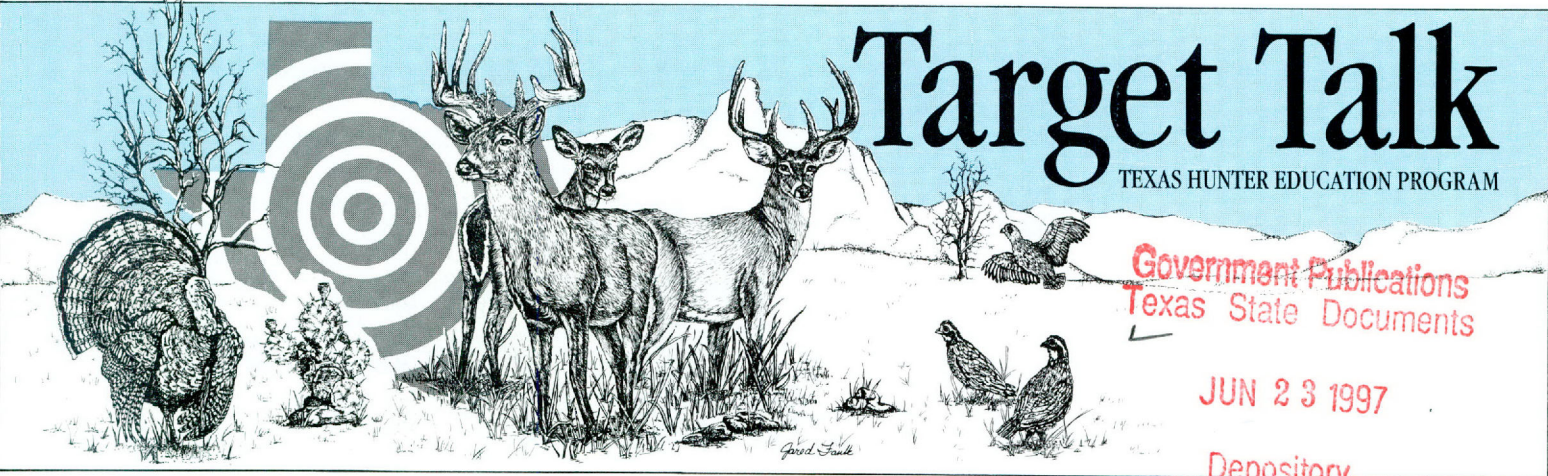


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# Target Talk

TEXAS HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

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NEWSLETTER NO. 110

## EDITOR'S CORNER

### Change Is Here to Stay

Only change itself does not change. A look at the stages of adaptation to change, typical behavior during the process, and strategies for success will help us prepare for today and tomorrow.

Consider the events of your own life. Take a moment to reflect on the changes you have been through and the lessons you have learned. If you take the time to listen to people who seem resilient in the face of change, you will learn that they have faced difficult changes, moved through them, and gained skills that apply to their life changes. Increasing your knowledge about the process of change will help you cope with inevitable changes in both your personal life and your volunteer activities. Here are some of the things to consider.

**IMMOBILIZATION**--You feel stunned. You can't believe this is happening; you feel unable to act. If you can't do it the "old way," you want to quit.

**MINIMIZATION**--You try to convince yourself the change is no big deal. It might go away if you ignore it; it is nothing new anyway.

**DEPRESSION**---Reality hits. You feel frightened and unprepared. You suffer from emotional or physical symptoms. You dread each day (or class), believe it will never get better; and you may doubt your competency or your ability to change.

**ACCEPTANCE OF REALITY, LETTING GO**---Dawn approaches. You begin to believe the change will truly occur, that it might possibly even have some value.

Continued on next page

## TRAPPER EDUCATION WORKSHOP



Camp Buckner near Burnet was the site for the Fourth Annual Trapper Education Workshop hosted by the Texas Trappers and Fur Hunter's Association. Don Cooper, Jim Brooks, Paul Taylor and Bill Applegate, again, did an excellent job in teaching about ethics and responsibility, different traps and methods and processing the hides after skinning. Thanks to David Perez, TPW Wildlife Tech., for his assistance on department issues, rules and regulations.

### In this issue...

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <i>Texas "Dream Hunt"</i> . . . . .         | 3  |
| <i>Youth Challenge</i> . . . . .            | 4  |
| <i>Texas Youth Hunting Assoc.</i> . . . . . | 4  |
| <i>I.H.E.A. "Dream Hunt"</i> . . . . .      | 5  |
| <i>Kathy's Korner</i> . . . . .             | 6  |
| <i>Letters to the Editor</i> . . . . .      | 7  |
| <i>New Instructors</i> . . . . .            | 8  |
| <i>Teaching Tips</i> . . . . .              | 9  |
| <i>Upcoming Events</i> . . . . .            | 10 |



**SEEKING MEANING**---You begin to see the change as valuable. Deciding to participate or move on, you find a way to make something positive out of the inevitable change.

**INTERNALIZATION**---You begin to see yourself as part of the new way of working. You decide to help reinvent the work by offering your expertise. It's better to be the reinventor than the reinventee---perhaps you will see yourself as a survivor. You may decide to participate in breaking new ground by actively involving yourself in teams to look at quality improvement and helping the students more.

Things do not stay the same. We hear the words *buy in* and *new wave of the future*, and interpret them to mean commitment to the new venture. We want you to be committed to helping preserve the heritage of hunting. You need to focus on change as a problem to solve. "Within every problem there is a lesson, release the problem and embrace the lesson"---even though you may think you have learned enough lessons for awhile!

There are six steps in a healthy resolution to the crisis of change. To get through the ordinary days of the change process, try the following techniques:

1. *Allow yourself time to experience your emotional or behavioral response to change and seek support.* If you are angry, talk about it with a friend. If sad, have a good cry. Indulge in a favorite activity, such as going hunting. In short, be good to yourself.
2. *Start your day on a positive note.* Write a list of your values, such as: I am a loving parent. I am a life-long learner, I am an excellent volunteer instructor. Remember that your own identity as a person and a volunteer resides within you and not in the change itself.
3. *Maintain your productivity.* Be such a valuable volunteer that TPW and your community will continue to need your services. Identify improvements and consider the benefits of change.

4. *Confront cynicism--your own and that of others.* Be aware that words are powerful, and be careful where you vent your frustration. It doesn't help to be rude to callers regarding courses. After all, you are the expert and the one who has taken on the responsibility of volunteering your time toward a program you believe in.
5. *Lighten up.* Those who call don't know you just finished a course last night and could care less. They only want what is good for them. Be polite and refer them to the dates of your next class, another instructor or back to Austin. Learn to laugh at yourself. When you laugh it's more healthy anyway.

6. *Learn when to act and when to let go.* Do what you can to be proactive in the midst of change and become philosophical about the rest. Work it off with a physical activity--it's impossible to be angry and short of breath at the same time.

Consider your volunteer activities as part of your personal journey to find meaning in life. Reflect on an incident of your own and the importance of a simple kindness, of performing the ordinary volunteer work of the day in an extraordinary way.

Change is inevitable. Learning about the process and growing through it helps reformat a time of concern to a time of opportunity. In the near future, we will be sending out a new **Student Registration Form** and new **Instructor Final Report** to selected individuals for a trial period to see how the new scanner will work. For those selected, please begin the process of transition in a positive way. We hope this new method will enable the students to receive their cards in a much shorter time. The forms are Scantron® forms and must have not only the "bubbles" correctly filled in, but all blanks neatly printed. Additional directions will be provided with all new forms.

The "Home Study" video is completed except for a minor editing session. The manual and workbook are coming along, but at a slower pace. We do, however, anticipate its completion by early Fall. Meetings for production and distribution of the packet have been conducted, but a final agreement has not been reached. We'll keep you informed of new developments.

The only thing that does not change is change itself. Get ready. Keep up the good work and have a great Spring.

**Terry Erwin**

Survival - YO Ranch



Probably the best Survival workshop we've had in a long time. A special "Thanks" goes out to Bernie Heer for an excellent presentation on orienteering and map and compass use; to Ray Cook who worked for over a year preparing the most diverse array of edible plants and dried meats we have ever seen and sampled; to Steve McAfee and Eddie Starnater for sharing their expertise in survival psychology, tracking, shelter building, fire starting and primitive tool making (flint napping); to Jared Groce for his presentation on first-aid and emergency situations and to Bill and Bev Erummel for their demonstration of utensilless cooking and for the excellent dutch-oven peach cobbler. We hope they will all come back again next year.



## "Hands-On Teaching" - by Jan Heath, Irving, Area Chief

In November of 1995, the Grand Prairie Gun Club began this method of instruction while teaching the Hunter Education course. The old method used was the two 2-3 hour evening classes with an all day Saturday session. The Saturday session consisted of classroom instruction in rifle and shotgun basics, general safety, archery and survival basics, etc., but no field activities.

Our new lesson plan still includes the two evening classes where we cover general safety, wildlife management, modern firearms, ethics and responsibility and the use of the hunting guide, etc. The Saturday session has been changed to include general classroom sessions and all live-firing activities and the hunter skills trail in a "round-robin" fashion.

The field activities sets the pace and regulates the classroom session length. This is where communication is most important. If the field exercises run smoothly, then the rest runs well. We invested in F.M. headset radios for each station to coordinate timing between areas. There a couple of drawbacks

to this method. One is the number of instructors needed to operate the loop and the limited number of students signed off by each instructor per class. The method used requires two instructors at each station. Team teaching is a must! These teams need to be flexible and cross-trained so an instructor can fill in where needed. Our instructor group is fortunate in that all instructors work well together, and we have a large group to draw from.

In the last year, six classes were conducted in this manner. There also seems to have been an increase in final exam scores. We have been able to allow students to do more live-firing with shotguns thanks to the ammunition donated by The Dallas Arms Collector's Association and Jim Thixton.

The change to the "Hands-On" method was smoother than any of our group ever expected. Things have really turned around and the students are much happier and excited when they leave the class. This method, where everyone teaches the same curricula, also permits the instructors to do evening classes remotely from the gun club

and then bring the students in for the day of "field activities." Everyone is on the same level or lesson. Evening classes have been taught in Keller, Plano, Garland and Dallas, and then final certification completed at the Grand Prairie Gun Club.

Our instructors group consists of Ron Bobo, Steve Jung, Ronnie Wisdom, Pitman Haymore, Will Stille, James Lewis, Jim Markle, Richard Beaumer, Joe Cawthon, Ray Citrone, George Gosney, John Bushko, Bob Chandler, David Payne, Joe Piseco, Jim Shultz, Harry Lee, Mike Blew, Jim Thixton, Richard Whallen, George Duffey, Bob Odell, Mike Vestal, Frank Horak, Ed Kilgore, Don Stone and Darla Barr, local game warden. As you can see, our instructor group is large. Some of these "team members" are not all members of the Grand Prairie Gun Club and some are not all certified Hunter Education instructors, but they will take the instructor certification in a short time. Without this group of dedicated individuals, our transition to "hands-on" Hunter Education classes could not have happened.

*Pearls of wisdom...*

"Patting a fellow on the back is the best way to get a chip off his shoulder."

## THE TEXAS "DREAM HUNT"

**NEWS FLASH!!!** Plans are under way for a new concept. What do you think about this? You have all heard of the national I.H.E.A. "DREAM HUNT," where students from all across North America and Canada are drawn for an all-expense paid upland bird hunt in or around Georgia. Well, we want to have a Texas version. Contacts have been made to have a hunt, possibly during the 1997-1998 hunting season, for two students, two parents/guardians and two instructors. No decision has been made about the type of hunt, but it will be exciting no matter what. We want to have it filmed and aired on one of the sports networks.

### Selection Criteria:

- 1) Student must be between 12 and 17 years of age.
- 2) Student cannot be related to the instructor.
- 3) Student must have successfully completed the Hunter Education course during the current calendar year.
- 4) Entries must arrive by September 1, 1997 for consideration.
- 5) Instructors will be selected by random drawing from those who are active and have taught courses during the current calendar year.

### Here is what instructors must do:

Pick the most outstanding and deserving student from one of the classes taught and write a letter on why this student should be selected for this hunt. Consider the student's overall level of knowledge, skill and attitude he/she displayed during class.

Mail this letter to:

Hunter Education Staff  
4200 Smith School Rd.  
Austin, Texas 78744  
ATTN: TEXAS "DREAM HUNT"

**Good Luck!**



## Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge

The 1997 YHEC will be held May 3-4, at the Parrie Haynes Youth Ranch near Killeen. This will be a two-day event beginning at 8 AM on Saturday. Anyone interested in forming a team and participating may contact our office for details. Victoria Area Chief, Billy Imes, President of Texas Hunter Education Instructors Association, is this year's YHEC Director. Area Chief, Billy Whitfield is now the NRA-YHEC representative from Texas.

An advanced hunter education program conducted under simulated hunting conditions, the YHEC brings many young individuals together to test their skills in the following events: \*Rifle \*Archery \*Shotgun \*Muzzleloading \*Orienteering \*Hunter Safety Trail \*Wildlife Identification and \*Hunter Responsibility.

Volunteers are needed to help with all the activities during the event. If you would like to volunteer your time and efforts in helping with the Youth Challenge please contact Scotty Oliver at 1-800-792-1112+0 and ask for extension 4572, or contact Area Chief, Betty Allen in Killeen at (817) 793-2167. If unavailable, leave a message on their voice mail and they will return your call. Volunteers will be able to stay at the lodge on the ranch for \$5.00 per night per person, and pay \$5.00 per meal while there. If Youth Challenge participants eat meals while there, they must pay \$5.00 per meal. You must bring your own sleeping bags and linens if you stay at the lodge. Camping sites are available at no charge. Space in the lodge is limited, so reservations must be made with Scotty no later than **April 20, 1997**.

The NRA/IHEA International Youth Hunter Education Challenge will be held at the NRA Whittington Center in Raton, New Mexico July 27-August 1. "The IYHEC provides hands-on skills training to ensure our young hunters become safe, responsible, outdoors people," said Bill Poole, director of NRA's Education and Training Division. "Because the program offers much more than shooting activities, it serves as a fun, yet educational, experience participants will draw from for a lifetime of hunting enjoyment."

Texas had several individuals who attended the International event last year and did quite well overall. Let's, again, bring teams to the Parrie Haynes Ranch and have a great weekend.

## Texas Youth Hunting Association

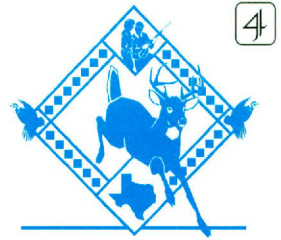
Founded in 1995 and incorporated on February 8, 1996, The Association, in cooperation with Texas Parks and Wildlife, Parks and Wildlife Foundation, Texas Wildlife Association and Texas Wildlife Forever, is working to promote conservation education and responsible, ethical hunting practices among youth. The purpose of the Texas Youth Hunting Association is to increase the number of youth participating in wildlife and hunting activities and to promote the hunting heritage in Texas.

Youth "Hunt Master" workshops are mandatory for individuals designated as the "hunt leader" of a THYA-sponsored hunt and encouraged for volunteers working at all youth hunts. The workshops are 10 hours in duration and can be used for all future youth hunts. The Association's workshops are designed to teach adults how to deal with kids, to emphasize gun and shooting safety and to learn about wildlife conservation and management. In addition, this workshop has a section dedicated to working with the media and proactive strategies in dealing with animal rights activists. A training guide has been developed by two board members, Dr. Ron Howard of the 4-H Youth Development Program and Steve Hall, Education Director, for Texas Parks and Wildlife.

THYA established policies allow only members who are nine to seventeen years of age and have completed the hunter education course to participate in these hunts. Although an individual must be at least twelve (12) years of age to be certified in hunter education, younger individuals may attend the course to qualify for these hunts. Eleven successful hunts for dove, doe and buck deer, turkey, feral hogs and waterfowl were held in the 1996-97 hunting season.

Memberships are available at the following prices: Youth...\$5, Adult...\$25, Family...\$30, Associate...\$100, Patron...\$500, Corporate...\$1000 and Lifetime...\$2000. Dr. Wallace Klussmann, Chairman of the THYA Board of Directors, became the first Lifetime Member.

A Spring "Hunt Master" workshop will be held on April 18-19, 1997, at the Parrie Haynes Ranch near Killeen. Cost for the workshop is \$35. If interested and for more information please call TYHA Executive Director, Kristi Sliva, at (210) 930-2177 in San Antonio. Many volunteer Hunter Education instructors have become "Hunt Masters" and attended last year's hunts to assist the youngsters. (See Letters to The Editor)



4



Each year, a group of Hunter Education instructors and Game Wardens conduct a special hunt near San Angelo for physically challenged youth. Pictured here are, from left to right, instructors, Travis Speer, Red Oak and Dan Hutchinson, Grapevine and their young hunter, Ryan Merwin, who harvested a doe. Thanks to these instructors who devote their time to take these youth on the hunts and promote an activity that could not ordinarily be accomplished without their help.



## adapted from Nevada Hunter Education Newsletter

A little outdoor savvy can make a whole lot of difference, especially if you're lost or stranded. Take this short quiz to see how well you do in remote Texas.

1. Which of the following is going to be most dangerous in Texas' outdoors?
  - A. Cougar.
  - B. Rattlesnake.
  - C. Your own sweat on a cool, windy day.
2. If you are stranded in the hot open area of west Texas, what is the most essential?
  - A. Food.
  - B. Water.
  - C. Matches.
3. Which of the following will most likely ensure your survival in an emergency situation?
  - A. A pack with lots of really neat survival gear.
  - B. Knowing how to use a map and compass.
  - C. Telling a responsible person exactly where you are going and when you will return.
4. You are stranded in your car in the middle of nowhere in a snowstorm. Now what?
  - A. Have a good cry, then take stock of your situation, gather your resources and settle in.
  - B. Figure out where the nearest ranch is and start walking.
  - C. Start honking your horn, firing shots into the air and shouting.
5. Suddenly you're lost! What do you do next?
  - A. Run in circles, scream and shout.
  - B. Break out the map and compass.
  - C. Admit you're lost. **Stay put, Think, Organize and Prepare.**
6. If you've told someone where you're going and when you're supposed to return, how long is it until help arrives?
  - A. One day.
  - B. Two days.
  - C. Three days.
7. What is the most common cause of injuries or death among hunters?
  - A. Wild animals.
  - B. Slips and falls.
  - C. Other hunters.
8. In North America, which of these animals is most likely to cause death to humans.
  - A. Deer.
  - B. Bear.
  - C. Rattlesnake.
9. Which is the safest source of drinking water?
  - A. Fast-running streams.
  - B. Seeps and springs.
  - C. The extra water you brought from home.
10. What is the most important factor in wilderness survival?
  - A. A calm, common sense attitude.
  - B. A complete supply of food.
  - C. Proper signals.

*Check your test answers on page 6.*

*Pearls of wisdom...*

"A person should have enough education so he doesn't have to look up to anyone. He should also have enough to be wise enough not to look down on anyone."

### 1997 I.H.E.A. Dream Hunt!

Plans are underway for this years I.H.E.A. "Dream Hunt." Watch for the cards to arrive with supply orders. The drawing will take place around September 1. Remember, if you don't send in a plain post card to: I.H.E.A. "DREAM HUNT," P.O. Box 5078, Nashville, GA. with name, address, phone numbers and a statement that you are a Hunter Education instructor, you won't have a chance to win. Several instructor winners from Texas have been selected in the past years. Two students have been drawn from Texas for these fine trips.

### Area Chief Update

A correction for the telephone number of Area Chief, Billy Holt, Breckenridge is (817) 559-8010. Karla Beatty has moved to Oklahoma, where her husband has taken a new job. We will miss her help, especially with "Becoming An Outdoors-Woman" programs. Frank Williams is now living in the Austin area and can be reached at (512) 441-5820. We have new Area Chief applicants that are waiting on completion of workshops and paperwork, and when completed, they will be announced.



# Answers to the Outdoor I.Q. Quiz ..... 6

**1. C-**It doesn't have to be bone-chilling cold to start the downward spiral in your body temperature called hypothermia. Your own sweat and a cool breeze can set it off. It can happen as suddenly and as easily as taking off a jacket when you suddenly feel too warm. That's why hypothermia is the number one outdoor killer in North America.

**2. B-**You can last three weeks without food, some of us longer. Warmth isn't an issue. Under the best conditions, you might last several days without water. But, hot dry conditions can zap you in a matter of hours. Water is the key to survival in these circumstances. Carry plenty with you.

**3. C-**File a trip plan. If someone responsible knows where you are going, who you are with and when you will return, your chances of surviving a wilderness emergency take a "quantum leap." Tell someone back at home and check in with a local as well. Also,

be sure to tell them when you have safely returned, so they don't come looking for you.

**4. A-**Go ahead and cry, especially if no one is there to see you. But, by all means, stay with your vehicle. It is a good shelter, it is full of resources to keep you warm and signal for help, when the time is right.

**5. C-**The STOP acronym has saved countless lives. Don't keep wandering around, getting more lost or playing hide-and-go-seek with rescuers. Settle in, get comfortable and help will be along.

**6. A or B-**Depending on the weather and how explicit you were filing your trip plan, help will be along within a day or two. So, don't panic!

**7. B-**Slips and falls are by far the greatest cause of injury or death to hunters. There are only a handful of animal attacks each

year and hunting accidents are less frequent as well, thanks to Hunter Education.

**8. A-**Deer are the most dangerous animal in North America, causing an average of 133 deaths per year, not all from attack, but from being hit by automobiles. Bears kill fewer than 20 people per year, continent-wide. One or two people a year die from rattlesnake bites.

**9. C-**Seeps and streams may be safe, but any open water should be considered contaminated, especially if there is evidence of any animal activity immediately around the water.

**10. A-**All the preparation in the world will not make up for panic and stupidity. If you're lost or stranded, settle down, use your head. Even without lots of gear and supplies, you'll be surprised how well you can do. Next time, attend one of our survival courses and bone up on this information.

**Good news!!** Some of you have been concerned about your Social Security number being on the student card of each individual you certify. When we get into the new computer system, a **new instructor I.D. number** will be assigned to each active instructor in the Angler, Boater, Hunter and Bowhunter Education programs. You should receive the new cards shortly after we convert to the new system. Target date is by early Fall. The **new I.D. number** is to be used on all forms thereafter. We will still use the SS# on all applications when they are entered into the computer, but no longer will the SS# appear on the student cards.

A friendly reminder for all those instructors who do not mail their paperwork in upon completion of their class. I received some paperwork from 1995 as late as December 1996, and a lot of courses from 1996 as late as February 1997. I know there must be a good reason, but "I forgot" isn't one of them. Some students have been really upset with me, but it's not my fault when I don't have the courses to enter.

If you are wondering why things have been so slow in getting the student cards out as it is, let me explain. While we went through hiring a new secretary, I had to take over some extra responsibilities, which put me behind on entering data. All courses received up to date have been entered and all cards have gone out. IBEP instructor cards are on order and will go out as soon as they arrive.

All expense agreement reimbursement invoices have been processed and sent to the comptroller, so you should have received your checks by now for sure. Remember, no more reimbursements will be accepted as of December 31, 1996. The new \$10 fee should help more than the reimbursements did with out-of-pocket expenses.

Incentive points have been calculated and awards are being sent out as you read this. Some of you barely missed the next levels by as little as three points in some cases. Come on, attend just one more workshop or do another class. Oh well, there is always

## Kathy's Korner

next time. Oh, by the way, when we do get into our new computer system, some additional changes will take place. Instructors will receive their awards a lot sooner. A program is being started that tells me when each instructor reaches a new level. I will calculate awards on a quarterly basis and mail them out. How about that?

If you have a change of address or phone number, let me know so I can change your records. Some instructors have complained that they never hear from us. When I check their address, sometimes, they haven't been there for over a year, but they never let us know. The "pony express" only stops by known addresses. Gotta go now, see ya later!

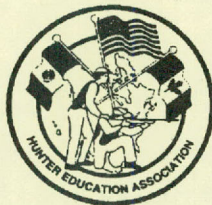
---Kathy



1996  
TEXAS HUNTING ACCIDENTS  
ANALYSIS



Federal Aid Project  
W-104-S

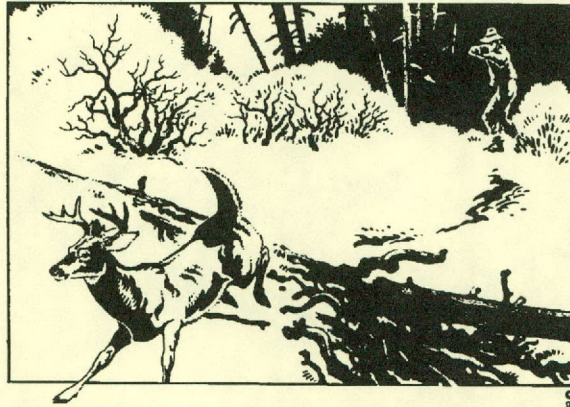


For more information about hunting accidents  
or the hunter education program in Texas, call (512) 389-4999



## TEXAS HUNTING ACCIDENT PROFILE

- Violated a cardinal rule of hunter safety
- Anglo male
- 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
- 29 years old (average)
- Had over 10 years of hunting experience
- If not self-inflicted -- handled firearm carelessly or swung shotgun on game outside of safe zone-of-fire
- 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
- Accident occurred on weekend during September or November



### 1996 Significant Factors

- Many violations for not taking hunter education course
- One third of shooters were violating law at time of accident
- Continued high number of dove hunting accidents
- Swinging on game accidents number one problem in Texas
- Shotgun accidents most numerous
- Significant number of accidents occurred while persons were hunting wild hogs (boars)



# TEXAS HUNTING ACCIDENT TOTALS 1996

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).

|                  | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|------------------|------|------|------|
| <b>ACCIDENTS</b> |      |      |      |
| Total Accidents  | 51   | 40   | 31   |
| Fatal            | 5    | 4    | 2    |
| Non-fatal        | 46   | 36   | 29   |

| <b>PRIMARY ANIMAL HUNTED</b> |                  |                  |                  |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Dove                         | 19 (37%)         | 12 (30%)         | 8 (26%)          |
| White-tailed Deer            | 11 (21%)         | 10 (25%)         | 6 (19%)          |
| Rabbits/Hares                | 5 (10%)          | 3 (7.5%)         | 2 (06%)          |
| Wild Hogs                    | 4 (08%)          | 2 (05%)          | 7 (23%)          |
| Squirrel                     | 3 (06%)          | 2 (05%)          | 3 (10%)          |
| Miscellaneous                | 3 (06%)          | 4 (10%)          | 0                |
| Quail/Pheasant               | 2 (04%)          | 3 (7.5%)         | 1 (03%)          |
| Turkey                       | 2 (04%)          | 0                | 1 (03%)          |
| Coyotes                      | 1 (02%)          | 1 (2.5%)         | 2 (06%)          |
| Ducks/Geese                  | 1 (02%)          | 3 (7.5%)         | 1 (03%)          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                 | <b>51 (100%)</b> | <b>40 (100%)</b> | <b>31 (100%)</b> |

| <b>HUNTER JUDGMENT</b>                     |           |           |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Victim out of sight of shooter             | 3         | 3         | 4         |
| Victim covered by shooter swinging on game | 15        | 10        | 5         |
| Victim mistaken for game                   | 1         | 1         | 3         |
| Victim moved into line of fire             | 0         | 1         | 0         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                               | <b>19</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>12</b> |

| <b>SAFETY &amp; LAW VIOLATION</b>            |           |          |           |
|--|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Removing/placing firearm in vehicle or stand | 5         | 3        | 2         |
| Discharge of firearm in vehicle              | 5         | 1        | 5         |
| Using firearm as a club                      | 1         | 0        | 0         |
| Running/walking with a loaded firearm        | 3         | 1        | 1         |
| Firearm fell from insecure rest              | 1         | 3        | 2         |
| Horseplay                                    | 0         | 0        | 0         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                 | <b>14</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>10</b> |

| <b>SHOOTERS WERE HUNTER EDUCATION GRADUATES</b> |         |         |         |
|---|---------|---------|---------|
|   | 7 (14%) | 8 (20%) | 5 (16%) |

| <b>VIOLATED GAME LAW</b> |          |           |          |
|--------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|
|                          | 14 (27%) | 5 (12.5%) | 11 (36%) |

| <b>EQUIPMENT TYPE</b> |                  |                  |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Rifles                | 16 (31%)         | 13 (32%)         | 11 (36%)         |
| Shotguns              | 27 (53%)         | 23 (58%)         | 14 (45%)         |
| Handguns              | 7 (14%)          | 4 (10%)          | 5 (16%)          |
| Muzzleloader          | 0                | 0                | 1 (03%)          |
| Bow                   | 1 (02%)          | 0                | 0                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>          | <b>51 (100%)</b> | <b>40 (100%)</b> | <b>31 (100%)</b> |

| <b>SHOOTER'S AGE</b> |                  |                  |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1-9                  | 2 (04%)          | 0                | 0                |
| 10-19                | 12 (23%)         | 9 (22%)          | 8 (26%)          |
| 20-29                | 14 (27%)         | 5 (12.5%)        | 7 (23%)          |
| 30-39                | 9 (18%)          | 10 (25%)         | 5 (16%)          |
| 40-49                | 6 (12%)          | 4 (10%)          | 6 (20%)          |
| 50-59                | 1 (02%)          | 5 (12.5%)        | 2 (06%)          |
| 60 & over            | 2 (04%)          | 2 (05%)          | 2 (06%)          |
| Unknown              | 5 (10%)          | 5 (12.5%)        | 1 (03%)          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>51 (100%)</b> | <b>40 (100%)</b> | <b>31 (100%)</b> |

| <b>MISCELLANEOUS</b> |          |          |          |
|----------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Ricochet             | 2        | 1        | 0        |
| Faulty equipment     | 1        | 0        | 0        |
| Incorrect ammo       | 0        | 0        | 1        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>3</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>1</b> |

| <b>SKILL AND APTITUDE</b>     |           |           |          |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Trigger caught on object      | 0         | 1         | 0        |
| Loading/unloading firearm     | 1         | 3         | 2        |
| Careless handling             | 9         | 7         | 5        |
| Dropped firearm               | 5         | 1         | 0        |
| Shooter stumbled and fell     | 0         | 3         | 0        |
| Improper crossing of obstacle | 0         | 1         | 1        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                  | <b>15</b> | <b>16</b> | <b>8</b> |

|                       |          |          |          |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>SELF-INFLICTED</b> | 25 (49%) | 19 (48%) | 14 (45%) |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|

| <b>ARCHERY RELATED FACTORS</b> |          |          |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Ricochet                       | 1        | 0        | 0        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                   | <b>1</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> |

|                         |         |          |         |
|-------------------------|---------|----------|---------|
| <b>ALCOHOL A FACTOR</b> | 2 (04%) | 3 (7.5%) | 3 (10%) |
|-------------------------|---------|----------|---------|



## Hunting Accident Report Non-Firearm Related

\*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  |
|---------------------|-------|--------|---|
| Tree fell on victim | 1     | Yes    | Victim and friends moved old tree and it fell on victim |
| Tree stand fall     | 2     | No     | Tripod (16-foot deer stand)                             |
| Vehicle accident    | 1     | No     | Motorcycle on hunting lease                             |

## 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                                       |
|--------------------------|-------|--------|--|
| Suicide                  | 1     | 1      | Suicide on hunting property                    |
| Home firearm accident    | 2     | No     | Careless handling (home/camp)                  |
| Transportation accident  | 3     | 1      | In the vehicle-2; careless handling            |
| Target practice/plinking | 6     | 1      | Self-inflicted; horseplay; careless handling-4 |
| Shooting at wild dogs    | 1     | Yes    | Shot self in head                              |
| Unknown                  | 2     | No     | Unknown circumstances                          |



**TEXAS HUNTING ACCIDENTS 1966-1996**

| 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           |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                     | <b>493</b> | <b>1,755</b> | <b>2,248</b> |



**HUNTING ACCIDENT DATA (1966-1996)  
COMPARISON ANALYSIS  
ACCIDENT VERSUS LICENSES SOLD IN TEXAS**

| CALENDAR YEAR | NUMBER OF HUNTER ACCIDENTS | NUMBER OF FIREARM HUNTING LICENSES SOLD | ACCIDENTS PER 100,000 LICENSES SOLD | STUDENTS CERTIFIED UNDER TP&W HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM |
|---------------|----------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| 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   |
| <b>TOTALS</b> | <b>2,248</b>               | <b>32,842,891</b>                       | <b>6.8</b>                          | <b>412,616</b>   |

\* Note: Lowest number of accidents ever recorded in Texas

Five-year average of hunter education program (CY 1966 - CY 1970) - One hunting accident/9,320 hunting licenses sold.

First five-year average of hunter education program (CY 1971 - CY 1975) - One hunting accident/12,550 hunting licenses sold.

Second five-year average of hunter education program (CY 1976 - CY 1980) - One hunting accident/15,690 hunting licenses sold.

Third five-year average of hunter education program (CY 1981 - CY 1985) - One hunting accident/15,630 hunting licenses sold.

Fourth five-year average of hunter education program (CY 1986 - CY 1990) - One hunting accident/16,700 hunting licenses sold.

Fifth five-year average of hunter education program (CY 1991 - CY 1995) - One hunting accident/18,420 hunting licenses sold.

Thirty-one year average (CY 1966 - CY 1996) - One hunting accident/14,610 hunting licenses sold.







## FATAL ACCIDENTS

| Date   | County   | Shooter's Age/Gender | Firearm | Animal Hunted | Self-Inflicted | Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter) |
|--|----------|----------------------|---------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 4/21   | Cherokee | 35/M                 | Rifle   | Feral Hog     | No             | No                             |
| <i>Comments:</i> Shooter mistook victim for wild hog moving in thick underbrush at dusk.   |          |                      |         |               |                |                                |
| 12/26  | Burnet   | 44/M                 | Rifle   | Deer          | Yes            | No                             |
| <i>Comments:</i> Victim found lying dead in the entrance of a ground blind next to firearm with safety off and spent cartridge case still in chamber. Investigation led to careless handling being the cause of death. |          |                      |         |               |                |                                |

## NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS

| Date   | County      | Shooter's Age/Gender | Firearm      | Animal Hunted | Self-Inflicted | Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter) |
|--|-------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1/6  | Runnels     | 40/M                 | Rifle        | Rabbit        | No             | No                             |
| <i>Comments:</i> Shooter loaded cartridge into chamber, then let the hammer down hard. Victim was struck in the foot, and both were hunting from inside the cab of a vehicle.                                    |             |                      |              |               |                |                                |
| 1/21   | Nacogdoches | 23/M                 | Muzzleloader | Feral Hog     | No             | Yes                            |
| <i>Comments:</i> Shooter mistook victim for a feral hog which he had shot at and wounded earlier. Victim was wearing brown coat/shirt and coming through the brush towards shooter as they searched for the hog. |             |                      |              |               |                |                                |
| 1/27   | Smith       | 35/M                 | Rifle        | Feral Hog     | No             | No                             |
| <i>Comments:</i> Group of hunters was hunting feral hogs using dogs. Many shots were fired as a hog came near several of the hunters. Victim was covered by shooter swinging his firearm in an unsafe direction. |             |                      |              |               |                |                                |
| 3/13   | Mason       | 16/M                 | Handgun      | Feral Hog     | Yes            | No                             |
| <i>Comments:</i> Victim carried loaded handgun in vehicle and discharged it as the muzzle was pointed towards the back of his knee.  |             |                      |              |               |                |                                |
| 3/17   | Lamb        | 31/M                 | Shotgun      | Rabbit        | Yes            | No                             |
| <i>Comments:</i> Victim improperly crossed a ditch; then stumbled and fell, while carrying a loaded shotgun with the safety off.   |             |                      |              |               |                |                                |



| Date             | County  | Shooter's Age/Gender | Firearm | Animal Hunted | Self-Inflicted | Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter) |
|------------------|---|----------------------|---------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 4/2              | Gillespie   | 68/M                 | Handgun | Feral Hog     | Yes            | No                             |
| <i>Comments:</i> | Victim was driving a tractor, putting out feeding blocks and checking snares set for feral hogs. He pushed his loaded handgun/holster out of his way. The handgun dropped and discharged. The bullet struck him in his leg, below his knee. |                      |         |               |                |                                |
| 4/13             | Montague  | 41/M                 | Rifle   | Turkey        | No             | No                             |
| <i>Comments:</i> | After spotting several gobblers, shooter watched, then mistook victim (wearing camouflage) for a turkey and shot him in the shoulder/upper arm. Victim was violating the law at the time.   |                      |         |               |                |                                |
| 5/2              | Hemphill  | 20/M                 | Handgun | Coyote        | Yes            | No                             |
| <i>Comments:</i> | Victim carelessly shot himself in his calf while holstering a loaded handgun. He was violating the law by not having taken a hunter education course.   |                      |         |               |                |                                |
| 5/20             | San Saba  | 48/M                 | Handgun | Feral Hog     | Yes            | No                             |
| <i>Comments:</i> | After finding a hog he had wounded, victim carelessly shot himself in his thigh after pulling a loaded handgun from his pants pocket.   |                      |         |               |                |                                |
| 7/21             | Limestone   | 14/M                 | Shotgun | Squirrel      | No             | No                             |
| <i>Comments:</i> | Victim was out of sight of a young shooter firing at a squirrel in a tree. Shooter was hunting in closed season and had not completed hunter education.   |                      |         |               |                |                                |
| 9/1              | McCulloch   | Unknown              | Shotgun | Doves         | No             | Unknown                        |
| <i>Comments:</i> | Victim was struck by one of nine other hunters' pellets from a shotgun pointed out of a safe zone of fire.  |                      |         |               |                |                                |
| 9/1              | Williamson  | 29/M                 | Shotgun | Doves         | No             | Yes                            |
| <i>Comments:</i> | Shooter did not know victim was in his line of fire. He was also trespassing by retrieving downed birds on victim's property.   |                      |         |               |                |                                |
| 9/1              | San Saba  | 13/M                 | Shotgun | Doves         | No             | No                             |
| <i>Comments:</i> | Shooter was swinging and firing on dove(s) outside of his safe zone of fire. He had not completed hunter education, but was accompanied by an adult hunter.   |                      |         |               |                |                                |
| 9/3              | Hardin  | 43/M                 | Shotgun | Squirrel      | Yes            | No                             |
| <i>Comments:</i> | Victim leaned his loaded firearm against a tree while hunting squirrels. Firearm fell, discharging pellets into victim's thigh.   |                      |         |               |                |                                |



| Date             | County   | Shooter's Age/Gender | Firearm | Animal Hunted | Self-Inflicted | Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter) |
|------------------|--|----------------------|---------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 9/7              | Coleman  | 44/M                 | Shotgun | Doves         | No             | No                             |
| <i>Comments:</i> | Shooter was swinging and firing on doves outside his safe zone of fire. He also was under the influence of alcohol.  |                      |         |               |                |                                |
| 9/7              | Foard  | 28/M                 | Shotgun | Doves         | No             | Yes                            |
| <i>Comments:</i> | Shooter was swinging and firing on doves outside his safe zone of fire. He also was under the influence of alcohol.  |                      |         |               |                |                                |
| 9/21             | Frio   | 72/M                 | Shotgun | Doves         | Yes            | No                             |
| <i>Comments:</i> | Victim improperly crossed fence by setting his loaded firearm against a fence, then retrieving it by the muzzle end.   |                      |         |               |                |                                |
| 9/29             | Kleberg  | 10/M                 | Shotgun | Doves         | Yes            | No                             |
| <i>Comments:</i> | Young victim carelessly handled firearm, shooting himself in the foot. He had not completed hunter education and was in violation of another game law at the time.       |                      |         |               |                |                                |
| 11/2             | Hardin   | 27/M                 | Shotgun | Deer          | No             | No                             |
| <i>Comments:</i> | Victim was standing behind a wounded deer which was being fired upon a second time by the shooter, who did not see the victim.   |                      |         |               |                |                                |
| 11/3             | Cooke  | 51/M                 | Rifle   | Deer          | Yes            | No                             |
| <i>Comments:</i> | Victim mixed and loaded wrong ammunition into his chamber. Upon discharge, rifle "blow back" injured victim's eyes, face and hands.                                      |                      |         |               |                |                                |
| 11/3             | Brooks   | 20/M                 | Shotgun | Dove          | Yes            | Yes                            |
| <i>Comments:</i> | Victim, who only had one arm, carelessly handled his shotgun on which he had removed the trigger guard. Upon reloading, he pulled and discharged a round into his foot.  |                      |         |               |                |                                |
| 11/8             | Runnels  | 51/M                 | Rifle   | Coyote        | Yes            | No                             |
| <i>Comments:</i> | Shooter carelessly removed and discharged a loaded firearm which was sitting in a truck, pointed towards victim. Shooter carried loaded firearm in case he saw varmints. |                      |         |               |                |                                |
| 11/24            | Wood   | 17/M                 | Rifle   | Squirrel      | Yes            | No                             |
| <i>Comments:</i> | Victim set loaded rifle against a tree after squirrel hunting. The rifle fell and discharged. The bullet struck the victim in his lower leg.                             |                      |         |               |                |                                |

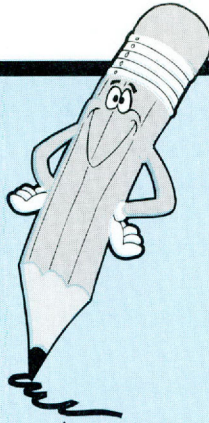


| Date             | County   | Shooter's Age/Gender | Firearm | Animal Hunted | Self-Inflicted | Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter) |
|------------------|--|----------------------|---------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 12/5             | Angelina   | 19/M                 | Rifle   | Deer          | Yes            | Yes                            |
| <i>Comments:</i> | Victim and several others were illegally spotlighting, and poacher shot a deer from a public road. Upon loading the animal into the truck, victim grabbed muzzle of his loaded firearm, pulling it towards himself when it discharged. |                      |         |               |                |                                |
| 12/8             | La Salle   | 32/M                 | Handgun | Feral Hog     | Yes            | No                             |
| <i>Comments:</i> | Victim carelessly handled and discharged his handgun, shooting himself in his thigh.   |                      |         |               |                |                                |
| 12/14            | Hale   | 18/M                 | Shotgun | Pheasant      | Yes            | No                             |
| <i>Comments:</i> | Victim pulled a loaded firearm towards himself while sitting on the tailgate of his pickup after a pheasant hunt. He was in violation of the law requiring hunter education.   |                      |         |               |                |                                |
| 12/15            | Colorado   | 13/M                 | Shotgun | Waterfowl     | No             | No                             |
| <i>Comments:</i> | Shooter carelessly pointed and discharged his shotgun towards victim's back while walking back home from a hunt. He was illegally hunting, not having completed a hunter education course.   |                      |         |               |                |                                |
| 12/30            | Red River  | 23/M                 | Rifle   | Deer          | No             | No                             |
| <i>Comments:</i> | Victim was out of sight of shooter. Shooter was illegally hunting, not having completed a hunter education course.   |                      |         |               |                |                                |









Dear Staff:

I just wanted to take the time to thank the volunteer instructors at the Parks and Wildlife headquarters Hunter Safety course last week end. They were Joe Stengel, Gerry Beathard, David Heater and Karl Olson. I found it to be very educational and entertaining. In particular, I enjoyed the "survival skills" section of the class. Once again, I would like to express my appreciation for making Texas a safer and a more experiencing state to enjoy the outdoors in.

Thank you,  
Kirby Smith  
via e-mail

Dear Staff:

Our last two classes were held at the Zion Lutheran Church and School in Pasadena. With the new student fee of \$10, allowing us to keep \$5, we had enough students that allowed us to donate \$350 to the church library. Our teaching team consists of James Davis, James Mattox and, myself, Tom Stashack.

A blessing, we all are very thankful for, is Kathy Powell. Without her, the Hunter Education program obviously would not be running as smoothly as it is. She is a very special person. Please show this letter to whoever adjusts her pay! May God Bless all of you in Austin, and I hope you had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Tom Stashack, Pasadena

*Editor's note: What a great thing for your group to do. Now, that is what I call really paying back. Not only will the church school students benefit, but others as well. It's nice to see such a positive gesture come from dedicated instructors. Keep up the good work!*

Dear Staff:

I have been asked a lot in the last few months about taking the Hunter Education class over by individuals because they lost or misplaced their certificate. After talking with the individuals, I found out that they didn't know they could get a duplicate or how to go about obtaining one. I passed on the necessary information.

Would it be possible to get a short article in "Target Talk" reminding instructors to tell their students how to obtain a duplicate card? I guess some of the instructors failed to give out this information, or, most likely, the student didn't hear it. In either case, it would be a friendly reminder that would help those of us that have to answer the questions.

Thanks,  
Gerald Chapman, Amarillo

*Editor's note: Consider it done Gerald. However, I wouldn't mind if some of those students came back through the class again. You know, a little refresher, especially for those who might really need it, might not be a bad idea. It's always good to be reminded of those things we tend to file in the back of our minds. So, instructors, don't forget to tell your students how and where to get duplicate certificates. Oh yes, if you have forgotten, call 1-800-792-1112. When the voice menu answers, punch 6 and 2 for a friendly reminder. **There is no longer a \$2 fee for replacement of the card.***

Dear Staff:

Well, it's Monday morning and I think I am caught up on some of my sleep. I wanted to take a minute and personally thank you for inviting me to participate in the TYHA youth hunt this past weekend at the Parrie Haynes ranch. Once again, I had a wonderful time. I not only enjoyed the opportunity to take Robert, my young hunter, out into the field and teach him a little about the outdoors and hunter safety, but we came away from this experience blessed by being able to harvest a deer. I hope the hunt provided Robert with a memory he will cherish for a long time.

I think I received more gratification from the weekend than my hunter. If it weren't for programs and opportunities like this, old fogies like me wouldn't have the opportunity to share the time and love of the outdoors with a child. It's not that we don't want to, it's just that some of us don't have the economical means or contacts available to do it. I would like to thank you and the department and the other people involved for this opportunity and the personal rewards I received from it.

Sincerely,  
Russell Lewis, Killeen

*Editor's note: Thank you and all the other "Hunt Masters" that provided assistance with all the youth hunts across the state. I hope more instructors will get involved with these activities and the youth to "preserve the hunting heritage in Texas for future generations."*



Every five years starting back in 1986, the National Shooting Sports Foundation has sponsored a survey of trends in hunting and shooting sports participation and attitudes. The survey covers subjects such as: hunting frequency, type of game hunted, participation in archery, women's participation, firearms ownership, reloading, target- shooting sports and demographic trends. The 1996 study showed the following highlights:

- \* The number of young hunters continues to decline. Hunters in the 18-24 age group have declined from 17 percent of the hunting population in 1986 to 8 percent in 1995. Hunters in the 25-34 age group have declined from 31 percent to 17 percent.
- \* The number of female hunters has increased from 7 percent to 8 percent of the overall hunting population.
- \* Deer hunting has increased its lead as the number one hunting activity, with 92 percent of hunters indicating that they hunted deer in 1995, up from 85 percent in 1986.
- \* Turkey hunting has shown the greatest increase, with 44 percent of hunters indicating they hunted turkey in 1995, contrasted to 26 percent in 1986.
- \* Only 6 percent of hunters indicate that they **do not currently** own a shotgun; 12 percent do not currently own a centerfire rifle; 26 percent do not currently own a rimfire rifle; 35 percent do not currently own a handgun; and 62 percent do not currently own a black powder rifle.

- \* The number of hunters indicating they hunt with a bow increased from 33 percent in 1991 to 45 percent in 1995.
- \* Frequency of participation in target-shooting sports such as trap, skeet and sporting clays remains relatively low, with the majority of most participants in these sports indicating they take part fewer than five times per year.
- \* Fifty-seven percent of participants indicated they would target shoot more if a shooting facility was nearby.
- \* Nearly half of respondents indicated that seeing a television program about hunting/shooting would encourage them to schedule a day of hunting or shooting activities.

*Further trends indicated:*

**Hunter Participation**

- \* 90% of hunters surveyed have hunted every year since 1986
- \* 86% have been hunting for more than 10 years
- \* 71% shot more in 1995 than in previous years
- \* 44% have a problem finding the time to go hunting
- \* 45% bowhunt--12% more than in 1991

**Firearms Purchases**

- \* 41% purchased a new shotgun within the last 5 years
- \* 44% purchased a new rifle within the last 5 years
- \* 65% bought new equipment rather than used
- \* 32% reload

**Target Shooting**

- \* 59% participate in rifle and handgun target shooting
- \* 40% participate in trapshooting

The study surveyed 1,250 individuals known to have purchased a hunting license in 1995 and includes a first-ever sub-set of 250 women hunters.

**New Factoid**

The National Survey on Recreational and the Environment is out, updating information last gathered in 1982. Key Findings since 1982:

- \* 155.2% increase in birding
- \* 93.5% increase in hiking
- \* 72.7% increase in backpacking
- \* 43.8% increase in off-road driving
- \* 39.9% increase in motorboating
- \* 24.5% increase in camping
- \* 15.9% increase in picnicking
- \* 1.6% increase in bicycling
- \* **3.8% decrease in fishing**
- \* **12.3% decrease in hunting**

This survey is sponsored by several key agencies and organizations, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service and the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association. It reports the results of interviews with 17,000 people age 16 and over.

## Welcome New Instructors

**NOVEMBER 1996**

Edward Lowery, Jr., Mt. Pleasant  
 Robert Jackson, Frisco  
 Ronald Reese, Odessa  
 Amy Ballew, Grandview  
 Joe Wayne Hank, Rockdale  
 Bobby Gene Slayton, Amarillo  
 Wayne Harlow, Pflugerville

**DECEMBER 1996**

Don Murray, Waxahachie  
 Shannon Richey, Crandall  
 Jennifer Welch, Bryan  
 John Parker, Bryan  
 Newley Spikes, Henrietta  
 Michelle Miller, Harlingen  
 Tim Shipman, College Station  
 Danielle Bost, College Station  
 Janet Fanguy, College Station  
 James Deaver, Christoval

**JANUARY 1997**

Joel Freeman, Arlington  
 Audra Hess, O'Donnell  
 James Harden, Wichita Falls



## By Travis Wehrig, Area Chief, Houston

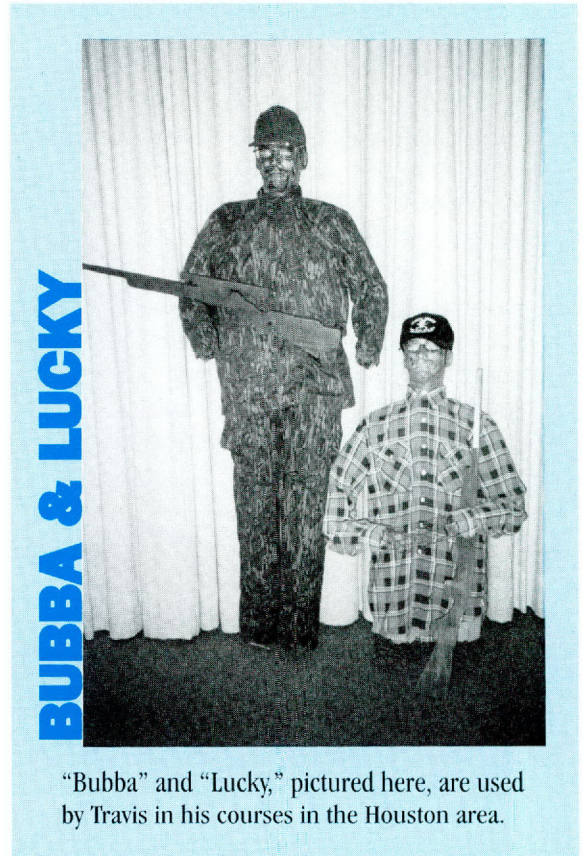
Has anyone priced mannequins, new or used, lately? Using mannequins in a Hunter Skills trail is an excellent tool for showing how an individual can easily be in the "right place at the wrong time," or, in many cases, where least expected. The price of mannequins, even used, is out of reach of most instructors. Mannequins require a lot of storage space, are heavy and difficult to handle.

Here are a few tips for constructing a "dummy" out of inexpensive, one-inch chicken wire. The wire is light-weight and can be purchased at any hardware store or building supply. It can be easily cut, shaped or formed into a useful "mannequin" and then dressed in camouflage clothing for trail use.

To help simulate realism, a Styrofoam head for holding wigs can be painted

and used with a 3/4 inch dowel rod, mop or broom handle. Once the wire torso is completed, including arms, it can be attached to the Styrofoam head, and old or worn out hunting clothing can be slipped over the wire to simulate the "real" person.. A light brown spray paint can turn the Styrofoam wig holder into a realistic looking "hunter" for trail purposes. Use camo face make-up or a camo face mask and cap to add character to the simulation.

Now, for the final touches— Make another one and use a blaze orange vest over the clothing to simulate a "safety minded" hunter out in the field. It's amazing how simple these items can be, yet so very effective in teaching one of the commandments of shooting safety regarding target identification and what lies in front of and beyond. Let your imagination "go wild."



"Bubba" and "Lucky," pictured here, are used by Travis in his courses in the Houston area.

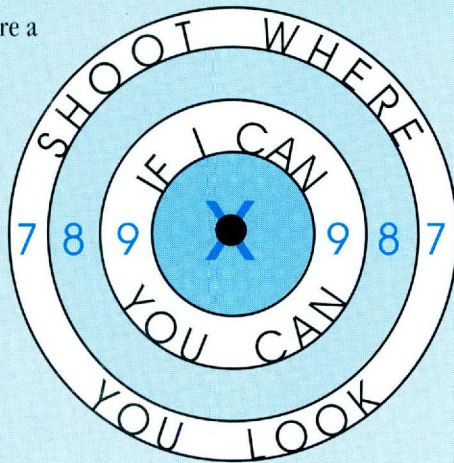
## Be a Better Wingshot

Have you ever wished you were a better wingshot? Would you invest 20 to 30 minutes per day for 21 days to develop good habits that last a lifetime and make you a better wingshot - if you don't have to leave your own territory to do it?

Here's how it's done - Order Leon Measures' "Shoot Where You Look"<sup>SM</sup>

and practice according to instructions. The kit contains the tools you will need, including a spring/air BB gun, book, training video, BB's and safety glasses. Cost is \$165. (Texas residents add 8.25% sales tax.) Orders are shipped UPS in the U.S.

Leon has been at Texas Wildlife Expo the last four years and has trained thousands of individuals,



adults and youngsters, all over the nation. He has appeared on ESPN and most of the major magazines. If you really would like to become a better wingshot, or know a new shooter who will benefit, make a positive move and contact Leon today at:

**408 Fair Street  
Livingston, Texas 77351  
or call 1-800-201-5535.**

## Helpful Hint

### By Joe Garcia, Instructor, Irving

When teaching about the different chokes used on shotguns, you can refer to the pictures in the manual. But, to better understand it, you can use a AA Mini Mag<sup>®</sup> flashlight with an adjustable beam. Darken the room and shine the light on the wall where everyone can see and then adjust the light beam. As you adjust the beam, explain that the tight beam is comparable to the full choke. When you enlarge the beam, you explain that you are changing the chokes from full to modified, improved cylinder and finally to cylinder.

*Editor's note: Thanks Joe, for an excellent training aid idea. Instructors might also want to try this. Take the same AA flashlight and tape it into the barrel of a 12 gauge shotgun, or a AAA Mini Mag<sup>®</sup> in the barrel of a 20 gauge so that you can adjust the beam. Take another Mini Mag<sup>®</sup> and adjust it to the smallest diameter and use it as the "skeet" or target. Have each student, one at a time, bring the shotgun to the shoulder and swing on the "skeet" beam, as it is moved across the wall. They can say "bang" when they feel the pattern is correctly on or in front of the target. Students can practice this at home for little to no expense and will begin to learn about swing, proper lead and follow through.*



# 1997 Texas Hunter Education Instructor Conference Update - LAST CALL!

**Instructors!** Enclosed in the last Two issues of Target Talk was a "Survey Sheet" requesting information regarding the 1997 conference coming up on June 7-8, in San Antonio. If you haven't filled it out and mailed it back to Bernie Heer, please do so as soon as possible. Again, mark your calendars and plan your vacations. The Holiday Inn - Northwest will be the host. If you want to bring your family, we would like to know what outside activities they would be interested in while you are occupied at

the conference. Bernie has only received a few surveys to date. This is the third and **last** opportunity to mail them for final consideration.

After registration, we are planning some "How-To" sessions on Saturday with some excellent speakers. A silent auction is planned for Saturday evening as usual with some outstanding items. A THEIA meeting is also planned for Sunday morning. Some interest has been shown for an instructor's

archery 3-D shoot, and/or a sporting clays/skeet shoot on Sunday afternoon for those who plan to stay over or who would like to participate. Display tables will be available for those who would like to show off their unique or favorite training aids.

**Mail Completed Survey to:**

SCTHEIA, Inc.  
Bernie Heer, President  
10502 Mossbank  
San Antonio, TX 78230-3420

## Visit Organizations on the Internet



If you have a modem and would like to see what is offered, use the following addresses:

- Texas Parks and Wildlife--- <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us>
- Ducks Unlimited--- <http://www.ducks.org>
- IHEA--- <http://www.fortnet.org/~iheacom>
- Burriss Scopes--- [burrissoptics.com](http://burrissoptics.com)



## Upcoming Events Reminder

|  |                     |                  |
|--|---------------------|------------------|
| <b>Spring Turkey Season</b>  | South               | March 29 - May 4 |
|  | North               | April 5 - May 11 |
| <b>Eastern Spring Turkey</b>   |                     | April 21 - May 4 |
| <b>Wildlife Management &amp; Conservation Workshop</b>                           | Matador WMA         | April 12 - 13    |
| <b>Standards of Live-fire,<br/>Hunter Skills Trail &amp; Home Study Workshop</b> | Grand Prairie       | April 19 - 20    |
|  | Stephenville        | June 10 - 11     |
|  | San Marcos          | June 16 - 17     |
| <b>Texas Youth Hunting Association<br/>"Hunt Master" Workshop</b>                | Parrie Haynes Ranch | April 18 - 19    |
| <b>Youth Hunter Education Challenge</b>  | Parrie Haynes Ranch | May 3 - 4        |
| <b>Annual Instructor Conference</b>  | San Antonio         | June 7 - 8       |
| <b>Program Orientation (new instructors)</b>                                     | Austin              | June 21          |
| <b>Bowhunter Education, IBEP</b>   | Houston             | June 21 - 22     |
|  | Belton              | June 21 - 22     |

## Education Division Phone Numbers



### General Information

Roben Gant 1-800-792-1112 +0 ask for ext. 4999  
(512) 389-4999  
Fax (512) 389-8042

### Videos & Supplies

Jack Nasworthy 1-800-792-1112 +61  
(512) 389-4795  
Fax (512) 389-4372

### Records

Kathy Powell 1-800-792-1112 +63  
(512) 389-8142

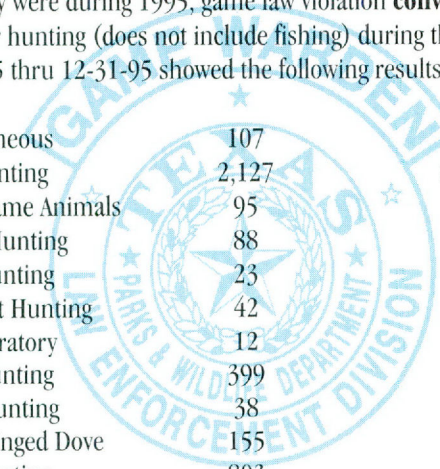
### Automated Hunter Education Course line

(24 hours a day)  
1-800-792-1112 +62



Our game wardens stay busy protecting our resources and defending against those who violate. Get to know your local wardens and thank them for all they do to insure that Texas is a place you can be proud of. Keep up the good work! To show how busy they were during 1995, game law violation **convictions and fines** for hunting (does not include fishing) during the period of 01-01-95 thru 12-31-95 showed the following results:

|                            |            | <i>Fines</i>       |
|----------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Miscellaneous              | 107        | \$10,134.00        |
| Deer Hunting               | 2,127      | \$351,629.61       |
| Other Game Animals         | 95         | \$10,786.24        |
| Turkey Hunting             | 88         | \$9,101.41         |
| Quail Hunting              | 23         | \$2,120.00         |
| Pheasant Hunting           | 42         | \$2,181.00         |
| Non-Migratory              | 12         | \$483.00           |
| Duck Hunting               | 399        | \$32,709.62        |
| Geese Hunting              | 38         | \$2,844.50         |
| White-winged Dove          | 155        | \$9,685.00         |
| Dove Hunting               | 803        | \$54,050.26        |
| Other Migratory            | 69         | \$4,478.00         |
| <b>No Hunter Ed. Cert.</b> | <b>226</b> | <b>\$11,952.63</b> |
| Hunting General            | 1,168      | \$129,305.11       |



On some nights things are quiet, but there are other times when poachers make the hours of law enforcement rather busy and amusing. In Cooke County, a local rancher called game warden Jim Lundberg requesting help. The rancher, using a mobile phone, was following a pickup that had a buck deer in the bed, and he wanted Lundberg to investigate. Lundberg responded and stopped the truck's driver, who explained how he had shot the 10-pointer on his father's place that morning. Lundberg checked the deer and found it to be properly tagged with the correct date of kill cut out and ranch and county written in. The only problem, Lundberg explained, was that deer hunting season had closed the previous day. *(That's why they make hunting regulations' guides!!)*

And then there were game wardens Fernando Cervantes of Sanderson and Mack Caudle, who certainly deserve some kind of award for cleverness. They found three mule deer hanging in an old cellar at some ruins in the bottom of a canyon near the Rio Grande river. There was no way the two could stake out the area without being detected, so they left, but not before marking the deer so they could identify the carcasses later. The wardens checked a nearby hunting camp for two days in a row without finding any deer. On the third day, they staked out the gate to the ranch. Their plan worked. The hunters showed up at the gate with three partially processed mule deer. However, even after being questioned by the wardens, the hunters insisted that the deer were not the ones the game wardens had found---until one of the wardens removed his business card from inside one of the deer's ears.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Volunteers Needed for Summer Camps

The Texas Parks and Wildlife and Texas Game Warden Association summer youth camps are coming up at the Parrie Haynes Ranch beginning the first week of June and running through the first week of August. Students will come in for Hunter and Angler Education, but additional activities have been added for a more rounded experience. If interested in volunteering your time for one or more of these camps, call our office at 1-800-792-1112. In the past few years, many kids have enjoyed the facilities of the ranch. This opportunity of providing activities for those less fortunate has many rewards. Come and be a part of helping introduce youngsters to the great outdoors. Leave them with an experience they can take home and use for the rest of their lives.



### Bobwhite Brigade Camps

Two camps for high school youngsters who possess a strong interest in wildlife and wildlife management will be held in different parts of the state this summer. The first is the Rolling Plains camp near Haskell, June 22-26, and the other is the East Texas camp near Lufkin, July 27-31. Upon completion of these camps, Bobwhite Brigade Cadets agree to make one educational presentation on quail management to each of the following audiences: elementary students, secondary school students and adults in their home county. Students interested in attending one of these camps should contact Dale Rollins, TAEX, 7887 N. Hwy. 87, San Angelo, TX 76901 as soon as possible.



### Permit Deadlines

A large number of Texans hunt out of state each year. On draw hunts, especially in Colorado, Hunter Education must be completed *before* the application can be submitted. Sometimes individuals get caught in a situation where they haven't completed the course and want to apply. It would be a big help if courses were also scheduled in the first part of the year to accommodate these individuals.

The following is a list of application deadlines that hunters and instructors need to know when scheduling classes prior to the 1997 fall big-game hunts.

|            |           | <b>PHONE</b>   |
|------------|-----------|----------------|
| Alaska     | May 1     | (907) 465-4100 |
| Arizona    | mid-June  | (602) 942-3000 |
| Colorado   | April 2   | (303) 297-1192 |
| Idaho      | May 31    | (208) 334-3700 |
| Montana    | March 15  | (406) 444-2535 |
| Nevada     | mid-April | (702) 688-1500 |
| New Mexico | April 26  | (505) 827-7911 |
| Oregon     | May 15    | (503) 229-5400 |





**Target Talk**  
Texas Hunter Education Program  
Texas Parks and Wildlife  
4200 Smith School Road  
Austin, TX 78744



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