



Life's better outside.®

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.



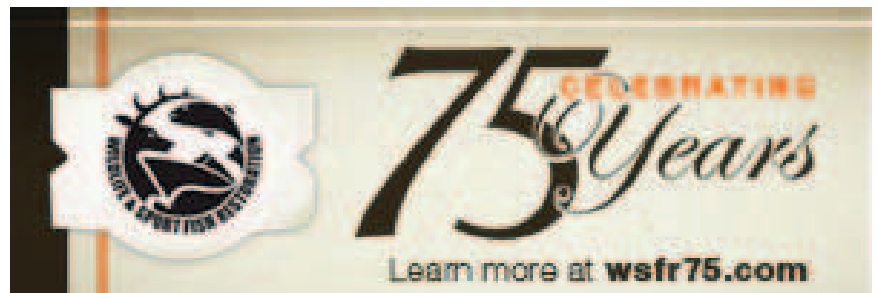
COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Happy New Year! We're starting this year with excitement in Hunter Education at Texas Parks and Wildlife. Our parks and our wildlife experienced more than a few challenges in 2011. However, we had another all-time record low for 2011 hunting-related accidents/incidents with a **total of 23, including two fatalities.** This is largely due to your efforts as instructors in relaying the safety message to students. We certified the second largest number of students in our history with **43,645**, bringing our total to **935,495** since the program began.

The drought and fires played a major devastating role on our parks and wildlife resources. I can't tell you how grateful we are for the support of so many good friends whose belief in TPWD's mission has helped restore damaged parks and keep them open. Some of you teach in state parks, which draws visitors at later times. Please continue to utilize state park facilities near your area for courses, and encourage folks to return and enjoy the amenities.

When we asked for help restoring Bastrop State Park, where 98% of the land was burned, volunteers poured in from everywhere. Area Chief Bryant Truitt, Hunt, was one of our instructors who participated with the Baptist men's group in removing acres

continued on page 2



Wildlife Conservation Act's 75th Anniversary

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the start of a year-long celebration marking the 75th anniversary of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, one of the most successful partnership approaches to fish and wildlife conservation.

The program includes the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson), which raises funds through an excise tax on sporting guns and ammunition, and the similarly designed Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act that provides funds for fish conservation and boating and fishing programs. The celebration will culminate on National Hunting and Fishing Day in September. Learn more at <http://wsfr75.com>.

IN THIS ISSUE

Wildlife/Sport Fish Restoration	3	Kathy's Corner.....	11
Mentored Waterfowl Hunt	4-5	New Instructors	12-13
In the News	8	BTTH Winners	13
FYI	9	In the Mailbox	14-15
Training and Workshops	10-11	Kudos	21
Instructor Discounts	11	The Bowhunter	22-23

Coordinator's Corner, continued

and acres of damaged timber. That same timber will be used to rebuild many of the destroyed facilities there. Thank you to all of our current and future volunteers for helping restore the park to its former glory! If you can make it to Bastrop or any other park, there's still plenty of fun to be had. We'd love to see you at any of the parks all across the state!

Click here for the State Park Guide and calendar of events happening all over Texas.

Register your vehicle! Whether playing post-holiday catch up or preparing for summer activities, chances are you'll need to re-register your motor vehicle. **Next time you register your car, trailer or boat, just check a box saying you want to make a \$5 donation (or more!) to Texas Parks and Wildlife. It's as easy as that!** Last month TPWD raised \$50,000, and we're hoping to raise a total of \$1.6 million this year. So next registration, don't forget that you can preserve Texas' natural beauty at the same time!

Attention! Please read and remember: **Do not send cash in the mail!** Complete all records, including Final Reports, sign all forms and mail them promptly with a check or money order. We are often reminded by Incoming Revenue that some instructors are sending in cash. It is against TPWD policy to send cash in the mail. If it is lost, you are responsible for replacement. You have seven (7) days to get the paperwork and funds to our office after completion of the course.

If an instructor collects fees for the course and fails to promptly forward the money to our office, this could result in theft charges being filed against the instructor.

Any courses not taught correctly, including the structured two-day course or the one-day home study course requiring live firing and field exercises, will be returned for completion. We have had several instructors send in records that have not been completed. We expect these requirements to be handled

in a timely manner. If not, we will send staff to visit you and obtain the items to complete the course. Failing to complete the paperwork could jeopardize instructor certification. If discrepancies are noted and we request a response, and one is not received **within two weeks**, it could result in a citation being issued and loss of certification. Don't let this happen to you!

In the last issue of *Target Talk*, several instructor situations were discussed. Apparently, some instructors failed to realize that doing what is wrong is not the best thing. Recently, an instructor signed off on a student without doing the actual course. The game warden became aware resulting in charges being filed on the instructor, the instructor being arrested and indicted by the grand jury on felony charges for "Intent to Defraud." Now, if convicted, it will eliminate the instructor's ability to own firearms along with many other privileges.

Remember signing the Instructor Application? It states: **WARNING: Knowingly making false certifications or false student documentation may constitute a 3rd Degree Felony under the penal code punishable by fine not to exceed \$10,000.00, confinement not to exceed ten years, or both fine and confinement.**

We uphold the integrity and dignity of this program and will go the distance to prevent things like this from happening. Please don't do anything to harm the reputation of the hunter education program or TPWD.

Some of you may have heard that I was going to retire in December 2011. Well, I decided to stay just one more year, so it looks like December 2012 is the new date for departure. Thank you all for doing such a great job this past year. Let's try to reach for **1 million** students this year and lower the accidents even more. With you help, Texas will continue to be the best in North America. Until next time, always be safe!

Terry Erwin

Executive Director
Carter P. Smith
Editor, *Target Talk*
Terry Erwin



Life's better outside.®

COMMISSION

T. Dan Friedkin, Chairman
Houston
Ralph H. Duggins, Vice-Chairman
Fort Worth
Antonio Falcon, M.D. Rio Grande City
Karen J. Hixon San Antonio
Dan Allen Hughes, Jr. Beeville
Bill Jones Austin
Margaret Martin Boerne
S. Reed Morian Houston
Dick Scott Wimberley
Lee M. Bass, Chairman-Emeritus
Fort Worth

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

All inquiries: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744, telephone (800) 792-1112 toll free, or (512) 389-4800 or visit our Web site for detailed information about TPWD programs:

www.tpwd.state.tx.us

©2012 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department PWD BR K0700-135 (2/12)

In accordance with Texas State Depository Law, this publication is available at the Texas State Publications Clearinghouse and/or Texas Depository Libraries.



TPWD receives federal assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies. TPWD is therefore subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, in addition to state anti-discrimination laws. TPWD will comply with state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any TPWD program, activity or event, you may contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203, Attention: Civil Rights Coordinator for Public Access.

A Tale of Two Success Stories: Hunter Education and Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration

By *Tammy Sapp*

As we observe the 75th anniversary of our Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration (WSFR) programs, many will point to the now abundant populations of elk, deer and wild turkeys as the poster children for conservation success. Some will laud the hunting, fishing and boating opportunities we now enjoy as a result of WSFR's user pay/user benefit principle. Or praise how cooperation between state and federal government, conservation groups, industry and sportsmen made it possible to contribute billions of dollars to fish and wildlife conservation. All are good reasons to celebrate.

Another noteworthy accomplishment on the Wildlife Restoration side is how this program has benefitted hunter education. Excise taxes paid by manufacturers — which are factored into the cost of firearms, ammunition and archery equipment — are made available to the states in the form of grants. These grants not only support wildlife projects, they fund hunter education and shooting range development as well.

The interesting part about this is the history behind hunter education and Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration programs. I interviewed Steve Hall, who retired from Texas Parks and Wildlife after 26 years of service as education director. Hall, who currently serves as the executive director of the Texas State Rifle Association, reminded me that hunter education is by no means new.

“The first seeds were planted in 1928 when Seth Gordon, an employee of the Pennsylvania and California game agencies, penned a code of outdoor ethics for the Izaak Walton League of America,” Hall said. “That code marked the beginning of ideas about safety and respect for wildlife, property and other people.”

According to Hall, World War II put many wildlife programs on hold. However, when the soldiers came back home, they swelled the ranks of hunters. It wasn't long, though, before a growing number of firearms-related hunting incidents fueled safety concerns.

By the 1940s, Kentucky was offering gun safety training in their high school junior clubs and in boys and girls summer camps. Soon after, Michigan and Montana began developing their own programs. The era of mandatory hunter safety training started in 1949 as the result of legislation in New York. A partnership with the NRA helped New York deliver its curriculum.

“The hunter safety community really began maturing in the 1950s when programs to recruit and train volunteer instructors were introduced,” Hall said. “Today's volunteer army of instructors is a big reason why hunter education programs are so successful.”

Hunter safety programs took another major step in the 1960s when the NRA hosted the first of several annual hunter safety coordinator workshops in 1966.

“The hunter safety leaders who met at these workshops saw the needs for standardized instruction and recognition of training between states,” Hall said. “Their vision laid the groundwork for a new organization dedicated to developing safe, responsible hunters.”

In 1971, a steering committee associated with the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies became the launch pad for creating the North American Association of Hunter Safety Coordinators. The organization, which was founded in 1972, immediately set to work on its mission of providing leadership and support to hunter education program administrators and instructors. Today, it's called the International Hunter Education Association, and 2012 marks the 40th anniversary of an organization that now serves 69 member agencies and 70,000 volunteer instructors who teach hunter education around the world.

1972 was a big year for another reason, and it brings this story full circle. That was when the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act was amended to help fund hunter safety programs. Now hunter education programs across the country were not only benefitting from the leadership of a new organization, now they had money to train volunteer instructors, develop teaching aids and standardize the lessons so a hunter education graduate could hunt safely in any state in the country.

In the years since then, millions of students have taken hunter education and hunting has become one of the safest ways families and friends can enjoy the outdoors. Hunters and shooters not only contribute to safety programs, their dollars have restored wildlife populations and provided countless recreational opportunities that all citizens can enjoy.

How hunter education training is offered also has changed with the times. Today, students can take part of their course online at: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/hunter_education/. Students study the same material that's taught in the classroom. The online portion must be followed by a field course, which gives students the chance to shoot and demonstrate safe firearms handling and outdoor skills in order to gain certification.

So honor these milestones of conservation and hunter education success by heading afield as often as possible this year. Make it extra special by purchasing a hunting license and introducing someone new to the outdoors.

MENTORED WATERFOWL HUNT

If you ever question the importance of your day to day activities while at work, here is a reminder of the memorable and lasting impact that we make in our outreach efforts. I am still basking in the glow of this mentored waterfowl hunting opportunity. What a privilege to assist a fellow TPWD family who lost their dad, Mark Howell, last year. Please read Nancy Howell's story below in her e-mail to Inland Fisheries employee Tom Hungerford. I still get "goose" bumps.

Robert Ramirez, Hunter Education Specialist

Hi Tom,

I called Robert Mauk this morning to tell him about Andrew's success at the waterfowl hunt. Imagine my surprise when he already knew? He was under the impression you were at the hunt. I told him that I thought I would recognize you, but a room full of men in camo can look remarkably similar. Robert Ramirez told me you came to the hunt last month.

We had a blast! Andrew got a goose and another duck this morning. He is one tired but happy kid. I've attached a couple of pictures, and my blog link for the day, in case you want to read all about it.

Mark must be laughing his you-know-what off up in heaven as his boy knocks down the birds, and his wife, former girly-girl, dons camo, uses his gun, and loves it!

Take care, have a good weekend,
Nancy (and Andrew)



First Early Morning of Many to Come

By Nancy Howell

I got out of bed at 4:30 a.m. this morning ... on purpose. Andrew had a date with a 20 gauge shotgun, some ducks, and a group of hunters/mentors at Lake Arrowhead State Park. His ride was coming at 5:15. Amazingly, he got up without much coaxing on my part, much better than whenever he is going to school. I made a parental decision that just one day missed of school was worth it for this opportunity. And here's why:

Yesterday, my older son and I had the time of our lives. We suited up in camo, had all the correct licenses, stamps, and permits, and went on a mentored duck hunt. He was the only youth in attendance and I was only one of three female hunters. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has partnered with Delta Waterfowl and the Texas State Rifle Association to conduct these mentored hunts; it's a relatively new endeavor,

with this hunt being only the third in the state.

For the orientation, I was the only female. Walking into a room of hunters, men I didn't know, I really didn't know what to expect. But being married to a life-long hunter, I recognize the qualities of these guys as I step into the room. I am greeted warmly. There's lots of laughing, chuckling, swapping of stories. Everyone in attendance made Andrew feel special and welcomed. Several know of Mark, and a couple of the men even know me.

Andrew and I head out to the blind with Sarah, our friend, and our two hunter mentors, Chad and Travis. Chad's 15-month-old chocolate lab, Izzy, accompanies us. It's a beautiful afternoon, but we are dressed for the weather change that should sweep through the

area around 4 p.m. It's a slow start; we don't see any ducks up close and personal. Like clockwork, at 4:10 p.m., the clouds roll in, and the wind shifts to the north. Andrew, who is loving all of this, is happy I forced him to wear his long johns.

Since the blind's not seeing any action, we hop into Chad's truck and head over to a small pond, in hopes of a surprise attack. I wish you could've seen Andrew, sneaking along in front of me, Travis at his side, giving him advice and positive reinforcement. We line up, the five of us, as we get ready to stand and blast away. On the count of three, we stand. Four ducks are on the pond, we start shooting as they scatter. Andrew has two shells in his pump shotgun, but he only requires one. He hits a female gadwall duck, winging it. It drops, not too far away, dead. His look? Incredulous.

First Early Morning of Many to Come, continued

Man, I wish I'd swapped my gun for the camcorder before leaving the truck!

Another duck is shot, and we go to retrieve them. Andrew has a carrier, both ducks are put into it, and we head back. There are fist bumps, and once back at the truck, lots of photos taken. He's hooked. TPWD and partners, you succeeded in getting my 10-year-old son to groove on hunting. You can look at his

face and see a lifetime of hunting in his future. I had a great time, too, and the fun we had together, the two of us, is priceless.

As we return to the meeting hall, every hunter we meet is genuinely excited for Andrew. They gather around a table outside, as Andrew and Travis take the birds out of the carriers. Travis shows A.J. how to dress his bird. I snap away, as I see my son, next to his mentor, surrounded by a dozen or so men. To me, they are angels.

Now, those men might take exception to the notion that I am considering them angels, but they really are. Every one of them is there, volunteering their time to help inexperienced hunters, like Andrew and myself, learn the basics of their beloved sport. And although they definitely don't look "the part," as they stand there in various patterns of camouflage, with muddy boots and ruddy faces from the cold, they look like angels to me. They are teaching Andrew things that his daddy would be teaching him, standing in for him, in a way. And I will be forever grateful.



But back to this early morning. Originally, we had planned on hunting only this afternoon. That was before Andrew got a taste of unloading that shot on the duck. He begged me. He used those beautiful blue eyes and long blonde eyelashes. So, I gave in. I mean, how many times will he get the opportunity to spend time with a group of men like this? I hope there's many of them in our future, but we have learned the hard way this past year not to take anything for granted, and to "go for the gusto" when we get the chance. That's why my kid is hunting, even as I write this, with Travis, Chad and Sarah. Schoolwork can wait, just this one time. I will join them this afternoon.

Last night, as we were driving home from the park, Andrew told me the day was one of the best of his life. My heart swelled, and the tears came. I'm betting my nice clothes and high-heeled shoes will start taking a backseat to my

“

You can look at his face and see a lifetime of hunting in his future. I had a great time, too, and the fun we had together, the two of us, is priceless.

new waterproof boots and camo wear. And I don't mind in the least. Five minutes after finishing this, I get a text message with a photo ... Andrew's got a goose! (And, I don't know how to cook a goose!?!)





Thank You for Taking Me Hunting

By David Rios, TPWD Biologist, Area Chief, Hunter Education Instructor, Uvalde

We say, "Hunting equals habitat." I know this is true. But when I consider the fact that hunters are a minority, and each year we make up a smaller proportion of the population, I find myself wondering if the North American model of wildlife conservation will continue for another hundred years.

We say, "Take a child hunting." This is a great way to recruit the next generation of hunters who will perpetuate our hunting heritage, and I know this is true. But I have realized an even greater value in taking a child hunting. I was once a child who was taken hunting, and here I am today approaching middle age. I hunt every chance I get, and promote our hunting heritage as a hunter, a volunteer Hunter Education Instructor, and a Wildlife Biologist. But I have come to realize that those early hunting trips shaped my life and cultivated essential values and skill sets that I have used throughout my life and my career.

As young hunters we learn about life and death. We learn about ethics and the sometimes very fine line between right and wrong. Hunting tackle (i.e. firearms, archery equipment, and cutlery) require a careful, conscientious, and responsible attitude. Young hunters must develop proficiency with their tools if they are to be successful. I can think of no experience that builds self-esteem and self-reliance like an ethical, fair chase hunt. But none of this can happen without the guidance of a competent and knowledgeable adult.

It is our duty as adults and elders to lead our youth and show them how to be the competent, effective, self-reliant, and productive people our elders helped us aspire to be. Young folks crave leadership and guidance, and they are always looking for a strong personality to emulate. I know this because I was young once, and I recognize it in our youth today. This is what drives me to develop the hunting culture in our youth. This is where I can best do my duty as an adult, and it is one of the best arenas for mentoring youth.

Deer season opened last weekend, and I was fortunate to have the opportunity to take my 10-year-old nephew afield to hunt white-tailed deer for the very first time in his life. Everybody seems to be so busy these days. It is a rare occurrence when his school and sports schedule and my work schedule are not confounding. Everything came together opening weekend, and we went hunting!

My mother and father joined us. It was a grand time. We camped in a tent. We cooked our meals and boiled our coffee on a bed of mesquite coals. We told ghost stories, and we pondered at the cosmos in ways that would even pique the interest of Stephen Hawking himself. This is the stuff memories are made of, and boy did we make some.

Continued on the next page

Azle Police Department Hosts Hunter Education Courses

When Jim Watson raises the leg of his shorts, he gets the full attention of everybody in the Hunter Education class. Four years ago Watson was accidentally shot in the thigh with a .30-06 deer rifle by his teenage son. Watson was in the shower when the rifle went off and the bullet passed through several walls. "His whole life has been altered by this one lapse of judgment," Blaisdell said.

Despite multiple surgeries and other complications, Blaisdell said Watson has attended every hunter education course he has been invited to since the accident. Watson's story never fails to make an impression. The Azle Police Department sponsors several Hunter Education courses each year in the old library building next to City Hall. The courses generally draw students from all over the region. Unlike the traditional two-day course, students in the online course complete the required study material, take a test, and bring their test scores to the four-hour session. Blaisdell said all students must preregister before attending the course.

The department has five hunter education instructors and the online course allows them to provide an efficient way to provide certification. All the instructors are avid hunters and outdoors-

“

We want them all to enjoy shooting guns whether at the range or hunting. ... We want everyone to come home at the end of the day.

men. Several, including Blaisdell, have taken deer and other game already this year. Students range from the youngest at 10 years old to experienced hunters preparing for hunting trips in other states – trips that often require completion of an education course before they will issue an out-of-state license.

The four-hour summary course includes gun familiarization and safe gun handling and involves range time where students have the opportunity to participate in live-fire activities. Blaisdell said they emphasize muzzle control, keeping the finger off the trigger and using – but not depending on – the gun's safety. "The kids tend to

get excited and lose focus, especially when they see game coming toward them for the first time," Blaisdell said. A key part of his message is to parents. "We encourage parents to spend time with their kids," he explained. "The course does not guarantee safety and common sense." While Watson's message and illustration are graphic, Blaisdell explained it's not intended to scare future shooters and hunters – but to make them mindful of safety and the cost of a mistake. "We want them all to enjoy shooting guns whether at the range or hunting," he said. "We want everyone to come home at the end of the day."

Thank You for Taking Me Hunting, continued

Best of all, my nephew harvested a white-tailed deer under my guidance. Truth is, I had been looking forward to that day for most of his life, but it wasn't until I saw him there beaming with pride and accomplishment that I realized it.

He was incredibly quiet and patient as we observed and evaluated deer from a ground blind. He never took his eyes off the deer. After an hour of whispering back and forth about which deer was what and which one he might like to harvest, I thought he might come unglued. It was about that time that the right deer gave him the right shot, and I doubt a full second passed between the moment I gave him the go-ahead and the moment he applied the requisite three pounds of pressure on the trigger of that fine .243.

That was the grand culmination of all our training on the range and all of our hunting discussions over the last five years. Or at

least that's what I thought at the time. Turns out that moment came later, when it was time to go home. As we stopped to exchange one more round of good-byes before heading in different directions, my nephew rolled down his window with a cool, confident smile and said, "Thank you for taking me hunting."

I was flattered! And it pulled at my heart strings. Then I realized something. Back in the day, I never would have said, "Thank you for taking me hunting." I'm pretty sure I never did. Hunting was automatic. It was imminent. It was a family outing I could count on every fall. It was going to happen regardless of schedules or economic pressures or any of those other things that often inhibit quality time in the outdoors with family. Maybe that's just how I perceived it, but I certainly see the bigger picture and the deeper significance in family hunting trips today. Thank you for taking me hunting. ...

IN THE NEWS...

From National Shooting Sports Foundation

New NBC Sports Outdoors

CarecoTV is proud to be airing the Deer Gear™ television series on the NBC Sports Network, formerly Versus. Every episode of Deer Gear™ allows viewers who enjoy whitetail hunting and the gear associated with it an opportunity to see a diverse range of products used, reviewed, and put to the test. In addition to all the gear featured within each episode, viewers are treated to messages about how to get the most out of their hunting locations including tips on management, safety and proper conservation.

“If you’re a guy that likes to know the best products to use, where to use them, and how to apply them in the field, then Deer Gear™ is the program made for you. We created this program for those viewers who really like to know the details about a product or service, and as we enter our fourth season it has become apparent that those viewers have responded well to this style of series. And with the new NBC Sports Outdoors being the home of this show, we expect bigger and better response moving forward,” said Wade Middleton, President of CarecoTV.

Visit www.DeerGearTV.com for complete episode and airtime listings; visit them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DeerGearTV.

Hunting: One of the Safest Activities

Statistics Show Hunting Safer Than Golf and Most Other Sports ... Don’t let anyone tell you otherwise: Hunting with firearms is safe; in fact, hunting with firearms is one of the safest recreational activities in America. With hunting season in full swing across the country, NSSF has compiled data that shows hunting ranks third in safety when compared to 28 other recreational pursuits, ranging from baseball to wrestling. Hunting with firearms has an injury rate of 0.05 percent, which equates to about one injury per 2,000 participants, a safety level bettered only by camping (.01 percent) and billiards (.02 percent). For comparison, golf has an injury rate of 0.16 percent (one injury per 622 participants), while tackle football topped the list of activities with an injury rate of 5.27 percent (one injury per 19 participants). [Read NSSF’s full news release and spread the word.](#)

2012 Firearms Sales Outlook Promising After Record-Setting Year

Many indicators, including a record-setting 2011, show the firearms industry continues to thrive in a down economy and that the potential exists for another strong sales year in 2012, NSSF reported at a press conference at the SHOT Show. The \$4 billion firearms and ammunition industry stands apart from other industries that are struggling in the slow economy. Demand for guns has continued at a robust pace since late 2008. NSSF estimates the industry is responsible for approximately 180,000 jobs and has impact on the U.S. economy of \$28 billion.

Nationwide Survey Shows Support For Hunting and Shooting

Providing new findings that agree with several decades worth of data, [a recent nationwide survey](#) found wide approval of hunting and shooting among Americans. The study, conducted for NSSF by Responsive Management, found that more than seven in ten Americans approve of legal hunting and legal recreational shooting. Such results indicate that Americans’ attitudes toward these activities have remained consistent over the past 15 years, with approval and support continuing to greatly outweigh disapproval and opposition. Read the full report, titled *Americans’ Attitudes Toward Hunting, Fishing and Target Shooting 2011*, in the members’ section of www.nssf.org

For Your Information

F.Y.I.

AFWA Offers Online Trapper Education Course

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies has developed a free online trapper education course that state agencies and other organizations can use to train and certify trappers at www.TrapperEd.com.

The newly launched online course was developed by experts from state and federal agencies and national trapping organizations. It is designed primarily to train first-time trappers in the U.S and Canada, and teaches basic techniques with a strong focus on the responsible treatment of animals, legal methods, safety, selectivity, and ethical trapper behavior.

The online course covers all of the AFWA-approved national standards and learning objectives for trapping in North America. The site also features Best Management Practices for trapping 20 species of furbearers.

State agencies responsible for trapper education/outdoor skills are encouraged to use this web course to deliver some or all of the requirements for trapping certification in their states. Even if certification is not required in your state, encourage trappers to take and promote the course to become more skilled and successful in the field.

Editor's Note: *If instructors complete this course, please send proof to Kathy Powell and receive 50 extra incentive points.*



Becoming an Outdoors-Woman

The Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program was started in 1993 as a way to break down barriers for participation by Texas women in outdoor recreation and conservation efforts. Approximately 93 women attended the last workshop held at Camp Allen, near Navasota, that introduced them to various outdoor skills, where, according to both state and national data, participants quickly became strong advocates for TPWD, the outdoors and conservation. This is the newest trailer purchased for use in this program.

Game Warden Field Notes

On December 11, Hidalgo County Game Warden Will Plumas was patrolling the back roads when he encountered two trucks backed into the brush on federal wildlife refuge property. After a short search, Plumas observed seven subjects hunting with shotguns. The warden watched as they took shots at black-bellied whistling ducks, a jack rabbit and a coyote. Fortunately for the aforementioned species, the subjects were terrible shots and missed them all.

After Game Warden Harry Rakosky arrived to provide assistance, the two wardens approached the subjects. Wardens filed 12 cases, including trespassing and no hunting license. Federal charges are also pending.

One subject commented that he didn't know that they couldn't hunt on the refuge but said that he did know there was no limit on how many ducks they could take because the *"Duck bag limit was printed on the protective sleeve he was given when he purchased his hunting license."* Warden Plumas had quite a chuckle when he discovered that he was referring to the Ducks Unlimited logo printed on the license holder sleeve.

TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Student Courses



Jim Russell and game wardens taught a class at Denison High School.



David Bynum contacted the hunter education office in Austin requesting assistance in finding a field course to complete the home study process. He was taking the online course while on deployment in Afghanistan. He was returning to the U.S. in late October to go on a hunting trip with his son in Colorado. Instructor Ken Lowe, Rockwell, was contacted and he agreed to accommodate his request.

Thanks, Ken, for your great compassion and help in processing this serviceman's paperwork and providing a course for him!

Area Chief Duke Walton taught these proud students in Burkeville, assisted by a game warden.



Here is a picture of the Hunter Ed class that developed from one of my recent "outreach" contacts in Rio Medina, Texas. The entire group (including other members not pictured, but that attended the initial program) enjoyed viewing and handling the non-functional firearms. Many commented about the usefulness of these firearms for training of the "young and younger" future hunters of the area. Many thanks for the purchase and use of these firearms.

*John M. Rodriguez
Area Chief, Pipe Creek*

TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Instructor Courses



Jimmie Caughron, TPWD, led an instructor class in December at Texas Tech for new Ag. teachers.



Area Chief Rhonda Esakov taught this instructor course in December at the Hunter Education office at ACP in Austin.

INSTRUCTOR DISCOUNT\$

Instructors can now purchase one of the finest knife sharpeners on the market from V-Sharp. Take a look at their website. Use the coupon code of **TPWDHE** and get **\$15 off** all sharpeners good through July of this year. This coupon code only works at the checkout page. Also, check out their Photo Contest page — people can send them a picture and win sharpeners, t-shirts and hats — just for sending a photo.

Warthog Sharpeners

www.V-SHARP.com

Phone (877) 719-0123

Fax (512) 535-0000

KATHY'S CORNER

Hi, Folks! It's me again. All scanning is about caught up, and student cards are being mailed out. Just to let you know, I'm working on incentive awards and will begin to mail them out soon. For those who do not receive an award, only means you were in between point levels.

One thing brought to our attention is requesting Social Security numbers. Some individuals refuse to provide these numbers. Do **NOT** worry about it, because it is optional anyway. Just leave that space blank on the student registration form and on the "Temporary Card" issued to the student.

NOTE: Another thing — Never place a roster sheet out for students to sign up on that request the SS#. You are to fill out the roster form yourself as a means tracking students. It allows any individual to see and copy other SS#'s for possible misuse. File the roster, copy of the Final Report and copy of the check or money order together when the course paperwork is submitted. When you receive a postcard notice that you course has been processed, then staple that to those forms and retain.

Until next time, let me know what I can do to help you.

NEW INSTRUCTORS

Welcome, New Instructors

If you recognize any of these folks who might live near you, please give them a call and ask if you can help them get started. Remember, it is always appreciated when you lend a helping hand.

May

JOHN M. LONG	FRED
AMANDA J. DEAL	JUSTIN
NATALIA M. BUCHER	JUSTIN
LAURA A. SALINAS	LYFORD
AMANDA K. NATTRASS	SANDIA
SHERRY G. GONZALEZ	LAREDO
ORLANDO L. GONZALES	LYFORD
VANESSA G. GOMEZ	ALICE
KAYLA B. BOX	TAFT
REGGIE L. MOORE	COLLINSVILLE
LUCAS S. EDENFIELD	HOUSTON
STEVEN B. BROWN	CROWLEY
TIMOTHY W. MACK	EL PASO
JASON R. ANDERSON	ALLEN
BRIAN K. MAHLER	OLTON
WHITNEY A. ROOT	TRENT
CALEB D. DODD	MELROSE

June

EVAN S. HINDMAN	STEPHENVILLE
JEFFREY M. ISENBERG	UVALDE
DEBBIE HANLAN	ARLINGTON
STEPHANIE EDWARDS	WEATHERFORD
AMANDA L. ANDERSON	LUBBOCK
AMY M. SAUCEDA	SNYDER
MICHELLE N. NEWTON	HALE CENTER
AUDRA Z. DYER	LUBBOCK
JIM N. FOX	PETERSBURG
ANTHONY M. WILSON	LUBBOCK
STEVEN D. DYER	LUBBOCK
SEAN P. FLUSCHE	MANSFIELD
WANDA S. ELLIOTT	COLLEGE STA
TAMARA K. MORRIS	LIVINGSTON
JIMMIE N. MORRIS	LIVINGSTON
ROBERT E. ZAIGLIN	UVALDE
STEVEN G. EVANS JR	CAMP WOOD
JERYL F. WILLIAMS	JEWETT
DAVID W. MADDOX	LA COSTE
LEO O. SELLERS	BRONTE
TYRONE E. CORNELL	CANYON LAKE
CHARLES E. MARCUS	HELOTES
BEN RODRIGUEZ	MCALEN

RONALD D. COX
DAVID E. WEST

July

MEREDITH B. COUTS	PAMPA
BEAU D. HESTER	CHAPMAN RNCH
JERRY W. SESSUMS	CLEBURNE
KIRK O. CLENDENING	DEL RIO
MALLORY J. BRODRICK	LUBBOCK
BUCK A. BURCHETT	LAREDO
JAMES W. BURRIS	LAREDO
JERRY D. BYRNE	ANDREWS
DANIEL CANTU	CONROE
GREGG C. JOHNSON	EAGLE PASS
ANTHONY W. KING	MARFA
TREY W. KRAM	SNYDER
NICOLE M. LEONARD	SUGAR LAND
KYLE T. NEVINS	PLAINVIEW
STEWART W. ROGERS	DALHART
ROBERT T. SADOWSKI	KATY
CARSON R. WARDLOW	LLANO
WILLIAM R. WATTS	HAMILTON
CLIFTON WESTBROOK	JACKSONVILLE
GERALD WHITWORTH	RIO GRANDE
	CITY
DOUGLAS V. WILLIAMS	SAN AUGUSTINE
AARON K. WILLOUGHBY	LEAGUE CITY
LANCE C. LEMBERG	MCKINNEY
BRADY T. BOYD	FULSHEAR
JERRY S. JOHNSON	CORINTH

August

WILLIAM M. HOLMES	LARUE
JOHN F. LUBBEN III	DALLAS
RONALD L. HONS	ARLINGTON
RODERICK M. CRAIG	TYLER
BILLY P. MILLER	ARLINGTON
EARL D. GRIGSBY JR	LIVINGSTON
JESSE D. STROUD	TIMPSON
JAMES M. SWINNEY	NACOGDOCHES
DIANE M. JACKSON	BEN WHEELER
CRISTOBAL MARTINEZ	KATY
BRIAN J. SEVEYKA	VON ORMY

WICHITA FALLS
ORANGE

RONALD J. CLAVETTE	MARION
MICHAEL J. EDWARDS	RED OAK
GINA GONZALEZ-WILSON	GRAND PRAIRIE
WILLIAM K. WILSON	GRAND PRAIRIE
VERN L. STEINMAN	FARMERS
	BRANCH
CHARLES E. BEARD	WAXAHACHIE
KYLE L. SANDS	DAINGERFIELD
JOSHUA A. HEIMANN	FLORESVILLE
CHARLES WELLMANN	CONROE
ELIZABETH R. SLOUGH	WEATHERFORD
RICKY D. PRESCOTT	LAMPASAS
RICHARD D. MEEKS	COMMERCE
JAMES R. MCMAHON	COLEMAN
RICHARD D. FRENCH	DAISETTA
MICHAEL A. DERRY	MEDINA
PAMELA L. CANTEY	BRYAN
KALEIGH R. BURNETT	SALADO
LONNIE L. BULIN	BURLESON
JASON W. SAMS	CAT SPRING
SCOTT T. MCGOWAN	CONROE
KEELI J. SUMMERS	ROANOKE
JERRY G. KING	GOLDTHWAITE
CLIFFORD W. KNIGHT	CORPUS CHRISTI
AMANDA L. GRIGSBY	BARTLETT
AARON L. BEDNARZ	LUBBOCK
JEREMY T. BAILEY	PORTER
KRISTI L. HALL	ARLINGTON
KELLY S. MAAS	TOMBALL
JAMES T. BOWERS	WINNSBORO
LANDON L. BUFTE	HAMILTON
DONNIE RODRIGUEZ	CEDAR PARK
CODY C. STEEN	WACO
BRUCE D. NORVELL JR	WACO
CHUCK CHRISTIAN	TEMPLE
ADAM R. ENGEL	FORT WORTH
ZACHARY W. MILLER	LORENA
OLIVIA L. TILLY	LUBBOCK
JOSHUA B. HUGHES	BURNET
SONIA R. MUNOZ	NORDHEIM
RYAN C. FARMER	ALPINE
JOHN K. ODOM	SAN ANTONIO
ANNA C. THOMPSON	ROANOKE
JOSE M. GARCIA	GRAPEVINE
SHAWN D. PETERS	BOLING

JASON B. MILLER
 JAMES E. SANDERSON
 JOSE E. HERNANDEZ
 JONATHAN R. COBB
 NATHAN B. BLOUNT
 JAMES E. HICKMAN
 DAVID P. CLAY

ABERNATHY
 LAMESA
 SAN ANTONIO
 BEDFORD
 PADUCAH
 AUSTIN
 FORT WORTH

September

KEVIN T. WATSON
 NINA M. EATON
 AMY L. NAVARRE
 ROBERT K. POWELL
 FRANK A. JONES
 ROGER A. ROESLER
 JOSHUA T. MORGAN
 TRAVIS D. FARST
 JAMES T. FAIRCHILD
 DAN M. PETROSKY
 WALKER M. CLEVELAND
 RONNIE G. BEASON
 JAMES W. STRAHAN
 MATTHEW R. TOLNAY
 ROSS S. SHEFFIELD
 JONATHAN R. BUSH
 LISA M. BROWN
 GARY D. CUNNINGHAM
 WOODY C. MIHM
 CHRIS D. BEAN
 NICHOLAS B. BUCK
 LANCE M. MEDRANO
 MARK E. RANSCHAERT
 ROBERT D. HOLLEY
 DANIEL C. MADDOX
 KATHERINE S. SNOWDEN

DRIPPING
 SPRINGS
 CORPUS CHRISTI
 ROSHARON
 LAGO VISTA
 ARLINGTON
 STEPHENVILLE
 FORT WORTH
 DALLAS
 WACO
 ALPINE
 GRAND SALINE
 WINTERS
 GEORGETOWN
 STEPHENVILLE
 SPLENDORA
 MAUD
 WEATHERFORD
 WICHITA FALLS
 FRITCH
 DENTON
 SAN ANGELO
 SAN ANGELO
 ALBA
 KRUM
 DEPORT
 LINDEN

October

JACK D. ARMSTEAD
 JOE C. CARTER
 ERNEST E. MEYER
 ANTHONY R. DELUZIO
 ATLEE M. PARR
 CHARLES R. CARDER
 ZACKARY K. SMITH
 JENNIFER R. SMITH
 CRYSTAL S. TAYLOR
 DAVID L. SHEFFIELD II
 MICHAEL D. SADLER
 KEVIN A. DUPREE
 AARON L. BARBOSA
 JAMES D. LEDBETTER
 CHARLES T. WATTS
 CALEB E. GAMBLIN
 LESLIE S. BOURG
 MAZYAR RAHMATY
 JEFFREY C. JONES
 JOSHUA H. MABRY
 JAMES E. SAMUEL
 GEORGE C. GAULDEN
 THAD A. WILLIAMS

HUNTSVILLE
 EDINBURG
 NEWTON
 SAN ANTONIO
 BENAVIDES
 KEMP
 AMARILLO
 SAN ANTONIO
 NACOGDOCHES
 SPLENDORA
 CANYON LAKE
 TEXARKANA
 WESLACO
 WACO
 AUSTIN
 BANGS
 RIO VISTA
 CONROE
 STEPHENVILLE
 LORENA
 BURLESON
 WICHITA FALLS
 ALAMO

November

NORMAN M. WEBB
 BLAKE E. HESTEANDE
 KEVIN L. SWOR
 LACIE N. FARMER
 DANNY J. FINCH
 JAVIER MEDINA-FERNANDEZ
 CHARLES R. MILLER
 STEVEN W. NOLL
 JUAN M. ROSALES
 LILIA D. CUEVAS ROSALES
 MICHAEL J. SNYDER

KELLER
 JACKSBORO
 DIBOLL
 BURLESON
 MEMPHIS
 SAN ANTONIO
 FRIENDSWOOD
 CASTROVILLE
 AUSTIN
 AUSTIN
 HARLINGEN

RYAN V. CANTU
 CHARLES A. ARRIAGA
 JOHN L. SIMS
 KYLE R. LINDSEY
 TOM J. SNYDER
 TAYLOR A. PONCIK

SAN ANTONIO
 LIVE OAK
 STEPHENVILLE
 SAN ANTONIO
 SAN ANTONIO
 ROSENBERG

December

FERNANDO ROCHA
 JAMES R. STOUT
 CLINT D. CHITSEY
 DAVID E. SMITH
 ARTHUR KAUFFMAN JR
 CURTIS S. CHASTAIN
 LEE SMITH
 DALTON W. JENNINGS
 RICHARD A. GRIFFIN
 JOE T. BOOTH
 DAVID M. WHITE
 KEVIN R. SANDERSON
 DAVID N. MYER

EDINBURG
 HARLINGEN
 MT VERNON
 BUDA
 WIMBERLEY
 KELLER
 AUSTIN
 PLAINVIEW
 QUANAH
 TOMBALL
 MAGNOLIA
 STEPHENVILLE
 PORT ARTHUR

January

LARRY M. CONDR
 LESLIE A. STANTON
 DAN J. AUTREY
 JACKIE GREENWOOD
 BRADLEY W. LEEDIKER
 JUSTIN W. ESQUELL
 CHRISTOPHER EMMONS
 JANET R. JUMPER
 ROGER A. DEVINE
 GUILLERMO GONZALEZ
 JESUS M. PEREZ
 SALVADOR VEGA
 SUSAN C. HUGHLETT
 DAWN CADDELL

ABILENE
 ALVIN
 CALDWELL
 GAINESVILLE
 PENNINGTON
 BLACKWELL
 NEW BRAUNFELS
 ELGIN
 LEESBURG
 LAREDO
 MISSION
 WACO
 HEWITT
 KRUM

Winners Announced!



Thanks to all of you who entered and supported hunting and wildlife conservation in Texas. Next year it could be you! Be sure to check back starting May 15, 2012 for your chance to win a Big Time Texas Hunt next year!

Texas Grand Slam – Michael Schweitzer, Weatherford

Texas Premium Buck Hunt – Joseph Yuras, Garden Ridge

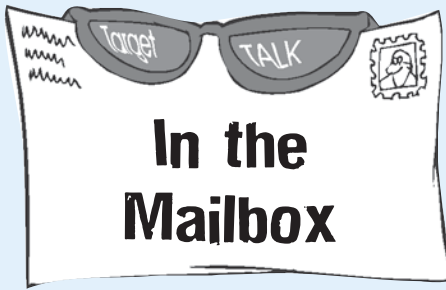
Texas Exotic Safari – Jimmy Webb, Tyler and Martha Vogelsang, Hearne

Texas Whitetail Bonanza – Tommy Dulin, Colorado City; Ivan Berry, Pasadena; Francis Sharp, Pasadena; Michael Broderick, Conroe; Joe Mills, Gonzales; Ramona Bourgeois, Concord, CA; Humbert Trevino, Laredo; Randall Coombs, Spearman

Texas Waterfowl Adventure – Alexander Hamilton, San Antonio

Texas Gator Hunt – Darren Lasorte, Fairfax, VA

Texas Big Time Bird Hunt – Jon D. Harrison, Abilene



Words cannot describe what an amazing experience I had at the Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow workshop in Georgia ... but maybe this photo will! It will not be my last hunt and my understanding of the role of hunting was greatly advanced. Thank you for recommending me for

this program and giving me the chance to be part of this intensive workshop. Everyone associated with CLfT was outstanding and I know it changed me for the better.

Best,
Darcy Bontempo
Marketing Director
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Dear Staff:

My 9-year-old son and I recently took a hunter education course at Bass Pro Shop with Duane Keith and John Rodriguez as instructors. I just wanted to tell you how much my son and I learned and enjoyed the class. They were both excellent instructors. They were able to keep the attention of a 9-year-old boy for that length of time which is a feat in and of itself. I was not planning to take the class but decided to take it after staying for the first hour. The hands-on with the instruction fire arms was excellent and helpful. My son shot his first deer this weekend, with one shot and one kill right through its heart, just like he was told to do. And he was telling my brother who took him hunting and who has hunted since he was a kid, exactly what needed to be done and making sure all the laws and safety rules were followed. I was a very proud momma. Please let them know how much I appreciate their time.

Sincerely,
Lisa Wright, San Antonio

Hello Mr. Schaefer,

This is just a note to say "Thanks" for the Hunter Education course that my son and I attended on Sunday afternoon. We appreciated all the extra things that you and your team put into the class. Having taken the class 28 years ago, I could see that many things have been updated, and it was good. Thanks again for an enjoyable learning experience.

Sincerely,
William Patterson, Jr.

Hi Folks:

Got me a new Minaska game call ... and got a chance to try it out for the first time recently at the brother-in-law's ranch at Brady. Most fun I have had in a long time. No coyotes, but, the foxes were responding. I used a Remington 597 in .17 cal. (Tough on foxes!)

Miley Akers
Georgetown



Staff,

Please express my appreciation for Kathy Powell's assistance for the father of a Hunter Education student. The father called me since his son had not received his permanent card and others in class had gotten theirs some time ago. I went to the TPWD website to confirm if the son was registered, but the website was being temperamental. I hated to send the father down the path of a non-working site. I called Kathy and explained my problem. She confirmed that the son's card had been sent and had been returned by the post office for some "address error." She called the father and got the address straightened out. Super service! The father called me back and raved about the friendly service. So, thanks to Kathy's efforts, we had a "Happy Camper," where we might not have. Please thank her for me.

Bob Stogdill, Hunter Education Instructor



This last weekend was youth weekend for waterfowl hunting, I took my nephew, Cole Robert Walsh. It was also his twelfth birthday. Twelve ducks in two

days and he only used 24 rounds. Six species: Pintail, Redhead, "Spoonies" (American Shoveler), Widgeon, Green and Blue-winged Teal. Here is a picture from the weekend; you can see ducks in the background coming in to land. Does he look happy or what?

Good Morning Duke Walton:

It is with great pleasure I am sending you this letter to inform you about the Lake Conroe Wal-Mart store's sponsorship of 100 students for our Texas Hunters Safety Course. I have already completed the first class the weekend of October 15 and 16. David Eckermann (store manager) and Mary Lancaster (sporting goods department manager) were highly instrumental in providing tuition for 100 students along with providing the food and drinks for these classes, door prizes for the students and a stainless steel Char-Broil grill to the Kenneth "Scotty" Nicoll Shooting Range as well as some dove decoys for instructional purposes. I just spoke with Mr. Eckermann about getting together with him and his staff along with Game Warden Karin Apple (who came and spoke with the October class and has stated she would make herself available for the November 12 and 13 class also) and myself (Thomas Myers) for a group photo, possibly all of us outside their store front to be submitted for recognition of their great level of involvement in our program.

Sincerely,
Thomas L. Myers, Jr., Instructor

Rhonda Esakov:

I just wanted to tell you again how much I appreciate what you did for us yesterday. What a great group of fellow prospective instructors. I made some great contacts. You paired me with a great guy, Todd, who taught me how to realistically mark a blood trail. While I love teaching, what really surprised me was how much I enjoyed the students. Having us help teach yesterday was the icing on the cake. I am excited and motivated. Motivated to hunt

more, expand my knowledge to include bow (I have friends who are avid bow hunters), learn my hunting laws more completely, and pass on my enthusiasm to my students. Now I'm starting to think about how to get my props together for classes.

I talked with Kathy Powell this morning and all my paperwork is in. What you did for us by letting us assist your teaching and watch you at work was brilliant! You are an answered prayer.

Thanks,
Art Kauffman

Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

From: Daily Sportsmen's Devotional

Game laws are established for many reasons. A few are safety, conservation, and preservation of game species. It's better to obey the laws and add to the pleasure of your hunt rather than to have to suffer the consequences of disobedience.

Editor's Note: If interested, sign up at: [Sportsmen's Devotional sportsmensdevotional@gmail.com](mailto:sportsmensdevotional@gmail.com)

Rodney Lancaster Wins Hunt in South Africa

Rodney entered the contest listed below and was a winner.

You all are on the homepage of our new site: www.kamaotosafari.com Please add any comments on the Guestbook for all to read. Here is a GREAT deal! Just go to the website and check it out and then go to the comment page and make a comment as to what you think about the site. One person will win a totally free hunt! I wish you luck, and please let me know if you win.

Many thanks,
Louis & Hannelie Loots

Congratulations goes out to Rodney Lancaster of Houston. He is the winner of an all-inclusive free safari with Ka Maoto Safaris for five animals and seven days. All he had to do was go online and make a comment on their guest book. I want to thank everybody that entered and I wish you luck if they do it again next year. You can still go to their new website and check out their hunts and prices.

Heidi Rao
Hunter Education Specialist

NRA/Northeast Texas Regional Youth Hunter Education Challenge 2011

By David Hammonds, Northeast Texas Regional YHEC Director

We enjoyed a mostly overcast, but moderate fall day for the YHEC. The 3rd Annual NRA/Northeast Texas Regional Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC) was held on Saturday, October 8, 2011 hosted by the Arlington Sportsman's Club (ASC) in Mansfield, Texas.

The Cabela's Fort Worth store, ASC, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department joined in sponsoring the NRA YHEC program. We had 12 individual senior participants and 19 individual junior participants competing in five scored events which included: Archery, Shotgun, .22 Rimfire Rifle, Wildlife ID, and a Hunter Skills Trail. The five scored events were staffed by 25 volunteers who were Texas Hunter Education instructors (THEIA), Texas game wardens, and/or ASC, TSRA, NRA members. The three shooting events were held in the morning and the two responsibility events were held in the

afternoon. There was also a muzzleloader family fun shoot following the afternoon schedule with many other family members participating. Everyone enjoyed sandwiches, potato salad, cookies, chips and soft drinks for lunch. Several parents pitched in to serve lunch and clean up afterwards.

Ms. Tracy Doty, Special Events Coordinator for Cabela's Fort Worth store and I presented the awards with first-, second- and third-place winners receiving Olympic-style gold, silver and bronze medals, respectively, and fourth- and fifth-place winners receiving ribbons.

Volunteers, thank you! We had a terrific time on Saturday!!! This event would not be possible without you. To all participants, volunteers, sponsors and family members, I would like to thank you for making the YHEC so successful and fun!

East Bernard Youth Compete in YHEC



Seven young men, members of East Bernard Shooting Sports, participated in the 3rd Annual Northeast Regional Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC) and won numerous awards. The event was held on Saturday, October 8, 2011, at the Arlington Sportsman's Club in Mansfield, Texas.

Young Texans, ages 10-19, from across the state compete in either the Junior or Senior Division based on their age in five scored events: Archery, Shotgun, Rifle, Wildlife ID, and a Hunter Skills Trail.

Zach Riley was awarded a first-place medal in Skills Trail and a third-place medal in Wildlife ID. Barrett Janecek was awarded a fifth-place ribbon in Wildlife ID competition. Jacob Korenek was awarded a second-place medal in Rifle, a fourth-place ribbon in Skills Trail, and fifth-place ribbons in Archery and Shotgun. Jonathan Hlavinka was awarded a first-place medal in both Rifle and Shotgun, a second-place medal in Skills Trail, and a third-place medal in Archery. Jonathan was also awarded with a pair of binoculars for scoring first place Overall in the Senior Division. Braden Janecek was awarded a first-place medal in Wildlife ID and a fourth-place ribbon in Shotgun. Braden was also awarded for placing third Overall in the Junior Division.

These NRA events are held to reinforce outdoor skills, educate, and promote hunter safety within our youth. The events are open to all youth, boys and girls, who have completed their Texas Hunter Safety course. If your child is interested in East Bernard Shooting Sports, contact Charlie Wicke at (281) 543-0665.

State YHEC Winner's Hunt

The hunt went off without a hitch and everyone had a good time. The rancher, Mr. Kevin Burlinson, who also heads up "Heart of Texas Bowhunting" allowed one hunter to shoot a 9-point or less buck and every other kid could shoot a doe and a spike buck. The weather was very brisk but it made for a good hunt and there was plenty of food and good beds. The hunter education instructors who donated their time and efforts did a great job. With such experienced hunters we got to know each other much better.





Another Successful IHEA Heritage Hunt for 2011

From The Focus Group

Energized from a great weekend with two Hunter Education instructors, and three Hunter Education students, Focus Group announces another successful hunt for new hunters on Indianhead Ranch in Del Rio, Texas.

The hunt, which can be entered by any student who has taken the Hunter Education program, is not only paid for and put on by Focus Group and a handful of outstanding sponsors, but also is filmed by Careco TV for broadcast on NBC Sports in 2012 on Americana Outdoors. This year, Focus Group's Brian Thurston and Leaha Wirth took three students and two instructors to the Indianhead Ranch outside of Del Rio to learn about introduced species and give these hunters the

opportunity to have the hunt of a lifetime.

Kaleb Caughron (left), age 14, from Wills Point, TX; Sam Nelson, age 14, from Boise, ID; and Kristin Burleson, age 20, from Huntsville, AL, were the students winning and attending the hunt; Many thanks go out to Kaleb's



instructor, James Shatzsall, for encouraging him to enter. Instructors Penny Lee Slagle from Williston, ND and Dennis Corvello from San Lorenzo, CA were the winning volunteer IHEA Instructors.

"This is a unique opportunity for our partnership of sponsors to reward first-time hunters and volunteer instructors the opportunity to learn about and hunt often extinct and unique species," states Brian Thurston, publisher of Hunter's Handbook.

"The knowledge that these winners take away will be shared with friends and family, and the end-all objective is to continue to keep our hunting base energized and motivated to continue hunting. And, without the strong support of our sponsors, this hunt simply would not be possible."

2011 Heritage Hunt sponsors include Buck Knives, Cabela's, City of Del Rio, Del Rio Chamber of Commerce, Federal Premium Ammunition, Houston Safari Club, Hunter's Handbook, IHEA, Indianhead Ranch, Mzuri Wildlife Foundation and Weaver Optics.

Hunter's Handbook is the informational tool that all 750,000 Hunter Education students receive upon completion of their Hunter Education course. It provides students with a "how-to" guide that takes all Hunter Education students beyond mandatory general safety guidelines and offers them additional information on everything from firearms to targets and gear as well as an added emphasis on safety in the field.

Operation Game Thief – San Antonio Shoot

Kudos to these folks who helped with the shoot. Thanks for your support of the San Antonio OGT fundraiser held in October.

Hopefully you had some fun, met some new people and had some interesting conversations along with a great lunch. I'll share some numbers with you later on attendance (and wish we would have had a few more).

Very Appreciative,

John Rodriguez
Area Chief, Pipe Creek



Outdoor Roadmap Continues Recruitment Effort

Texas Parks and Wildlife launched a new tool for recruiting hunters (and shooters, as well as archers) recently. We are partnered with Outdoor Roadmap®, a spin off effort from the Remington Outdoor Foundation. The basic idea is to have a one stop web page on the internet that attracts new “potential” hunters and gets them plugged in to be “actual” hunters. The newest effort here is incentives to encourage them 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 hunter would want to know.

For instance, a newcomer that registers on Outdoor Roadmap® takes the online hunter education course and buys a license earns about \$200 worth of incentives from sporting goods stores and other retailers. Will this help us get more people into hunting? We think so, says Outdoor Roadmap®. They have invested a large amount of money in this project and are rolling it out nationwide with each State Fish and Wildlife Agency as the primary partner and at no cost to the agency.

You as hunter education instructors will have an opportunity to get involved as well (even earn some incentives yourselves) by registering with Outdoor Roadmap® who will also link to TPWD website for course listings. As they roll this out, please pay attention and let's do our part to help make this work. It's worth a try!



International Student Goes Hunting

My name is Eileen, and I am a 17-year-old exchange student from Germany. I am attending the eleventh grade at Ennis High School. My first semester was, unfortunately, not quite what I expected and I had to change my host family. I am now living with my politics teacher, Dr. Joel Davenport, his wife Patricia, and their children Jennifer (12) and Mary (16). They have welcomed me warmly into their family and I feel a part of it.

Mary had a birthday party not too long ago, and at her party I met another great family, Alan Linton, his wife Oleta, and their son, Benjamin. Mr. Linson was immediately very nice and found my story very cool even though he was a little sad that my first semester was not optimal. He offered to show me some typical Texas things. And what is typical in Texas? Hunting! So he invited me to go hunting with him and several of his students and his son, Ben, during Christmas break.

I never thought of going hunting or even shooting a gun, because I'm not old enough to do so in Germany, so I never had the opportunity to try it. Now you can imagine how cool it is for me to have this interesting experience. Hunting is more than just shooting an animal. It is a lot of outdoor education and applied earth science that you could never get in a classroom. It was very nice just to sit there looking at the deer and get an idea how wildlife is acting and how it reacts when we come into their world.

Since I am 17, it is not easy to get a hunting license, but luckily we got permission for me to hunt pigs. A few days later Mr. Linson took me to the Perkins Ranch in Evant, Texas, to go pig hunting. I enjoyed the three days even if we had not seen a pig. Just the experience of the hunt and getting out in nature was very impressive. We had a lot of fun together, but somehow I still wanted to get a pig. On the evening we came back, Mr. Linson invited me to his families land outside Ennis so I could try my luck there.

On our next trip, it took three whole days but I finally got to shoot a pig and reached my goal. It was a sunny day and it was perfect for hunting. I was very optimistic and I was sure today was the day. We both made our way to the place where we wanted to hunt. As soon as we arrived we saw the first pig

immediately. Mr. Linson said this was usual and could not believe it. Mr. Linson indicated that I should get ready and everything happened very quickly. Ear plugs were in and I put the scope on the shoulder of the pig and I waited for the right moment. I squeezed the trigger and everything was over. I knew I had made a good shot, but my heart stopped and then started to beat like crazy, and I was happy and very proud!

That was a great experience and an adrenaline rush. My "hunting guide" was also very pleased with me. "Got him!" he said. From about 120 yards away, I fired the Remington .22-250 free-handed. I looked at Mr. Linson and his smiling face. Yes! High five! After a short search we found my pig and when we saw it we could hardly believe it. A monster pig was lying on the ground. I never saw a pig like this before. It had to be about 300 pounds. But I am in Texas, and as I learned, everything is bigger in Texas!

It was a male, and with one look we saw the bullet hole in the shoulder. "Nice job," he said. The only thing I could reply was, "Thanks, and you're a good teacher!"

We walked back to our blind and waited until dark hoping we would have luck again. Later, the attempt to pull my pig out of the woods failed because the hog was just too heavy and the thorny vines stopped us from pulling it into the field. We took a few photos of my hunt for my family and friends in Germany. On the way home I could not stop smiling and that night I slept really well. I dreamed about my hunt and I knew I wanted to do this again.

That was a great experience and I hope to see and do more while here in Texas before I return to Germany in June 2012. One thing I do know, I'm going to miss Texas!

KUDOS!

Certificates Presented to Huntsville Parks and Recreation Staff

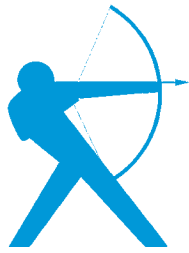
Joseph Schmidt, Area Chief Instructor, Huntsville, presents certificates of appreciation to Joseph Wiggs, Director, Huntsville City Parks and Recreation Department, and Kim Barnes, Recreation Coordinator for Huntsville Parks and Recreation. The outstanding support rendered by the City of Huntsville has resulted in hundreds of Walker County residents being able to complete hunter education certification. The city provided classroom, sound system, video equipment and range over the past three years, which has allowed TPWD instructors to present courses in a quiet, climate-controlled environment, conducive to a great learning experience.



Instructors Jose Garcia (left) and Carlos Castro (right) present a Certificate of Appreciation for 2011 to Pete Duchrow, one of the managers of Bass Pro Grapevine for supporting Hunter Education courses at that location.

Blaine Balliet harvested this nice axis buck on Nov. 11, 2011, on the Faulkner Ranch in Kerr County, during the TYHP annual Physical Challenge Hunt. Blaine is a freshman at Texas A&M University and resides on campus. Congratulations, Blaine!





THE BOWHUNTER

TEXAS BOWHUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Texas–NASP Educators:

Here is a current list of Texas–NASP tournaments in which you may be interested and the contact person for each. Union Grove, Lamar MS, Ennis, and Kaufman are invitational shoots at schools (great for “warming-up” for the state and national tournaments!) that may differ in cost and age divisions. The contact person for each tournament will provide the details. This list will be updated as new tournament announcements are confirmed.

There is most likely limited space at the school invitational tournaments so email the contact person to get the specifics!

1. (TBD) 2012 – Lamar Middle School, Lewisville ISD, contact Ferris Bavousett, bavousetf@lisd.net
2. February 11, 2012 – Ennis JH, Ennis, contact Lanna McCabe, lanna.mccabe@ennis.k12.tx.us
3. February 17, 2012 – Texas–NASP State Tournament, Bell County Expo Center, Belton, contact Burnie Kessner, burnie.kessner@tpwd.state.tx.us
4. March 24, 2012 – Kaufman ISD, contact Casey Becker, cbecker@kaufmanisd.net
5. May 11 & 12, 2012 – NASP National Tournament, Kentucky EXPO Center, Louisville, KY, contact Burnie Kessner, burnie.kessner@tpwd.state.tx.us
6. NASP free monthly Virtual Tournament Series is new each month, February through April, register in January at www.nasptournaments.org. Compete every month February through April from the comfort of your own school! Submit your scores online and see how your students rank with everyone who participated worldwide.

If you are planning to host a small invitational NASP-style tournament at your school and would like for me to send the date to everyone, let me know. I can also help if you have questions on how to host a tournament.

Bernie Kessner
NASP Coordinator

OUCH!

This photo was taken on a cell phone after the guy took his friend to a local sporting goods store to buy his first bow. The clerk was ‘assisting’ him in zeroing it in, and, after shooting several arrows, making adjustments etc., the clerk accidentally handed him an arrow that was too short. When he drew back, the arrow tip fell down onto his hand and he somehow released it. They rode to the hospital with the bow in his buddy’s hand because it impaled his finger also! They are both archery amateurs (I’m thinking the clerk is also?). I don’t think the guy who got shot ever had held a bow prior to this day, let alone shoot one.



Catching Up with Area Chief David Lassetter



Hey! Have to share another photo and short note with you.

I took this deer on opening day of the general season with my bow, down near Richland Chambers Lake. He is a nice 3x5 with a 15¼ inch inside spread and fairly heavy rack. I first saw him and had no clue if he was legal (13-inch-wide rule county now). When he turned his head I had no doubt.

I played cat and mouse with him on my grunt tube for a good 45 minutes before he showed himself. He was in full rut and keeping his nose to the ground. His neck was swollen big time. I've been hunting on this place since 1998, and this is only the second buck I have taken there. The first one was a 1x3 cull buck. I have taken several does and many hogs there though. I have seen some good bucks off and on but just never could get it all to come together.

It looks like all our efforts to manage and the 13-inch rule is allowing the deer to get older and better. We are also seeing more bucks as a result. Folks around there are not shooting the first thing they see with antlers. The picture may not be the best quality because it was taken with my phone.

Folks, this is why we do what we do. Educate the hunter and prepare them for the dangers that are out there in front of them that they take for granted. Tree stand safety is a big part of that. That's why I always tell our students, "Your family depends on you. They need you to be there in their lives. It's your responsibility to be aware and educated of the dangers, so you can make a good sound decision before you climb and set your stand in a tree."

I want to say "Thank You" to each and every one of you for what you do as an instructor. You may not realize it, but I'm willing to bet that each of you has probably saved someone's life or deterred serious injury and not even known it. So let's continue to take a S.T.A.N.D. – Stop Treestand Accidents 'n Deaths. With hunting season just having started, there are some amateurs out there that don't know what they are really doing. Keep an eye on folks around you. Take care and have a good one!

David Lassetter, IBEP Area Chief
Irving

New Bow Hunter Instructors

May

DARREL D. SCHACHT NEW BRAUNFELS

June

DOUGLAS H. LAMBERT BURLESON
WAYNE A. BLOUNT DENISON

July

GENE D. BOHANNON FORT WORTH
GARY T. POOL AZLE

August

BRENT A. HEATH WACO

October

JOHN E. SHINN BEN WHEELER

November

BILLY C. COOPER BROCK

January

SCOTT T. MCGOWAN CONROE



Life's better outside.®

Hunter Education Instructor Workshops 2012

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

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

A number of well-qualified individuals such as biologists, game wardens, land managers and hunter education instructors will assist with the new knowledge and training in each of the workshops. Like you, these folks volunteer their time and expertise to pass on the necessary information used to effectively educate hunters, as well as other outdoor users, to be safe, responsible, knowledgeable and involved.

General Format Information

The hours are:

Most workshops are just one day on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., but read the information letter for exact times and details of each workshop.

Registration, Lodging and Meals

Mark workshops you would like to attend, or desire information on, complete the attached registration card and return it to Austin. Information cannot be mailed out if the sign-up forms are not returned. This does not commit you to a given workshop, but it does assure that you will receive an information packet for that workshop. Austin staff will send specific information on reservations, lodging, meals, directions and agenda items about four to six weeks prior to each workshop.

Don't put it off – mail it today!

Other Reminders

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

For more information, please call (800) 792-1112, ext. 8142 or (512) 389-8142. We will try to see that you have successful workshops and that you go away with a sense of accomplishment and increased knowledge. We look forward to seeing you at the **2012** workshops.

Be Safe!!

Workshop Descriptions

Program Orientation/Standards/ Home Study Field Activities

This is a 12-hour workshop, and the first four hours must be completed online by visiting our website at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/hunter_education/instruct.phtml. New applicants must attend the remaining 8-hour workshop in person. Veteran instructors are encouraged to refresh their knowledge online and attend the one-day session and learn how to conduct "Home Study field activities and testing."

Outdoor Skills/Survival

This workshop gives participants a philosophical background and hands-on experience in situations and exercises including map and compass use, fire starting techniques, shelter building, outdoor cooking and desert/mountain survival. Participants might experience a "camp-out" reviewing the materials learned that day. Be prepared for a great outdoor experience with adequate needs rather than luxurious facilities.

Rifle, Shotgun and Handgun

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

Responsibility, Game Laws and Ethics

This workshop reviews Texas game laws and gives information regarding violations from a game warden's point-of-view. Training on "how to teach" using the

Texas Outdoor Annual is an important portion of this workshop. The workshop covers important aspects of hunter responsibility by introducing participants to different teaching concepts, such as "trigger films," open meeting, brainstorming and dilemma methods.

Wildlife Management/Conservation

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

Advanced In-Service Workshops

Archery in the Schools Program

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

Huntmaster

The Huntmaster Workshop is approximately 14-16 hours long and is mostly hands-on application. It provides the necessary training for organizing and running a youth hunt with additional support from the Texas Youth Hunting Program office. Friday evening is for registration with the course continuing all day on Saturday and until Sunday noon. **"Take a kid hunting !"** Please contact TYHP at 2800 NE Loop 410, Suite 105, San Antonio, Texas 78216, or call (800) 460-5494.

Laser Shot Simulator

Come in for a day of instruction on set-up and use of the Laser Shot system. Learn how to check out this mobile unit for your courses or special events. No instructor will be allowed to check out or use this system unless they have been trained and certified in the appropriate care, transport, use and troubleshooting.

Trapper Education

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

Waterfowl Hunting and Wing Shooting Responsibility

Texas has some of the best waterfowl hunting in North America. Learn different techniques on how to set up decoy spreads and call in those birds. Professional guides and personnel will be on hand to lead the activities. Hands-on training will be the focus of this workshop including necropsy of some species. Individuals will possibly have the opportunity to pattern their shotguns with steel shot. Come to this new workshop and learn what it takes to become a successful wing shooter with respect to waterfowl or upland game birds, and how to become a more responsible hunter. This workshop emphasizes the importance of judging distance and knowing when to shoot and when not to shoot, resulting in fewer "lost" birds. Bring your favorite shotgun and non-toxic shot for a rewarding day. Remember, practice should begin long before the season opens.

2012 Workshop Schedule Dates

Print this page, mark the workshops you'd like to receive information for, and enter your name and address. Then mail to Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., Hunter Education, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin TX 78744.

Program Orientation/ Standards/Home Study

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

Survival & Outdoor Skills

Mar 23-25 Gene Howe WMA

NRA Rifle, Shotgun, Handgun, Reloading

Mar 16-18 NRA Shotgun Grand Prairie

Apr 27-29 NRA Rifle Grand Prairie

May 25-27 Reloading Grand Prairie

Sep 21-23 Range Safety Officer Grand Prairie

Muzzleloading

Jul 28-29 Grand Prairie

Bowhunter Education New Instructor

Mar 10-11 (Stud./Inst. Combo) Midland

Wildlife Management/Conservation

May 19 Gene Howe WMA

Sep 8-9 Kerr WMA

ADVANCED IN-SERVICE WORKSHOPS

Basic Archery Instructor (Not IBEP)

See website for information:
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/archery/nasp_texas/index.phtml

Big Game Scoring

Aug 25 Fort Worth

TBA Amarillo

Trapper Ethics & Education

Feb 10-12 Tilden

Wild Turkey Workshop & Hunt

Mar 31 Three Rivers

Dove Workshop & Hunt

Sep 29 Three Rivers

Tree Stand Safety

Jun 16 Grand Prairie

Laser Shot Training

Apr 15 Corpus Christi

May 19 San Antonio

Jun 11 Mission

Reading the Weather

Apr 14 Corpus Christi

SPECIAL EVENTS

Youth Hunter Education Challenge

May 4-6 Kerrville

IHEA Annual Conference

Jun 2-7 Kansas City, MO

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

ST _____ Zip _____

THE Newsletter of

THEIA Texas Hunter Education Instructors Association, Inc.

Fall 2011-Winter 2012

Number 41

OFFICERS

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
---	--	--	---

Website: TXHEIA.ORG	Manager: Jim Schaefer	jim.schaefer@ntxha.net
Newsletter Editor: Peggy Ann Weyel	San Antonio	210-696-9599
		pweyel@sbcglobal.net

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

FRIENDS,

As we reach the end of another great year, I want to thank all of you for the great work you have done. The number of classes and the number of students are an indication of the dedication you all show to our sport and the youth of Texas. Thank you again for a great job.

As this letter is written, I have good news and bad news. In fact, I have GREAT news. Terry Erwin has agreed to postpone his retirement date until December 31, 2012 in order to work towards some special goals. He will be at his usual post, doing the usual wonderful job for Hunter Education, and for us, the instructors. Thanks for staying, Terry, from all of us.

Now for the bad news. Our annual meeting was scheduled to be the weekend of March 17, 2012, in Nacogdoches. Joe Rogers was diligently working on preparations with hotel and other facilities as he did previously. Unfortunately, Joe had a family emergency that forced him to relocate immediately to Oklahoma. Best wishes to Joe and his family. Our negotiations with the hotel reached a point where they would not reduce prices on meals or guest rooms. The resulting fees would have been about \$60 dollars per attendee, with an additional \$99 dollars per day per guest room. In our present economic conditions, I could not ask you to pay this amount. With Terry's concurrence, our 2012 annual meeting is cancelled. We will attempt to reschedule at a later date, possibly on a smaller scale. When this happens you will be notified immediately.

The 2013 IHEA annual meeting will still be held in San Antonio on April 2 – 6. Organizers are our own Hunter Education staff, and although retired, Terry has agreed to assist as well. It will be a great benefit to our instructors to have our annual meeting on the weekend of April 6, both for the exchange of information and our exposure to other organizations on a national level. Among other benefits, Charlie Wilson has arranged for us to conduct the state YHEC event at the National Shooting Sports Complex close by.

Planning for our **May 4-6, 2012** Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge is underway. As many of you know that venue changed back to Jack Burch's Hill Country Shooting Sports Center in Kerrville. Rooms in the same hotels have been reserved at lower rates. Motel 6's rate for YHEC is \$69.99 for 1-2 people (reserve by April 20); La Quinta is \$79 for 1-2 people (ask for Group 240 and reserve by April 13) and YO Ranch Resort is \$80 for 1-2 people (ask for TXYOUTH512/reserve by April 1). See you all in Kerrville.

You all remember the South African hunt opportunities for THEIA members announced in our last Target Talk. We have had a number of inquiries, which were directed to the outfitter in SA that made the offer, and at least two instructors have booked hunts. I hope to find other opportunities that we can take advantage of. When I do, you will be the first to know. I am exploring the possibility of a New Zealand hunt for Red Stag, Chamois, and other game. Until then, be safe and keep your powder dry.

HUNTER EDUCATION EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

2012 Hunter Education Instructor Conference and Awards Banquet **has been cancelled for 2012.**

May 4-6, 2012, Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge, Hill Country Shooting Sports Center, Kerrville.

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.** Contact: Peggy Weyel, Coordinator; 210-696-9599, pweyel@sbcglobal.net

MORE ON WORDS... and TEST ITEMS, er...QUESTIONS

Or, How is the TPWD Hunter Education Exam Treating Your Classes

Our teaching team at the San Antonio Gun Club teaches the “One-Day Field Class” for about 24 students. Most of our students are young adults ages 17-30; the next greatest number are 9-17 year olds; and the fewest are 30 years of age plus. While all have passed the exam, we are interested that all are prepared to pass “the big test of life.”

To that end we started looking at the test items, or questions, they missed on the TPWD Hunter Education Exam. We have compiled and are using an item analysis of that Exam’s test items this year to find out what those 24 students know and don’t know. The result of this item analysis has been trying to improve how we teach. We discovered the following test items were missed most often:

#3. The most important ingredient to learning is ATTITUDE.

WHAT DID THE TEAM DO? We began by writing the word “attitude” on the board so we’d be reminded to use it every way we could. We present the class with the idea that “attitude” was an important part of learning anything and we were looking for “Positive attitudes” like participation, asking good questions, paying attention, etc. on the Hunter Skills Trail, Live Fire activities and reviewed how we demonstrated “positive attitude” or “negative attitude” in the Ethics and Responsibility portions of the instruction. Even with this “blitz” of instruction we still have 41% of our students, almost 2 in 5, are still missing this test item.

#20. A BROADSIDE shot is the most effective shot on deer....23%, nearly 1 in 4 students still don’t know what “broadside,” “quartering”...in any direction, and “head on” mean. And they may have more confusion when the word “shot” is added to each term, i.e., “quartering shot.”

WHAT DID THE TEAM DO? They wrote the words and sketched on the board what the types of shot meant then set up deer decoys on the Hunter Skills Trail so students could stand in relation to a broadside, quartering away, head on, etc. shot. We do not seem to be getting any improvement on students answering this test item correctly.

#29. If three hunters are walking in single file, ...the hunter in the center [should] use the cradle carry.

WHAT DID THE TEAM DO? We are finally getting some traction here! In the first months we had 80% of the students missing this test question. The three new practice rifle/shotguns we received from TPWD have been very helpful in providing students, especially those most inexperienced, to practicing each of the gun carries and not just observe or hear how to carry them.

Other test items that are causing us the scratch our heads, because 15%-20% of the students miss them, are: #28- Hunter judgment; #42 – Shooting stages; #46 - International distress signal; and #50 – Habitat.

We’re still working on making sure all students leave knowing more, or a lot more, than when they got there.

NEW TO ME. CHECK OUT THE *SPORTSMEN'S DEVOTIONALS* WEBPAGE
by Peggy Ann Weyel



“Now then, please take your gear, your, quiver and your bow, and go out into the field and hunt game for me....” Genesis 27:3

I was sent a daily devotional from this free webpage in an e-mail, was suitably impressed and decided to check it out. This is a free service that will, upon registering, provide you with a single devotional delivered to you each morning in your e-mail. As the website says:

“It is a completely free service and we have no hidden agendas except sharing our hearts and outdoor thoughts with you. They are written by sportsmen for the Sportsman or woman. Our staff pastors carefully scrutinize each devotional after it is submitted by our team for biblical accuracy.”....And, they “will NEVER sell, rent, or give your personal information to anyone,...”

Fifty men and women are on the listed devotional writing team. Thirteen on the photography are listed, many of whom are also the devotional writers. These are individuals from a cross section of occupations (hunting guide, fireman, policeman, educator, pastor, game warden, photographer, outdoor writer, even a rodeo clown) who are both work in and/or enjoy the outdoors. Most of these men and women are leaders in a variety of spiritual and social support organizations, such as youth and men’s Bible studies leaders, family counselors, and church deacons or pastors in addition to their regular jobs.

The beautifully produced photograph and Bible verse for the day only begins the devotional package. The complete devotional also provides:

The **author’s thoughts** on the passage of scripture which they tie to an outdoor theme.

Suggested **action points** that can be taken by the reader to do something to support the thoughts.

A “new valuable” **Sportsman Tip of the Day** that will provide a hands-on suggestion for making life better or easier even more thoughtful in your hunting and fishing experiences. It also extends seamlessly to family, friends, and your work-a-day world.

This website is just be the thing to get the hunter and fisherman, going each day when they can’t be out in the portion of God’s country that they love. Whether you have time for the complete devotional each day, just enough time to get the spirit uplifted with the photography and verse of the day, or if you just skip down to check out the THOUGHTS, ACTION POINTS, or the “new valuable” TIP OF THE DAY, this website will be appreciated at so many levels. Enjoy at SPORTSMENSDEVOTIONALS.COM.

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
1805 W. Walker
Breckenridge, TX 76424
H-/B 254-559-8010
bwtelephone@att.net

Region #2 Bob Douglas
P.O Box 2018
Van Alstyne, TX 75495
903-816-1082
bobdouglas26@yahoo.com

Region #7 Will Krebs
13844 FM 2093
Fredericksberg, TX 78624
830-669-2860
krebslaser@yahoo.com

Region #3 VACANT

Region #8 Steve Russell
818 Beth Drive
Tyler, TX 75703-4800
903-530-4338
txhuntered@gmail.com

Region #4 Thomas Connaughton
11011 Brighton Gardens Dr.,
Richmond, TX 77406
281-450-5276
JTConnaughton@miswaco.slb.com

Region #9 VACANT

Region #5 John "Jack" Thompson
8739 Ridge Front
San Antonio, TX
210-602-8032
jthompson6@satx.rr.com

Region #10 Daniel Sanchez
909 Sprague
Edinburg, TX 78539
H 956-380-0436
archerbow52@yahoo.com

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: _____