructors who have only volunteered for "youth hunts" to remain active will no longer be awarded the points nor kept on active status. The original intent of the Hunter Education program was to certify students first, and then refer them to youth

hunts, as part of the "where do we go from here" journey. As more instructors came on board, and opportunities to go on youth hunts increased, a few instructors opted only to conduct hunts, no longer providing basic courses. We need help with these courses before we can send the students out to the youth hunts. We are not trying to insinuate that these youth hunts are not important, because they certainly are vital to the future of hunting, but students must attend the basic course first in order to qualify for youth hunts. As long as an instructor provides at least one course per year, he/she may continue with the youth hunts and receive points accordingly. If you have any questions, please contact me.

**CLARIFICATION:** A question arose regarding non-certified persons teaching the majority of a structured student hunter education course and then having a certified instructor administer the exam only. Is this acceptable? **Answer: No.** Instructors must evaluate students on *knowledge, skill and attitude*, and this was not accomplished.

**IMPORTANT NEWS:** There is a proposal before the TPWD Commission for approval regarding a "deferral" for hunter education. It closes some loopholes found in the old law, yet allows an individual who is over 17 to get an extension to take hunter education. The deferral allows individuals to go hunting, but they must be accompanied by a person 17 years of age or older who has had hunter education (new law) or is exempt by law (born prior to Sept. 2, 1971). The same rule applies to individuals opting for the deferral, as it does to those between 12 and 16 still needing certification. Note: The deferral will cost \$10, and is only valid from date of purchase until the end of the current license year. We are working on the possibility of purchasing the deferral at any point of sale license vendor. "Hunter Education Deferral" will be printed on the license.

This deferral will help recruit new hunters or older hunters who have dropped out. It does not dilute the current law, but adds strength to it. The "deferral" will be available for out-of-state residents, military personnel stationed in Texas or returning home on leave or current residents who want to "give hunting a try."

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### NOTICE

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

# UPCOMING EVENTS

May 22	IBEP Instructor Course	Houston
June 4-6	NRA Range Safety Officer training	Grand Prairie
June 11-12	Responsibility, Game Laws & Ethics	Victoria
June 12-13	Wildlife Mgmt./Cons.	Grand Prairie
June 14	Wing Shooting Responsibility (Ag. Teachers)	Mission
June 15	How To Teach (Ag. Teachers)	Mission
July 9-10	Responsibility, Game Laws & Ethics	Texarkana
July 16-18	Reloading Workshop (Metallic & Shot shell)	Grand Prairie
June 19	How To Teach	Baytown
June 19	IBEP In-Service	Austin
July 31-Aug. 1	Responsibility, Game Laws & Ethics	Rio Grande Valley
July 31-Aug. 1	IBEP Student/Inst. Combo	Austin
Aug. 6-7	Intro to Primitive Sporting Arms	Pasadena
Aug. 8	Wing Shooting Responsibility	Laredo
Aug. 14-15	Responsibility, Game Laws & Ethics	Austin

## TYHP Huntmaster Training

The Texas Youth Hunting Program will conduct Huntmaster Training Workshops on May 14-16, May 21-23, June 4-6, two on June 11-13, Aug. 23-25 and two on Sept. 10-12. If you are interested in attending one of these training sessions, please call Wendy Dahlke at (800) 460-5494 for information on locations and times.

## Young Hunters Save Fellow Hunter's Life, continued

Brothers Cody and Robby Cook, from nearby Rowena, were home from college for the holidays and were hunting on their uncle's property, when they heard the shot and the victim screaming for help. They quickly entered the adjacent property to search for the apparently wounded individual. As they continued toward the sounds and saw Mitcham, Cody called their mother, some 20 miles away, to obtain the 911 address of the location of their uncle's property.

She quickly called local authorities. She gave them Cody's cell phone number and then proceeded to call her niece, Jill Halfmann, who lived on the property where the boys were hunting. Jill was told to go to the scene and provide the exact 911 address so Cody could direct EMS to the area via cell phone. The boys found the man and immediately proceeded to render first aid. Jill soon arrived and also assisted with first aid as she gave them the 911 location.

The sheriff arrived on the scene and transported the victim to a waiting ambulance nearby. EMS treated and stabilized Mitcham, but the wound was so severe that he was airlifted to the hospital in San Angelo. He was further stabilized and later flown to another hospital in the Dallas metro area for extensive reconstructive surgery. He is now recovering and undergoing physical therapy.

## Editor's CORNER, continued

If the individual takes the hunter education course prior to Aug. 31, they receive a \$5 discount on the price of the course. At that point, the instructor would ask to see any deferral proof, mark it on the student registration form, and only collect a \$5 fee, which will be retained by the instructor. Think of this as an opportunity to provide someone with a chance to enjoy a hunt.

We are currently updating the latest Program, Policies and Procedures manual. As we make these changes, we will advise

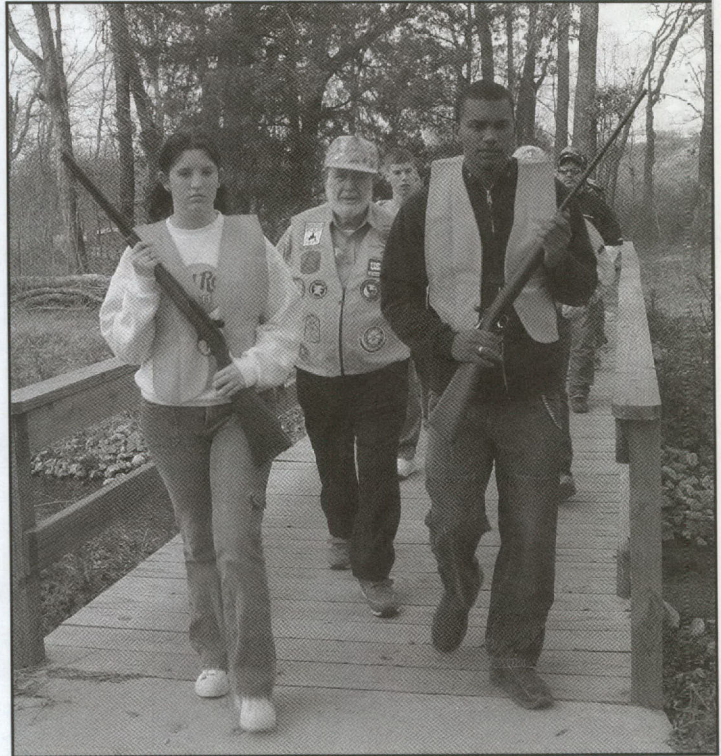
and have the pages available upon request. If you would like a new manual, please contact us for a copy. We also hope you are gearing up for the summer months, scheduling your vacation, (and your courses), preparing for the upcoming fall season and enjoying workshops. Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to working with you in the future. Invite other qualified individuals to become an instructor. You might find a new teaching partner. "Always be safe."  
Terry Erwin

## TFFC Dedicates New Nature Skills Trail Training Area

Texas Fresh Water Fisheries Center opened their new "Conservation and Nature Skills Trail" by dedicating it to one of the most outstanding team members in the state, Velma Parker. Shown here is Jim Parker with members of his hunter education class participating in actual hands-on activities. Here, the students are going through a simulated hunt, where they must observe and make responsible decisions in shoot/don't shoot scenarios. Velma Parker was a long-time volunteer at the TFFC, and died in March 2003. Jim continues his volunteer work.

The plaque reads as follows:

**DEDICATED TO:  
Velma Parker, Special friend, Hunter,  
Boater and Angler Education Area Chief  
Instructor, Texas Parks and Wildlife  
Department**



# Study Rejects Myths about Kids' Attitudes on Hunting

*HOUSTON—The “Bambi Myth” can be put to rest. Results of a three-year nationwide survey presented here recently during the 7th Governor’s Symposium on North America’s Hunting Heritage show that kids support hunting and are not being misinformed in schools about the role of hunting.*

“The first myth is that kids don’t support hunting,” said Mark Duda, whose Virginia-based Responsive Management market research firm recently completed a study for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service gauging the attitudes of youth toward hunting and fishing. “The information we gleaned from over 2,000 youth ages 8 to 18 shows that 58 percent support hunting, and that support increases as they get older.” The survey, which was funded through a grant from the Federal Aid in Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration program, carries a confidence level of plus or minus two percent.

“The other myth is that people seem to think teachers are speaking negatively about hunting,” said Duda, “when, in fact, most kids don’t know if their teachers support hunting. But, those that had an opinion said they knew their teachers do support hunting.” The research findings gave leaders of North America’s hunting and wildlife conservation community new resolve in their discussions about hunter recruitment and retention issues during the three-day symposium.

“A common misconception among hunters has been that the classroom was a breeding ground for anti-hunting doctrine,” said Mike Berger, Wildlife Division director for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. “In reality, the study showed kids get very little exposure to hunting at school. I believe this shows clearly that we have an opportunity and a mandate to do a better job of educating our youth about hunting and wildlife conservation.”

Steve Hall, education director for TPWD stated, “We’ve had much success in Texas integrating hunter education into high school curricula; primarily because of the Agriculture Science curriculum which trains students in outdoor recreation and wildlife management practices. At the elementary level, we train teachers in programs such as Project WILD that teach kids about the facts regarding conservation, wildlife and the environment.” He added, “Still, we can do much more working with professional educators to help them understand why the North American Conservation Model, which includes hunting as an integral tool of wildlife management, is the greatest conservation success story on the planet.”

One of the more important findings, according to Duda, is that kids who hunt or fish tend to have greater knowledge

levels about wildlife. Exposure to hunting is a very positive thing. The study showed that 92 percent of children who hunt come from hunting families. It also concluded mentoring programs that do not include male family members are not as effective as those with male family members in initiating youth into hunting. It also revealed that hunting families are leaving the kids on the porch – of the kids who came from a hunting family, only 25 percent went hunting during the last year.

“That means 75 percent of hunting families with kids did not involve those kids in hunting activities,” said Duda. “They have all the elements to initiate new hunters, but failed to act. Hunting families produce hunters so programs that invite a youth to hunt need to invite another family member, too. You can’t just drop a kid off at a camp.” Research also indicated that single-parent households, including female-headed households, are not negatively affecting hunting participation. In fact, the study showed that a youth raised in a single-parent household had a greater likelihood of having hunted in their lifetime and during the last year.

“We can assume several reasons for that,” said Duda. “In mother-headed households, fathers still play an active role in encouraging children to hunt, but when the father does not do so, other male family members, particularly uncles and grandfathers, step in to fill that role.” The most common reasons youth gave for going hunting was to have fun and to be with friends and family.

Not only do children approve of hunting, but also 44 percent of those surveyed went so far as to express an interest in going hunting and one in five were very interested in going hunting. Rob Keck, National Wild Turkey Federation CEO, views this as a recruitment opportunity. “It’s time to wake up and let the kids do more than just sit on the porch and smell the gunpowder,” Keck urged. “Over half the states and some Canadian provinces do not allow kids to get a hunting license until they are 12 years of age, and in New York, you have to be 16 years of age to hunt white-tailed deer. Some states do not allow Sunday hunting. That’s a barrier. There are 32 million youth in America who participates in outdoor sports and we need to reach those kids. We have to make hunting cool.”

## Texas Hunter Education Instructor Winner of Special IHEA Hunt

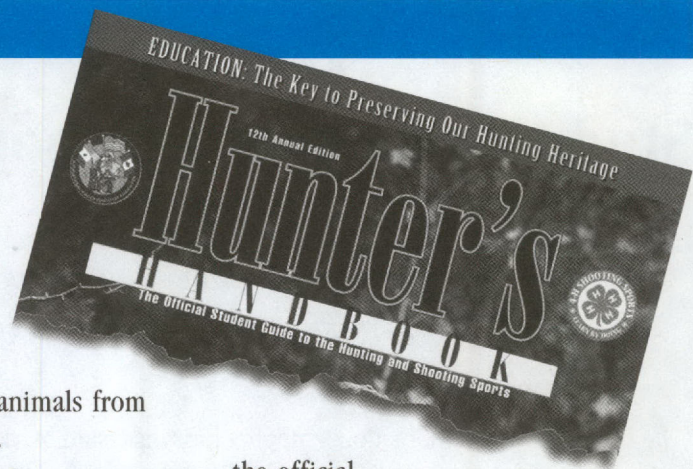
Marvin Bigbie of Bellevue, TX was recently selected as a winner of the *Hunter's Handbook*/International Hunter Education Association's 2003 Student/Instructor hunt contest. Marvin is one of two instructors from throughout North America who qualified for eligibility to participate in the hunt by entering his name in the annual *Hunter's Handbook* magazine drawing.

This hunt of a lifetime will be held in early November of 2004 and take place at the world famous JB Hunt Big Horn Lodge and Outback Ranch in southwestern Missouri. This private ranch is located on 3,000 acres and is the perfect sportsman's retreat. The ranch offers a

wide variety of quality animals from wild turkey to Sika deer.

In addition, another instructor and four hunter education student graduates who also entered the drawing will join Marvin. Round trip airfare, food, lodging and equipment are all provided. Retired astronaut Gen. Joe Engle will serve as hunt co-host and the entire event will be filmed for a half-hour television special to appear on the Outdoor Life Network. **Congratulations Marvin!**

The instructors and student winners were picked from thousands of entries that were submitted from forms found in *Hunter's Handbook*. The publication is



the official student magazine of the IHEA and is utilized as an adjunct training aid for hunter education classes. *Hunter's Handbook* is sent to all hunter education agencies throughout North America for distribution to instructors and their hunter education students. More than 700,000 copies are distributed free of charge annually.

The 2004 edition will be available for distribution to agencies beginning in May of this year. A new contest for another trip of a lifetime will be announced in that issue. Stay tuned!

## Hunting Ethics in Mexico

By Maria Araujo, TPWD International Affairs Director

Club Exclusivo & Big Bass Tours in Lake Guerrero, Tamaulipas hosted a meeting to manage white-winged dove and mourning dove populations. The issue of hunter ethics came up because survey results indicated the number of doves harvested exceeded the number that could have been taken given the number of hunting licenses sold and the possession limit. Since Americans comprise approximately 90% of the dove hunters in northeast Mexico, we need your help to pass on this information:

- Mexico manages the dove harvest by setting a license possession limit and by capping the number of licenses that can be sold each season. In addition, the license is valid for a period of three days only.
- Since the total number of licenses available for sale is capped, it is legal for the hunter to buy multiple licenses.

Approximately 10% of the hunters are already buying at least two licenses, and possibly more.

- The current possession limit is 120 doves per license, either white wing or mourning dove. If a hunter wants to exceed that number, all he needs to do is buy additional licenses. In fact, the best approach is to buy at least two licenses when buying the hunting package. This way the hunter is covered if he exceeds the one-license limit; if not, the conservation fee paid with each license is a donation to dove conservation. **Note:** The maximum number of doves the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allows hunters to bring across the border equals the possession limit of two licenses.
- The license is per hunter. If an outfitter or guide lets a hunter exceed the limit

because another hunter in the group did not obtain his limit, this is illegal. In an effort to get repeat business, outfitters and guides may be lax, and "look the other way." But as hunters, we need to be on the side of conservation and correct the guide, if needed.

- In June, Mexico will set the bag limit for the 2004-05 season. "Habitat y Palomas," a dove conservation organization, is projecting that the harvest will be set around 1.5 million doves.

As hunter education instructors, please remind all hunters that the hunting ethic is not situational, nor regionalized, it is our responsibility to do what is right. We need to respect possession limits and all hunting regulations wherever we go. Please make it a point to discuss this issue in your hunter education courses.

# 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.*

## November

Randall Smith	Amarillo
Mark Moseley	Mission
Roy Bragg	Forney
Ken Norris	Sumner
Bruce Bragg	Forney
Kyle Gronewald	Kaufman
David Tripp	Sugar Land
George Simpson	DeSoto
Gary Fannin	DeKalb
Ricardo Garcia	Raymondville
Ttione Currie	Trinity

## December

Antonio Rivera	Houston
Curtis Ansley	Shepherd
Rena Wright	Conroe
Henry Morgan, Jr.	Splendora
William Daniels	Livingston
Ronald Rosson	Livingston
Bobby Hickman	Cleveland
Darin Hale	College Station
Roel Garza	Banquete
Judy Neatherlin	Mansfield
Jacquelyn Willhelm	Harlingen
Stephen Dillard	Tom Bean
Ray McKnight	Houston
Michael Collins	Seagraves
Carol Bryson	Alvarado
Timothy Smith	Brownsboro
Chris Lamb	Cleveland
Eric Zinsitz (Asst)	Bandera

James Kuehn  
Corey Lowrance  
Joseph Williams  
Glenda Zinsitz

## January

Robin Harris  
Bonnie Young  
Jannie White  
Stephen Martin  
Amanda Carpenter  
Carla Pelzel  
Larry Capps  
Larry Smithers  
Jeffery Schofell  
Frieda VanValkenburg  
Patricia Schofell

## February

Robert Spacek  
Joseph McQuay, Jr  
Anna Odum  
John Flanagan  
William Miller  
Dustin Jones  
James Young  
Richard Bailey  
William Ernst  
Mark Colbath  
William Colley  
Allison Denson

Del Rio  
Sudan  
Del Rio  
Bandera

Big Spring  
Tuscola  
Abilene  
Anson  
Cuero  
San Angelo  
Copperas Cove  
Lampasas  
Florence  
Fort Hood  
Florence

Dime Box  
Shamrock  
League City  
Crystal City  
Vernon  
Cypress  
Tuscola  
Grapevine  
Irving  
Haslet  
N. Richland Hills  
Stamford

Misty Johnson  
Dvonne Gaffney  
Bruce Bourland  
Crystal Salinas  
Kimberly Pittcock  
Amanda Barnes  
Erin Cobb  
Loren Sell  
Gregory Sanders  
Bryce Davis  
Tom Farmer  
James Bell  
Kristopher Schertz  
Matthew Whitefield  
Walter Morse  
Rickey Ikeler

## March

Scott Walters  
Larry Massey  
William Hickman  
Gordon Cross  
Jed Evans  
Sherry McGough  
John Barron  
Dawn Lilly  
Gene Lilly  
James Shatzsall  
Carey Eatherly  
George Cumins  
Lisa Sanchez  
Chris Sanchez

Clyde  
Midlothian  
McKinney  
LaVernia  
Abilene  
Ranger  
Fritch  
Stephenville  
Mullin  
Abilene  
Clyde  
Abilene  
Sanger  
Stephenville  
Humble  
Ovalo

Harker Heights  
Brownsville  
San Antonio  
New Braunfels  
Carrizo Springs  
O'Brien  
San Antonio  
Houston  
Houston  
Athens  
Paris  
Rio Vista  
Bastrop  
Bastrop

## WELCOME NEW AREA CHIEFS

*Congratulations to the following new Area Chief instructors.  
We appreciate your dedication and efforts to educate our Texas hunters.*

**Lester Walding** is from Livingston and will be covering Polk County and surrounding areas. He has been team teaching with "Buffalo" Allwright, who is wanting to "slow down" a bit. (Guess he wants to paddle his canoes down some more rivers.) Welcome aboard, Lester.

**Annette Walding**, wife and teaching partner of Lester, is coming on board and will help Lester in Polk County as well. She and Lester are not only hunter education instructors, but are both avid bow hunters and are going to become certified in

IBEP instructors and instructor trainers. Welcome aboard, Annette.

**James Russell** is from Denison and has been certified since 1994, has taught a total of 47 hunter and bow hunter education courses and certified 743 students. He will cover Grayson County and surrounding area and help Area Chief Bob Douglas locally. Jim is also certified as an IBEP instructor trainer. Welcome aboard Jim.

## “Step Outside” Program a Great Success

Nine individuals representing the Division Directors and Executive Office participated in the Division Director shoot at the department last fall, and Executive Director Bob Cook took top honors, according to Charlie Wilson, Mobile Shooting Range Coordinator.

Over 300 employees took the opportunity to “Step Outside” and enjoy some shot-gunning activities during the two-day event. Shooters managed to fire over 3,500 shot shells while breaking up over 4,000 clay birds (some of the clays were cracked). Ha.

Thanks to all who participated in the event, and we hope you had a great time. We will plan an event for the future. Hope no one was intimidated. Here are a few comments from the employees. ...

I just want to say a HUGE thank you for the shoot that was done at HQ. I think it is so neat to see employees who would never have a chance to shoot a gun be given the opportunity to take part in this neat event. Getting the division directors involved is wonderful. I encouraged all of my employees to go out and seize the moment and to also support the directors during the shoot. I hope this becomes an annual holiday tradition. Todd was impressed ... but probably a little jealous!!

*Thanks again, Jamie McClanahan*

Thanks for the opportunity to try something different. This was my first time trying to hit a moving target, and I can easily see becoming a skeet addict. It's also the first time I've been able to compare shotguns, firing live ammo. And, yes, I hit a few.

*Russell Kyle, Creative Services*

I had so much fun! As a matter of fact that was the first time I had ever shot a shotgun! I reprioritized my Christmas list and added “shotgun” as my #1 item, although Santa said I have to wait until next year! It's okay, I'll wait.

*Diana*

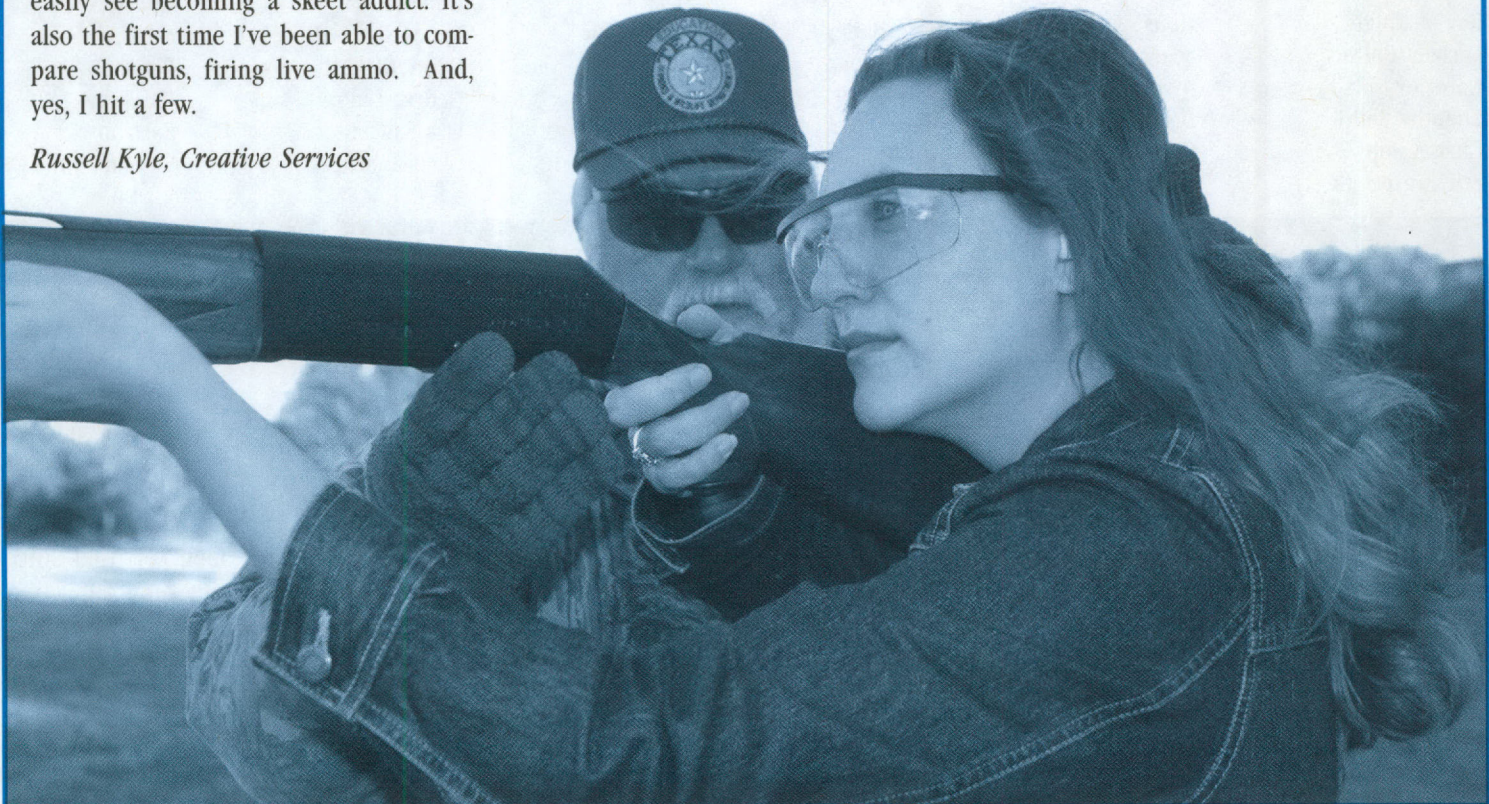
Thought you'd appreciate this ... you may or may not remember that I've never shot or even touched a firearm before and have been terrified of them my whole life. Well, today I decided enough was enough and Charlie Wilson did a very good, gentle job of teaching me safety and how to fire the shotgun. I got two of five clays, which I guess is OK for

a first-timer. It was fun. Thanks for encouraging me to do this (it was a while ago, but I remembered).

*Julie C.*

I am happy to have an opportunity to say “Thank You!” for making that experience possible for me. I am an avid deer hunter who had never fired a shotgun and was thrilled to be able to walk right outside the back door and learn from the professionals. It was a wonderful learning experience and I look forward to some day, after more practice and some upper-body workout, doing some bird hunting.

*Kathy Keller, TPWD/Communications*





# The Best Sportsman I've Ever Hunted With

By Ty Harris, Hunter Education Specialist

*Ethics ... It's a topic receiving much attention these days as we in the hunting community struggle to legitimize our ranks as sportsmen and women. But how do we define Hunting Ethics? Most people seem to have an answer, some more poetic and literate than others, some ethereal, some tangible, but some just don't know. On a weeklong hunt in northern Nevada, I discovered that putting meanings TO words is not nearly as important as the meaning OF the words. Confusing, I know, but let me tell the story that led me to this conclusion.*

Earlier this year I met a man at a 4-H training session in New Mexico who was from Nevada. We managed to get along quite well over the five-day session and rapidly developed a friendship based on similar political beliefs, generalizations and hunting. At the end of the session, I was extended a gracious and heartfelt invitation to hunt Chukars and quail with my new friend the following season. I quickly accepted the offer and began to make plans.

November, it seemed, wouldn't come fast enough. Travel arrangements made, licenses purchased and a genuine "kitchen pass" obtained, I packed my bags and headed for the airport. Transporting a firearm and ammunition after 9/11 has certainly become more difficult, but I managed to breeze through the security stations in just under 30 minutes. Time well spent for a little peace of mind.

Meeting my friend in Nevada was a reunion too long in coming. We picked up where we left off in New Mexico and spoke of hunting and politics, world issues and other unmentionables. Our language was a linguistic mix of graduate level education and redneck slang. True poetry.

Chukar hunting was not new to me. I had experienced it once before in Hawaii and found it to be demanding and frustrating, but little could I conceptualize the true meaning of those words before my Nevada Chukar experience.

Along the low, snow-dusted mountain ranges of northern Nevada, we pursued our game. To the inexperienced, Chukar hunting seems simple enough; find the birds, chase them up the hill, get to the top and shoot 'em. How simple!

I now count myself as an experienced Chukar hunter, not because I have shot a quantity of the wily birds, but because I have not. I've paid my dues on the top (and sides) of those mountains and have seen hundreds of Chukars and now understand the TRUE meanings of demanding and frustrating. As the locals aptly state, "You only hunt Chukars once. After that, it's revenge."

But my exploits with Chukars are not the meaning of this story. It serves only as an avenue to get to the point, although I would gladly retell my stories a hundred times over just to relive them.

So what is the point? On one of the last days of my hunting pilgrimage I received a compliment that stopped me cold and seeped into my core like a mountain spring. My hunting companion and friend said to me, "Ty, you know, you are the best sportsman I've ever hunted with."

What!?! Picking up hulls from other hunters ticks me off! I hate to do it, but I gladly do it. I hate to lose a downed bird, especially one that I have shot. I will look for it until I am satisfied that it ran or flew off beyond retrieval and then sulk and question my shooting ability and manhood. I don't like people pointing and shooting in my direction, so I don't do it to other people. No bird is worth a face-full of shot.

When I hunt with someone, we are a team. We hunt together, we shoot together, we look for birds together, and we respect each other. We live to hunt together another day. I don't recount "my" hunt, I tell about "our" hunt. It's true that there is no "I" in team, and "ME" only makes up half the word.

It's the simple things that we do or don't do by which we are measured. I don't care if you can shoot ten birds with ten shells. I care that you pick up your empties, find your birds and enjoy each shot and bird for the true experience that it is ... hunting. I am a Hunter, not a Shooter, and I am proud to know the distinction. It's not just the acts of point and squeeze.

The bottom line: I'm both glad and honored that my friend thinks of me as a sportsman. He should expect nothing less from a hunting partner, and neither should anyone else. Can I give you a definition of a sportsman? Yes. But is the definition of a sportsman more important than the meaning of being a sportsman? No. I've always understood the definition of sportsman, but now, with the help of my friend, I understand the meaning of "being a sportsman."

# Kudos



Four of the seven latest recipients of the Hunter Education Hall of Fame Award are shown here. Left to right is Lubbock Area Chief **John Dea**, certified in 1987; he has held 120 courses and certified 1,161 students. John was the first instructor to begin using the Hunter Skills Trail training method in Texas, having gone to New Mexico and received NRA Training back in the early '90s. He earned NRA/IHEA Academy certification by attending all of the required workshops. He was also instrumental in starting the Texas Youth Hunting Program efforts in the Lubbock and Panhandle area. Congratulations John!

Next is Burnet Area Chief **Don Evans**, certified in 1973; he has held 260 courses and certified 1,251 students. Don dropped out of the program for a short period of time while overseas but has been busy since returning. He attended 30 additional workshops or events and has certified an additional 12 instructors. Congratulations Don!

In the middle is coordinator Terry Erwin, followed by Harker Heights Area Chief **Bob Ratcliff**, certified in 1996; he has held 105 courses and certified 770 students. He has attended 94 workshops or special events, and he earned NRA/IHEA Academy certification by attending all of the required workshops. In addition, he accomplished quite a feat on his 75th birthday. He went skydiving. Congratulations Bob!

On the far right is Richardson Area Chief **Charles "Chuck" Morrow**, certified in 1972; he has held 90 courses and certified 2,409 students. He certified an additional six instructors. He earned NRA/IHEA Academy certification by attending all of the required workshops. Chuck attended 25 additional workshops and special events and he has been the official "gunsmith" for the Wildlife Expo each year. Thanks and congratulations Chuck!

*continued on the next page*

Not pictured is Corpus Christi Area Chief **Gilbert Graves, Jr.**, certified in 1988; he has held 277 courses and certified 1,498 students. He has attended 32 workshops or special events and has trained an additional 34 instructors. Gilbert is following in his father's footsteps, Gilbert Graves, Sr., who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1992. Congratulations Gilbert! I know Gilbert, Sr. would be very proud.

The last one to receive Hall of Fame recognition in 2003 is Sanderson Area Chief **Brock Minton** (not pictured), who was certified in 1989; he has held 124 courses and certified 657 students. He has attended 59 workshops or special events and earned NRA/IHEA Academy certification by attending all of the required workshops. He held 15 instructor workshops and certified 19 additional instructors. Brock is currently attending Sul Ross University in Alpine working on a degree in Wildlife Management. Congratulations Brock!



Shown L-R are Area Chiefs Duke Walton (Rifle), John Meekins (Rifle) and Ken Grau (Shotgun), who came through Austin on Monday after the Area Chief meeting to visit McBride's Guns and pick up their incentive awards. Congratulations gentlemen on a job well done!

# More Kudos



**Bill McCubbin** (R), Area Chief from Amarillo, is shown receiving his Hunter Education Hall of Fame Plaque earned in 2002. He was certified in 1982, has taught 144 courses and has certified 787 students. He has also trained an additional 215 instructors. He earned his NRA/IHEA Academy certification training in 1987. He has held numerous survival workshops in Amarillo and cooks a mighty mean sourdough biscuit. Congratulations Bill! We are proud of you and all you do for hunter education.

Pictured here is Kent Irvin (R) recognizing Haltom City Area Chief **Lee Stinson**, certified in 1989; he has held 102 courses and certified 2,025 students. He has attended 41 workshops or special events and earned NRA/IHEA Academy certification by attending all of the required workshops. Lee is very active in the Operation Orphans youth hunts. Congratulations Lee!

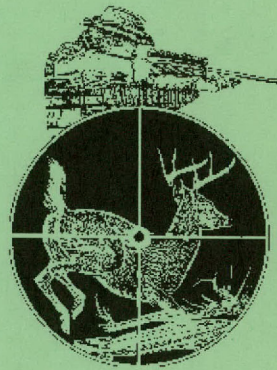


Shown here is **Reed Fatheree** after taking his first deer while hunting with his father near Carrizo Springs during the Special Youth Season. Congratulations Reed!

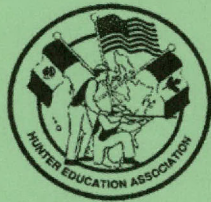


**Phil Brakebill** received his 2,500-Point Ruger .22 Super Single-Six handgun during the Area Chief meeting held in January. Congratulations Phil!

2003  
TEXAS HUNTING ACCIDENTS  
ANALYSIS



Federal Aid Project  
W-104-S



For more information about hunting accidents  
or the hunter education program in Texas, call (512) 389-8142

## TEXAS HUNTING ACCIDENT PROFILE

- Violated a cardinal rule of hunter safety
- Anglo male; 27 years of age (average)
- Hunted deer with rifle or dove with shotgun
- Was typically **not** under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Did not attend a hunter education (safety) course or program
- Did not wear any type of hunter orange clothing
- Was situated in or around vehicle or stand
- Sustained a non-fatal injury
- If not self-inflicted – swung shotgun on game outside of safe zone of fire
- Had over 10 years of hunting experience
- If self-inflicted – handled firearm carelessly and/or carried loaded firearm in or around vehicle
- Distance of muzzle to wound was within 50 yards, mostly within 10 yards
- Victim was in light to open cover with clear visibility (weather)
- Accident occurred towards dusk; fatigue a factor
- Accident occurred on weekend during September or November



### 2003 Significant Factors

- Many violations for “failure to take hunter education course “ in 2003
- The wearing of blaze orange would reduce many accidents in Texas
- Swinging on game outside of a safe zone of fire is still the primary accident type (dove hunting)
- Ricochets a factor in 2003
- Hog and quail/pheasant hunting accidents up in 2003
- Violations of law common among accident scenarios
- Careless handling, especially in and around vehicles, is a big problem in Texas

**HUNTING ACCIDENT DATA (1966-2003)**  
**ACCIDENT VERSUS LICENSES SOLD IN TEXAS**

CALENDAR YEAR	HUNTER ACCIDENTS	HUNTING LICENSES SOLD	ACCIDENTS PER 100,000 LICENSES	STUDENTS CERTIFIED
1966	81	644,653	12.6	-
1967	93	797,846	11.7	-
1968	105	854,693	12.3	-
1969	92	895,593	10.3	-
1970	72	935,793	7.7	-
1971	92	978,285	9.4	-
1972	85	966,332	8.8	2,119
1973	80	1,011,963	7.9	4,314
1974	68	1,037,925	6.6	6,094
1975	77	1,051,834	7.3	8,531
1976	63	1,050,349	6.0	10,043
1977	81	1,080,530	7.5	11,298
1978	83	1,091,794	7.6	10,890
1979	53	1,093,716	4.8	10,775
1980	69	1,160,375	5.9	12,166
1981	72	1,174,023	6.1	13,187
1982	97	1,216,032	8.0	13,323
1983	80	1,325,474	6.0	14,131
1984	60	1,140,174	5.3	13,052
1985	72	1,100,991	6.5	11,284
1986	68	1,162,785	5.8	11,195
1987	81	1,189,566	6.8	8,611
1988	70	1,189,000	5.9	18,043
1989	78	1,193,000	6.5	36,708
1990	53	1,132,917	4.7	24,590
1991	81	1,103,903	7.3	28,682
1992	62	1,053,063	5.9	25,453
1993	58	1,077,055	5.4	26,942
1994	51	1,083,227	4.7	34,972
1995	40	1,060,000	3.8	31,215
1996	31*	990,000	3.1	24,998
1997	51	960,000	5.3	30,625
1998	40	1,011,500	3.9	31,052
1999	44	1,010,455	4.3	37,775
2000	52	1,145,000	4.5	39,049
2001	43	1,076,159	4.0	28,062
2002	35	1,024,495	3.4	37,847
2003	44	1,082,225	4.1	34,727
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2,557</b>	<b>40,152,725</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>651,753</b>

- First ten-year average of hunter education program (CY 1966 - CY 1975) - One hunting accident/**10,858** hunting licenses sold.
- Second ten-year average of hunter education program (CY 1976 - CY 1985) - One hunting accident/**15,662** hunting licenses sold.
- Third ten-year average of hunter education program (CY 1986 - CY 1995) - One hunting accident/**17,515** hunting licenses sold.
- Thirty-eight year average (CY 1966 - CY 2002) - One hunting accident/**15,703** hunting licenses sold.

## TEXAS HUNTING ACCIDENTS 1966-2003

CALENDAR YEAR	FATAL	NON-FATAL	TOTAL
1966	28	53	81
1967	23	70	93
1968	37	68	105
1969	24	68	92
1970	19	53	72
1971	24	68	92
1972	30	55	85
1973	22	58	80
1974	16	52	68
1975	11	66	77
1976	11	52	63
1977	17	64	81
1978	20	63	83
1979	10	43	53
1980	13	56	69
1981	19	53	72
1982	23	74	97
1983	17	63	80
1984	21	39	60
1985	15	57	72
1986	13	55	68
1987	12	69	81
<b>MANDATORY HUNTER EDUCATION</b>			
1988	12	58	70
1989	12	66	78
1990	8	45	53
1991	13	68	81
1992	6	56	62
1993	6	52	58
1994	5	46	51
1995	4	36	40
1996	2	29	31
1997	8	43	51
1998	3	37	40
1999	6	38	44
2000	8	44	52
2001	3	40	43
2002	3	32	35
2003	2	42	44
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>2,031</b>	<b>2,557</b>



## TEXAS HUNTING ACCIDENT TOTALS 2003

HUNTING ACCIDENT: An accident/incident resulting from a discharge of a firearm or bow while hunting, which causes the injury or death of any person(s).

	2001	2002	2003		2001	2002	2003
<b>ACCIDENTS</b>				<b>VIOLATED GAME LAW</b>	14 (33%)	8 (22%)	13 (30%)
Total Accidents	43	35	44	<b>EQUIPMENT TYPE</b>			
Fatal	3	3	2	Rifles	15 (35%)	13 (37%)	17 (39%)
Non-fatal	40	32	42	Shotguns	23 (53%)	19 (54%)	24 (54%)
<b>ANIMAL HUNTED</b>				Handguns	5 (12%)	3 (09%)	2 (5%)
Dove	13 (30%)	11 (31%)	11 (25%)	Muzzleloader	0	0	0
White-tailed Deer	9 (21%)	8 (22%)	6 (13%)	Bow	0	0	1 (2%)
Rabbit/Hare	4 (10%)	2 (06%)	3 (7%)	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43(100%)</b>	<b>35(100%)</b>	<b>44(100%)</b>
Feral Hog	6 (14%)	2 (06%)	7 (16%)	<b>SHOOTER'S AGE</b>			
Quail/Pheasant	1 (02%)	3 (09%)	8 (18%)	0-9	1 (02%)	1 (03%)	0
Turkey	2 (05%)	4 (11%)	1 (2%)	10-19	16 (38%)	8 (22%)	12 (27%)
Ducks/Geese	0	1 (03%)	0	20-29	6 (14%)	8 (22%)	6 (13%)
Coyote	1 (02%)	0	2 (5%)	30-39	3 (07%)	1 (03%)	2 (5%)
Squirrel	1 (02%)	1 (03%)	2 (5%)	40-49	4 (10%)	10 (29%)	11 (25%)
Miscellaneous	6 (14%)	3 (09%)	4 (9%)	50-59	5 (11%)	2 (06%)	7 (16%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43(100%)</b>	<b>35(100%)</b>	<b>44(100%)</b>	60 & over	3 (07%)	2 (06%)	3 (7%)
<b>HUNTER JUDGMENT</b>				Unknown	5 (11%)	3 (09%)	3 (7%)
Victim out of sight of shooter/moved into line of fire	8	5	6	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43(100%)</b>	<b>35(100%)</b>	<b>44(100%)</b>
Victim covered by shooter swinging on game	8	11	11	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>			
Victim mistaken for game	3	3	4	Obstruction in Barrel	0	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21</b>	Ricochet	0	1	4
<b>SAFETY &amp; LAW VIOLATION</b>				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
Removing/placing firearm in vehicle or stand	1	2	0	<b>SKILL AND APTITUDE</b>			
Discharge of firearm in/on vehicle	8	3	3	Trigger caught on object	1	1	0
Improper Crossing of an obstacle	0	0	1	Loading/unload firearm	0	0	3
Firearm fell from insecure rest/Using firearm as a club	0	1	1	Careless handling	9	6	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	Dropped firearm	4	0	2
<b>SHOOTERS HAD HUNTER ED.</b>	10 (23%)	12 (34%)	9 (20%)	Shooter stumbled and fell	1	1	1
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>
				<b>SELF-INFLICTED</b>	15 (35%)	11 (31%)	11 (25%)
				<b>ALCOHOL A FACTOR</b>	1 (02%)	1 (03%)	1 (02%)

## Hunting Accident Report Non-Firearm Related 2003

\*Accidents/incidents while hunting, not involving the discharge of a firearm or bow, which causes injury or death of any person(s).

Type	Total	Fatal?	Comments
Fall from Home-made Tree Stand	1	Yes	Bow hunter fell from tree when single bolt holding fiberglass boat seat broke
Heart Attack	1	Yes	Duck Hunter -- Occurred on Engeling Wildlife Management Area
Animal Bite	1	No	Man was bit on right wrist by a feral hog
Target shooting/ plinking	1	No	While plinking; shooter carelessly discharged loaded firearm while unloading firearm - the bullet struck victim in foot.

## Shooting Accidents Non-Hunting Related

\*Other reported accidents/incidents resulting from the discharge of a firearm/bow, which causes the injury or death of any person(s), other than while hunting.

Type	Total	Fatal?	Comments
Shotgun accident while shooting skeet	1	No	Careless handling of shotgun; rested muzzle on toe and pulled trigger -thinking it was unloaded
Handgun accident while marking property line	1	No	Careless handling; improper holstering of handgun; handgun fell from holster

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THE Newsletter of

**THEIA** Texas Hunter Education Instructors Association, Inc.

Spring 2004

Number 18

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**OFFICERS**

Tom Stashak, Pasadena	Billy Holt, Breckenridge	Martha Fillingim, Breckenridge	Russell Greiner, San Antonio
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713-944-4004	254-559-8010	254-559-5925	210-492-1296

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**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

By the time you read this, the instructor annual conference for 2004 in Waco will be finished. Thanks again for all those who helped out. In the past two years, we have made some very positive changes. None of these changes could have happened without your support and participation. It brought us closer together. Each and every THEIA member's voice and opinion is very important. Many of you all have expressed strongly the need to continue quarterly meetings. It is a more efficient way for our group to operate.

It's now time to focus our attention on YHEC. YHEC will be on May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> this year. We need many more volunteers than in years past to help out. Saturday May 1st is the day we specifically need help. So please come and join in on the fun of watching these fantastic young men and women compete. Questionnaires for all will be available for concerns and ideas to continue to improve the event. After the competition and presentation of awards we will have a short THEIA meeting.

Summer is just a couple months away. After we plan our family trips let's look at our personal schedules and setup those class dates. Continue as you always do with getting more folks involved. Then, let's take it one step further. Those friends we use to teach with, let's give them a call to see if we can get them back into the program.

Thanks for all you do!

*Tom Stashak*

President THEIA

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**HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR AT LEAST ONE INSTRUCTOR WORKSHOP THIS YEAR?**

Nearly 40% of game birds shot at are wounded and eventually die of those wounds. If we were thinking "deer" here (as in the "Technical Questions; Ethical Questions" essay on the next page) we would have a BIG problem with wounding so many animals. How can we bring the game bird wounding to a more acceptable range? An exciting new workshop is planned for this year called **Wing Shooting Responsibility**. This is being offered to instructors who, it is hoped, will turn around and offer the class to the public, at a small fee. We need our instructors in the forefront of this new ethical concept: Bring home more game birds **with fewer shots**. What a concept! Check it out! AND see you at a workshop down the road.

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## **THEIA EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR:**

May 1-2, 2004, Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge at Parrie Haynes Youth Ranch

May 22-26, 2004, International Hunter Education Association Conference, San Diego, CA

October 2-3, 2004, EXPO '04 At Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Headquarters in Austin

2005 ANNUAL TEXAS HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR CONFERENCE, Rosenberg

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**THEIA THANK YOU!** to... each of you who helped with or attended the Hunter Educator's State Conference. Cyndi and George Sykora, you are still the greatest. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the state's young people, hunter education, and your fellow instructors.

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### **TECHNICAL QUESTIONS; ETHICAL QUESTIONS by Dr. Peggy Ann Weyel**

One of the hunters who was on our lease for many years used to brag of the fact that his rifle was purchased in the 1950s (it was 2001 the last time he shared this with us at camp) and he had never cleaned it. Sure it "shot good" and he was letting his grandson shoot it. After the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> big buck that he wounded (as least that he admitted to) in a two year period, we were still suggesting that he check the scope mounts, clean his rifle, re-sight it in, in fact we'd bring the gear to help him out. Again he said it didn't need cleaning or anything else. The next weekend his grandson wounded another "big buck"

OK...OKokokok, so maybe it IS the shooters and not the rifle at fault. That is another issue. My contention here is that a clean firearm is a more accurate firearm. The powder residue, lead, copper, and plastic layer and build up over time. The bullets do not, as one hunter explained to me, push the old stuff down and out the barrel.

Shooting accurately is dependant on many variables, several of which are beyond human control. What IS within our control is well documented in many hunting journals' "Tips for Accuracy"- type of column. Sportsmen and women concerned with accurate bullet placement try to control as many accuracy factors as possible. They explore and test for the precise bullet type and weight for the game as well as powder type and measure that their gun likes, or shoots most accurately with. They want a floating barrel to float and not touch the beautiful wood or composite stock. They also have the best optic system they can afford, the best triggering system, and follow up with the best human aiming and trigger pulling technique. They practice at the range. Many use a sling, watch the wind...oops that's getting into things we can't control as well. Authors of accuracy tips also suggest that hunters make sure that all excess grease and oil are not in the actions and barrels. They are assuming that new rifles are cleaned before hitting the field and trusted firearms are cleaned after shooting. Obviously, many are not.

Is this an ethical consideration? Absolutely! As hunter educators we are given the opportunity to inform and instruct new hunters as well as their parents and grandparents. With all the material we have to cover, I am NOT suggesting that we take 30 minutes to explain the ballistics of clean versus fouled barrels. What I do suggest is when the teachable moment arrives, explain the need for a well maintained firearm, suggest references for further information on getting the powder residue, lead and copper fouling, even plastic out, and go on to other important issues.

During the ethics portion of your class, you might offer a question as to what a hunter should do if he/she is wounding too many deer/game animals. You might offer a question regarding the ethics of shooting a firearm at game animals and not having a pretty good idea where that bullet/shot will strike. Clean, swift, mortal hits and not wounded animals are the ethical responsibility of hunters. Those clean hits start with a clean rifle or firearm.

## ***WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE STATE AND NATION***

### **THE NATIONAL ARCHERY IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM, November 2003**

By Michael Ziebell, Marketing Director of Mathews Inc., Sparta, Wisconsin (as seen on the Ted Nugent Website <http://www.tnugent.com> )

The National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) began in the fall of 2000 when a group of Kentucky Fish & Wildlife, Education and Archery Industry interests began planning a program to include target archery instruction as part of the Physical Education curriculum in Kentucky schools. The following spring 22 Kentucky middle schools joined the pilot program by agreeing to have their PE teachers take the 12-hour National Archery Association level 1 certification course, utilize and equipment kit designed for the program, and by adopting a 2-week long KY Dept. of Education-approved archery curriculum.

During the pilot phase of the program more than 1,600 student archers were surveyed to determine their archery experience and some of the impacts of having learned the skill of archery as part the PE class at their school. The following results were revealed:

Before the 2-week archery class began:

- 72% did not own a bow
- 62% had never before shot a bow

After the 2-week archery class:

- 89% of the students enjoyed the archery class
- 45% want to purchase personal archery equipment
- 9% want to become target archers
- 38% want to try bowhunting (only 9% of Kentucky citizens hunt)

Teachers and principals reported that the archery program was extremely successful in engaging all students. They reported improved behavior and attendance on archery days and that students who normally didn't participate in PE class or who didn't have success with other "sports" were thrilled with archery.

Today, just a bit more than a year after Kentucky's pilot project, more than 160 of the state's schools are enrolled in the archery program. This means more than 130,000 students per year will learn the discipline of target archery from their PE teacher. Alabama and Arizona piloted programs in their schools during the spring of 2003. The wildlife agencies in WV, GA, WY, AR, TN, IL and OH have trained or are about to train their staff so they will be able to pilot the program in the near future. If 30 states enroll in the NASP and have half of the success Kentucky is enjoying, more than 3,000,000 students per year will learn the skill of target archery.

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### ***IN DEFENSE OF HUNTING***

by James A. Swan

Harper Collins Paperback, 1996, pp. 7-8.

How successful are we as hunters in the United States? In spite of the fact that millions of game and non-game animals have disappeared from our country in the last century, a few of the most adaptable survivors are still around. "About 200 million animals are killed every year by hunters in the United States. ...some of the most common species are:

50 million doves	20 million pheasants	2 million geese
25 million rabbits and squirrels	10 million ducks	150,000 elk
25 million quail	4 million deer	21,000 black bears

...none are in danger of extinction due to hunting."

**THEIA**

TEXAS HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS' ASSOCIATION, INC.  
Membership Application

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

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

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

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP available to Assistant 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: Russell Greiner 14110 Blue Smoke San Antonio, Texas 78231**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ INSTRUCTOR # \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Peggy Weyel has a new e-mail: [pweyel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pweyel@sbcglobal.net)

OR send it to: Peggy Weyel, 13502 Syracuse, San Antonio, TX 7824

So please use it to send along news and observations from  
one THEIA member to another.

We need to hear from each region  
and make this newsletter more informative to all THEIA instructors as we share  
our ideas and actions for improving hunter education in Texas.

Peggy Ann Weyel  
Editor, columnist *THEIA Newsletter*

**FINALLY, DON'T FORGET THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTORS...**

In matters of hunting and fishing and falconry, mentors are priceless. They teach you nuance, detail, and what is really important.

Charles Fergus  
*The Upland Equation* (1995)

## 2003 FATAL ACCIDENTS

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)
12-2	Wood	14/M	Shotgun	Squirrel	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter and victim had just shot a squirrel in their back yard. Shooter carelessly discharged his loaded shotgun while he was bending down to plug in Christmas lights on front porch. The muzzle was pointed towards his 11-year old brother standing in front of him at the time.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; always unload and case firearm when not in use, after a hunt; never walk in front of the muzzle of a firearm.					
12-20	Marion	65/M	Shotgun	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim carelessly shot himself while in the process of climbing a tree with a climbing tree stand. He shot himself fatally with a shotgun; but his loaded rifle also discharged in the process. Both firearms were hauled loaded, with the safety 'off', and attached to a hauling line by the trigger guards and barrels. Victim had a can of beer in his pocket, but alcohol apparently wasn't a factor at time of incident.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; always unload and attach firearm properly to a hauling line with muzzle pointed in opposite direction; Never use alcohol prior to or while hunting; Hunt with a companion; Attend a hunter education course.					

## 2003 NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)
1-4	Robertson	12/M	Shotgun	Squirrel	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged his loaded shotgun while bending alongside the victim and two other hunting companions. The muzzle was pointed towards his 11-year old friend standing next to him at the time. Hunters did not have hunting licenses and had not taken hunter education course.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; obey the laws; attend a hunter education course; hunt with adult supervision.					
1-10	Atascosa	47/M	Rifle	Hog	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter mistook victim for a hog and shot his .243 cal. rifle. Bullet struck victim in right hand.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always be absolutely sure of your target before raising your rifle; carry binoculars; attend a hunter education course.					
1-17	Duval	25/M	Rifle	Rabbit	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged his .22 cal. rifle while the muzzle was pointed at his left lower leg. He did not have hunting licenses and had not taken hunter education course.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; obey the laws; attend a hunter education course; hunt with adult supervision.					
1-18	Colorado	40/M	Shotgun	Pheasant	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim covered by shooter swinging on game.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; attend a hunter education course.					

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)
1-24	Cottle	44/M	Shotgun	Quail	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim covered by shooter swinging on game. Pellets struck victim in back (right shoulder blade). Victim was wearing a hunter orange cap and vest/coat. Hunters were hunting on public land (Matador WMA).					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; attend a hunter education course.					
2-2	Brown	16/M	Rifle	Turtle	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter was shooting a .22 cal. rifle at turtles in a stock pond. One of the bullets ricocheted and struck a nearby landowner who was fixing a tire on his tractor.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point firearm in a safe direction; never shoot a rifle/handgun at a flat hard surface such as water; obey the laws; attend a hunter education course; hunt under adult supervision; do not practice shooting at wildlife.					
2-7	Erath	UNK	Shotgun	Quail	No	UNK
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter swung on game outside of his safe zone of fire. Pellets struck victim in face as he was walking back to his vehicle. Shots were fired from three hunters shooting at quail over 40 yards away from the victim. It was unknown who specifically fired the shot as hunters all fired using the same loads.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times.					
2-24	LaSalle	41/M	Shotgun	Quail	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim covered by shooter swinging on game.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; attend a hunter education course.					
2-25	Lamar	15/M	Rifle	Rabbit	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter shot at a rabbit twice, outside of a safe zone of fire. Victim, who was struck by a .22 cal. rifle bullet fragment in his upper thigh, was standing on the other side of some brush. Licensed adult hunter was present, but was not within immediate voice distance at time of shot.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; obey the laws; attend a hunter education course.					
3-20	Van Zandt	27/M	Bow	Hog	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Arrow ricocheted and traveled approximately 35 yards behind the hog that the shooter was trying to hit. The victim and his friend had pushed the hog to the shooter and were waiting to see the shot from atop a ridge above the hunter's position. Arrow struck victim in chest. He was airlifted to a nearby hospital and was saved despite having one lung punctured.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; never shoot at flat hard surfaces with bow and arrow; obey the laws; attend a hunter education course.					
5-4	Throckmorton	55/M	Handgun	Rattlesnake	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter was shooting a .22 cal. handgun at rattlesnake on a gravel road. A bullet fragment ricocheted and struck victim who was standing nearby, at an angle behind the snake.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point firearm in a safe direction; never shoot a rifle/handgun at a flat hard surface such as water or gravel; hunt and kill only what you plan to eat or use to the fullest extent.					

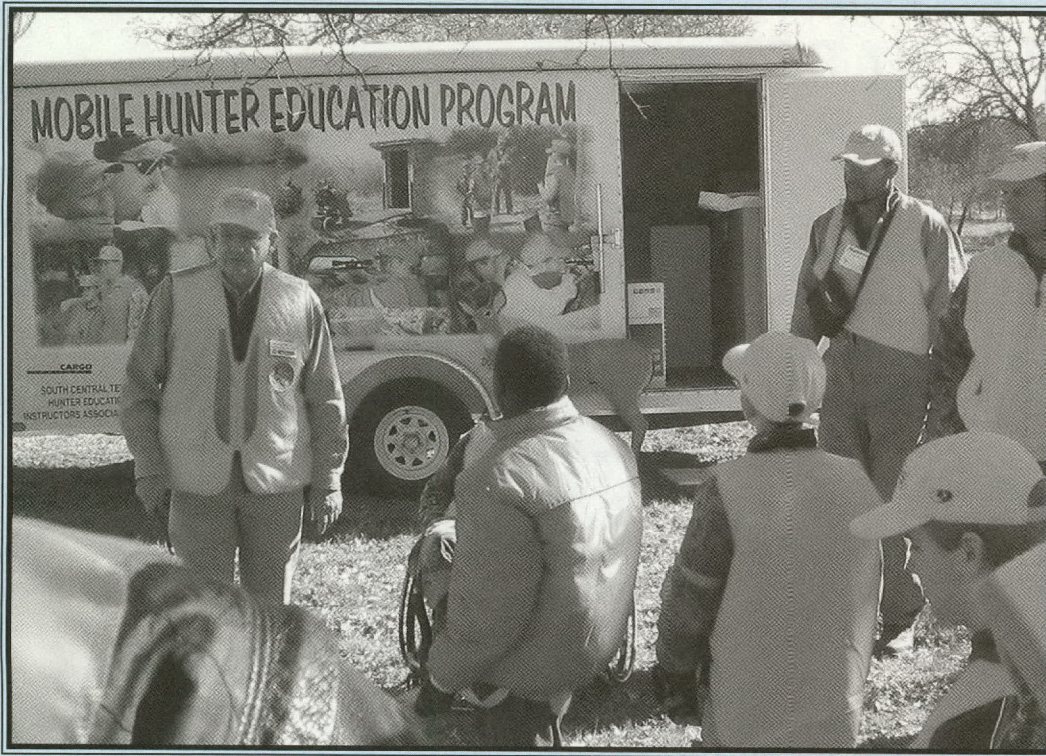


Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)
7-5	Presidio	42/M	Rifle	Coyote	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter mistook victim for a coyote and shot his .220 Swift cal. rifle from over 100 yards away. Bullet struck victim in upper left leg. Hunters were in violation of several laws at the time of the incident.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always be absolutely sure of your target before raising your rifle; carry binoculars; obey the laws; attend a hunter education course.					
9-1	Dickens	11/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter was sitting on bucket with firearm across knees. He dropped the firearm and carelessly fired it towards victim who was about 10 feet away. Pellets struck victim in the left foot.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; control the muzzle and use a proper carry at all times; obey the laws; attend a hunter education course; hunt with adult supervision.					
9-1	Montague	14/M	Shotgun	Snake	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	While laughing, shooter pulled the trigger while shotgun muzzle was resting on his foot; apparently thinking it was not loaded.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded at all times; control the muzzle and use a proper carry at all times; obey the laws; attend a hunter education course; hunt with adult supervision; avoid horseplay.					
9-1	Wichita	UNK	Shotgun	Dove	No	UNK
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was out of sight of shooter and was struck by pellets to the head, neck and chest area.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times or if others are allowed onto the private land on which you are hunting; wear blaze orange into and out of a dove hunting area.					
9-1	Houston	33/M	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire. She was retrieving a downed dove at the time of the incident.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; obey hunting laws; attend a hunter education course.					
9-1	Mills	55/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was out of sight of shooter and was struck by three pellets to the eye, lip and forehead. She was sitting behind a grain drill at the time of the incident.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times or if others are allowed onto the private land on which you are hunting; wear hunter orange into and out of a dove hunting area.					
9-3	Leon	44/M	Handgun	Hog	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carried a loaded handgun while crossing a fence and carelessly discharged it into his right calf. He was retrieving a downed hog at the time of the incident.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Never cross an obstacle with a loaded firearm; keep handguns unloaded in the chamber while hunting; always point the muzzle in a safe direction; attend a hunter education course.					
9-3	Lamar	12/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim didn't tell shooter he was moving positions and moved into the line of fire of the shooter. Shooter swung on game outside of his safe zone of fire.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; wear hunter orange into and out of a dove hunting area and/or while relocating positions.					

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)
9-4	Cottle	UNK	Shotgun	Dove	No	UNK
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was out of sight of shooter and was struck by one pellet in the left shoulder.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times or if others are allowed onto the private land on which you are hunting; wear hunter orange into and out of a dove hunting area.					
9-5	Hondo	54/M	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly pulled the trigger while shotgun muzzle was resting on his foot.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded at all times; attend a hunter education course.					
9-13	Brown	53/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was out of sight of shooter and was struck by two pellets in the right elbow.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times or if others are allowed onto the private land on which you are hunting; wear hunter orange into/ out of a dove hunting area; attend a hunter education course.					
9-20	Upshaw	12/M	Shotgun	Quail	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; attend a hunter education course.					
9-20	Medina	12/M	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly carried and dropped .410-gauge shotgun. The pellets struck him in his upper right arm.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point firearm in a safe direction; use proper carries and control to muzzle at all times; obey the laws; attend a hunter education course; hunt under adult supervision					
9-20	Karnes	21/M	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly pulled the trigger while shotgun muzzle was resting on his foot.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded at all times; never rest or carry a firearm loaded, with the 'safety' off; attend a hunter education course.					
10-3	McCullough	57/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; attend a hunter education course.					
10-19	Jasper	14/M	Rifle	Hog	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter mistook victim for a hog and shot his .30/30 cal. rifle. Bullet struck victim in left thigh.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always be absolutely sure of your target before raising your rifle; carry binoculars; obey hunting laws; attend a hunter education course.					
10-25	Dimmit	67/M - multiple	Shotgun	Quail	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Three victims were covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire. Incident occurred on public land - Chaparral WMA.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; attend a hunter education course.					

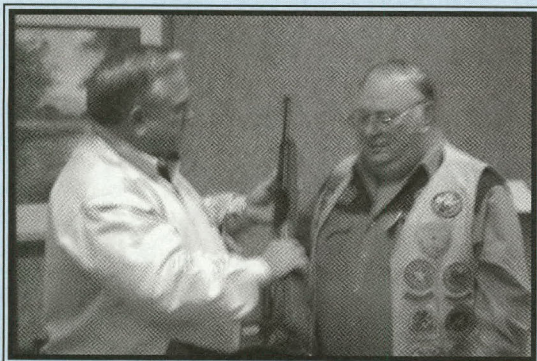
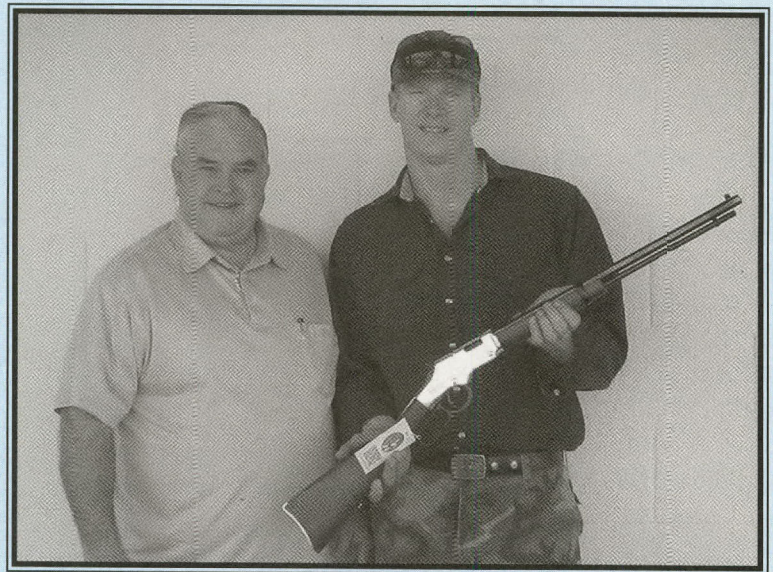
Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)
10-28	Gonzalez	18/M	Rifle	Hog	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly loaded and discharged an unfamiliar firearm that he borrowed from the victim immediately before attempting to shoot a wounded hog. The bullet struck the victim in the upper left leg.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; always be absolutely sure of the target and what is in front/behind before raising the firearm; be familiar with how to load and unload the firearm you are using; know where others are positioned at all times; maintain safety even when your emotions are high.					
11-4	Anderson	40/M	Rifle	Hog	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter mistook victim for a hog. Victim was riding an ATV and hunters were hunting at night and after a large hog at the time of the incident.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always be absolutely sure of your target before raising your rifle; never hunt hogs at night unless you have adequate lighting; carry binoculars; attend a hunter education course.					
11-15	Callahan	45/M	Rifle	Turkey	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter was shooting a .22 cal. rifle at a turkey. A bullet fragment ricocheted off of a barbwire fence and struck the victim who was sitting in a clump behind and at an angle from the bird.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point firearm in a safe direction; never shoot a rifle/handgun through fence lines; establish safe zones of fire for each hunter in a hunting party; use appropriate firearms for the game pursued; attend a hunter education course.					
11-16	Childress	27/M	Rifle	Deer	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim carelessly discharged his loaded rifle when placing back into the vehicle. He had ejected two cartridges and thought it to be unloaded.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; always unload and case firearm before transporting it; treat every firearm as if it is loaded at all times; never hunt from a vehicle.					
11-20	Kerr	56/M	Rifle	Coyote	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim carelessly discharged his rifle while unloading it. The bullet ricocheted off the gravel and fragments struck the victim who was standing over 10 yards away.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; carefully load and unload firearm when not in use; attend a hunter education course.					
11-23	Hill	47/M	Rifle	Deer	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim carelessly discharged his loaded rifle while removing it from a vehicle. The bullet struck the victim below the knee. The victim was seated in the passenger's seat.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; always unload and case firearm before transporting it; treat every firearm as if it is loaded at all times; never hunt from a vehicle; attend a hunter education course					
11-26	Runnels	44/M	Rifle	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim carelessly handled and dropped his loaded rifle while climbing a tripod stand. The rifle discharged sending the bullet through his arm.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always unload prior to entering or exiting a stand; use a haul line; carefully climb up and down an elevated stand; attend a hunter education course.					
11-27	Kleburg	62/M	Shotgun	Quail	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire. Victim was struck by pellets in her face and shoulder.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; attend a hunter education course.					

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)
12-19	Robertson	33/M	Shotgun	Hog	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly pulled the trigger while shotgun muzzle was resting on his foot. Shooter and hunting companion were dragging out a hog at the time of the incident.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded at all times; unload when firearm is no longer in use; attend a hunter education course.					
12-21	Palo Pinto	29/M	Rifle	Rabbit	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly pulled the trigger while using a loaded firearm to dispatch a wounded rabbit. Shooter and companion had been drinking at the time and were not in possession of a hunting license or the proper hunter education certification. The stock was broken and found separated from the barrel it was knocked so hard.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded at all times; never use a firearm as a club nor carry it with the 'safety' off; attend a hunter education course; Always purchase a hunting license before hunting.					
12-21	Sutton	56/M	Rifle	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly pulled the trigger while walking with a loaded firearm to his stand in the dark. The rifle's safety was in the off position.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded at all times; never rest or carry a firearm loaded, with the 'safety' off; attend a hunter education course.					
12-22	Kerr	41/M	Shotgun	Quail	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; attend a hunter education course.					
12-25	Runnels	20/M	Rifle	Deer	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim carelessly discharged his loaded rifle while placing it in a case on the tailgate of his truck. The bullet struck the victim who was standing in front of the muzzle to the side of the truck.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; always unload when firearm is not in; treat every firearm as if it is loaded at all times					



**Bryant Truitt**, Area Chief from Hunt, Texas, took some time off to help with a youth hunt at the Faulkner Ranch. He is shown here with participants and the Mobile Hunter Education program trailer he put together for special events and training. Thanks Bryant!

Shown here is **John Blake** (R), Newfoundland Hunter Education coordinator who won this Henry Golden Boy .22 rifle during the 7th Governor's Symposium at Houston last December. John graciously donated the rifle to a deserving youngster in Texas. Thanks John!



**Jerry Couch** (R) is shown receiving his 3,000-Point Rifle award from Terry Erwin during the annual conference held in Waco. Jerry elected to pay an additional fee along with the gift certificate when he obtained the new Ruger 10/22 40th Anniversary Commemorative edition rifle. Congratulations Jerry!

## TEXAS GAME WARDEN FIELD NOTES

### Five Houston Men Begin 2004 with a Surprise

A Game Warden apprehended five Houston men taking deer on FM 774 on Jan. 5 in Refugio County. The warden observed a pick-up truck stop near a buck deer grazing on the side of the road at 11:45 p.m. Freezing temperatures and 25-mph winds made it very difficult for the warden to hear what was going on. The warden watched through binoculars as the suspects moved in front of their vehicle's headlights several times. The warden went to the suspects' location and as he got closer, he could see antlers sticking up and out of the truck bed. The warden found five suspects inside the vehicle and three freshly killed buck deer in the bed of the truck. The suspects were arrested and transported to the Refugio County Jail. Several charges and civil restitution are pending against the suspects at this time. The warden asked the suspects why they had shot so many deer. Their response was that they wanted some meat for the freezer. When asked why they shot bucks instead of does, their response was, "We knew it was against the law to hunt does at night."

### 'Dreamcatcher' Gets Caught

A Reeves County Game Warden recently received a call from the Pecos Police Department in regard to a suspect in possession of feathers in the Wal-Mart parking lot in Pecos. The warden responded to the call to find the person was collecting bird feathers to make "dream-catchers." The suspect was in possession of more than 20 protected non-game species' feathers. The suspect had no identification or any documentation to prove who he was, but stated that he was a resident of Alabama. After a search of the vehicle with the help of other officers, a bag of marijuana was found. The suspect was charged with possession of protected non-game species parts. Pecos officers charged the suspect with possession of a controlled substance.

### Paying the Price

An Ector County Game Warden concluded an investigation started in August of 2003. The investigation involved an individual who videotaped himself killing a mallard duck and shooting at mourning doves, mockingbirds and killdeers at the Odessa Country Club at Mission Dorado. He then posted the video on the Internet. The individual was filed on for hunting without landowner consent and hunting from a motor vehicle on a public road, both Class A misdemeanors. The subject pleaded nolo contendere to the offenses and was assessed fines of \$1,500 plus court costs, 10 days in the Midland County Jail, 80 hours of community service to be determined by TPWD, and two years of hunting license suspension. The case was prosecuted by the Midland County District Attorney's office.

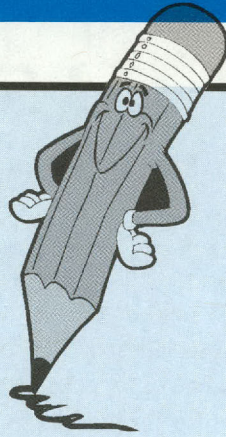
### Advice if a Deer Ends up in Your Home

A Montgomery County Game Warden received a call Jan. 8 from a woman near Conroe. She explained that a doe deer had been entangled in a small fence in her backyard. She had gone outside, leaving her door open, to see if she could help the deer. The deer freed itself then entered her home through the open door. The warden suggested that she open all of her doors, get out of sight and that the deer would find its way out of the house on its own. She didn't want to do that and contacted a wildlife rehabilitator. The wildlife rehabilitator said he would lasso the deer then take it out of the house. The rehabilitator roped the deer around the neck and things didn't go well. The house was demolished from the struggle and the deer died in the process.

## Reloading On The Web

The National Reloading Manufacturers Association has a Web site, which includes a virtual reloading section featuring short movies to explain the basics of metallic and shotgun shell recycling. The site lists phone numbers for those NRA certified instructors who can teach hand loading, arranged so interested students can find the instructor nearest to them.

[www.reload-nrma.com](http://www.reload-nrma.com)



### Dear Staff:

I attended the most wonderful educational workshop recently. I drove to the Wallisville Army Corps of Engineers Office on the Trinity River for the workshop. The weather, a comfortable 60 degrees with sunshine and a light breeze on Friday, was to die for. Minimal indoor classroom was conducted or there would have been a mutiny to get outdoors.

Instructor Dan Hepker was detailed as he described our wetlands station. Co-instructor Rodney Jordan was equally prepared, both with a room full of visual aides. Their presentations were thorough. Kitty Haynes aided by contributing some of her experiences.

Varieties of traps, snares and supplies to modify as needed were presented in a hands-on exercise. As the instructors had preset leg traps, connibear and snare traps outdoors, our classroom really livened up with animals scurrying around us. Soon we observed a small raccoon in a leg hold, which was released safely. Then we almost snuck up on a few pigs. The last one ran into one of Dan's snares, so he was promptly skinned for another teaching moment. A few more traps and snares were prepared for on-site education, and dark fell on us about 7 p.m. Friday.

Saturday morning we arrived to run the trap lines through the wetlands. A beautiful otter was snared mid-section in Dan's trap; so we had another skinning experience. Jim and Pamela Brooks had beneficial contributions for trap location identifications, trap preparations and fur protection. Even the tools used differed slightly for each individual user (the choice in knives was most prevalent).

At noon, videos were played back in the classroom as we ate lunch together. Then we were off to run the trap

lines again. We enjoyed all the wetland wildlife, but most were staying out of reach. We were happy about the alligators sunning on the other sides of the waterways.

We continued to examine the possible sites for setting more traps when we found fecal droppings and entrance/exit slides that showed current activity. As we all set traps, the educational conversations continued. It was explained that we were not on the same side of I-10 as last year's workshop; that there were still mink footprints but no coyote or bobcat prints that had been observed previously. And the sun fell on our Saturday evening.

On Sunday morning we met to run and collect the traps. No culvert water travelers needed to be dispatched from any connibear traps, but one smaller raccoon was released safely from a ground buried leg trap. (Jim Brooks was pleased that this coon did not want to 'hang on to him' like the Saturday event - only he can tell his story!) It was almost uneventful until the last leg of the trails.

First we happened on another large otter snared in the midsection. I had set the snare with the watchful help from Rodney. He was properly dispatched, leaving him resting in a tree limb until our return. Then, near the dead end of our trail, a second otter was snared, this time about the neck. This was Rodney's snare setting; the otter was properly dispatched. And gratefully, since there were no other pigs in the reeds, we returned to collect all tools, supplies and both otters. Every attendee assisted in evaluations that were being discussed at each encounter. This on the spot education was very valuable.

It made the workshop remarkable. I even borrowed tools to help Rodney skin the two otters. This took us past our schedule but we finished just before the rains started. I cannot stop praising the terrific instructors for their remarkable workshop! I hope they will continue offer this Trappers Workshop again and again. I am such a city female, but I was skinning my snared otter by the end of the workshop. And that's my story and I'm stickin' to it! Thank you all!

Suzan Rector,  
La Porte

# INSTRUCTOR DISCOUNTS

Remember all the videos we had on VHS format: *Shoot/Don't Shoot, The Last Shot, Firearms Safety & the Hunter, The Hunter's Path and Survival*. Well, Alan Madison Productions, Inc. has them available on DVD format at a considerable savings. All five are in a set for only \$149 + \$8 S&H. If interested, please contact them at the address listed below.



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## Crosman Airguns (see order form to the right)

In 2004, Crosman and the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) will continue to join forces to reach a wider range of organizations and offer deeper discounts. We'll provide low prices for kits that include all of the necessities to start a safe shooting program. In addition to the cost savings, Crosman will also donate 5% of the cost of each purchase to the IHEA organization.

To start receiving your Crosman products immediately, fill out the order form attached and mail it to us with payment and proof of nonprofit status. If you have any questions or to order by phone, please contact our Shooting Services Coordinator, Beth McClung, at (585) 657-3101 and reference this IHEA discount code: EASYIHEA123. You may also fax this form to: (585) 657-5405. To receive the discount you must be an affiliated IHEA club or an IHEA instructor.

We look forward to hearing from you. Working together to make shooting safety a priority is what the Easy Program is all about.



# HENRY

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### 2004 INSTRUCTOR'S CONFIDENTIAL PRICE SHEET

Model	Description	Price
H001	Henry Lever Action .22	\$159.95
H001Y	Henry Lever Action Youth .22	\$159.95
H005	Henry Mini Bolt Youth .22	\$125.00
Freight	Shipping Charges	\$7.50 per unit
H0CAT	Henry Catalogs	No Charge

### IMPORTANT Purchasing Information:

#### Individual Instructor Orders

Please forward your order in a brief letter showing your complete name, complete address, telephone number, a photocopy of your Instructor's i.d. card and an original signed copy of a gun dealers Federal Firearms license. Payment must also be included. Payment can be made by check or by Visa/MasterCard or American Express. Please include \$7.50 per unit purchased for shipping charges. For individual instructor's orders, to avoid abuse of the special pricing program, we have had to limit purchases to no more than two units of each of the above. If there are a number of instructors who as a group would like to buy several rifles, we can make an exception. However, we will need copies of each instructor's identification card with name and their individual address.

#### State Agency Orders

If you are purchasing these rifles on behalf of an agency of the Federal Government, you must provide an official letter on agency's letterhead and an official purchase order. We ship directly to the agency and invoice the agency on net 30-day terms.

*The Henry Mini Bolt is the Official Youth Rifle of the USA Shooting Team*

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## Special Offer for IHEA Instructors & Clubs



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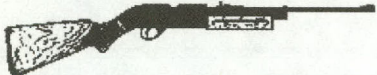



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CHECK# \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD# \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_ CIRCLE ONE: VISA M/C DISCOVER AMEX

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>SUG RETAIL</u>	<u>DISC. COST</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
760B*	PUMPMASTER BB Repeater/Single Shot Air Rifle 	_____	\$34.99	\$25.65	_____
AS1077T*	Semi-Automatic CO <sub>2</sub> Powered/12 Shot Air Rifle with AirSource 	_____	\$99.99	\$67.50	_____
1008B*	REPEATAIR Semi-Automatic CO <sub>2</sub> /8 Shot Air Pistol 	_____	\$49.99	\$31.35	_____
CH2000*	Three Position CO <sub>2</sub> Target Rifle with Peep Sight 	_____	\$299.99	\$185.25	_____
			TOTAL:	_____	_____
			IHEA DISCOUNT CODE:	_____	_____

\*Each kit include; one gun, 1000 standard .177 caliber wadcutter pellets, 100 official NRA paper targets, three pairs shooting glasses, and three extra clips. All kits (except the model 760B) includes 25 CO<sub>2</sub> powerlets.

Please mail or fax in your request to Crosman c/o Shooting Services  
MAIL ADDRESS : Crosman Corporation Route 5 & 20 East Bloomfield, NY 14443 • FAX #: (585) 657-5405  
If you have any questions, please call (585) 657-3101.

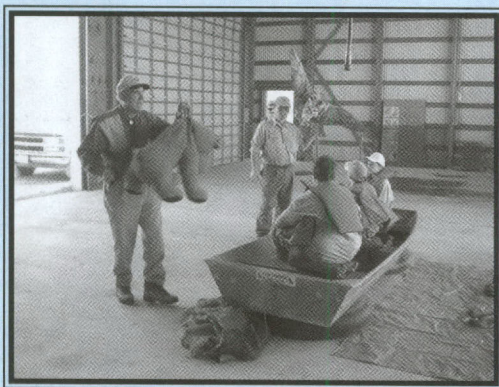
Your order must be accompanied by a check, money order or credit card and proof of nonprofit status. Minimum Order of \$50.00  
Prices valid until December 31, 2004. This form is valid for IHEA affiliated persons ONLY.

# Training Efforts and Workshops



## Waterfowl Workshop

A Waterfowl Workshop was held Dec. 13, 2003, in Katy: 24 attended, including four Game Wardens. Instructors drove from as far away as Livingston, San Antonio, Burnet and Texarkana. This was a good group who seemed to really enjoy the workshop. Justin Hurst, Game Warden from El Campo, did an awesome power point presentation in the morning to cover waterfowl, identification, biology, etc. Then he and Game Wardens Kevin Malonson (Katy), Derek Spitzer (Katy) and Rick Snitkin (Houston) assisted with hands-on activities. The Game Wardens brought ducks and geese so the class could handle the birds and practice their identification skills. They also performed a necropsy (dissection) of the birds. After a lunch break, the Game Wardens escorted the group to the field to do more waterfowl identification, calling techniques and how to put out a decoy spread. It was a very cool and brisk day - conditions just perfect to attend a waterfowl workshop.



## McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge

Shown here are John Meekins and Duke Walton taking some youngsters through a skills trail scenario during an outing at the McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge near Winnie. Each year the pair, along with Ken Grau, provides excellent training to a large group of youngsters during this special outing event.



## Trapper Education Workshop

A Trapper Education Workshop was held at the Parrie Haynes Ranch Jan. 16-18. The Texas Trappers and Fur Hunters Association skillfully presented the learning activities. Dan Hepker and his crew did a great job with the entire weekend. An additional workshop was held at Wallisville Reservoir just east of Houston in February. (See letter from instructor Suzan Rector in this issue.)



## New Training Trailer

Shown here is Bryant Truitt (vest) on the left, three new instructor applicants and John Rodriguez (second from right). They used the new training trailer while going through the instructor workshop to show how easily hands-on activities may be accomplished. Thanks for showing what can be done with some imagination and help from local resources.

## Hunter Education Loses Instructors

**Walter Hill**, former Area Chief from Troup, passed away on February 29, 2004. He was certified in 1988 and had taught 396 students. He was a big help in the area near Tyler and continued to teach even after losing his son in a tragic accident. Walter was also an instructor in IBEP, Boater Education and the Angler Education programs. Please remember to keep him in your thoughts.

**Howdy Merriell, Jr.** passed away on March 5, 2004. He helped team teach with the "Dallas Market Hall Team," and was always available. He was certified in April 2000 and did his best to overcome a bout with cancer. He never told any of his teaching partners about it, but he kept right on teaching. He will be missed by all of us but not forgotten.

## Hunting We Will Go

How safe are you? Do you have safety on your mind all the times? Safety is like a tenacious little youngster that must be observed at all times. The last time you used your firearm did you store it unloaded, cleaned and lightly oiled? Was it locked separately from the ammunition? When you took your firearm out of storage did you keep the muzzle in a safe direction while checking to make sure it was unloaded? Did you put the firearm in a case and place it securely in the vehicle in a way not to receive damage or cause injury?

Upon arriving at the area you plan to hunt, did you carefully remove your firearm from the vehicle and place in a safe place, or did you stand it up in an insecure manner? When did you load the firearm? Was it after leaving the camp area or in camp? Before loading did you check the muzzle for obstruction? Do you have the correct ammunition? Do you have eye and ear protection? While carrying the firearm is the safety on with the finger off the trigger and the muzzle in a safe direction? Do you shoot out of your zone of fire?

Did you bring field glasses to look for and properly identify game or do you plan to use your scope? Are you prepared for circumstances which require added caution or safety awareness? Are you someone others will say, "Now, that's a person I'd like to hunt with?" I hope so.

Think Safety!

Jim Parker  
Area Chief Instructor

## Deer Meet Highway Death

The following information was passed on to TPWD from a resident in the Georgetown, Texas, area. He decided to keep up with how many deer were run over on a short stretch of road near where he lives (specifically on Williams Dr. between Bootys Dr. and Woodland Park Dr. - approximately one mile distance) in one year (2003). There is no telling how many dollars this represents in auto body repair. Assuming the adult does killed in this year were going to have 1.5 fawns the next year, this represents about 140 deer. Interesting to note the incidence of bucks that got run over between Sept. and Nov. This correlates with our breeding chronology data as to when the rut occurs in that area (peak around Nov. 1). Very interesting.

Jan.	3 doe	April	1 buck, 2 doe	July	4 doe	Oct.	3 buck, 4 doe
Feb.	1 buck, 2 doe	May	1 buck, 4 doe	Aug.	1 buck, 2 fawn	Nov.	4 buck, 9 doe, 1 fawn
March	5 doe	June	3 doe	Sept.	2 buck, 1 doe, 2 fawn	Dec.	3 buck, 10 doe

# For Your Information

## Texas Facts

sent in by a loyal Texan

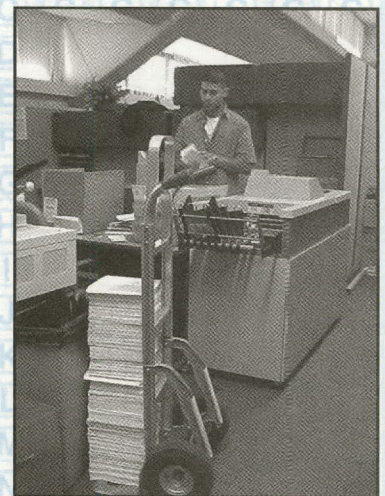
Nobody asked for them, but here are some little known Texas facts. I know y'all just can't wait to read them and best of all, this information is free. Beaumont to El Paso: 742 miles; Beaumont to Chicago: 770 miles. World's first rodeo was in Pecos on July 4, 1883. The Flagship Hotel in Galveston is the only hotel in North America built over water. The Heisman Trophy was named after John William Heisman, who was the first full time coach for Rice University, Houston. Brazoria County has more species of birds than any other area in North America. Aransas National Wildlife Refuge is the winter home of North America's only remaining flock of whooping cranes. Jalapeno jelly originated in Lake Jackson in 1978. The worst natural disaster in U.S. history occurred in 1900 when a hurricane killed over 8,000 people on Galveston Island. The first word spoken from the moon, July 20, 1969, was "Houston." El Paso is closer to California than to Dallas. Tyler Municipal Rose Garden is the world's largest rose garden with over 38,000 bushes, 500 varieties on 22 acres. The state shell is lightning whelk. King Ranch is larger than Rhode Island. Tropical Storm Claudette brought a U.S. rainfall record of 43" in 24 hours in and around Alvin in July 1979. Texas is the only state to enter the U.S. by TREATY, instead of by annexation. (This allows the Texas flag to fly at the same height as the U.S. flag.) A live oak tree near Fulton is estimated to be 1,500 years old. Caddo Lake is the only natural lake in the state. Dr Pepper was invented in Waco in 1885. There is no period after Dr in Dr Pepper. Texas has had six capital cities: 1. Washington-on-the-Brazos; 2. Harrisburg; 3. Galveston; 4. Velasco; 5. West Columbia; 6. Austin. The Capitol Dome in Austin is the only dome in the U.S. which is taller than the Capitol Building in Washington D.C. (by 7 feet). The name Texas comes from the Hasini Indian word "tejas" meaning friends. The state animal is the armadillo. An interesting bit of trivia about the armadillo is they always have four babies! They have one egg, which splits into four, and they either have four males or four females. The first domed stadium in the U.S. was the Astrodome in Houston. Alaska might be bigger in area, but if it melted ... you know the rest. Well ... he thought it was interesting anyway!

## KATHY'S KORNER

Ever wonder how busy we have been this past year? Take a look at this photo and you will see over 13,000 student cards ready to be processed in the mailroom. We were temporarily out of cards, pending shipment of a new supply, and when we printed them, this is the result. (Sometimes the mailroom folks don't want to see us coming.)

I have shipped all of the incentive awards, but if you think you missed yours, please call me and we will discuss. Do you actually show your students the incentive awards you receive, especially the compact Otis Gun Cleaning Kit, the Dorskocil gun case or the orange cap and vest? Make sure they see these things and encourage them to wear hunter orange while in the field.

Things are going well, and we are keeping up with entering all the courses. I appreciate all the help, but remember to send in those records within **SEVEN (7) DAYS** of completion of the course, so I can get them entered and we can keep up our good customer service.



K A T H Y

# Gun Safety Works

Fatal firearms accidents among children have dropped 91 percent since 1975, according to the National Center for Health Statistics and the National Safety Council. The NRA says its Eddie Eagle program ([www.nrahq.org/safety/eddie/](http://www.nrahq.org/safety/eddie/)) and other gun safety programs are widely considered to be one major reason for the decline. In 2001, a study published in the Journal of Emergency Nursing Online found it to be the most effective of 80 such programs examined. In March 2002, the National Sheriffs' Association

formally endorsed the program. The National Safety Council has also honored the program, and 24 governors have passed resolutions recommending that Eddie Eagle be taught in their states. NSSF's safety program for adolescents and young adults reaches kids older than those for whom Eddie Eagle is designed. Learn more about "It's Your Call: Playing it Safe Around Guns" and "Firearms Safety Depends on You" in the Firearms Safety and Education section of the NSSF Web site ([www.nssf.org](http://www.nssf.org)).

**Check out the Texas Hunting Accident Analysis insert to see how hunter education has increased safety.**

**In case you were wondering how many people have completed hunter education, see the chart below. Good work!**

	MONTHLY TOTALS-HUNTER EDUCATION												TOTALS	
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC		
1972	0	0	66	100	137	103	232	195	300	378	385	223	2119	
1973	166	147	208	318	254	238	180	283	526	946	820	228	4314	
1974	287	227	509	334	417	263	361	512	688	1499	574	423	6094	
1975	653	670	470	602	607	474	277	505	929	1417	1159	768	8531	
1976	808	660	770	349	715	541	160	379	1428	1454	1854	925	10043	
1977	835	744	848	675	1008	603	515	526	1335	1708	1448	1053	11298	
1978	740	734	1157	327	464	781	242	877	1338	1874	1326	1030	10890	
1979	606	558	827	528	1071	644	226	648	1125	2172	1053	1317	10775	
1980	921	767	650	689	1205	494	345	344	1892	2085	1397	1377	12166	
1981	1060	333	901	453	1051	903	427	642	1654	2148	2365	1250	13187	
1982	836	729	595	419	780	948	551	875	1451	2832	1825	1482	13323	
1983	1173	643	1089	529	935	724	257	844	1439	3035	1545	1919	14131	
1984	1351	901	442	598	754	516	347	608	1149	3051	2078	1257	13052	
1985	450	425	797	376	799	372	380	1009	2135	2705	1087	749	11284	
1986	553	389	67	730	1160	501	378	1314	2246	2301	1163	393	11195	
1987	542	397	509	505	334	283	415	931	2174	1384	775	362	8611	
1988	448	929	596	526	1158	644	865	2391	2624	3312	2692	1858	18043	
1989	1392	1757	1738	1567	1561	2789	1480	4385	4624	6043	6055	3317	36708	
1990	1197	584	838	1005	936	1236	705	2814	3140	5202	5210	1723	24590	
1991	1030	1013	1008	805	888	1086	773	2499	4555	3844	5374	5807	28682	
1992	1137	902	682	0	0	3224	799	2074	2765	5604	5079	3187	25453	
1993	4772	2007	916	806	945	1282	681	2328	2386	1289	3436	6094	26942	
1994	1808	4111	3015	2021	1015	1025	1841	2798	1931	2378	2900	10129	34972	
1995	4549	572	1995	896	1236	1482	1253	913	2492	4526	4798	6503	31215	
1996	2314	1552	761	1032	1030	1081	740	490	1309	2932	5485	6272	24998	
1997	3950	4107	988	826	468	171	518	1110	2306	7513	3767	4901	30625	
1998	499	763	881	578	888	847	1358	5719	6479	8148	3116	1776	31052	
1999	4581	4332	3387	1984	790	1188	1095	2267	1545	4867	2349	9390	37775	
2000	4734	3810	618	2048	772	1127	1000	1891	1573	6563	9045	5868	39049	
2001	2345	1414	953	1018	843	1017	1057	1615	4572	3102	6318	3808	28062	
2002	6968	81	76	2479	1249	1128	931	2455	5768	7939	5036	3737	37847	
2003	2764	1126	1394	869	546	1138	663	3305	5294	8993	5668	2967	34727	
													GRAND TOTAL	651753



# THE BOWHUNTER

## TEXAS BOWHUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

**Jack Jetton** will soon be leaving the position of State IBEP Chairman. He has done an excellent job over the last three years. He made significant improvements in the In-Service training, and helped develop a new procedures manual insert for instructors. Duty calls, and job constraints have him extremely busy. He normally resides in Pearland near Houston, but has been temporarily transferred to San Antonio with his job. Just because he is not at the helm of IBEP does not mean we cannot continue to develop and grow the program. Congratulations Jack, on a job well done!

Terry Erwin will become the new IBEP State Chairman as of July 1. Since the records are maintained and the materials are stored and shipped from Austin TPWD Headquarters, it will keep things in line with other hunter education activities. We anticipate no significant changes, but rather a smooth transition. It should not affect any procedures nor hamper current IBEP efforts. We look forward to assisting instructors with course schedules and supplies distribution.

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. Look forward to a continued productive program. Thanks to the instructors who scheduled courses prior to the Hagerman application dates. Now please send in the schedule for your next courses. Any of you who wish to become certified in IBEP, please contact the Austin office.

### IN THE IBEP MAILBOX

#### A Word of Thanks

Just a short note to express my appreciation to Rick and Millie Holland and their Bowhunting Instructor Team for making the Bowhunter Basic and Instructor course so enjoyable and informative. Talk about teamwork! It was indeed a pleasure to watch and learn from a well-organized and professional team. They gave me a lot of good ideas which will be incorporated in my future Bowhunter Education courses as well as my Hunter Education courses. Rick, Millie, Bill, Rod and Preston ... WELL DONE and THANKS!!

Fred Berg, Del Rio

#### FYI

Here is a GREAT links page that you may wish to save as a favorite. It's a great place to start on many issues.  
[www.thearcheryshop-ohio.com/links.htm](http://www.thearcheryshop-ohio.com/links.htm)

Aim to be "Bulls-Eye Perfect"

## TSRA Supports Hunter Education Courses

*The Texas State Rifle Association wants the youth of Texas to know more about who they are and what they do to support lawful ownership of firearms.*

TSRA will pay for 200 Hunter Education students who take courses this year. A TSRA junior membership cost \$3.00 and that covers youth 20 years of age and under. The membership is for one year and includes the TSRA Sportsman magazine. The course fee of \$10.00 will be paid provided the youth purchases a junior membership.

For information on how you can apply for a part of this grant, please contact Pat Muckelroy between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at (512) 398-6297, or by e-mail: [rpatmuck@austin.rr.com](mailto:rpatmuck@austin.rr.com)



## Target Talk

Texas Hunter Education Program  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
4200 Smith School Road  
Austin, TX 78744

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