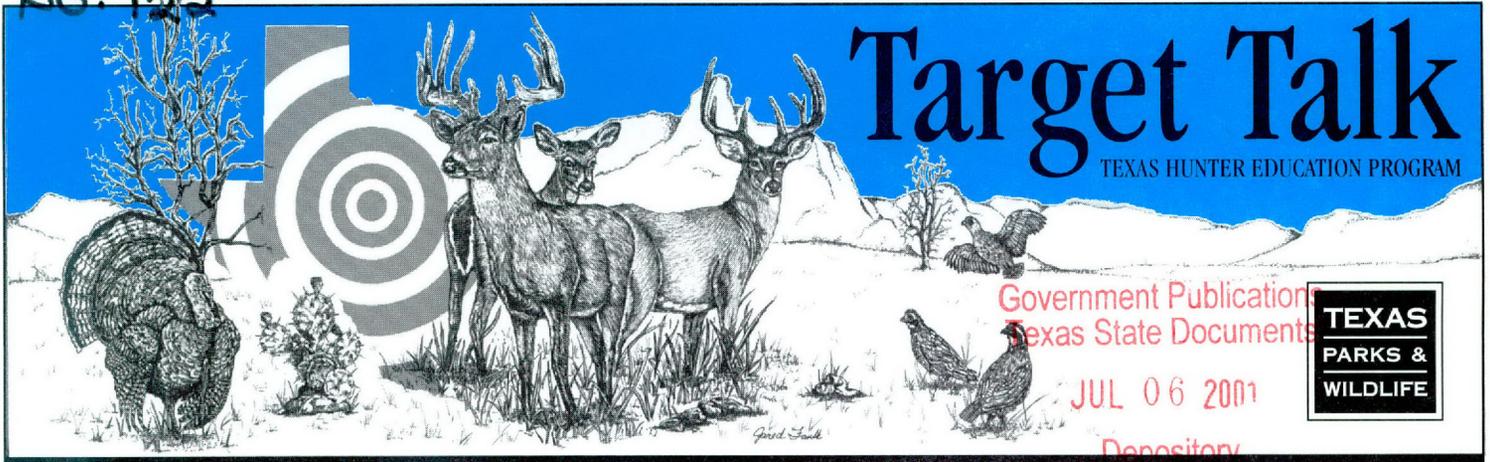


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NEWSLETTER NO. 122

SPRING 2001



I don't know about the folks up in the east or the rest of the country with all the snow and storms, but Texas has had an exceptional winter. It has been wetter than usual, but we're still not exactly "ahead of the game." Spring is already poking its head out with beautiful budding trees and flowering bluebonnets. Although we have had frost in March, it is not that unusual to see new flowers and green lawns.

Our instructors continue to do a tremendous job with courses. We had another record year in 2000 by certifying 39,049 students making a total of 551,117 certified since 1972. We could have had a few more that would have raised the total, because we are still receiving courses from last year. We waited until mid January to enter all the courses received for the year 2000. However, some are still trickling in.

I received a phone call recently about a student that took the course last September and still has not received a card. Come to find out, the instructor has not sent in the class. Let's try to prevent things like this from happening. What if.....the student lost the temporary card, went hunting and received a citation, needed a duplicate for proof, and we did not have a record? It would look pretty bad on our part as administrators of the program. A friendly reminder.....**New policy changes now** require instructors to send the records to us for processing within seven (7) days after completion of the course. That should be ample time to complete registration forms, final reports, and mail them in.

A few instructors are still teaching the regular structured hunter education course in less than two

Continued on next page

Christmas Comes Early for Texas Dream Hunt Winners

Dr. George "Skip" Hall and his group hosted the Fourth Annual Texas "Dream Hunt" at the **2 Bayous Hunting Preserve** near Alvin on December 18-20, 2000. The hunt was for waterfowl and upland birds, including quail, chukar and pheasant.

This year's students selected were Cody McMichael and Gordon Terry. Cody's father, Cass County Judge, Charles McMichael, and Gordon's father, Allan, a Pharmacist at Fort Hood, accompanied the boys on the trip. Cody's instructor was Area Chief, Charles Snowden, from Linden. Gordon's instructor was Area Chief, Bob Ratcliff, from Harker Heights. Both students had the opportunity to "follow up" with their instructors.



Nominating instructors were asked to submit a letter of recommendation as to why the student should be selected for the hunt. Each student was evaluated on proper attitude, safety, class participation, skills and abilities. The instructors were asked this question.

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Editor's Corner (continued)

days and ten (10) hours as required. By mandated law, the course **must** be taught over a minimum two-day period and **not** less than a minimum of ten hours in duration. There are **no** exceptions to this rule. Courses received indicating less than the required time will be returned for completion, thus delaying student certifications.

Some instructors are charging more than the allowable \$10 fee for the hunter education course. Instructors may **NOT** charge more than this fee for any reason. IF there is an additional fee associated with facility use, the fee must be optional to the student and paid directly to the facility. When students inquire about the course, the \$10 fee must be quoted and then any optional fees explained. It then becomes the students option to take the course at that location or seek another. Instructors may retain \$5, but no more, of the \$10 fee for out-of-pocket expenses.

On another note... We have been training new and currently certified instructors in Home Study testing procedures. This new process **can** be done in one day but not less than a minimum of four (4) hours. Home Study credit is given at the rate of one (1) day and six (6) hours for securing the Home Study packet or accessing the preparatory course over the internet. When students wish to complete the certification process, they contact our office or web site for information on the next available Home Study testing date and location. Please attend one of the

scheduled Program Orientation/Standards/Home Study workshops to get updated with current teaching and testing procedures. It's always a good idea to have a refresher, especially with new and improved methods of instruction.

One last reminder to help us all. PLEASE notify our office every time any course is scheduled. Many times we have someone call wanting a course, and there might be one scheduled, but we do not know about it. Remember, if you schedule a class and conduct it, you get five extra incentive points. The schedule is on our automated phone system and web site for easy access.

Since spring is almost here, and the turkeys are gearing up for their "strutting" season. I hope all of you have a chance to get out in the woods to hear them and watch the beautiful, glowing sunrises. My bedroom windows were open last week and singing birds woke me one morning. What a nice sound, and to smell that fresh early spring crisp air, it really makes me want to be in the woods or on the water. If you are fortunate enough to experience times like these, share them with family and friends. Savor each moment, and let your family know how much you care. Keep up the great work, and thank you all for a tremendous job well done!

Terry Erwin

Fourth Annual Texas Dream Hunt, continued

"Would the student be a safe and ethical individual and someone you would consider spending time with in the outdoors?"

Christmas came early for these young students, their dads and their instructors. **Winchester Ammunition** provided steel shot, caps, pins, ear plugs, bags and brochures for the hunt. **Mossy Oak** provided complete camouflage clothing and caps for all six participants. **Walls**

little easier to hurry and eat a hearty breakfast before going to the blinds. The ducks were flying extremely fast, although some good shots were made resulting in some excellent specimens for mounting. **Fin & Feather Taxidermy** of Houston agreed to mount a bird of choice for each young hunter. It was hard for them to make a decision, because there were some beautiful ducks and pheasants harvested.

The lights went on at such an early hour that it was hard to roll out of bed and face the dawn. Knowing the ducks would be flying soon made it a little easier to hurry and eat a hearty breakfast before going to the blinds.

A sincere thanks goes to "Skip" and his wife, Tonia, for providing excellent meals during the stay. Another special thanks goes to Matt Hall, Shawn Wilchek and Mike Hutto for providing excellent guide service. They worked hard putting out decoys and calling waterfowl in range for shots. During the afternoon, quail, chukar and pheasant were the "icing on the cake" for all hunters. The dogs worked well and some exciting moments went by.

Industries gave blaze-orange vests for all, and **Otis Technologies** provided compact gun cleaning kits. Among other items were shooting glasses and a complete set of NRA Hunter Skills Series books. (The young men were told that Santa would appreciate it they would place some of these items under their Christmas tree the next week to lighten his load.)

The lights went on at such an early hour that it was hard to roll out of bed and face the dawn. Knowing the ducks would be flying soon made it a

The 2001 Texas Dream Hunt is still up in the air at this time with a location. However, nominations are already coming in. Don't forget to look for that special student that satisfies all the requirements for consideration as your best candidate. Entrants must be between the ages of 12-17, and have taken the course since November 1, 2000. Send in a detailed letter explaining why you have chosen that particular individual. Nominations must be sent to Texas Parks & Wildlife, Hunter Education, 2001 Dream Hunt, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, Texas 78744, and must arrive **before November 10**.

Outdoors-Woman Program Announces Workshop Schedule

AUSTIN, Texas – Texas Parks and Wildlife has released the 2001 schedule of Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) workshops, including a special Mother's Day weekend. The Palacios coastal workshop, May 11-13, offers an opportunity for mothers and daughters (over 18) to learn about the outdoors together.

Some 30 classes are offered at the three-day workshops. Topics include outdoor recreation activities such as archery, fishing, bird watching, camping, backpacking, kayaking and horseback riding. Hunting and fishing are also covered, including bowhunting, flyfishing, wingshooting and sporting clays. The \$160 workshop fee includes two nights lodging, meals, equipment and instruction. Participants must be at least 18 years of age.

"The wonderful thing about these workshops is that they are for all women, regardless of level experience with outdoor activities," said Ashley Callahan, BOW coordinator for TPW. "In fact, many of the women who attend the workshops have never caught a fish or shot a rifle. But once they get the chance, they love it."

"What women find so appealing about these workshops is the relaxed and supportive

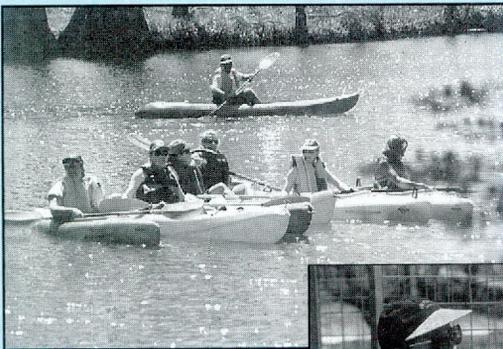
atmosphere," added Callahan. "It's nearly all women – because most of the instructors are women – and they just have a great time trying new activities. The response has been so positive that many of the Outdoors-Woman alumni have formed their own local groups to plan outdoor activities like canoeing trips, shotgun clinics and fly-fishing trips."

The Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program was founded in 1991 by University of Wisconsin Professor Christine Thomas, who researched why women were not participating in hunting, angling and related activities. Her research found that women prefer to learn outdoor skills with other women in classes led by women and that they did not know where to find such courses. The Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program was founded by Thomas to meet this need.

To register for a BOW workshop or for more information on weekend workshops, call Ashley Callahan at (800) 792-1112 +64, e-mail ashley.callahan@tpwd.state.tx.us, or check the BOW pages (<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/edu/baow/baow.htm>) on the TPW Web site.

In fact, many of the women who attend the workshops have never caught a fish or shot a rifle. But once they get the chance, they love it.

2001 BECOMING AN OUTDOORS-WOMAN WORKSHOP SCHEDULE



FORT DAVIS
April 6-8
Prude Ranch

PALACIOS
May 11-13
Baptist Encampment



BROWNWOOD
October 27-29
Texas 4-H Center
on Lake Brownwood

WELCOME NEW INSTRUCTORS

NOVEMBER

Rodney Brents	Megargel
Larry Little	Hillsboro
Bill Woody	Hillsboro
William Schwind	Aransas Pass
Terry Griffin	Dayton
Edward Etter	San Antonio

DECEMBER

Michelle Pavelock	Iola
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JANUARY

Jacob Diezi IV	Brookshire
Dewey Hughes	Crosby
Brian O'Dwyer	Bedford
Ronald Adkins	Plano
Mark Hotze	Sugar Land
Lacey Grimes	Orange Grove

FEBRUARY

Clayton Pipkin	Seminole
Thomas Brown	Mt Vernon
Jason Davis	Keller
Jeff Carter	Hemphill
Thomas Davey	Matador
Ronald Vanderroest	Sanger
Chad Gartman	Deweyville

Randall Smith
 Deshanna Creager
 Alexis Zuniga
 Michael McCall
 Kyle Halbert
 Kevin Malonson
 Karen Gray
 John Moore
 Travis Haug
 Ivy Desimone
 Richard Heronema
 Michael Gonzales
 Charles Arrant
 William Harrison
 Antone Jackson II
 Clay Tippit
 Chris Davis
 Derek Iden
 Deborah Faldik
 Billy Champlin
 Floyd Spears III
 Christopher Finke
 Timothy Walker
 Micheal Fox, Jr.
 Karl Goodman
 Tanya Franke
 Terri Scheller
 Cassie Smith
 Kaymie Jones
 Jason Thomas
 Christopher Rogers

Abilene
 Justin
 Port
 Fort Worth
 Cat Spring
 Beaumont
 Livingston
 Dickinson
 Victoria
 San Marcos
 Andrews
 San Antonio
 Weatherford
 New Waverly
 Galveston
 Fort Davis
 Livingston
 Charlotte
 Laguna Vista
 Fort Davis
 Alpine
 Navasota
 Tyler
 Valentine
 Houston
 Archer City
 Graham
 Leander
 Denver City
 Huntsville
 Kingwood

James Turner
 Joseph Howard
 Samantha Best
 Kelly Schneider
 John Howard
 Coy Irwin
 Kate Hamilton
 Justin Richey
 Shawn Hervey
 David Murray II
 Kathleen Stuman
 Stephen Witschorke
 Marte Pierce
 Whit Weems
 Jason Rich
 Brian Ingram
 Clint Wiley
 Robert Logston
 Robert Bailey
 Melanie Gayan
 Cody Bauman
 Mark Kidd
 Frederick Utley
 Eric Janszen
 Kevin Smart
 David McClure
 Mckenzie Bailey
 Timothy Boeder
 Justine Johansen
 Page Bishop
 Ben Dale

Lewisville
 Ponder
 Grandview
 Rogers
 Whitney
 Andrews
 Naples
 Cross Plains
 Henderson
 Tilden
 Hebronville
 Marion
 Plains
 Stephenville
 Gorman
 Stephenville
 Stockdale
 Royse City
 Ranger
 Paradise
 Valley Spring
 Stephenville
 Stephenville
 Palacios
 Lometa
 Cleburne
 Peaster
 Seguin
 Grandview
 Winters
 Weatherford

IHEA Dream Hunt

How about a chance to go on a real plantation quail hunt in Southern Georgia in November? This year will celebrate more than **10 years** this hunt has been held. It is an experience of a lifetime and is filmed and later shown on ESPN-2! Watch **ESPN-2** and **Wayne Pearson's Ultimate Outdoors** weekly television show beginning in July. The 2000 "Dream Hunt" will be aired sometime between July and December. **Winchester Ammunition** previously printed and distributed entry cards for the IHEA "Dream Hunt." Again, this year, the registration cards are in the **Hunter's Handbook** thanks to **Brian Thurston** and the **Focus Group**. This year's *Hunter's Handbook* will be out in late spring and are distributed with supplies available for each student.

NOTE: This year, individual instructors may use the same entry form in the *Hunter's Handbook* to register or they may send in a plain postcard with name, address, work and home phone number to: I.H.E.A. "DREAM HUNT," P. O. Box 5078, Nashville GA, 31639. Be sure to print a statement that you are a Texas Hunter Education Instructor. So far, this past decade, five instructors and three students from Texas have been selected to go on the IHEA "Dream Hunt." Four more instructors have been selected to go on additional trips. Keep those cards coming in. Your chances of winning are good – better than if you just sit back and wish!

Don't forget to tell your students about this chance to go on an all-expense paid "Dream Hunt" of a lifetime. Students will be selected from across North America and will be allowed to bring a parent/guardian on the hunt and have all expenses paid. The entry/registration form is near the back of the *Hunter's Handbook*. Hurry, **deadline is September 15th**. Late entries will go into next year's drawing.

New Area Chiefs

Kitty Haynes of Houston [(281) 879-0839] is one of the newest Area Chiefs to take on the added responsibilities. She has been in the program since 1998, has taught 51 courses and certified 935 students. Kitty volunteers at the Parrie Haynes Youth Ranch, is a Texas Youth Hunting Program Huntmaster, and has assisted with youth waterfowl hunts. She volunteers at most all area outdoor shows, teaches several outdoor education and hunter education topics in many of the local high schools, has traveled to various parts of the state to teach portions of the Survival workshop and helps with the Youth Hunter Education Challenge. She also teaches in the Becoming An Outdoors-Woman program, and helps with the 5-stand shotgun area of Texas Wildlife Expo regularly. She is an officer in the state and local Texas Hunter Education Instructors Associations. Kitty was drawn to attend the 10th Annual Hunter Education Dream Hunt in Georgia last year. She is a fulltime homemaker, wife and mom, and still finds time to volunteer for TPW. (*Don't know where she gets all of the energy.*)

Kitty will cover Harris and surrounding counties to help Heidi Rao, Assistant Hunter Education Coordinator, with training. She has attended or participated in 54 workshop or events, and it would not be uncommon to see her anywhere in the state, either instructing or participating in workshops to help her gain more knowledge. Congratulations Kitty, and thanks for your valuable time and help!

Fred Chaney from Midland [(915) 682-2962] just completed his Area Chief requirements and will cover Midland and the surrounding counties. He has been in the program since 1995, has taught 30 courses and certified 341 students. Fred has been to 12 workshops or events, including Texas Wildlife Expo, and vowed to return since he had so much fun. Fred has changed jobs, and now has more time that allows him to do more volunteering for TPW. Fred is an IBEP instructor and recently attended an in-service workshop held in Austin. Congratulations Fred, and thank you for all the help.

Ron Fehler of Uvalde [(830) 278-8733] has taken an additional step in his mountain of teaching. He is a new Area Chief who will cover Uvalde and surrounding counties, and will assist the other nearby Area Chiefs. Ron has been in the program since 1990, has taught 31 courses and certified 337 students. He used to live in Krum, near Denton, but his job moved him to Uvalde. Ron volunteers regularly at Texas Wildlife Expo, and not only is there to help set up, but stays over to help with clean up on Sunday evenings. He assists with summer youth camps, Youth Hunter Education Challenge, and has attended over 40 in-service workshops or events. He fills a large void in an area of need. Congratulations Ron, and thanks for all your help!

We are looking forward to working with these new Area Chiefs. If they are in your area, please contact them if you need any assistance.



Video News

As of January 1, 2001 **we are officially out of the video loan** library business. We do, however, have copies of some popular videos on one cassette for any instructor to keep and use in the Hunter Education program. The video has ***Deer Hunting-Focus on Ethics, Modern Firearms, Game for the Table, and Using Airguns the Right Way.*** These videos are available and ready for shipment upon request. Once secured, the instructor will retain the video while remaining active. Upon retirement or termination from the program, the instructor is requested to return all materials and videos to the Hunter Education Program. Other titles are available for purchase upon request through TPW's video department for a nominal fee. Contact Jack Nasworthy at 1-800-792-1112 + 61 for information.

Alan Madison Productions, Inc. is offering a new composite video which will contain the following three films in this order: ***Firearms Safety & the Hunter II, Survival II, and The Hunter's Path...choices in responsible hunting.*** These three films are the most popular and come on one cassette. The price will be \$199, and is a savings of nearly 50% off the normal single title price. Instructors may purchase any of his other films at a special rate of \$89 each otherwise. To order, please contact them at P.O. Box 100, Chatham, NY 12037, or call toll free (877) 404-3311, or (518) 392-3311, Fax (518) 392-3314.

Silvertip Productions, Ltd. Introduces New Hunter Education Video Series

Jim Wentz, former Ohio Hunter Education Coordinator, has produced an excellent video series for use in any hunter education class. The two-hour video has seven individual topics that are incorporated into one VHS tape. They are: *Welcome to Hunter Education, Hunting Safety, Responsible Hunting, Outdoor Safety, Wildlife Conservation in North America, Successful Hunting and Hunting Opportunities.*

This new video is available for a total of \$99.99 + \$6.95 Shipping & Handling. Instructors also may look on the Web site **www.IHEA.com** for an order form, contact him direct at Silvertip Productions, Ltd., P.O. Box 368, Canal Winchester, OH 43110, or call (614) 834-9000. You must provide instructor mailing information and ID number. **Deadline for this introductory price is June 1, 2001.**

Crossbow Hunter Education Video

This new video produced by the **American Crossbow Federation** will soon be available for instructors who might have inquiries from their students. It covers crossbow safety and use information with recommended safety precautions. To be a responsible user of crossbows or any equipment, individuals need adequate information and education. We have ordered the master video copy for reproduction and will have them available by summer.

If interested, please call Jack Nasworthy and place your order for this **free** video.

TRAINING

Area Chief Meeting

Camp Buckner was the host sight of the second annual Area Chief round table meeting. It was an opportunity to bring together hard-working volunteer leaders to share information and seek assistance with different projects. Forty-six individuals attended from as far away as Amarillo, Linden, Midland, Corpus Christi and many places in between. Charles Morrow arrived from the lower Rio Grande Valley on his way back to Richardson in his cement-dusted jeans. He had been there on a church mission project. Special thanks to all Area Chiefs who made the effort to attend. We appreciate the hard work and diligence put forth in our programs.



Ferris Bavousett, professional educator from Lewisville, made an excellent presentation on "Modifications" to accommodate students, from tests to classroom procedures. Heidi Rao gave an overview and training on the Laser Shot System, as she and Kent Irvin, each, had their units set up for demonstrations. Kent made an outstanding presentation on "Sensitivity Awareness" from a perspective of "seeing it through my eyes." New Area Chief, Kitty Haynes, offered an informative presentation

on Lesson Plans and Teaching Skills, and Scotty Oliver gave an overview of liability insurance and risk management. Thanks to each of these presenters for a job well done!

On Sunday morning, the current student exam was revised to remove some ambiguous or misleading questions and to clarify others. We hope all Area Chiefs will be able to attend next year's workshop scheduled for January 25-27, 2002, at Camp Buckner.

Survival Workshop



The Outdoor Skills/Survival workshop was an outstanding weekend session held on February 10-11. It was conducted more on the aspect of teaching students rather than having instructors go through exercises to survive themselves.



John Weishaar was, again, on hand to give expert training and advice throughout the whole event. John is Senior Principal at Westwood High School in Round Rock, and has a very diverse background. He owned and operated Wilderness Outpost Adventures Camp in Montana before returning to the Austin area. In addition to his current position, he teaches at The University of Texas and works at Academy Sports. Thanks John for such a great workshop! We look forward to having you back next year.

Ethics Workshop

Heidi Rao and Game Warden Derek Spitzer, were on hand February 24-25 to provide training during the workshop held in Pasadena at the Cecil M. Hopper Wildlife Museum. All instructors are encouraged to attend this workshop to gain knowledge in presenting one of the most difficult topics in the hunter education course.

T.D. Carroll, (deceased) former Hunter Education Coordinator, used to say: "Ethics are based on two things... written and unwritten laws. The written laws are what you **can and can't** do, and the unwritten laws are what **should and shouldn't** do." Makes good sense!

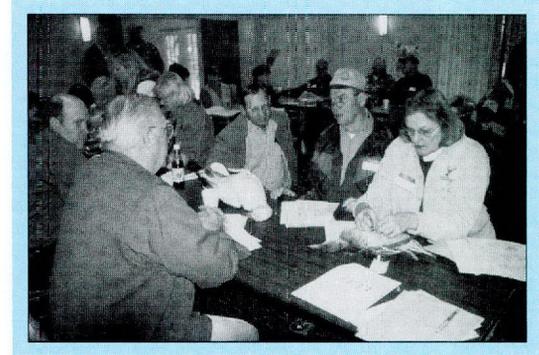


TRAINING

Waterfowl Workshop

Tamara Trail, Education Director for the Texas Wildlife Association, set up and helped conduct this workshop in Rockport. For the second year, it continues to be one of the most informative workshops ever held. Waterfowl identification, biology, habitat, decoy set up, dog training and shotgun patterning were all part of the day's activities.

Hunter Education Instructors, Huntmasters for the Texas Youth Hunting Program and others were invited to attend. Thanks to all presenters for making this a successful event. Thanks Tamara and other presenters for an outstanding program!



Long Range Game Shooting

By Area Chief Instructor, Robert E. Boswell

Over the years, sporting rifle manufacturers have produced rifles and cartridges of increasingly higher velocities and flatter trajectories. We tend to think of this as a recent development, but it really started in 1894, with the 30-30 Winchester. It is claimed to be our first commercially successful smokeless rifle cartridge. The use of smokeless powder allowed a velocity increase of nearly 50%, and effectively doubled the range of the sporting rifle. In recent years, cartridges like the 7STW, the Remington .300 Ultramag, and the Weatherby 30-378 have shown a 50% velocity increase over the 30-30, and, again, doubled the range. These cartridges, properly loaded and sighted-in, are capable of hitting the vital area of a deer, using a center of chest hold, from 0 to 400 yards. Some of the older magnums, such as the .257 and .270 Weatherbys, and the .264 Winchester, are not far behind.

Does this give us reason to expect to make 400 yard shots on game animals? The rifles and ammunition are capable of the accuracy that, along with the trajectory, enables them to hit game-size targets at that range. Are we skilled enough shooters to take advantage of these rifles? I recently witnessed a shooter bring a new Remington 700, in .300 Ultramag, with factory ammunition, to the range. After sighting in the rifle, he proceeded to fire 3 shots at an 8" steel plate hanging a measured 340 yards away, hitting it each time. He then handed the rifle to a friend who fired another 3 shots, also hitting the plate each time! Obviously these two shooters could use the ranging ability of this new rifle, but how many of the rest of us can? Hitting your target at long range requires, besides the equipment, (rifle, cartridges, and scope capable of making the shot with some margin for error), proper shooting techniques, and enough practice on the range to be confident of your ability. Accuracy in the field also requires practice in multiple shooting positions.

Are we ready for long range game shooting now? As Darrel Royal used to say about the forward pass, "three things can happen and two of

them are bad." We have taken care of bullet drop with our high velocity cartridge, but we have two other problems. The first problem is atmospheric conditions. For example, a 10 MPH crosswind moves a 150gr. Spitzer bullet from a .300 Ultramag only .6" at 100 yards, but that increases to 11.2" at 400 yards. This is the difference between a clean kill and a miss, or even worse, a wounded cripple. A 20 MPH wind causes exactly twice as much deflection. With less wind, mirage becomes more important. Not images of water in the desert, but the small shimmering movement of the air, like looking through

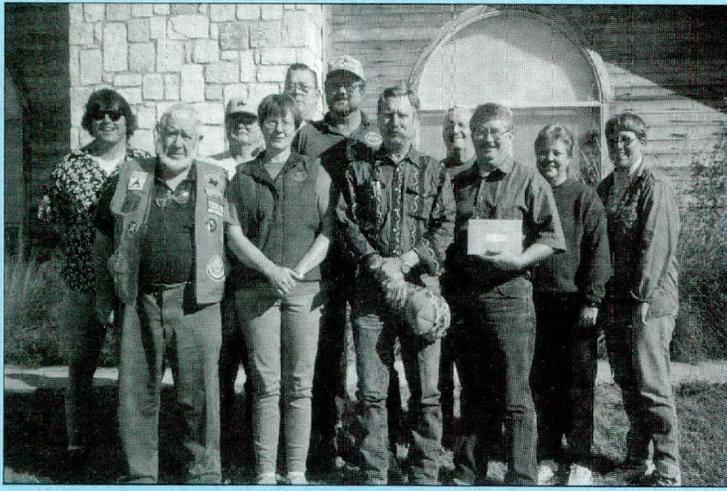
moving water. Mirage can displace the image of your target (your real aiming point) 2 or more inches at 100 yards, and 8, 10, or more inches at 400 yards. This is in addition to the wind deflection. Careful observation can tell you the direction of movement, but only practice in these conditions can show you how much to adjust your aim to correct for wind and mirage. What else bad can happen? The bullet takes a certain amount of time to reach its target. At 100 yards this is less than .09 seconds, but at 400 yards the time is more than 4 tenths of a second. How many steps can a deer take in .4 seconds? One? Two? Several? If it's one or two, we have another cripple to track down. Do you precisely mark the location of the animal before you shoot? That is much more difficult to do at 400 yards,

too.

We all know what it means to be a responsible hunter. After all, "An individual has got to know their limitations." If your abilities fall in the 200 to 300 yard range, you might be better served by a more conventional cartridge, somewhere between the .243 Winchester and the old favorite 30/06. Out to 300 yards, with proper bullets, any of these is more than ample for white tailed deer. They also provide savings up to 75% on ammunition costs and 50% on recoil, compared to the latest magnums. The decision on rifle and cartridge is yours. A wise choice will benefit both you and your game.

**Are we
ready for long
range game shooting
now? As Darrel Royal
used to say about the forward pass, "three things
can happen and two
of them are
bad."**

KUDOS



Area Chiefs Receive Top Awards

These Area Chief instructors received some of the top incentive awards for their involvement in the Hunter Education Program. Front row, L-R is Jim Parker, 2500 point handgun; Cyndi Sykora, 3000 point rifle; George Sykora, 3000 point rifle; Ron Dowda, 3000 point rifle. Second row, L-R, Tom Stashak, 3000 point rifle and 3500 point shotgun; Bob Boswell, 3000 point rifle; Billy Holt, 3000 point rifle; Charles Morrow, 3000 point rifle; Betty Allen, 3000 point rifle, Kitty Haynes, 2000 point knife and 2500 point handgun. Not pictured is Bernie Heer who received his 3500 point shotgun.

On the back row is **Bob Artz** who earned the 4500 point **Hunter Education Hall of Fame Award**, and received his plaque at the annual conference.

Robertson Wins Safari Club Award

Jim Robertson, Texas Parks and Wildlife Director of Law Enforcement received a Lifetime Service Award as a conservation law enforcement officer from Safari Club International during their January annual conference held in Las Vegas. Jim has been with TPW as a game warden since 1971, and has a wildlife & fisheries degree from Texas A&M. Congratulations Jim!

Urban Named Washington County Officer of the Year

The Washington County Government Council has named TPW Game Warden Mike Urban *Officer of the Year*. He started with TPW in 1975 and has been in Washington County since 1998. He received 2 Bronze Stars for military service in Vietnam. Warden Urban has received several letters of appreciation for performing his duties in a positive and professional manner. Most notably, a letter of gratitude was received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the help he provided in an investigation of possible illegal smuggling and taking of black bear in 1997.

Mike Fields Named Outdoor Educator of the Year

Dallas – At the 21st annual Dallas Safari Club Convention Mr. Mike Fields, principal of Lamar Middle School in the Lewisville ISD was awarded the prestigious “Outdoor Educator of the Year” award by Dr. Richard Allen, President of the Dallas Ecological Foundation, the charitable arm of the Dallas Safari Club.

Before 1000 guests at the Friday night banquet, Dr. Allen praised Mr. Fields for his vision and encouragement in starting the Outdoor Trails Program at Lamar Middle School. This program, taught and developed by Lamar Middle School teacher and **TPW Hunter Education Area Chief, Ferris Bavousett**, is the model for the Dallas Ecological Foundation sponsored program now being taught to over 800 students each semester in North Texas. Mr. Fields has been instrumental in encouraging the expansion of this premier outdoor educational experience as well as being personally involved in the Dallas Safari Club S.A.F.E.T.Y. Extravaganza held last September at Greystone Castle.

The Dallas Safari Club is an international non-profit education, conservation and hunter advocacy organization based in Dallas, Texas.

With an international membership, the club raises and expends funds annually to educate the public and to serve the interests of wildlife, habitat, and of sportsmen and sportswomen worldwide. Dallas Safari Club and its charitable arm, the Dallas Ecological Foundation have expended over a million dollars on youth programs, public education and conservation initiatives directly benefiting both game and non-game species and their critical habitat. In addition, Dallas Ecological Foundation has provided funding for incentive awards for Texas Hunter Education instructors for over ten years.

For more information on the Dallas Safari Club or the Dallas Ecological Foundation, contact **Gray N. Thornton, Executive Director at (972) 980-9800 or by email at info@biggame.org**



2000
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
- 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
- 26 years old (average)
- Had over 10 years of hunting experience
- If not self-inflicted - 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



2000 Significant Factors

- Many violations for not taking hunter education course or not being accompanied by an adult
- Careless handling, especially in and around vehicles, is the number one problem in Texas
- The wearing of blaze orange would reduce many accidents in Texas
- Shotgun accidents most numerous
- Continued high number of dove hunting accidents
- Quail and rabbit hunting accidents up
- Youngsters are not being accompanied by licensed adult hunters during time of accident which is required of those who did not take a hunter education course

**HUNTING ACCIDENT DATA (1966-2000)
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 TPW 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
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	51	1,145,000	4.6	39,049
TOTALS	2,434	36,969,846	6.6	551,117

* 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.

Sixth five-year average of hunter education program (CY 1996 - CY 2000) - One hunting accident/23,580 hunting licenses sold.

Thirty-five year average (CY 1966 - CY 2000) - One hunting accident/15,189 hunting licenses sold.

TEXAS HUNTING ACCIDENTS 1966-2000

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
MANDATORY HUNTER EDUCATION			
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	7	44	51
TOTALS	517	1,917	2,434

TEXAS HUNTING ACCIDENT TOTALS 2000

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).

	1998	1999	2000		1998	1999	2000
ACCIDENTS				VIOLATED GAME LAW	5 (13%)	14 (32%)	15 (29%)
Total Accidents	40	44	51				
Fatal	3	6	7				
Non-fatal	37	38	44				
PRIMARY ANIMAL HUNTED				EQUIPMENT TYPE			
Dove	7 (18%)	10 (23%)	15 (29%)	Rifles	15 (37%)	15 (34%)	16 (31%)
White-tailed Deer	12 (30%)	11 (25%)	8 (15%)	Shotguns	18 (45%)	25 (57%)	28 (55%)
Rabbits/Hares	3 (07%)	2 (05%)	7 (14%)	Handguns	6 (15%)	4 (09%)	6 (12%)
Wild Hogs/Javelina	6 (15%)	1 (02%)	3 (06%)	Muzzleloader	0	0	1 (02%)
Squirrel	2 (05%)	6 (14%)	1 (02%)	Bow	1 (03%)	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	3 (07%)	2 (04%)	TOTAL	40 (100%)	44 (100%)	51 (100%)
Quail/Pheasant	6 (15%)	5 (11%)	7 (14%)	SHOOTER'S AGE			
Turkey	2 (05%)	4 (09%)	2 (04%)	1-19	10 (25%)	20 (45%)	18 (35%)
Coyotes	2 (05%)	1 (02%)	3 (06%)	20-29	6 (15%)	3 (07%)	9 (17%)
Ducks/Geese	0	1 (02%)	3 (06%)	30-39	10 (25%)	5 (11%)	7 (14%)
TOTAL	40 (100%)	44 (100%)	51 (100%)	40-49	6 (15%)	9 (21%)	7 (14%)
HUNTER JUDGMENT				50-59	1 (03%)	5 (11%)	5 (10%)
Victim out of sight of shooter/moved into line of fire	3	3	6	60 & over	4 (10%)	2 (05%)	3 (06%)
Victim covered by shooter swinging on game	6	10	16	Unknown	3 (07%)	0	2 (04%)
Victim mistaken for game	2	4	1	TOTAL	40 (100%)	44 (100%)	51 (100%)
TOTAL	11	17	23				
SAFETY & LAW VIOLATION				MISCELLANEOUS			
Removing/placing firearm in vehicle or stand	1	0	0	Obstruction in Barrel	0	0	1
Discharge of firearm in vehicle	9	5	2	Ricochet	1	0	1
Running/walking with a loaded firearm	2	2	0	TOTAL	1	0	2
Firearm fell from insecure rest/Using firearm as a club	0	1	0	SKILL AND APTITUDE			
TOTAL	12	8	2	Trigger caught on object	0	1	0
SHOOTERS WERE HUNTER EDUCATION GRADUATES	9 (22%)	9 (21%)	11 (22%)	Loading/unloading firearm	0	1	2
				Carless handling	10	14	18
				Dropped firearm	5	1	3
				Shooter stumbled and fell	1	2	1
				TOTAL	16	19	24
				SELF-INFLICTED	23 (57%)	20 (45%)	22 (43%)
				ALCOHOL A FACTOR	1 (03%)	0	1 (02%)

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
Falls from Tree Stands, Tripods and Tower Stands	4	No	Use of safety harnesses/belts would have prevented half of these falls.

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
Target practice/plinking	8	3	Careless handling of rifle while target practicing; airgun fatality; obstruction in barrel
Ranching/Farming	1	No	Victim was adjusting holster and coat while working around a barn—careless handling; he had modified the safety mechanism.
Suicide (?)	1	Yes	Victim shot himself in the forehead while in the home.

FATAL ACCIDENTS

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)
1-30	Wharton	46/M	Shotgun	Waterfowl	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter was going to shoot a wounded goose in a field. As he turned to get into position, he stumbled and shot his companion.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; communicate with companions; unload before exiting ground pits or blinds.					
10-2	Clay	11/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly handled shotgun in close proximity to 11-year-old victim. He discharged it as he lost control of the grip. The pellets struck victim in neck.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in safe direction; do not leave children unsupervised; use proper gun carries; control muzzle when sitting.					
10-29	Polk	11/M	Shotgun	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter climbed ladder stand with loaded firearm which he dropped. The shotgun struck the ladder and discharged, sending slug into his forehead.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Unload before entering/exiting stands; use hauling line.					
11-25	Harrison	24/M	Rifle	Deer	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter shot at deer three times from 170 yards away. On the third shot he heard a scream from the victim who was out of sight of shooter.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Be sure of your target before raising the rifle; determine safe background; shoot within effective range.					
11-26	Marion	13/M	Rifle	Deer	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter mistook his father for a deer and shot his rifle twice towards the movement. The bullet struck victim in the left side of his body. Shooter and victim did not have hunting license and were trespassing.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Be absolutely sure of your target before raising the rifle; use binoculars; follow laws; do not leave children unsupervised; complete hunter education.					
12-2	Hudspeth	38/M	Rifle	Deer	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter and victim returned from hunting and placed a loaded firearm in the tool box of their pickup. Shooter later readjusted rifle and discharged it. Bullet went through the box and through the victim's abdomen.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Unload and case firearm before putting it in vehicle; always point muzzle in a safe direction.					
12-16	Dimmit	39/M	Rifle	Deer	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged rifle while it was pointed toward victim sitting nearby. Both were watching a deer and getting into position. Shooter did not have a hunting license and was hunting unlawfully. He did not know his location on the ranch during the emergency.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in safe direction; plan the hunt and hunt the plan; follow laws; carry map and compass or a GPS unit; learn first aid and CPR techniques.					

Ten Commandments of Shooting Safety

- 1** ***Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.***
Do not point a firearm or bow at anything you do not intend to shoot. Control the direction of the muzzle at all times. Never rest a muzzle on your toe or foot. Keep your finger out of the trigger guard until the instant you are ready to fire. Always keep the safety on until ready to fire; however, the safety should never be a substitute for safe firearm handling.
- 2** ***Treat every firearm or bow with the same respect you would show a loaded gun or nocked arrow.***
Every time you pick up a firearm, the first thing you do is control the muzzle and check to see if it is loaded. Be sure the chamber and magazine are empty and that the action is open until ready to be fired. If you do not understand how to determine if it is loaded, do not accept the firearm until someone has safely shown you that it is unloaded. Read your instruction manual carefully before you handle new firearms or bows.
- 3** ***Be sure of your target and what is in front of and beyond your target.***
Before you pull the trigger you must properly identify game animals. Until your target is fully visible and in good light, do not even raise your scope to see it. Use binoculars! Know what is in front of and behind your target. Determine that you have a safe backstop or background. Since you do not know what is on the other side, never take a shot at any animals on top of ridges or hillsides. Know how far bullets, arrows and pellets can travel. Never shoot at flat, hard surfaces, such as water, rocks or steel because of ricochets.
- 4** ***Unload firearms and unstring conventional bows when not in use.***
Leave actions open, and store sporting arms in cases when traveling to and from shooting areas. Take bolts out or break down shotguns if necessary. Know how your equipment operates. Store and transport firearms and ammunition separately and under lock and key. Store firearms and bows in cool, dry places. Use gun or trigger locks and guards when not in use.
- 5** ***Handle firearms, arrows and ammunition carefully.***
Avoid horseplay with firearms. Never climb a fence, a tree or a ladder with a loaded firearm or bow and arrows. Never jump a ditch or cross difficult terrain with a loaded firearm or nocked arrow. Never face or look down the barrel from the muzzle end. Be sure the only ammunition you carry correctly matches the gauge or caliber you are shooting. Always carry arrows in a protected cover or quiver. Learn the proper carries. Try to use the two-hand carry whenever possible because it affords you the best muzzle control. Always carry handguns with hammers over an empty chamber or cylinder. If you fall, be sure to disassemble the gun and check the barrel from the breech end for obstructions. Carry a field cleaning kit.
- 6** ***Know your safe zone-of-fire and stick to it.***
Your safe zone-of-fire is that area or direction in which you can safely fire a shot. It is "down range" at a shooting facility. In the field it is that mental image you draw in your mind with every step you take. Be sure you know where your companions are at all times. Never swing your gun or bow out of your safe zone-of-fire. Know the safe carries when there are persons to your sides, in front of, or behind you. If in doubt, never take a shot. When hunting, wear **daylight fluorescent orange** so you can be seen from a distance or in heavy cover.
- 7** ***Control your emotions when it comes to safety.***
If you lose control of your emotions you may do something carelessly. If you have just shot a target or animal you probably will be excited. At that moment you may turn with a loaded firearm back towards your friends or you might run with a loaded firearm towards a downed animal with the gun safety off. You or someone else may be in danger once you lose control of your emotions. Show discipline. Rehearse in your mind what the safe actions will be. Do not allow your daydreams to replace good judgment. Show restraint and pass up shots which have the slightest chance of being unsafe.
- 8** ***Wear hearing and eye protection.***
While shooting at the range, you must wear hearing and eye protection at all times. Firearms are loud and can create noises which are damaging to a person's hearing. It can be a gradual loss of hearing due to outbursts of noise over many years. The damage could also be immediate, especially if your ears are next to a muzzle blast. Vibrations from the blast are enough to create loss of hearing. Wear glasses to protect your eyes from escaping gases, burnt powder (especially in blackpowder shooting), and other debris.
- 9** ***Don't drink alcohol or take drugs before or while handling firearms or bow and arrows.***
Alcohol and drugs impair normal physical and mental body functions and must not be used before or while handling firearms or archery equipment. These substances affect emotions, making it easier to lose control.
- 10** ***Be aware of additional circumstances which require added caution or safety awareness.***
Just because something isn't listed under these "ten commandments of shooting safety" doesn't mean you can ignore it if it is dangerous. There may be rules such as in muzzleloading or archery or posted at a shooting range which should also be followed. Also, practice reloading safety by following and reading all specific instructions. Practice all commandments of shooting safety. Ensure a safe future for you, others and the shooting sports!

THE Newsletter of

THEIA Texas Hunter Education Instructors Association, Inc.

Winter-Spring 2001

Number 9

OFFICERS

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THEIA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Friends:

I hope all of you made it through the holidays and that the new year brings you good health and prosperity. By the time this is printed our THEIA Conference will be history and YHEC will be upon us.

The conference is always a good time to exchange ideas and to air your problems. It is a shame that we have such a low attendance. The state of Missouri has around 500 attendees and we're lucky to have 60. If you have problems with the way we're doing things, please let me know and we'll try to do better.

There have been some ideas brought to my attention with reference to our YHEC event. The first idea is about developing certain modifications to the rules to accommodate physically challenged competitors. The second is about a return to awarding the top five places in each category instead of the top three that we did this past year.

The third idea concerns our support of a succession process for financial backing of the junior and senior competitors. If the top junior or top senior cannot attend the National Championships, I would hope we could award the entrance fees to the next runner-up who can attend the championship. This year the competition will be held at the NRA Whittington Center in New Mexico.

I promise to have these ideas on the agenda for our conference in March. I also hope that you will volunteer to help at this year's YHEC at the Parrie Haynes Ranch near Killeen.

Best wishes for the coming year.

Your President,

Bernie Heer

THEIA EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

March 10-11, 2001 THEIA ANNUAL MEETING at Camp Buckner northwest of Marble Falls.

May 5-6, 2001, Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge at Parrie Haynes Youth Ranch

July 15-21, 2001 Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Games and National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational Match, at the National Shooting Sports Complex, San Antonio (Instructor-volunteers needed)

October 6- 7, 2001 EXPO '01 at TPW Headquarters, Austin

NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Brent A. Heath, Austin
Robert Hagan, Houston

Robert W. Reineke, Missouri City
Edward Etter, San Antonio

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR A WORKSHOP YET?

Several instructors have reported receiving their *Winter Target Talk* well into mid -January. In the Winter issue, Texas Parks and Wildlife Education Department provided us with a list of workshops, dates, and a form requesting information about those workshops. Requests should have been returned to TPW at the end of January so planners can have an idea of how many are interested in attending each workshop.

Receiving the magazine late made it difficult to know about several January and February workshops in time to sign up for them. Not to worry...too much. Just get your request list in as soon as possible so event planners have enough lead time to accommodate you. If you hear about a workshop that you did not request information about, you MIGHT be able to sign up in the week before a workshop, if there is a space available.

The information, materials, ideas, and contacts gained at these workshops help make our instructors some of the best informed volunteers around. I hope to see you at one.

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 as a Hunter Education Instructor

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

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

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

make checks payable to: THEIA

send to: Peggy Weyel, 13502 Syracuse, San Antonio, TX 78249

NAME: _____ INSTRUCTOR # _____

ADDRESS: _____ PHONE _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

JUST READIN'

Ted Kerasote. (1993). *Bloodties: Nature, Culture, and the Hunt*. Kodansha American, Inc., New York.

Is killing an animal what hunting is about? Should we only hunt for food? Are hunters the same the world over? What role does the trophy hunter play in our hunting culture? These questions, and others, come to mind if any hunter chooses to think about what they do. One hunter, Ted Kerasote, writes about his thoughts and experiences in *Bloodties: Nature, Culture, and the Hunt*.

Ted follows the hunt in three cultures, with Greenland Inuit (Eskimos), a pair of international trophy hunters in Siberia and at home, and hunters hunting elk in Wyoming. With each he shares with us the beauty and wonderment, as well as the ugliness and offensiveness, that may represent the two sides of any hunting story.

The stories of each hunt can be appreciated by anyone who has ever pursued game. They are at once true encounters between hunters and game as well as thoughtful reflection of the hunt and of the hunter by the author. The information he has gleaned from the hunters and guides, even anti-hunters, provides the reader with one of the most balanced views on hunting available. You see, having been "born a hunter" Ted Kerasote gave up his bloodsport to become a vegetarian, then with much thought, became a hunter once more.

His personal discovery makes for great reading in your hunting blind, reflecting on your recent hunt, or planning and getting mentally ready for the next "big hunt." Above all, it should empower each of us to seek our own connection to the natural world and celebrate our unique role as hunters in it.

FROM OTHER HUNTER EDUCATION ASSOCIATIONS AND GAME DEPARTMENTS

Websites of other state hunter education associations and wildlife departments are reporting significant decreases in hunter accidents and fatalities. Those sites acknowledge that the volunteer instructors have made the difference by teaching – educating – our new hunters to a standard of safe, responsible, ethical behavior. The following are a couple of selections.

A HUNTER'S PLEDGE

From the **Kansas Department of Parks and Wildlife**

Responsible hunting provides unique challenges and rewards. However, the future of the sport depends on each hunter's behavior and ethics. Therefore, as a hunter, I pledge to...

Respect the environment and wildlife.

Respect property and landowners.

Show consideration for non-hunters.

Hunt safely.

Know and obey the law.

Support wildlife and habitat conservation.

Pass on an ethical hunting tradition.

Strive to improve my outdoor skills and understanding of wildlife.

Hunt only with ethical hunters.

The **New Hampshire Hunter Education Department** seems to sum up the collective appreciation for instructors everywhere:

It's no accident that hunting is a safe activity. That's because today's hunters are better educated than ever before. They're going into the field knowing how to hunt safely and responsibly ... a knowledge provided by hunter education courses. (AND, that goes for our TEXAS hunter education program and instructors, too!)

JUST THINKIN'

A Century of American Wildlife Conservation

THEODORE ROOSEVELT, JR.

October 27, 1858 to January 6, 1919

President of the United States of America September 14, 1901 – March 4, 1909

President Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt, the youngest man ever to hold that office, provided the American people with a hunting and conservation heritage unsurpassed in the world. From learning about the outdoors as a ranch man in the 1880's, and his famous western hunting trip where he once refused to shoot a huge bear (thus the rise of Teddy bears), to hunting the big game of both the Amazon and African plains, Theodore Roosevelt's legacy has provided Americans with opportunities to enjoy our wilderness and his legacy challenges us to conserve it for our children.

Here are a few selected quotes to share with your students or just to think about as you enjoy the outdoors that Teddy also loved so well.

The wildlife of today is not ours to do with as we please. The original stock was given to us in trust for the benefit of both the present and the future. We must render an accounting of this trust to those who come after us.

Theodore Roosevelt, 1900

In a civilized and cultivated country, wild animals only continue to exist at all when preserved by sportsmen. The excellent people who protest against all hunting and consider sportsmen enemies of wildlife, are wholly ignorant of the fact that in reality the genuine sportsman is by all odds the most important factor in keeping wild animals from total extermination.

Theodore Roosevelt, 1905

"The conservation of natural resources is the fundamental problem. Unless we solve that problem it will avail us little to solve all others."

Theodore Roosevelt, 1907

"Optimism is a good characteristic, but if carried to an excess, it becomes foolishness. We are prone to speak of the resources of this country as inexhaustible; this is not so."

Seventh Annual Message to Congress, 1907

"There can be no greater issue than that of conservation in this country." –

Theodore Roosevelt, 1912

"Defenders of the short-sighted men who in their greed and selfishness will, if permitted, rob our country of half its charm by their reckless extermination of all useful and beautiful wild things sometimes seek to champion them by saying 'the game belongs to the people.' So it does; and not merely to the people now alive, but to the unborn people. The 'greatest good for the greatest number' applies to the number within the womb of time, compared to which those now alive form but an insignificant fraction. Our duty to the whole, including the unborn generations, bids us restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations. The movement for the conservation of wild life and the larger movement for the conservation of all our natural resources are essentially democratic in spirit, purpose, and method."

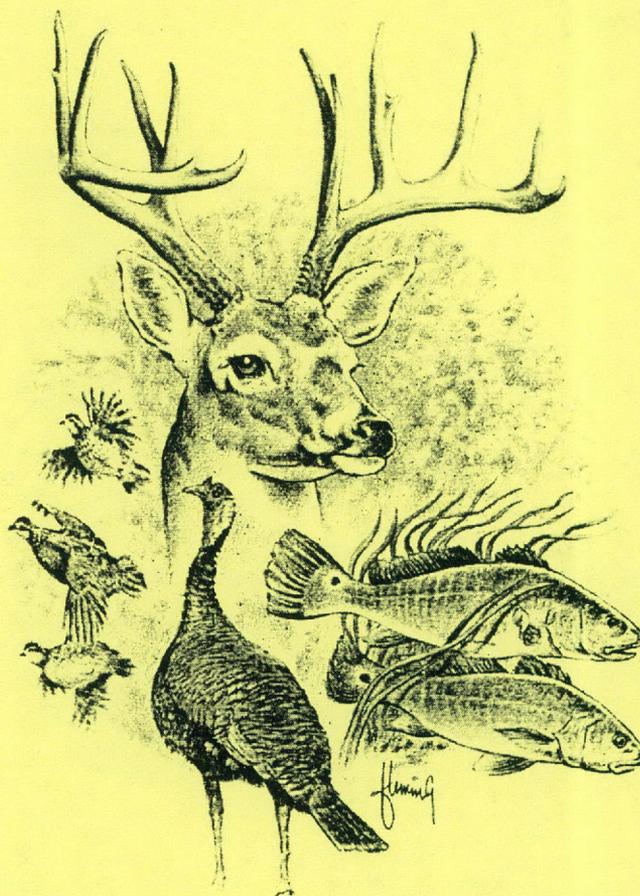
Theodore Roosevelt, 1916

Someone is stealing Texas' wildlife... Do you know who?

If you know a poacher or know of poaching activity,
report these violations to
Operation Game Thief by calling
1-800-792-GAME
and help preserve our wildlife resources.

Information leading to the arrest and conviction of a
poacher may result in a reward up to \$1,000.

*Help
support* **Operation
Game Thief**
a privately funded program



by becoming a member of the Operation Game Thief Program (call 512-389-4626 for membership information),
or by sending your tax deductible donation to:

**Operation Game Thief
Texas Parks and Wildlife
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744**

Hunter Education

Every hunter (including out-of-state hunters) born on or after September 2, 1971, must successfully complete a Hunter Education Training Course.

If you were born on or after September 2, 1971, and you are:

- age 17 and over, you must successfully complete a hunter education training course
- age 12 through 16, you must successfully complete a hunter education training course or be accompanied by a person 17 years of age or older, licensed to hunt in Texas
- under 12 years of age, you must be accompanied by a person 17 years of age or older, licensed to hunt in Texas

Minimum age of certification in 12 years and cost of certification is \$10.

Proof of certification is required to be on your person while hunting; it is not required to purchase a license.

For course information or exemptions, please contact your local TPWD Law Enforcement office;
call Austin at 512-389-4999 or call toll-free 1-800-792-1112 (menu 6, selection 2).

NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)
1-8	Hardin	15/M	Handgun	Rabbit	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carried loaded handgun in vehicle after rabbit hunting. He knocked it off the seat as he exited the vehicle. The handgun hit the floorboard, discharged and bullet struck the victim in the thigh.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Never carry loaded firearm in vehicle. Store transported firearms in cases.					
1-9	Robertson	9/M	Rifle	Crow	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim rested loaded firearm on his foot and carelessly discharged the trigger.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the firearm in a safe direction; handle firearm carefully when shifting or moving.					
1-15	Llano	39/M	Rifle	Hog	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter was shooting at hogs in heavy cover and bullet struck victim who had walked in front of other two hunters.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always be sure of target before raising rifle; communicate with hunting companions; wear blaze orange to be seen.					
1-22	Colorado	34/M	Shotgun	Quail	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter fired on flushing quail outside of zone of fire. Victim was behind shooter who did not know he was there.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always shoot within your safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; wear blaze orange to be seen.					
2-12	Val Verde	16/M	Handgun	Rabbit	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged handgun while pursuing game through heavy brush. Bullet struck him in the thigh.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point firearm in a safe direction; handle and carry firearm carefully; carry hammer over unloaded chamber.					
2-19	Lee	22/M	Handgun	Hog	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carried loaded handgun in back belt loop and carelessly discharged it.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point firearm in a safe direction; carry handgun in holster over an unloaded chamber.					
2-26	DeWitt	50/M	Shotgun	Quail	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter fired on flushing quail outside of zone of fire. Victim was behind shooter who did not know he was there.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always shoot within your safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; wear blaze orange to be seen.					
4-1	Washington	20/M	Rifle	Coyote	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged rifle into his ankle after shooting at a coyote and reloading.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point firearm in a safe direction; handle firearms carefully when shifting or moving; obey the law by completing hunter education.					
4-1	Llano	20/M	Handgun	Turkey	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged handgun toward his lap while sitting inside of a vehicle.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point firearm in a safe direction; never carry loaded firearm in a vehicle; familiarize yourself with your firearm's action.					

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)
5-14	Newton	21/M	Shotgun	Rabbit	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter swung firearm towards victim while shooting at a running rabbit.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point firearm within a safe zone of fire; wear blaze orange to be seen; obey the law by completing hunter education.					
6-21	Mason	14/M	Handgun	Rabbit	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim carried loaded handgun while operating 4-wheeler. Handgun discharged when 4-wheeler hit a bump.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Never carry loaded firearm in a vehicle; never hunt while in or on a vehicle.					
6-29	Panola	63/M	Handgun	Raccoon	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged handgun while walking into back yard to shoot a raccoon.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point firearm in a safe direction; never walk or run with a loaded firearm; handle firearms carefully.					
9-1	Concho	47/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim covered by shooter swinging on game.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within your safe zone of fire; communicate with your hunting companions; position yourself properly.					
9-1	Coleman	40/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim covered by shooter swinging on game.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within your safe zone of fire; communicate with your hunting companions; position yourself properly.					
9-1	Comanche	53/M	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter fired firearm with an obstruction in the barrel.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point firearm in safe direction; obey all game laws; load shotshells properly; check barrel from breech end before hunting.					
9-2	Coleman	18/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim covered by shooter swinging on game.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within your safe zone of fire; communicate with your hunting companions; position yourself properly.					
9-2	Coleman	41/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim covered by shooter swinging on game.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within your safe zone of fire; communicate with your hunting companions; position yourself properly.					
9-2	Coke	60/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim covered by shooter swinging on game.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within your safe zone of fire; communicate with your hunting companions; position yourself properly.					
9-2	Lubbock	13/M	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged firearm as he was walking with gun muzzle down toward feet.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point a firearm in a safe direction; use proper carries; handle firearm carefully with safety on.					

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)
9-3	Jones	16/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim covered by shooter swinging on game. Victim had moved location without telling shooter.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within your safe zone of fire; communicate with your hunting companions; position yourself properly.					
9-3	Fisher	12/M	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim rested loaded firearm on his foot and carelessly discharged the trigger.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the firearm in a safe direction; handle firearm carefully when shifting or moving.					
9-3	Comanche	48/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged firearm towards his knees while loading.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; know how to properly load and unload the firearm.					
9-16	Sabine	UNK	Shotgun	Waterfowl	No	UNK
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was struck by a single steel shot in neck. He did not know where shot came from and was leaving a shooting area by boat.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Stay within your safe zone of fire; position yourself properly.					
9-16	Runnels	36/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim covered by shooter swinging on game.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within your safe zone of fire; communicate with your hunting companions; position yourself properly.					
9-18	Throckmorton	15/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim covered by shooter swinging on game.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within your safe zone of fire; communicate with your hunting companions; position yourself properly.					
9-23	LaSalle	55/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim covered by shooter swinging on game.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within your safe zone of fire; communicate with your hunting companions; position yourself properly.					
9-23	McMullen	52/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	Yes-LA
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim covered by shooter swinging on game.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within your safe zone of fire; communicate with your hunting companions; position yourself properly.					
10-15	Kleberg	25/M	Shotgun	Rabbit	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim had been drinking and carelessly discharged shotgun towards his foot.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; handle firearms carefully; use proper carries; avoid alcohol or drugs while hunting; obey the law by completing hunter education.					
10-22	Kerr	16/M	Rifle	Rabbit	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged rifle while covering the muzzle with his thumb. He was trying to put the magazine tube back in the rifle.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; load and unload rifle properly; unload rifle chamber before loading magazine.					

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)
10-29	Cherokee	36/M	Shotgun	Waterfowl	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim had moved position without telling shooter, who shot at a wounded bird on the water.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Stay within your safe zone of fire; communicate with your hunting companions; position yourself properly.					
11-4	Colorado	34/M	Rifle	Hog	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter was shooting at a hog towards the victim who was sitting in a nearby treestand. Bullet fragments ricocheted and struck victim in the knee.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Stay within your safe zone of fire; always point muzzle in a safe direction; communicate with your hunting companions; position yourself properly; know what lies beyond your target.					
11-5	Trinity	19/M	Rifle	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter was packing up to leave deer camp and carelessly discharged a rifle as his hand was near the muzzle.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the firearm in a safe direction; unload firearms when not in use; carry firearms in a gun case for proper transport; obey the law by completing hunter education.					
11-12	Fisher	21/M	Muzzleloader/ Revolver	Coyote	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged revolver while hunting from a vehicle and getting ready to shoot. Lead ball struck him in his calf.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; never hunt from a vehicle; carry firearm so muzzle is in a safe direction at all times.					
11-19	Anderson	54/M	Rifle	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	While hunting in thick brush, shooter carelessly discharged his modified, old rifle which had no safety mechanism.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; never modify a firearm or use old firearms that are not in good condition.					
11-20	Reagan	12/M	Rifle	Rabbit	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim carelessly discharged rifle towards his foot while unloading firearm inside a vehicle.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; always unload and case firearm before storing it in a vehicle.					
11-20	Wheeler	72/M	Shotgun	Quail	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim covered by shooter swinging on game.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within your safe zone of fire; communicate with your hunting companions; position yourself properly.					
11-22	Gillespie	23/M	Rifle	Turkey	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim mishandled and dropped loaded firearm. The bullet struck him in the lower abdomen.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; use proper carries; never walk or run with a loaded firearm with safety off; obey the law by completing hunter education.					
11-26	Clay	10/M	Rifle	Quail	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was struck by bullet from a rifle fired by a shooter outside of a safe zone of fire.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Stay within your safe zone of fire; follow all game laws; never shoot a rifle at moving targets—use a shotgun.					
12-2	Harrison	43/M	Shotgun	Squirrel	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was readjusting loaded shotgun while riding on a tractor.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; never carry a loaded firearm in or hunt from a vehicle; unload and case firearm for transport.					

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)
12-9	Lamb	UNK	Shotgun	Quail	No	UNK
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was struck by pellets in the foot while "blocking" for a large group of hunters. Multiple shooters fired at flushing quail.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within your safe zone of fire; communicate with your hunting companions; position yourself properly					
12-9	Ochiltree	45/M	Shotgun	Quail	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim covered by shooter swinging on game.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within your safe zone of fire; communicate with your hunting companions; position yourself properly.					
12-22	Swisher	17/M	Shotgun	Pheasant	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim covered by shooter swinging on game.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within your safe zone of fire; communicate with your hunting companions; position yourself properly; obey the law by completing hunter education.					
12-29	Stephens	21/M	Rifle	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	After returning from a hunt, shooter carelessly discharged rifle towards his ankle.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; load and unload firearm properly; obey the law by completing hunter education.					
12-29	Carson	19/M	Rifle	Coyote	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged rifle while sitting in vehicle. He had just fired at a coyote and was recocking the levered .22 cal. Rifle.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; never carry a loaded firearm in or hunt from a vehicle; obey the law by completing hunter education.					

Preserving Our Hunting Heritage: Guiding Youth to a Hunting Ethic

By Area Chief Tamara Trail, Education Director, Texas Wildlife Association

It is no great revelation that hunters are under increased scrutiny from the general public. In fact, one could argue that our public image is related more to the general perception of hunter behavior, appearance and attitude than it is to the idea of hunting itself. Will Rogers once said, "People's minds are changed through observation and not through argument." As hunters, we must take an active role in promoting a positive image of hunting. For most of us, this includes discreetly and respectfully transporting game, making an extra effort to take appropriate photos, understanding that our conversations may influence the opinion of a non-hunter and promoting awareness of the hunters' role in wildlife conservation.

Despite our efforts, we still have a few bad apples that often are held up as typical hunters. How, then, do we help hunters, especially young hunters, understand the importance of responsible hunter behavior and its implications for our future? The first notion is to understand the saying that "ethics are caught, not taught."

If you have spent time afield with your youngster or have been involved with the Texas Youth Hunting Program, then you no doubt appreciate that taking young people afield is a great way to build character and teach responsibility, something youth-development specialists often refer to as "building life skills." By helping the young people in your life develop their own code for hunting ethics, they likely will adopt a similar code in other aspects of their life.

Our role as mentors really is that of "hunting guides." The "hunt" actually is the growth process as young hunters develop their own set of values. "Hunting success," then, becomes the way the hunter feels about himself. The "trophy," then, is a responsible citizen and hunter who knows the "woods" or knows how to make wise decisions.

As a guide, it is our responsibility to provide our clients—young people—the tools necessary to make these responsible decisions. A hunter who knows how to navigate the woods likely is proficient with a map and a compass. Below is a set of questions that a guide can use to provide a client an ethical compass for navigating the decision-making process.

A sample hunting ethical compass as adapted from the Idaho 4-H Sportfishing Program and Dr. Jeff Goodwin, Natural Resources Extension Specialist:

1. Is the action legal?
2. Would you tell anyone the complete truth of your actions?
3. Will the action have a neutral or positive effect on the land or natural resources?
4. Will the action benefit the tradition of hunting?

“As hunters, we must take an active role in promoting a positive image of hunting.”

5. Would you be proud if the action were reported in your local newspaper?
6. Would you be proud if your parents (or kids) witnessed your actions?
7. Will your actions have a positive effect on others?

If the answer to any of these questions is "no," then the hunter should consider an alternate route.

If you have ever seen the inside cover of the Texas Hunter Education manual, then you have seen the quote from Aldo Leopold, who is known as the father of wildlife management, "...the hunter ordinarily has no gallery to applaud or disapprove of his conduct. Whatever his acts, they are dictated by his own conscience rather than a mob of onlookers."

The idea is that when your students eventually go on a "non-guided" hunt, they will have the skills necessary to find their way.

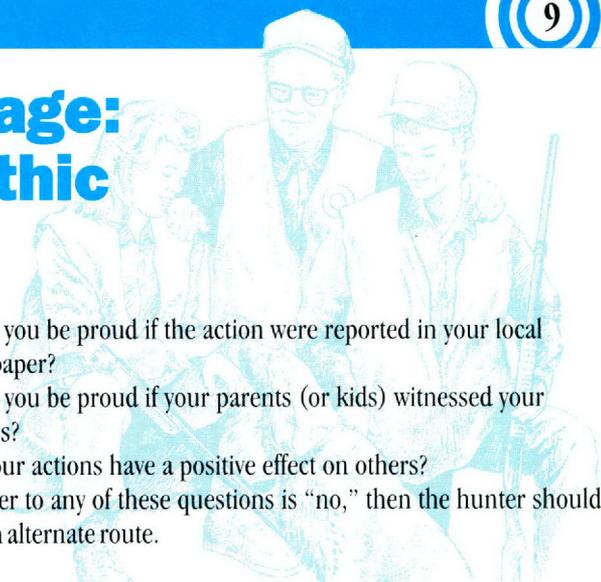
Ethical dilemma exercises are another set of tools for a guide. They provide stimulating thought and discussion and may provide even the most seasoned group of hunters interesting dialogue. Ethical dilemmas are hunting situations that deal with issues such as truth versus loyalty or making the most appropriate decision. Below are a couple of examples:

Dilemma #1: Your buddy is having a really good day. He has taken his limit of doves and, since you have not, asks you to start keeping his. Should you do it? What if (he) were your father or your son or daughter?

Dilemma #2: You haven't seen anything all day. You are walking the fence line back to meet your buddy before heading to the vehicle. Then you see the buck you've been hunting all season just about to jump the fence to your neighbor's property. What do you do?

Preparing for a hunt often means being in good physical condition. Ethical fitness comes only through exercising ethical muscles. Ready for a workout?

To learn more about tools for encouraging responsible hunter behavior, attend a Hunter Education Ethics Workshop, get a copy of the video, *Deer Hunting-A Focus On Ethics*, get involved with 4-H Shooting Sports or the Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge. If you would like to do so, please contact Tamara at 401 Isom Road, Suite 237, San Antonio, TX 78216. (21) 826-2904, Fax (210) 826-4933, or e-mail t_trail@texas-wildlife.org



IHEA Foundation Holding Fundraiser

Tom Floyd, President and CEO of Dodge Outfitters Association of America, is on the newly formed IHEA Foundation Board of Directors. He chairs the Foundation Endowment Committee and has announced the second Shooting Sports Industry and Retailers Fund Raising event coming up on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 1-2, 2001 at the NSSA, National Shooting Complex in San Antonio.

This event is being conducted to raise money for the IHEA Endowment. Over 350 invitations have been mailed out to the major shooting sports and retail industry representatives. Entry fee for the three-member team is \$2500.

On Tuesday, a ten-event "Sportsman's Challenge" will be held for all individual participants, and activities will include skills in bait-casting, archery, rifle, shotgun, pistol, etc. Wednesday's activities will have each three-member team competing in trap, skeet, and sporting clays. There will be door prizes, goodie bags, live and silent auctions and a lot of fun.

For more information on how to enter, contact Tom Floyd at (713) 817-6667.

Pearls of wisdom...

On church marquee:

"One thing you cannot recycle is wasted time."

NRA Announces 16th Annual Youth Hunting Challenge

Come join the NRA as its premiere Youth Hunting Education Program returns to the Whittington Center. Hundreds of hunter education graduates from across North America will converge on the 33,000 plus acres of NRA's Whittington Center in Raton, New Mexico, this summer to "take the challenge" in the spirit of safety and sportsmanship during the 2001 NRA International Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC), July 29-August 3.

YHEC is an advanced hunter education program designed to enhance classroom knowledge with in-the-field experience. Young hunters compete in a series of eight events: .22 rifle, shotgun, archery, muzzleloading, orienteering, wildlife identification, hunter safety trail, and a written hunter responsibility exam. Nearly 43,000 youths compete in state and Canadian provincial-level YHEC's each year, any of whom are welcome at the annual international event.

In addition to YHEC's eight main events, special activities will also be featured during the week, including a perennial favorite, the Cherokee Run. Patterned after the fur traders of the 1800s, the event challenges you to sprint through the woods while being timed on "mountain man" skills like tomahawk throwing and starting fires with flint and steel.

The requirements for participation in the international event are that youths have completed a hunter education course in North America and have competed in their respective state or provincial event. Participation is divided into two categories: Senior, for ages 15-19; and Junior, for ages 14 and below. Though YHEC is a competitive program, the real "challenge" for participants lies with skill development and the advancement of hunter safety and responsibility.

The NRA Hunter Services Department would like to request your support at this year's activities. With ongoing expansion of the YHEC across the country, the weeklong International will require the minimum support of 115 individuals (estimated) to ensure successful operations.

As in the past, registered volunteers receive:

- ▶ Accommodations courtesy of NRA Whittington Center's Lodging Facilities (Competitive Housing/Rustic Cabins/R.V. Campgrounds). **Volunteer Accommodations are arranged and coordinated solely by the individual listed below. Please do not contact the Center directly.**
- ▶ Meals
- ▶ Registration Packet (with event memorabilia)
- ▶ Volunteer Appreciation Reception (Celebrating YHEC's "Sweet 16")

For more details on volunteering at the 2001 NRA International YHEC, contact NRA Hunter Services Department, or Janice Taylor, Assistant Manager of Hunter Services Dept. at (703) 267-1523.

**N
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For more information on Texas' YHEC coming up on May 4-6 at the Parrie Haynes Youth Ranch near Killeen, contact Billy Whitfield, NRA-YHEC State Coordinator at (512) 863-2342, T.H.E.I.A. President and Texas YHEC Director, Bernie Heer, at (210) 690-9026, or state YHEC volunteer coordinator, Betty Allen at (817) 801-8662 or (817) 366-3190.

TEXAS GAME WARDEN FIELD NOTES

Game Warden Cadets Graduate from Academy

Texas has some new game wardens. The 25 cadets, members of the 47th game warden academy, were selected from a pool of 352 men and women who applied for entry. Following graduation, the new game wardens will disperse to posts in 21 counties.

Previous occupations of the cadets include a county extension agent, medical equipment sales, DNA researcher, law enforcement officers, emergency medical personnel, U.S. Marines, graphic art designer, and a waiter. Some had recently completed their undergraduate studies, and six cadets worked as interns with TPW.

The academy's classroom study is the equivalent of 36 semester hours – all in seven months. Subjects include game and fish law, criminal law, citation and court procedures, defensive tactics, arrest procedures, firearms training, hunter education, environmental pollution, saltwater and freshwater fishing operations, boater education & water safety and rescue training.

“Texas is changing and today’s game wardens are required to know more and do more than ever before,” said Jim Robertson, TPW law enforcement director. “Our cadets must learn not only the complete regimen of standard law enforcement basics, they must also acquire specialized expertise in wildlife management, game laws, water safety laws, environmental laws, public education and more.”

The primary task of modern game wardens remains the protection of the fish and wildlife, which are held in trust by TPW for the state of Texas. About a third of game wardens’ time is spent enforcing boating laws, Robertson said.

Outreach has become a component of game warden duties. Texas game wardens make presentations to schools and private groups to promote wildlife conservation. They also enlist the help of the public to catch

flagrant game law violators through programs like Operation Game Thief, which offers rewards for telephone tips that lead to convictions, Robertson explained.

Working with TPW biologists, game wardens investigate environmental crimes against wildlife and protect state threatened and endangered species, Robertson added. They also work closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The cadet class of 2000 logged 1,260 hours of demanding mental and physical training over a 30-week period. Physical training is a large component of the academy, with daily workouts for six months. The cadets rank in the elite fitness category – the top 10 percent of the American population, Robertson noted.

Academy instructors say that one of the toughest challenges the cadets face in the physical training program is the swimming and water rescue training. Drowning is the leading cause of on-duty deaths. One of the final tests is jumping in the water in full uniform with a 10-pound gun belt while wearing blacked-out goggles to simulate nighttime.

“We’ve got one of the longer law enforcement academies compared with other agencies,” said Royce Wells, director of the academy. “The reason is that our cadets must learn everything that other peace officers learn as well as all of the Parks and Wildlife regulations. That’s a vast amount of knowledge they absorb. This is a fine class and we’re proud to send them into the field.”

This cadet class brings the **total number of Texas Game Wardens to 477**. The new game warden assignments are to the counties of Andrews, Atascosa, Austin, Brewster, Cameron, Jeff Davis, Denton, Franklin, Galveston, Jim Hogg, Jefferson, McMullen, Motley, Newton, Polk, Rusk, Sabine, Tarrant, Van Zandt, Victoria and Willacy.

HEY D G A N G !

Hi folks !

By the time you read this, most of the incentive awards will have been mailed out. If you did not receive an award this year, it might be that you are between incentive point levels. If you think we have missed you, please contact me and I will check on it. The computer occasionally makes a mistake and we will be happy to correct it.

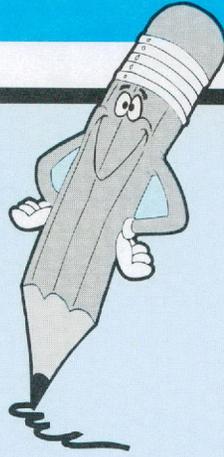
A friendly reminder . . . PLEASE make sure all student test scores are included on the student registration form. We must have these scores for audit purposes. Write and bubble in the scores, and remember, passing score must be at least 70% for the structured course and 80% for home study. Double-check all forms for completeness before mailing. It would save a lot of valuable time.

Kathy's Korner

When the courses are team taught, **each** instructor must complete a final report and divide the students at their discretion. Please place each instructor's final report on top of the student registration forms he/she signs off on, then place all records in the envelope and mail. That way, the whole class comes in together. If more than one envelope is required, please tape the envelopes together.

Thanks very much for your cooperation. See you next time!

KATHY



DUMMY AMMUNITION ALERT

Attention Instructors:

I just got back from the State Police Training Academy where I teach a portion of the firearms course. For several years, we have been using Federal and Winchester 12 gauge dummy rounds for our dry fire exercises. These have a low base brass with a **white** hull. The new Federal Tactic (reduced recoil) Slug is a high base brass with a **WHITE** hull. Be aware that these rounds can be easily confused. Just trying to avoid a disaster.

Regards,

Floyd M. Demaray, Conservation Officer, South Dakota

Attention Hunter Ed Instructors:

As a third year Huntmaster with the Texas Youth Hunting Program, I still learn a lot around a campfire. The campfire is the Saturday night portion of a youth hunt. Everyone sits around the fire and gets a chance to tell what he/she likes (or dislikes) about the hunt. Comments are all very positive 99.9% of the time. One thing brought to my attention by a dad of one of the hunters was the fact that this great program was not mentioned to the youth during the hunter education class. I urge you to recommend the Texas Youth Hunting Program to students in all of your classes, as these hunts are very educational as well as fun. If you are a hunter education instructor and not a Huntmaster, I urge you to consider becoming one. Then, you can not only teach hunter education, you can take kids hunting and live it. What a great way to pass on the heritage of hunting to the next generation.

Thanks,

Roger W. Wubbenhorst

Hunter Education Staff:

Just a note to say again how much I enjoyed the Outdoor Skills/Survival workshop this past weekend. John Weishaar is a heck of a teacher, and I really enjoyed his mix of theory and reality/practicality. He not only talks the talk, but walks the walk. I sure hope he will teach it again next year. I told my wife she has to go with me to it. Outstanding workshop! I sent John a note this morning thanking him. Also wanted to say how much I enjoyed the Parrie Haynes Ranch and all the facilities. Great place for workshops and I hope you will consider having others there. Not just because it is close to home, but also because of the centralized location for everybody, the facilities, (the food), and the potential of both outside

and inside activities. Super place! Anyway, thanks for all you do for us. It is really reassuring to have the kind of backing we, as Instructors, have from the TPWD staff.

Sincerely,

Bill Hibbs, Attorney at Law, Belton

Dear Hunter Education Staff:

Thank you all for the opportunity to attend the 4H-Instructor Workshop at the Parrie Haynes Ranch. I learned much. The instructors were top-notch. We could not get to all three disciplines, but concentrated on skeet and trap. It helped me understand that too often we over teach young students by handicapping them from breaking targets. The importance of not injecting 'paralysis by analysis' allows the natural shooting instincts to benefit the student. I realized how important it is to inject the positive motivational actions instead of what the student is doing wrong. Most of all, I realized and experienced what it is like to be a new student. And that often one must become a scientist, partnering with the student to experiment by trying new methods. I was truly in awe of the effort, concern, and "mission" each county 4-H instructor has taken on personally, to benefit the 4-H shooting sports program.

Thanks,

Joe Stengel, Austin

Dear Hunter Education Staff:

I wanted to pass along a few comments about the Hunter Education class that I recently completed. David Pope, Larry Clark, Jose Garcia and one other whose name has slipped my mind at this moment taught the class. Since I was old enough not to need this class, I put it off for many years. After taking it, I wish I had done it long ago. The instructors kept the class interesting and gave a splendid introduction to all hunting. They provided loads of useful information on safety, but also on hunting with shotguns, rifles, bows, and black powder. They even had examples of all the equipment to view, touch, and ask questions about if necessary. I don't know that all the instructors are this competent and interesting but if they are, you have an excellent program. **Even though I have been hunting for 40 years**, I picked up some new information and some good pointers.

While I have your attention, I wanted to also make a comment on the wardens. In my hunting career, I have met several game wardens. All were very professional and knowledgeable people. I guess I can say that all my experiences have been very positive based on their demeanor and the fact that I have always been in compliance with regulations! I expect that your department does not get all the compliments that are deserved since so many do not fully appreciate what all TPW does for our state.

Thanks for all you do!

Jim Hanley, Dallas

DID YOU KNOW?

Use Smokeless Powder in Muzzleloaders?

By Area Chief, Bill Brummel

Yes! There has been a new development by one of our gun manufacturers. Savage Arms, Inc. recently came out with a muzzleloader (Mod. 10ML) that is designed to use **smokeless powder**! For years Hunter Education Instructors have been correctly warning students to never use smokeless powders in muzzleloaders. Most black powder muzzleloaders operate with internal barrel pressures in the 10,000-15,000 psi range. This new muzzleloader has been specifically designed to use smokeless powder with much higher internal barrel pressures in the 50,000 psi range!

Several gun-related outdoor magazines and the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association have recently issued concerned warnings about using smokeless powder in conventional black powder firearms. We must change our warnings to our students to: "You must never use smokeless powder in a muzzleloading firearm **unless that firearm is specifically designed for smokeless powder.**" Should smokeless powder be used in any muzzleloader, other than the one specifically made for smokeless powder, it could cause a possible catastrophic failure of that firearm. The risk of serious injury and death to both the shooter and/or any bystanders from using smokeless powder in a firearm designed for only black powder use is considerable!



Snake Knowledge

If you would like to know more about Texas snakes, especially those found around the home, check out Tim Cole's Web site www.austinreptileservice.com. Tim is an Austin-based licensed rehabilitator and snake breeder who has considerable information and photos for the snake phobic. This site is a great place for people trying to learn about old fables and stories regarding snakes. It will help individuals identify snakes they come in contact with, both poisonous and non-poisonous.

New Requirements for Visitors Bringing Firearms into Canada

As of January 1, 2001, visitors who do not have a Canadian firearms license will need to report their firearms to customs at the border, complete a non-resident firearms declaration form in triplicate, have it confirmed by a customs officer and pay a \$50 (Canadian) fee.

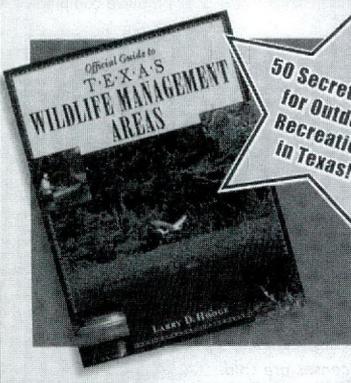
Visitors will be able to purchase ammunition with Canadian firearms license, a confirmed firearms declaration form or a Temporary Borrowing License.

Once confirmed, this declaration form will act as a temporary license and registration certificate while in Canada and is valid for 60 days. Visitors may renew their temporary license any time during a 12-month period without paying an additional fee. Unlicensed non-residents who plan to borrow a firearm in Canada must obtain a Temporary Borrowing License.

Copies of the non-resident Firearms Declaration or the Temporary Firearms Borrower's license (non-residents) forms are available by calling 1-800-731-4000, or at www.cfc.gc.ca under "visitors." The Borrower's form must be completed before arrival into Canada and the cost of the license is \$30 (Canadian).

New WMA Publication Available

Wildlife management areas are located in every region of the state, and most are open 365 days of the year for some kind of activity. The **Official Guide to Texas Wildlife Management Areas** gives you the information you need to escape the crowds and enjoy the splendid scenery, serenity and solitude these "last best places" offer. Written and photographed by Larry D. Hodge, the book is an invaluable resource you'll consult again and again. Priced at \$29.95, the book is available from the TPW Press on-line bookstore at the address or toll-free number shown.



50 Secret Spots for Outdoor Recreation in Texas!

Revealed for the first time in the...
Official Guide to Texas Wildlife Management Areas

Over 750,000 acres of wildlife management areas await outdoor enthusiasts—and most Texans don't know they exist! This book is a must-have insider's guide for:

- ★ Hunters ★ Birders ★ Campers ★ Fishers
- ★ Hikers ★ Mountain bikers

Order Online at www.tpwpress.com
or Call (800) 747-1726 Key Code: TPR1

Secure a copy of this new book and check out some of the areas.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Western States Rendezvous

Just a reminder about the second Western States Instructor Rendezvous. It will be held **May 11-13, 2001**, at the Casablanca Resort in beautiful **Mesquite, Nevada**. The theme will mirror the annual IHEA conference theme: *Taking Hunter Education to the Next Level*.

Speakers and workshops will help instructors see all the possibilities for the future of Hunter Education. This Rendezvous' activities include a Trading Blanket and Auction; Instructor Workshops; Sporting Clays, Trap and Skeet; Awards Banquet; Instructor Exchange Sessions and Coordinator's Roast. More than 250 instructors from the western U.S. and Canada enjoyed the conference and activities in 1998.

There are RV spaces – \$10, Motorlodge Studios – \$21; Motorlodge one bedroom – \$32; and Tower rooms – \$59. For room reservations, please call (800) 459-7529 prior to April 10, 2001.

Fliers are available for distribution. If you checked off the box on the Workshop Schedule, you should have already received the flyer. If not, please call Kathy Powell, or contact **Les Smith, 800-597-HUNT (4868)** if you are interested in getting more information, fliers or attending the Rendezvous.

Program Orientation/Standards/Home Study

May 5-6	Lufkin
May 19-20	Rosenberg
May 19-20	Paris
June 9-10	Rio Hondo (Ag. Teachers)
June 9-10	Canyon
June 20-21	San Marcos (Ag. Teachers)
June 26-27	Stephenville (Ag. Teachers)
July 14-15	Beaumont
July 21-22	Katy
July 28-29	Athens

Youth Hunter Education Challenge

May 4-6	Parrie Haynes Ranch
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Ethics Workshop

June 11-12	Mission (Ag. Teachers)
June 21-22	San Marcos (Ag. Teachers)
June 23-24	Early-Brownwood
June 27-28	Stephenville (Ag. Teachers)
July 7-8	Austin

IBEP Instructor Workshop

June 9	Denton
June 18-19	Broadus (student & instructor for Ag. Teachers)

IHEA Annual Conference

June 2-6	Missoula, MT
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Bobwhite Brigade Wildlife Leadership Camp

A hands-on learning experience for Texas youth!

Sponsored by Texas Agriculture Extension Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and Texas Chapters of Quail Unlimited. This four-day camp for high school students (sophomore, junior and senior only with a "B" average) is designed to make quail experts out of its members. Cadets are provided intensive training on quail biology and management by leading wildlife scientists from throughout Texas. Upon graduation, each member of The Bobwhite Brigade will be expected to present educational programs on quail management in his/her county of residence.

There are three camps planned for 2001. Here are the listings and dates: Rolling Plains – June 23-27, South Texas – July 15-19 and East Texas – July 22-26. For more information on how to apply, contact Bobwhite Brigade, c/o Texas Agriculture Extension Service, 33545 Cherry ridge, Suite 212, San Antonio, TX 78230.

Applications by potential cadets must be returned by April 15, 2001 in order to be considered.

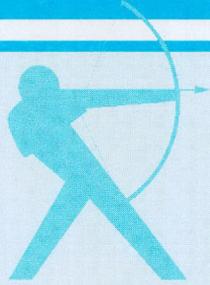
R · E · M · I · N · D · E · R · S

The IHEA maintains a Volunteer Discussion section on their Web site: IHEA.com

To access, volunteer instructors enter as follows:

USERNAME = >volunteer<

PASSWORD = >huntsafe<



THE BOWHUNTER

International Bowhunter Education Program
of Texas

RESPONSIBILITY

There are many reasons why we may decide to hunt with a bow. With the increased challenge we take on increased responsibilities. Bowhunting is unique and requires each participant to act responsibly. Accept responsibility and act responsible.

Always hunt as if you're being watched. Your actions will speak for all bowhunters, so please make it a good message.

Although bowhunting is not a spectator sport, some hunting conditions often put the bowhunter in the public's backyard, which might make it seem that everyone is watching. It is imperative that bowhunters exercise strong ethical behavior and be considerate of each other and nonhunters.

In 1979 the National Bowhunter Education Foundation was formed and became the entity to administer the International Bowhunter Education Program. Hundreds of volunteer instructors have provided the bowhunters of North America and the world a most effective and outstanding basic bowhunter education experience.

A meaningful objective became its goal: "TO INSTILL IN BOWHUNTERS A RESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE AND TO ASSIST THEM TO ADOPT AND FOLLOW AN ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR TOWARD PEOPLE, WILDLIFE AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH THEY HUNT."

The International Bowhunter Education Program course is for everyone who wants to bowhunt. The course produces better, more responsible bowhunters while reassuring nonhunters that everyone hunting in the woods has completed a thorough hunter education class. And who can argue with education? IBEP grads consistently hunt safer, take fewer shots and harvest more game.

The IBEP course teaches bowhunter responsibilities:

1. KNOW THE RULES OF THE GAME
2. KNOW YOUR COMPANIONS
3. RESPECT LANDOWNERS' RIGHTS
4. RESPECT WILDLIFE
5. KNOW YOUR HUNTING EQUIPMENT
6. KNOW YOURSELF
7. RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF THOSE WHO CHOOSE NOT TO HUNT

We have a wonderful sport that can be immensely satisfying; however, we have to work to retain it. Unless we are willing to be responsible hunters, our opportunities are going to diminish.

Any Questions...?

Contact Dwight Purvis at (817) 295-3805 or by e-mail: <toxophilus@juno.com>



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Texas Parks and Wildlife
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