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TPWD Mission: To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



COORDINATOR'S CORNER

We have encountered concerns from student participants about courses lately. Let's examine some of these situations and provide solutions on how we handled each one. Here is the first one taken from a public Internet blog site:

First Incident:

Tiffany just completed her hunter education course on (9-11-11) and called me to let me know several things that happened. I just want to know if this is something that is normal, because it was never mentioned in my course.

The instructor went off about "people who put out corn." He went on to say that someone who just hunts trails is the one who is actually a hunter, and that people who hunt over bait "shouldn't count." The instructor went on a rant about exotic ranches, once again saying that those who participated in hunts there weren't hunters and that their kills "shouldn't count."

In the same course, a guy accompanied his daughter taking the course. When the instructor stepped out of the room, the father read off the answers to his daughter who was taking the test. What can be done about this? If she can't complete the test it is a safety issue. Tiffany just mentioned something to the instructor about the parent, and the reply from the instructor was if you don't pass he gives you all the answers and a retest, and that it didn't matter because he would cheat on it too."

continued on page 2

Fourth Annual Ag Clays Shoot a Huge Success

There was over 100% increase in participation with 41 schools, 99 teams and 474 participants at this year's Ag Clays Trap and Sporting Clays event held on June 6-7 at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio. Thanks to the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Texas State Rifle Association for providing the award banners and trophies. River Star Farms provided lunch and drinks over the two-day event. Thanks for their generosity and sponsorship.



In addition, Cabela's provided a \$1,000 gift certificate for the overall winner of the event, which was Devine High School. Shown here is Ag teacher Chad Saunders accepting the gift card from Charlie Wilson on behalf of his school.

Next year's event is scheduled for June 4-5 at the same location. If you are an Ag teacher and interested in bringing a team or teams to this event, please contact Charlie Wilson at (361) 275-2178 or (512) 413-0194.

See this year's winners on pages 4 and 5.

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Coordinator's Corner, continued

Blog Response:

Sadly, there is probably a shortage of instructors, and as far as I know it is fairly easy to become one. With that being said, TPWD probably takes who they can get and aren't too discriminating in their screening. Too bad it turned political as things often do.

Another Blog Response:

My instructor was good guy when I had him last year. He did mention hunting over a baited area. He didn't put it out like that but said something to the effect, "Is it ethical?" He paused and asked the class "Is it okay to hunt hogs over bait?" Everyone responded with an overwhelming, "Yes!" He then asked, "Is it okay to shoot deer over feeders, too?" Everyone went quiet and he said, "That is something we all have to think about ... what's ethical and what's not. Even if it's not illegal, it makes you think about it." Ethics is a sticky topic for sure for many individuals.

Investigation pending. *Instructors are not to express personal opinion during courses, but are supposed to present materials from the manual.*

Second Incident:

Another instructor was cutting a significant amount of time out of a two-day course and charging an excessive fee for the course claiming there was a "facility use fee." When the game warden checked, there was no facility use fee involved and the instructor was pocketing the additional funding.

Investigation pending. *Instructors must disclose any and all facility use fees and inform the student about the fees making it optional to the student who makes the decision whether to take the course at that particular location. If the student elects to go ahead and take the course, then the student must pay the facility use fee directly to the facility, and not to the instructor.*

Third Incident:

Game warden checks two hunters on opening Saturday of dove season. The hunters were not certified, so a citation was issued. On Sunday, the game warden comes upon the same two hunters again. When asked, they assured the game warden they had taken the course and produced the "temporary cards." Funny, that the course was taught the day before and that same day for the two-day period. Now, it's hard to explain to the game warden that while he issued a citation, they were both supposed to be in class. Game warden checked with the instructor and the instructor admitted to falsifying the documents and had not taught the course.

Instructor placed on suspension, pending investigation. *Do not falsify state documents. Instructors never know when and if we send an individual in to check on how the course is conducted.*

Fourth Incident:

Game warden checks two dove hunters with no license or certification while they were being accompanied by a certified instructor who, incidentally, was their father as well. Game warden issued citations and notified our office of the incident. Game warden was not happy with the instructor.

Investigation pending. *Most likely, this will result in dismissal of the instructor.*

Fifth Incident:

Father and daughter complained about an instructor teaching in his personal residence in an unacceptable environment, unclean, disorganized setting with firearms scattered around the room. Four other individuals notified our office of the same setting with the same instructor. Turns out the instructor had courses completed over several months that had not been turned in.

Instructor dismissed. *Conclusion: Instructor had numerous policy violations.*

Executive Director
Carter P. Smith

Editor, Target Talk
Terry Erwin



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Texas State Rifle Association Hires New Youth Shooting Sports Coordinator

Steve Hall, Executive Director, Texas State Rifle Association

The Texas State Rifle Association (TSRA) hired Rhonda Esakov, veteran Area Chief Hunter Education Instructor, as their new “Youth Shooting Sports Coordinator.” She oversees the new partner program sponsored and funded by the TSRA Foundation, through the generosity and funding provided by Larry and Brenda Potterfield, owners of Midway USA. The purpose of the program is to “get kids pulling triggers” and to foster an atmosphere conducive to families finding more opportunities for their kids to participate in introductory firearm safety and shooting sports programs in Texas. Primary partners include Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s hunter education and shooting sports programs, Texas AgriLife Extension’s 4-H Shooting Sports Program, and Texas Wildlife Association’s Youth Hunting Program.

TSRA has been selected to implement the comprehensive program alongside its popular junior shooting competitive programs, CMP, Air Gun, Club-in-a-Box, youth hunting and other youth shooting sports efforts.

Be sure to go to tsra.com to learn more about the organization, serve as an “Introduction to Firearms” instructor or to join as a member to the one organization that has actively worked with the legislature to protect your firearm rights in Texas—since 1919.



Rhonda Esakov, TSRA Youth Shooting Sports Program coordinator receives the International Hunter Education Association “Volunteer Instructor of the Year” as sponsored/presented by Ryan Bronson of Federal Ammunition. Esakov also holds many other credentials including NRA Training Counselor, Chief Range Safety Officer and Instructor; Merit Badge & Summer Camp Counselor for Boy Scouts of America and TPWD Becoming an Outdoors-Woman, Basic Outdoor Skills and Texas Outdoor Family instructor.

Coordinator’s Corner, continued

Sixth Incident:

An instructor teaching a two-day course in a commercial location allowed the students to leave significantly early, and gave a homework assignment and told the students to return the next morning at 10 a.m. Ten of the students were minimally late the next morning and were not allowed to enter the course and were told to depart. Significant dissatisfaction and commotion resulted in the store manager having to call the police. Total time for the course for the group was less than ten hours.

Instructor dismissed. An additional instructor was contacted to complete the course.

Folks, all these incidents leave the integrity of the TPWD Hunter Education program in a less than desirable setting. We like to think we have the best course and group of instructors in North America, and I am proud to be associated with each you. When situations like these happen, it disappoints us, because we have placed responsibility and trust in each instructor. One should never consider becoming an instructor if monetary gain

or shirking the responsibility of training students appropriately is ever in question.

We want dedicated instructors who care about the future of hunting, the safety of those involved and who have an attitude that will help them teach the course to those who will carry on the heritage of hunting for future generations. An analogy is a weed needs to be removed from the farm to allow genuine productive plants to produce to their fullest ability. We will weed the garden and keep those undesirable or unsuitable growths from causing any more damage to the farm. It bears saying that weeding the garden is not a pleasant activity, but very necessary. When weed growth begins to damage the crops, it is time for them to go and we are good farmers, and will protect our crops.

Thanks to everyone who is doing the right thing the right way, and know we sincerely appreciate and have the greatest respect for each of you. Continue your hard work and there will always be a special place for you on our farm.

Until next time... Always Be Safe!

Terry Erwin

Fourth Annual Ag Clays Shoot

*Congratulations to this
year's top competitors!*



State Champion All Male Trap Team – Petrolia
Not pictured: 2nd Place All Male Trap Team – Windthorst
and 3rd Place All Male Trap Team – Whitharral



State Champion All Female Trap Team –
New Diana



2nd Place All Female Trap Team –
Brazoswood



3rd Place All Female Trap Team –
Whitharral



State Champion Mixed Trap Team –
Brazoswood



2nd Place Mixed Trap Team –
Buffalo



3rd Place Mixed Trap Team –
Smithson Valley



High Overall Male Trap –
Jack Lowrance,
East Chambers



High Overall Female
Trap – Miranda Wilder,
New Diana



State Champion All Male Sporting Clays Team – Devine



2nd Place All Male Sporting Clays Team – Bandera



3rd Place all Male Sporting Clays Team – Buffalo



State Champion All Female Sporting Clays Team – Devine



2nd Place All Female Sporting Clays Team – Huffman Hargrave



3rd Place All Female Sporting Clays Team – Brazoswood



State Champion Mixed Sporting Clays Team – Devine



2nd Place Mixed Sporting Clays Team – Buffalo



3rd Place Mixed Sporting Clays Team – Barbers Hill



High Overall Male Sporting Clays – Lawton Bean, Devine

High Overall Female Sporting Clays – Drucilla Meier, Clyde



KUDOS!

Dear Staff:

I want to say a great big Texas-sized THANK YOU to Kathy Powell who was so kind and so helpful to me this morning on the phone with my urgent need for a replacement/temporary hunter education card. I have always kept my sensitive documents along with those of my family in Ziploc bags inside my gun safe. Yet, somehow, since last hunting season, I misplaced my hunter education card but did not realize it until about 9:00 p.m. This was just one “small” issue in a long line of other issues trying to get everything ready for a Colorado elk hunt that I and three others have been applying for the past four years, and we leave tomorrow. At this point I am really frustrated. I could only imagine that being a transplanted native Texan and having taken my hunter safety course in Texas over 20 years ago and now living in Iowa, that it would be a difficult process at best to get replacement card.

What a most pleasant surprise! Seriously, it took Kathy less time to get my personal info and fax me a temporary card than it took for me to explain what I needed. I hope I have spelled her name correctly. If there is any way to make sure she receives this, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks again!

Billy Owens, Sr. Roof Consultant
West Des Moines, IA 50265

While teaching BSA National Camp School in Athens, Texas this summer, I had two fellow hunter education instructors as students. They were getting certified as BSA Shooting Sports Directors. Even though they had all the required NRA certifications, they needed the BSA blessings. They are Virgil Frick (center) and Charles Snowden (right). Great folks!

Thanks,
Jose Garcia





Texas Youth Hunting Program and Hunter Education

The 2011-12 hunting season has just kicked off with the opening of dove season. We are looking forward to early teal season, followed closely behind with archery season, then the general deer season with the special youth weekend one week prior to that opening, and finally, the black powder season. What a wonderful time of year!

As we prepare for the season, volunteer Huntmasters with the Texas Youth Hunting Program (TYHP) are visiting with landowners to evaluate the impact of the drought and heat of this past summer on their deer herd. The outcome of the evaluation will help determine if they can host a youth hunt. Selective hunting assists them with their wildlife management plan by harvesting the desired species, in order to maintain balance in their wildlife herd.

Roughly 75 percent of the hunts conducted by TYHP are for whitetail doe. We like to call them "Trophy Doe," which is not an exaggeration. The youth who participate in the hunts are grateful for the opportunity to HUNT, period! They enjoy the opportunity to be outdoors with an adult mentor.

TYHP is dedicated to preserving the hunting heritage many of us were blessed to be raised with. In today's society, youth don't have the opportunity to explore the woods,

prairies and creek beds with their favorite .22 or .410, hunting rabbits, squirrels or frogs. They don't have the access to land the way many of us did as we grew up in the country.

TYHP is all about SAFETY, our number one priority, while our number one objective is to have FUN! By instilling a sense of responsibility and safety in our youth at a very young age, it becomes second nature.

How do we instill responsibility and safety in our youth as well as our adult hunting population? Hunter Education. All youth who participate in TYHP, from ages 9-17, are required to be certified through a Hunter Education course. In many cases, we find the parent or accompanying adult has not been a hunter for very long, if at all, and it is mutually beneficial for them to take the 10-hour course together.

Texas Hunter Education, a valuable tool of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, states its purpose is: to produce safe, responsible, knowledgeable and involved hunters and shooters.

To become a volunteer Hunter Education instructor, the first step is to complete the basic Hunter Education course. For a 50+ year-old who has been hunting for over 40 years, I thought it would be a breeze to complete the course. Besides, at 10 years old, I had completed an NRA Gun Safety

Course ... what could have been added? A lot!!! There is much more to Hunter Education than the top four gun safety commandments:

1. Point muzzle in a safe direction.
2. Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
4. Be sure of your target and what is in front of and beyond.

The Hunter Education course is just that – an EDUCATION. Firearm safety is a large part of the course, but so is a discussion of the difference between conservation and preservation. We teach about funding conservation efforts across the country, as well as the need for hunting and fishing regulations to protect and preserve wildlife resources and their habitat. Above all, we work to instill gratitude and responsibility in students, both young and old. If you find yourself in the last category and need an outlet, feel free to contact him about getting involved with TYHP and contact TPWD regarding Hunter Education Instructor workshops.

Doug DuBois, Jr. is an SCI-Austin member, TPWD Instructor, TYHP Huntmaster and Area Coordinator for Area 9 (Heart of Texas Area) with the Texas Youth Hunting Program, can be contacted at (512) 826-2472 or via email at dedhm1@att.net

YHEC National Competition



Volunteers (left to right) David Hammonds, Dennis Rock, Duke Walton, Jeanette Hammonds and Lee Morris accompanied the Texas YHEC group to Raton, NM in July.

Texas youth pose with N.R.A. President Ron Schmeits (third from left) and Duke Walton (on far left) at the International Youth Hunter Education Challenge in Raton, NM.



Deer Disease Test Results Come Back Clean

Chronic Wasting Disease and Bovine Tuberculosis were not detected in more than 300 deer held illegally on an East Texas deer breeding facility, according to findings at the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory. The test results mean these deadly wildlife diseases have not been discovered in Texas deer, and enable several deer breeding facilities whose stock had co-mingled with the illegally held animals to resume normal operations.

“We are greatly relieved with the results from the disease testing,” said Carter Smith, executive director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. “We take disease issues very seriously because of the potential impacts to Texas’ natural resources, the public’s wildlife, and the multi-billion dollar hunting and deer breeding industries.”

“People ask me if I’m confident we don’t have CWD in Texas after testing that many animals, and I tell them my confidence level grows each year,” said Mitch Lockwood, TPWD’s big game program director. “But, that confidence drops to zero every time we learn about a deer being smuggled into the state. The threat is real and the consequences can be substantial; just ask any of those other states that are dealing with CWD in their deer herds.”

North Texas Buckskin Brigade Cadets Hit the Trail at Stasney's Cook Ranch

By Randy Henry. Reprinted with permission of NRCS Texas.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) joined top conservation professionals at the 2011 North Texas Buckskin Brigade camp held in July at Stasney's Cook Ranch in Albany, Texas. The 25,000-acre historic working cattle ranch was founded in the late-1800s, and is a hunting and nature retreat in north-central Texas.

The North Texas Buckskin Brigade camp is one of four within the Texas Brigade's annual camp schedule for students ranging in age from 13-17. Enrollment is limited to 20-30 students per camp. The students acquire an array of skills and knowledge, including biology, habitat management, ecology, botany, water resources and watersheds, journalism, firearm safety, fishing, media interview skills, critical-thinking and team building, along with leadership training.

"The camps are designed to help students develop leadership skills and natural resources conservation knowledge,"

said Dale Rollins, Ph.D., Texas AgriLife Extension Service wildlife specialist in San Angelo and the camp's founder. "The camps help the students learn life skills, including critical-thinking and team building, as well as classroom and outdoor activities that focus on a particular species of wildlife."

NRCS has teamed up with wildlife and conservation professionals at the brigade camps each year to teach the cadets hands-on skills and experience. The North Texas Buckskin Brigade that was started in 2000 to study white-tailed deer management and habitat.

Other brigade camps have been started since 1993, including the Bobwhite Brigade (1993), Bass Brigade (2004) and Feathered Forces (1995), which all specialize in certain wildlife species.

"NRCS employees participated in all the camps giving positive exposure to those cadets and their parents about what NRCS does as an agency, and what we do for conservation of natural resources.

The students take away valuable lessons from these camps, even if they do not develop a career in conservation, so they're geared up to serve as leaders in their schools and communities," said Ricky Linex, NRCS representative from Weatherford.

Along with Linex, NRCS personnel who worked with the cadets included Tyson Hart, NRCS rangeland management specialist in Nacogdoches; Cristela Gonzalez, NRCS rangeland management specialist in Baird; Justin Trimble, NRCS rangeland management specialist in Graham; and Kimberly Burr, NRCS soil conservationist in Albany.

The camps are a partnership effort of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Wildlife Association, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), NRCS, several universities, conservation groups, local soil and water conservation districts, private businesses, and individuals with an interest in wildlife and youth leadership development.



Texas Hunters for the Hungry Serve 9 Million and Counting

Texas Hunters for the Hungry, a program administered by the Texas Association of Community Action Agencies, Inc., has exceeded two million pounds of venison donated over the last 20 years. This year, the program has contributed 178,662 pounds of venison to more than 100 organizations that serve low income people across Texas. Hunters take legally harvested deer to a participating meat processor, pay a nominal fee to cover basic processing costs, and the meat processor does the rest. All meat donated to the program is distributed to families and individuals in need through local food banks, food pantries and soup kitchens. For more information, call (800) 992-9767, ext. 506.

TRAINING WORKSHOPS

7th Annual Youth Hunter Education Training



This is the entire group of instructors and students who participated in the 7th Annual Youth Hunter Education Training Program sponsored by the SCI Houston and the Houston Safari Club. Registration, meals and drinks were all provided for the participants and instructors. In addition, drawings were held for special prizes. Thanks for everyone's help.

Kent Robinson, President
Rob Neilson, Youth Hunting
Education Chair



Matthew Ramirez, winner of the
Carter Bronze Whitetail Hunt



Charity Hamilton, winner of the \$600 Carter's
Country Youth Hunting Rifle Certificate



Collin Henderson, winner of the
\$100 Academy Gift Certificate

Join them next year for the
8th Annual Hunter 2-Day Education Course
(dates to be announced), brought to you by
SCI Houston in partnership with Texas Parks
and Wildlife, Houston Safari Club, Rocky
Mountain Elk Foundation, Carter's Country
Outdoor Stores, Woods & Water Taxidermy,
and Houston Farm & Ranch Club.

TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Pre-Service Training



Here is the latest game warden cadet group to graduate from the Game Warden Training Center near Hamilton. Each cadet was assigned a duty station and is settled in. Thanks to Area Chief Bryant Truitt for bringing the Mobile Hunter Education Program training trailer up for the instructor training.

Robert Ramirez (TPWD) hosted an Instructor course in Grand Prairie. From left to right standing: Robert Ramirez, Bill Holmes, Diane Robinson, Jack Lubben, Lance Lemberg. Bottom left to right: Joe Fayada, Earl Grisby, Derrick Ingram.



Area Chief instructors in San Antonio hosted an Instructor course.



Shown here is the group going through the skills trail training during the Instructor course.



Resaca de la Palma State Park in Brownsville also held an Instructor course.

TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Kerr WMA Workshop



Back row, left to right: Donnie Frels, Robin Wheelus, Ryan Goodwin, Bob Boswell. Front row, left to right: Mike Jones, Jack Thompson, Hannah Thompson, Earl Grigsby, Guadalupe Buitron, George Lentz.

I just wanted to let you know what a great presentation Donnie Frels gave at the Kerr WMA. I went there with questions to ask about management in the present drought conditions. All these questions were addressed in the presentation, before I asked. Ryan Goodwin from Corpus Christi attended and his comment was that there was more information passed to us in the first two hours than he had seen his whole life.

Everyone should make a point to attend this session. Brock Minton did a great job of setting it up and introducing the class. The new facility, a donation from the Bass family, was a perfect setting.

Thanks for the opportunity.

Bob Boswell, Area Chief Instructor

Scoring Workshops



Thanks to David Synatzske and David Rios for providing this workshop for instructors. Each individual was certified as an official scorer for the Texas Big Game Awards.



Robert Ramirez hosted the workshop and biologist Jennifer Barrow led the training and certification process.



Minton coordinated and assisted with BGA (Big Game Awards) Antler Scoring Workshop with Certification which was conducted by David Synatzske (TPWD-Wildlife) at Mission Skeet and Trap Range, Mission. A total of 22 people, including TPWD Hunter Ed instructors and biologists, USFWS, and Ag teachers throughout the valley, attended the training workshop.

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Visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/lifetimedrawing for complete rules and information.

Now, wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold, you can buy a chance to win a Lifetime Super Combo License.

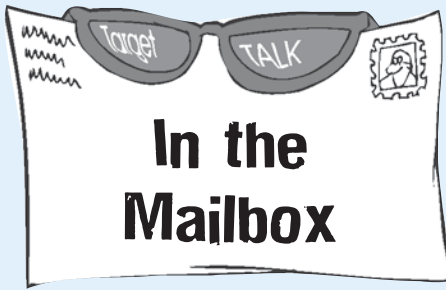
This special license gives you the right to hunt and fish in Texas without ever having to buy another state license or stamp!

Drawings will be held December 30, 2011 and June 30, 2012. Enter by December 27, 2011 and you will be eligible for both drawings!

Enter the Lifetime License Drawing to win a Lifetime Super Combo License, giving you the right to hunt and fish in Texas without ever having to buy another state license or stamp!* Entries are just \$5 and you can enter as many times as you like.

Proceeds go directly to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for on-the-ground conservation efforts that help make Texas a great place to hunt and fish. For complete rules and information, visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/lifetimedrawing.

* Winners not exempt from the federal duck stamp requirement.



Dear Staff:

Accolades from many that attended the Hunter Education class at Bass Pro Shops this past weekend towards the presentation made by Game Warden David Solis, who did a very professional and outstanding job with his presentation during our class. His precise but simplistic approach towards those seeking a simple “yes” or “no” answer to some questions was very well received and commented on after the class. Hopefully, some of our students spoke directly to Warden Solis and thanked him for his time and presentation. Many very positive comments were made after his departure and I just wanted to let you know how well he was received. As always, thanks for providing your valuable resources to our Hunter Ed classes. The time and effort on having a warden make one of our classes is very much appreciated and serves a great purpose in communicating the need for safety in all aspects of the great outdoors.

Sincerely,
John Rodriguez, Area Chief Instructor

Ms. Weyel:

Thanks for sending me a refund for the \$15 overpayment. I was surprised to receive it. I felt I had received \$15 in value – indeed, more than that – in being able to attend with my daughter and participate in the class, and would never have known (or felt) that I could have been there for free. I felt at the time that it was the best \$15 and a Saturday afternoon I’ve spent in years, and now I come to find it didn’t even cost me \$15! Please pass along my appreciation to your colleagues, as well.

I am looking forward to getting Emma out hunting. I’m having some trouble finding a spot for opening weekend on dove season. Do you recommend those public hunts, or are they just too crowded with too little action? I don’t mind paying a few hundred for a guided dove hunt, if that’s worth doing, but I don’t want to pay a bunch of money if I don’t have to.

Regards,
Rex Black

Good Morning Staff:

I wanted you to know about some individuals who have helped us out in Hunter Education. Starting a month ago, an effort was put forth to get 30 youths through a course as part of an education sponsorship program by Bastrop-Caldwell County WMA. Recently, we fulfilled our goal. BCCWMA sponsored 30 youths who attended either one of my Bastrop or Caldwell County courses. TPWD biologist Meredith Longoria arranged the program through the WMA. Also, Bastrop Game Warden Fred Ensinger spoke to the Bastrop class on some safety, laws and discussion topics, and Bastrop State Park Police Officer Roger Dolle was instrumental in helping get paperwork filled out and set up to teach at the park. He also co-taught the class with me as well helped set up for the class and operating the live-fire component. Park Manager James Hess at Lockhart SP was very helpful in getting me setup to hold a course in Lockhart which covered the Caldwell County class. Finally, Fayette County Game Warden Calvin Harbough was instrumental in getting a place in Fayette County to teach at the Texas Agri-Life Extension office, and also spoke to the class on safety, laws and other topics. And as a note, Clay Ingram from First National Bank in Bastrop arranged for about 15 youths who signed up for the class. Special thanks to all these people.

Sean Hensley, Instructor
Bastrop

Duane Keith and Marty Carroll:

I spoke with one of our students (John Miller) from this past weekend’s class at Bass Pro Shops. Mr. Miller was with his children (Nash, Keagan and Jake) and he had nothing but really nice things to say about our presentation and professionalism shown to all of the students during this Hunter Ed class.

Especially of interest to Mr. Miller is that Nash is only eight years old and that we were able to keep his attention, provide him with answers to his questions and keep him interested enough to where, without help, he did a great job by scoring 76 on the final test.

Mr. Miller explained that he was a scout leader and that he could certainly appreciate our volunteer hours. He felt that our program, though required by law and taught by volunteers, was one of the best courses he had the privilege of attending and also that he felt it was a superb job by all.

I explained to Mr. Miller that he be in contact with me so that shortly after Nash turns nine years old (January, I think), that we would certainly welcome him back into our class for free (I'll pick up the tab) so that he might complete his hunter education certification.

Thank you guys. It's a pleasure to have such dedicated and professional volunteers and friends to spend time with while keeping that smile on our faces the whole time.

Thanks,

John Rodriguez
Area Chief, Pipe Creek

P.S. - Duane: This should make up for the guy dressed in his Sunday best that asked, "How long before this fiasco is over?"

Dear Staff:

The Univision Hunter Ed promotion resulted in enough students for the HE class last weekend and for another class in October. Class results are:

- 15 people were HE certified, three were under 17 years.
- Most of them will need the Annual Public Hunting permit and wanted to buy it from me.
- All said to send them information when we need bilingual volunteers for predominantly Hispanic expo-type events such as Cinco de Mayo and Fiestas Patrias. (This past Cinco de Mayo event, three former HE students helped us to staff the archery area.)
- Three want to become HE instructors. One is a mechanic in Waco, another one lives in a country club community in NW San Antonio, and another one lives in Austin and attended the class with his wife and his son, who is bilingual.
- The guy in Waco is bilingual, but the interviews by game wardens in Austin and San Antonio will have to be in Spanish.
- So, with staff help, I'm preparing to teach my first class to train HE instructors. I'll invite two or three other people from previous HE classes.

Thanks,

Maria Araujo
TPWD International Liaison

Staff:

I spoke with you several days ago about the wonderful experience I had during my hunter safety course. I was very impressed with the course and the information given. I am sure you hear only the negative experiences but this was a really educational and excellent class. I would highly recommend Ross and Richard for anybody looking to obtain their proper credentials. Hope you have a wonderful day.

Ryan Berg
Vice President
Lee Michaels Fine Jewelry

Pittman:

We conduct a very thorough evaluation of all our venues and I sent an email out this morning asking for any comments or concerns. One of our instructors at rifle said the following regarding you and I wanted to share it with you:

"Pittman was very engaging with the students and parents, he was extremely safety conscious, helpful with the instructors, very knowledgeable about firearms and safety, a previous teacher/instructor, loves the kids, believes in the mission and is very process oriented and time conscious. He blended in well and understood the objectives. I enjoyed working with Pittman and believe he did a fantastic job. I would sign him up for as long as he is willing to do the job."

GREAT JOB! You worked with over 120 students and 120 parents all day long in the heat! There were plenty of smiles and high fives going around. Our next DSC S.A.F.E.T.Y. Extravaganza will be May 5. Let me know if that date works for you. We would love to have you again.

Scot McClure
Dallas Safari Club

OUTREACH EVENTS



Heidi Rao was on hand to provide information on hunter education and Becoming an Outdoors-Woman at the Katy Bass Pro Shop.



Rick Hite (left) and Mike Gonzales (right) pose with a group of youth holding the Remington training guns during the San Antonio Outdoor Extravaganza. Thanks folks for volunteering your time and for providing information for courses in that area.



Area Chief Bryant Truitt (left) and instructor Larry Arnold (right) were on hand to sign up students during the Bone Collectors, Wal-Mart, Daisy outdoor event at the Kerrville Wal-Mart store. Many of you were contacted to participate in these activities locally. Thanks for all your help in promoting hunter education across the state.



Duke just returned from taking his 17-year-old grandson, Jeremy, on his first Safari. Jeremy said he really learned a lot about hunting during his ten days over there. He took ten animals for less than the cost of a normal deer lease back here in Texas.

Instructor Opportunity – Want to go on Safari?

Duke Walton, Past President T.H.E.I.A.

T.H.E.I.A. President, Bob Boswell and Past President, Duke Walton, have hunted successfully with Louis Loots of Ka Maoto Safaris for several years and have arranged a great deal for the first five T.H.E.I.A. members who contact him. If possible, it should be someone who has not hunted South Africa before!

Individuals can have a hunt of a lifetime for only \$2,900. The hunt is totally inclusive (no hidden charges) for seven days taking the following five animals: Blue Wildebeest, Zebra, Impala, Common Blesbuck and Warthog! Hunters will be picked up at the Johannesburg Airport in South Africa and taken to a very lovely lodge with great meals and accommodations. The hunt is safari style on private lands that are safe with no worries of malaria (no shots required). Trophies will be cared for and taken to a taxidermist or to pro-dip and made ready to ship to the local taxidermist of your choice at no charge (you do pay for your airfare plus the mounting and/or shipping). After your hunt you will be returned to the airport for departure.

Hunters will receive a packet from Ka Maoto with information on what to take and how to do required paper work for the trip after receiving a deposit. If a hunter wants to add additional animals they may do so based on the current price provided.

Duke Walton will e-mail the list when he is contacted at dukesaralyn@yahoo.com (please put Ka Maoto Safari in the heading). Also, if the hunter wishes to have an additional hunter join, arrangements can be done with Louis.

Bob Boswell with his Cape Buffalo when he and Duke Walton went to South Africa in July for another exciting adventure.

Area Chief Instructors Pass Away

Area Chief Don Evans, Burnet, was born Dec. 26, 1929 and passed away on July 4, 2011. He had been an instructor since 1973, conducted 411 courses and certified 1,672 students. He was inducted into the Texas Parks and Wildlife Hunter Education Hall of Fame in 2003.

He was part of the rescue effort during the Texas City Disaster of 1947, and graduated in the last class of Freeport High School the same year. He went on to serve in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean Conflict, and graduated from the University of Texas with a degree in electrical engineering. He traveled the world with his wife, Connie Faye, pursuing his career with Brown and Root, Intl. They lived and traveled throughout Europe, Africa and Asia.

The couple enjoyed square dancing, and Don was commended for his square dance calling in Europe and also back in Texas. They participated in a square dance that was recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest dance ever under a single roof. Couples danced at the Astrodome in the shape of the state of Texas.

Area Chief Billy Ray Imes, Sr., 58, quietly passed away Wednesday, May 25, 2011, after a long battle with frontotemporal dementia. He was born on Sept. 11, 1952 in Victoria. He is survived by his wife Patricia; two sons, Billy Jr. and his wife, Michele, and Taylor and his wife, Amy. Also, his granddaughter, Kristi; brothers, James, and Philip and his wife, Connie; and two nephews, Ivan and Isaac.

He worked for BP Chemicals for 19 years and several oil service companies before being struck down by illness. Billy was an Area Chief for Hunter Education and was an instructor for over 20 years. During that time he taught 61 courses and certified 789 students. He also did concealed handgun instruction for a number of years. Billy was a past president of the Texas Hunter Education Instructor Association (THEIA) and instrumental in the formation of the association. He will be missed.

KATHY'S CORNER

We continue, on occasion, to receive temporary checks as payment for Hunter Ed classes (checks with no pre-printed name, address, check number, etc). We are returning a check today that was sent to us by an instructor that has no identifying information on the check. Here is the TPWD check acceptance policy that is on our website. Please read the policy to know what checks are acceptable. By following this policy, it reduces the number of NSF checks to the agency. We really appreciate your assistance with this.

Check Acceptance Guidelines

Accepting checks is not required by law, but is a courtesy to our customers. TPWD has the following requirements to be followed when accepting a check:

- The check writer's name and address should be pre-printed on the check.
- The written and numerical amounts must correspond to the amount due to TPWD.
- The check should be written within the recent three months. If the telephone number is not pre-printed, please record it on the check.
- The MCIR line at the bottom of the check should be intact.
- Write what the check is for (e.g., civil restitution, boat motor or reservation number) on the note line.
- Write a driver's license number if not printed on the check.
- Compare the signatures, photo and physical description of the ID with that of the check writer.
No check can be unsigned.
- The ID must be valid. The address on the check should be current.

Reminder: It would be much easier to require cash for courses taught, so a cashiers or personal check or money order could be sent in. **Remember, do NOT send in cash!**



OutdoorRoadmap.com

Outdoor Roadmap Begins Recruitment Effort

Texas Parks and Wildlife is about to launch a new tool for recruiting hunters (and shooters, as well as archers). They are partnering with Outdoor Roadmap (www.outdoorroadmap.com). Outdoor Roadmap is a one-stop website that attracts new "potential" hunters and gets them plugged in to be "actual" hunters. Outdoor Roadmap offers incentives to encourage prospective hunters to take hunter education, learn about hunting, where to go, how to go, who to go with, rules and regulations and just about anything else a prospective or existing hunter would want to know.

When a newcomer registers on Outdoor Roadmap and takes the online hunter education course, they earn \$150 worth of incentives from sporting goods stores, vendors and other partners. Outdoor Roadmap believes these incentives will help get more people into hunting. They have invested a large chunk of money into this project and are rolling it out nationwide with each state fish and wildlife agency as the primary partner (at no cost to the agency!). As hunter education instructors you also have the opportunity to earn \$50 in incentives when you register and list courses. As they roll this out, please pay attention and let's do our part to help make this work. It's worth a try! More to come later.

Bruce McCloskey, Director, State Agency Relations & Partnerships · Outdoor Roadmap · (719) 237-5669

IN THE NEWS...

From National Shooting Sports Foundation

Wildlife Violator Compact

Texas is a participating member of the Wildlife Violator Compact. The Wildlife Violator Compact is an agreement between participating states that prohibits a person who has had their hunting, fishing, or trapping privileges suspended in one participating state from obtaining licenses or permits, or participating in those activities in all participating states.

If a person is cited for a wildlife violation and fails to pay or appear in court, the state will revoke all of that person's hunting, fishing, and trapping privileges and will communicate that information to that person's home state and other participating states.

The participating states include: AK, AL, AZ, CA, CO, FL, GA, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MD, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, ND, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, SD, TN, TX, UT, WA, WI, WV and WY.

Duck Population at All-Time High

With prairie breeding grounds soaked by tremendous rainfall, a record 45.6 million ducks are reported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Canadian Wildlife Service, the most since the annual breeding population and habitat survey was started in 1955. According to a Delta Waterfowl press release, blue-winged teal, shovelers and redheads soared to record levels, and mallard, pintail, canvasback and gadwall numbers rose substantially from 2010. According to Ducks Unlimited, this was only the fifth time in the survey's history that the total duck population exceeded 40 million.

New Features Unveil Great Hunting Opportunities

To its series of articles at Tracking Opportunities in Every State, NSSF has posted two titles that will help both novices and experienced hunters discover new hunting grounds. "Hunting Preserves Offer Long Seasons, Training Opportunities," by Barbara Baird, gives the lowdown on game bird preserves and tells how to track them down via Wingshooting USA. "Hunt on Military Installations," by Tony Mandile, reveals a surprising number of public opportunities courtesy of the U.S. Armed Forces.

New Hunting Opportunities on National Wildlife Refuges

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a proposal to provide additional hunting opportunities on 10 National Wildlife Refuges. Included in the proposal are expanded hunting opportunities at one refuge in Texas. The Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge would open new areas to deer, feral hogs, rabbit and squirrel hunting.

Rhode is One to Watch in 2012

American skeet shooter Kim Rhode was named one of Team USA's "12 U.S. athletes to watch in '12." Should she earn a medal at the 2012 Olympics in London, Rhode would become the first U.S. individual athlete to do so at five consecutive Olympic Games in an individual sport.

Many of you might remember Kim Rhode being at the Texas Wildlife Expo (pictured with Heidi Rao holding Kim's gold, silver and bronze medals). She also appeared at the "Whiz-Bang" shoot off on Friday before the opening of Expo on Saturday. Congratulations to her and we wish her luck!



THE Newsletter of

T H E I A Texas Hunter Education Instructors Association, Inc.

Summer 2011

Number 40

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Robert Boswell, Spring PRESIDENT '10-'12 boswellrob42@yahoo.com 361-215-7020	Peggy Weyel, San Antonio VICE PRESIDENT '11-'13 pweyel@sbcglobal.net 210-696-9599	Jeanette Hammonds, Ft. Worth SECRETARY '10-'12 mrdavidhammonds@charter.net 817-236-3158	Shannon Caughron, Ballinger TREASURER '11-'13 shannoncaughron@mac.com 325-365-2854
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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

FRIENDS:

I am writing this less than two weeks before the start of deer season, and your classes have filled up rapidly. If you find that you have more students than you are comfortable with, please look to your fellow instructors and area chiefs for help. Remember, we are all in this together. At the recent SCI sponsored class in Houston, there were 10 instructors for 147 students. Thanks to your efforts Texas hunting accidents in 2010 were the lowest ever, a total of 25, and the lowest rate ever, only 2.2 per 100,000 hunting licenses sold. Thank you all for a great job.

I just attended the Wildlife Management workshop at Kerr Wildlife Management Area. The course was arranged and introduced by Brock Minton, and taught by Donnie Frels in a new building that was donated by the Bass family. A lot of information concerned the drought, the stress it puts on deer, and the results of that stress. Food requirements of deer were covered, with emphasis on nutrition and the effects of supplemental feeding. This is a workshop we would all benefit from. It was taught in a 1-day format, so the only cost was the fuel required to make the trip.

During the past year I and others, notably Duke Walton and David Hammonds, have traveled to Cabela's in Fort Worth and Buda to participate in youth events. Our mission was to promote Hunter Education, YHEC, and THEIA. At these same events, Texas Youth Hunting Program was also represented, and we worked with them as well. Also present were NWTF, TSRA, NRA, and numerous other outdoor organizations. Other instructors have participated at Wal-Marts across the state, promoting hunting and hunter education. Thanks to all of you for the extra effort.

Our annual meeting will be the weekend of March 17, 2012, in Nacogdoches. Joe Rogers is diligently working to get us the best rates for lodging and food at an appropriate place for our meeting. I know he could use some help, and anyone wanting to help can contact him at jrogers425@gmail.com.

The 2013 IHEA annual meeting will be held in San Antonio on April 2-6. Two of the organizers are our own Heidi Rao And Robert Ramirez. It would be a great benefit to our instructors to have our meeting on the weekend of April 6, 2013 both for the exchange of information and our exposure to other organizations and methods.

This year I embarked on a South African adventure. I went with Duke Walton, his grandson Jeremy, and Ryan Goodwin, a fellow instructor from Corpus Christi. We hunted in the south of the country where it was below freezing every morning, and in Limpopo. Game ranged from the small Steenbuck and Duiker, through Springbuck, Impala, a record Bushbuck shot by Ryan, Zebra, and Wildebeest, up to Cape Buffalo.

(Boswell, continued)

To say that it was a great hunt would be an understatement. Look in *Target Talk's* "Instructor Opportunity: Do You Want to Go on Safari?" Duke has information on a really good deal for your own African adventure. Keep your powder dry.

Bob Boswell

THEIA President

HUNTER EDUCATION EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

TBA 2012, Hunter Education Instructor Conference and Awards Banquet, Nacogdoches. Contact: Joe Rogers (Nacogdoches), 936-556-0947 and jrogers425@gmail.com We're still working on it.

May 4-6, 2012, **Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge**, Arlington Sportsman Club, Mansfield, Contact: Peggy Weyel, Coordinator; 210-696-9599, pweyel@sbcglobal.net

April 5-7, 2013, **Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge, National Shooting Sports Complex, San Antonio**

THEIA THANK YOU in contributing to the success of the Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge, April 29-May 1, to...

the Kerrville Convention and Visitors Bureau who provided housing, dining, and general information to make the visit to Kerrville a memorable one;

the Motel 6, La Quinta Inns and Suites, and YO Ranch Resort who provided excellent rooms at great prices;

Subway Sandwich shops, who after a bit of a glitch, provided attendees with all the great sandwiches and chips we could eat; and

Jack Burch, and the Hill Country Shooting Sports Center, who worked tirelessly with us to provide an Olympic-class shooting facility, with a safe, challenging venue. We appreciate the lovely room in the AirHall for our 'headquarters,' and the "Veranda" of the main office area for our large group meeting area.

ALSO, but by no means the least of the our appreciation for supporting YHEC, goes out to the **volunteers, most of whom were hunter education instructors, and their families who worked so hard to provide setup, safety, scoring, and take-down of each event, and** coaches of the YHEC teams several of whom are also hunter education instructors.

THEIA MEETING OF SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2011

We appreciate all the members who stayed after the YHEC competition to contribute new ideas and to vote on issues brought to the table. We also congratulate the newly elected THEIA Officers and Regional Directors. Thank you for volunteering and serving our state hunter education instructors as well as contributing toward improving the TPWD Hunter Education program:

Thomas Connaughton, Region 4 Director

Will Krebs, Region 7 Director

Peggy Weyel, Vice-President

Shannon Caughron, Treasurer

Jack Thompson, Region 5 Director

Steve Russell, Region 8 Director

Jeannette Hammonds, Secretary

VOCABULARY VOCABULARY VOCABULARY

Ross Walker, San Antonio Area Chief, called the other day with a list of words his young Hunter Education students don't understand. They may look askance at the instructor when hearing the word and they may ask about, or don't ask about it, and miss it on a test. He says he often asks students what the word means. Well, er, they haven't a clue.

The words on his list include some Hunter Education basics:

Conservation	Preservation
Ethics	Anatomy
Primitive Arms	Muzzleloader

Types of shots befuddle these youngsters. They do not have the faintest notion of what we mean by shot placement that is

Broadside Quartering-away Head-on

Even apparently "obvious" directions need explanation:

The person in the center vs the person in the middle - they don't know who that is
Critical (as in "critical range") What does talking down to a person have to do with it?
Strive (sounds like walking)
Negativity (???)

"Sighting in" a firearm. They've never done it. So, if you put a scope on it. The thing shoots straight. Right?

Test Item #3 befuddles some. "The most important ingredient in learning about hunting...is
Knowledge, Attitude, Skills, or Responsibility

Connecting any one of these terms to "hunting" and "learning" just doesn't happen with some of our youngsters.

At our past Area Chief's meeting, it was suggested we look at the issue of vocabulary our younger students may not understand. Ross did and discovered that we indeed have to re-discover the language that separates us.

What do we need to do? Don't get frustrated. Start paying attention to how students respond to your instruction in class, on the hunter skills trail, the live fire range, or maybe as you read the test with them. You might also keep a note or two and share them with other instructors.

They need some experiences and serious "learning" of all kinds as they are introduced to the wonderful world of outdoors and hunting. Maybe if we understand the difficulty they are starting with, we may be able to get them ready for the field on our terms...er, words.

Louis Loots and Ka Maoto Safaris

When Last Did You Go on Safari? Well. That's Too Long!

Louis Loots has arranged special South African game hunts for 5, that's five, (V), THEIA members. See this issue of *Target Talk's* "Instructor Opportunities" about this offer. It could be the opportunity of your lifetime.

THANK YOU, Louis and Ka Maoto Team

THEIA DIRECTORS

Directors Regions 1, 3, 5, and 7 are elected for two year term of 2010-2012; Regions 2, 4, 6, and 8 for 2009-2011

Region #1 VACANT

Region #6 Billy Holt

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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 Shannon Caughron,

1601 N 8th St. Ballinger TX 76821

325-365-2854 shannoncaughron@mac.com

NAME: _____

INSTRUCTOR # _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

E-MAIL: _____