



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



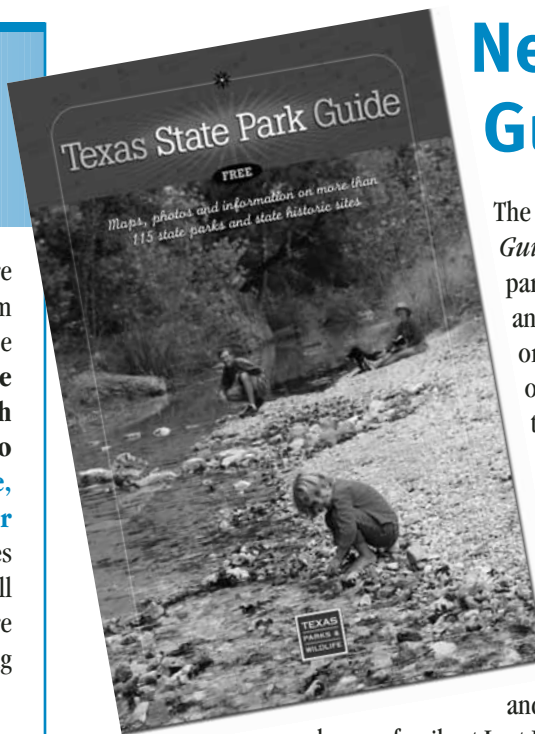
## Editor's CORNER

Rumors have it that change is near. Yes, changes are near, but we hope you will agree with and benefit from them. In January, the TPW Commission approved a fee increase for hunter education to **\$15 which will take effect on June 1, 2006 (not before)**. Along with that, the bowhunter education course will also go up in price at the same time. **After this date, instructors may retain \$10 per student to defer out-of-pocket expenses.** With gasoline prices approaching \$3.00 per gallon, I'm quite sure this will be appreciated. We hope you will schedule more courses and reach more students, thereby increasing certification numbers and, hopefully, license sales.

Other changes include postal services. If anyone has any of the white, 4" X 9", self-addressed, postage-paid envelopes, please destroy them immediately and do not use them for any purpose. They are no longer valid and will not be honored by the post office. The permit on them has expired and they must be removed from use.

If you have the current 6" X 9" manila, self-addressed, postage-paid envelopes, you may continue to use them until they are depleted. Do not destroy them, but go ahead and use them. Beginning June 1, 2006, you will begin to receive a new 10" X 13" manila, self-addressed envelope for your course paperwork so you do not have to "fold" it. Only change is ... **instructors will have to pay the postage from now on**, as TPWD will no longer provide postage-paid envelopes.

*continued on page 2*



## New State Park Guide Printed

The 3rd edition of the *Texas State Park Guide* has just been printed, providing state park visitors with updated park information and maps to help them plan their next park or historic site visit. A recently completed on-site survey of 11,000 state park visitors found the guide was one of the primary ways visitors get information about state parks. Forty three percent of park visitors stated that they had a State Park Guide, and 61 percent said it influenced their decision to visit a Texas state park. Each year the guide is refreshed with a new cover photo and other enhancements. This year's cover

shows a family at Lost Maples State Park, and a similar photo is on the 2006 Texas State Parks Pass card. Approximately 500,000 copies of the 112-page guide were printed this year. By the end of March, the guide can be picked up free at state parks and historic sites, TxDOT travel information centers and at select TPWD sites, retailers and chambers of commerce and Convention and Visitors Bureaus. The guide is also on the TPWD Web site in both English and Spanish. Underwriting funding for the new guide was provided by Toyota through a sponsorship with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation.

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## Editor's CORNER, continued

With the new student fee increase, you should be able to adequately cover the cost of mailing in your course records. Look at it this way: since you will no longer have to fold paperwork, mailing and postal services should be enhanced with these changes.

As many of you observed, we have been late with distributing incentive awards this year. Somehow, the computer database system we use became corrupted and ceased to function properly in the background. It was an unknown fact that was discovered towards the end of last year. We have been working with our IT Division on correcting these errors to ensure that your points are consistently added to your cumulative record. It only affected a few records (around 650), but we could not roll over the year end totals for everyone because of this. We have reached a point of being able to do the rollover, and we will distribute all awards as soon as possible. Some of you may have already started to receive your awards. If you have concerns regarding your points, please call Kathy Powell at (800) 792-1112, ext. 8142 for clarification. Thanks for your patience!

### Something to Raise Your Spirits

This story has been passed around many times and has been changed somewhat from the original author's version to fit the situation. Please read and absorb it for what it is worth and apply it to your life as needed.

A young man went to his father and told him about his life and how things were so hard for him. He did not know how he was going to make it and wanted to give up. He was tired of fighting and struggling.

It seemed as one problem was solved, a new one arose. His father took him on a camping trip and shared the following during that time. After camp was set up and the fire was glowing nicely with hot coals, he filled three pots with water and placed each on the fire. Soon the pots came to a boil. In the first he placed carrots; in the second he placed eggs; and in the last he placed ground coffee beans. He let them sit and boil, without saying a word.

In about 20 minutes he removed them from the fire to cool. He fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. He pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then, he ladled the coffee out and placed it in a cup. Turning to his son, he asked, "Tell me what you see." "Carrots, eggs and coffee," he replied. His father brought him closer and asked him to feel the carrots. He did and noted that they were soft. The father then asked the son to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, he observed the hard boiled egg.

Finally, the father asked the son to sip the coffee. The son smiled as he tasted it and smelled its rich aroma. The son then asked, "What does it mean, father?" His father explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity ... boiling water. Each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak.

The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water in color and aroma.

"Which are you?" he asked his son. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?"

Think of this: Ask yourself, which am I? Am I the carrot that seems strong – but with pain and adversity, do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength? Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff? Does my shell look the same, but on the inside am I bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and hardened heart?

Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot,

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Terry Erwin



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### 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](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us)

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it releases the flavor and fragrance. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you. Only YOU can do that.

When the hour is the darkest and trials are their greatest, do you elevate yourself to another level? How do you handle adversity? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?

May you have enough happiness to make you sweet, enough trials to make you strong, enough sorrow to keep you human and enough hope to make you happy. The happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the most of everything that comes their way. The brightest future will always be based on a forgotten past; you can't go forward in life until you let go of your past failures and heartaches.

We have all endured times of trouble and often wanted to give up. The challenge is to overcome adversity and make the best of any situation.

We have the greatest instructors in the world and I am very proud to work with each and every one of you. Anytime you feel the need to vent, discuss, request assistance or just want to say "Hello," I am always willing and will be there. Thanks for all you do for Hunter Education, TPWD and the hunters of Texas and for supporting the efforts to *continue the heritage of hunting for future generations*.

Remember, "Do well your part, for there all honor lies."

Terry Erwin

## Welcome New Instructors

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

### November

Mike Davis	Katy
Joe Lehmborg	Schertz
Timothy Smith	Three Rivers
Brian Chandler	Brownwood
Richard Willis	Crosby
Adam Lampman	St. Hedwig
William Provence	Mesquite
Oscar Galindo	Premont
Matthew Woodley	Mabank
David Adams	Wichita Falls
John Duren	Burkburnett
Matthew Provence	Mesquite
David Loughridge	Plano
Jennifer Stewart	Livingston
Michael Potts	Seabrook
D'Anna Green	Stephenville
Katrina Powell	Weatherford
Jerry Provorse, Jr.	Copperas Cove
Donald Jefferies	Manvel

### December

Richard Pfeil	Bryan
Casimer Stawicki	Houston
Charles Ducote	San Angelo
Chad Goldston	Lubbock
Richard Kelley	Wolfforth
Jack Young	Shallowater
Omar Sandoval	Lubbock
Craig Mann	Lubbock

### January

Bruce Robinson	Kingwood
Frederic Wenzel	Katy
David Benton	San Angelo
Kory Perlichek	Childress
David Horn	Hooks
Thomas Burnett	Bellaire
Sherman Benson	Baytown
Whitney Fields	The Woodlands
Joseph Pearce	Spring
Patrick Coyne	Bellaire
Charles Coates, Jr.	Houston
Richard Phillips	Purdon
Angela Waiser	Rockdale
Lisa Neu	Needville
Genevieve Allen	Huntsville
Dale Camp, Jr.	Fort Worth
Brian Johnson	Keller
William Harris	Richmond
Anthony Heinen	Terrell
Thomas Yowell	Lubbock
Paul Weiser	Benjamin
John O. Scott	Iola
John T. Scott	Iola
Joseph Guerra	San Antonio
Donald Fortenberry	San Angelo
Kayla Kieschnick	College Station
Brandon Thomason	Stephenville
Richard Rivas	Pearland

### February

Bobby Strader	Willis
Chad Reiter	Corpus Christi
Gary Dominguez	La Vernia
Axoldo Soliz, Jr.	Sullivan City
Kenneth Johnson	Sinton
Jose Perez	Corpus Christi
John Hudson	Friendswood
Oscar Cortez, Jr.	Kingsville
Stephen Russell	Abilene
Fred Bowers	Junction
Jorge Valdez	Eagle Pass
Jason Clepper	Aquilla
James Harle	Katy
Aubrey Sledge	Katy

### March

Gus Puente	Armstrong
Daniel Myers	Amarillo
Reagan Pillack	Woodville
Amy Zellers	Odem
William Clifford	Alamo
Williard Vazquez	Converse
Ashley Kinsey	San Antonio
Stanley Fithen	Amarillo
Darcy Hubbard	Bryan
Robert Mayfield	Wichita Falls
Kevin Lancaster	Houston
Troy Kaldor	San Angelo
Jeremy Shields	Lubbock
Larry Skero, Jr.	Porter
Charles Vaughn	Conroe
Regina Blanek	San Angelo

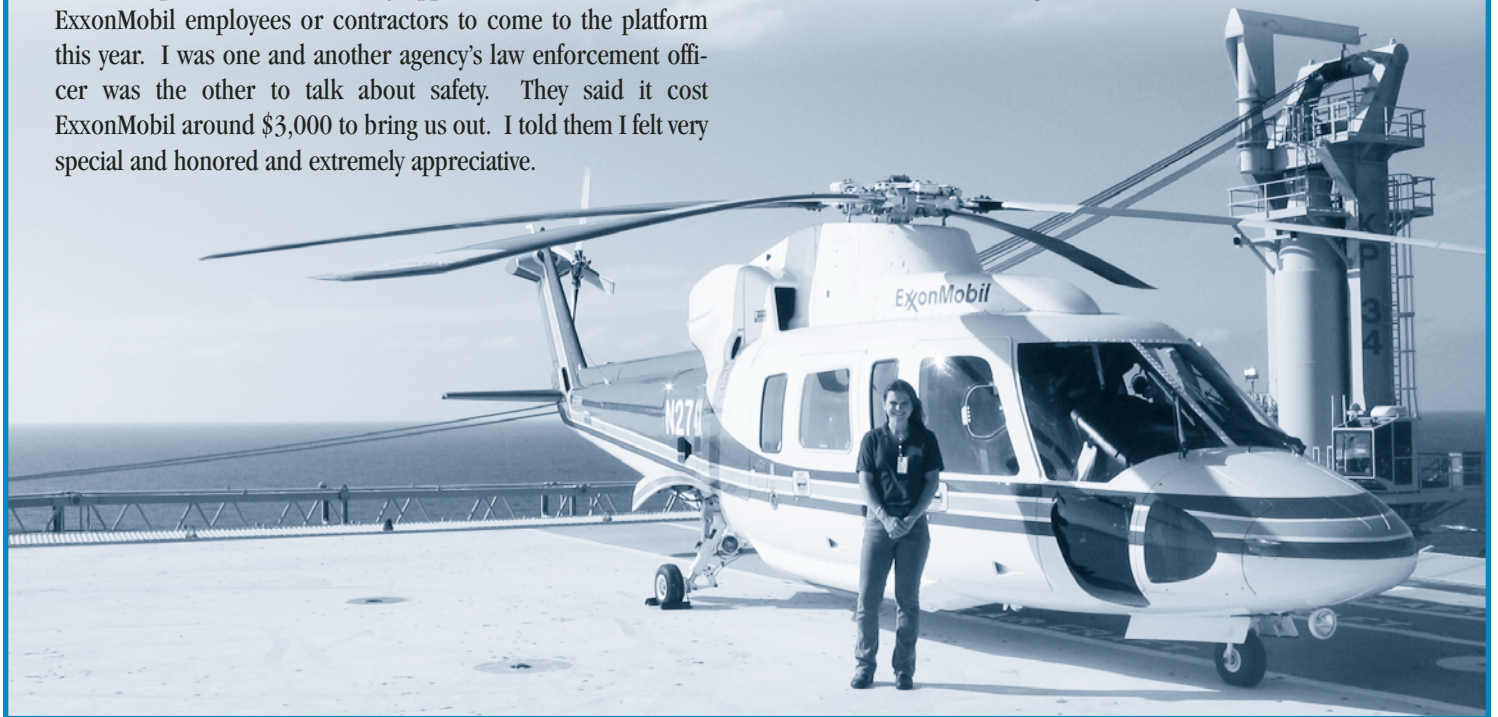
# Staff Visits ExxonMobil Offshore Platform

By Heidi Rao

The Hoover/Diana platform is 160 miles from Galveston, 150 miles from Corpus Christi, about an hour helicopter flight from Galveston. The platform sits due east of Corpus. The platform is defined as a vessel because it is not anchored to the earth, which was 4,000 feet below me! The water was so blue out there.

I had to watch a DVD on Helicopter safety and aircraft training at 6 a.m., prior to the 7 a.m. departure. I arrived back in Galveston around 5 p.m. ExxonMobil only approved two "outside" non-ExxonMobil employees or contractors to come to the platform this year. I was one and another agency's law enforcement officer was the other to talk about safety. They said it cost ExxonMobil around \$3,000 to bring us out. I told them I felt very special and honored and extremely appreciative.

I did a Power Point presentation on Hunter Education, firearm safety and TPWD opportunities. Of course, I had a captive audience of 26, all hunters and anglers. Some of these employees lived in West, Texas, Oregon, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Florida. They worked either seven days on and seven days off, or 14 on and 14 off. They were really a neat bunch of guys. Some of them attended my last talk two years ago, when I was about seven months pregnant. They all remembered and asked what I had and then congratulated me!



## New Facility Available

I work for the Roanoke Recreation Center and we are about to open our new Recreation Center to the public. I am the programmer for the facility, and I was curious if you could put the word out to the local game warden and volunteers that we are interested in offering the Hunter Education courses.

The facility is located at the corner of Roanoke Road and Parish Lane behind the Watermark Apartments. Thank you so much for your assistance. Please let me know if I can help in any way. We will provide the space at our facility and will not charge anything in addition to the fees that TPWD will charge for the class.

Jamie Accardo, Recreation Specialist  
 Roanoke Recreation Center  
 501 Roanoke Road, Roanoke, TX 76262  
 (817) 837-9930 • (817) 837-9940 fax

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Check your Workshop Schedule or call our office for events in the next few months. There are some exciting workshops happening around the state. Remember, if you take advantage of them, you gain additional knowledge to pass on to students and earn points towards incentive awards.

### Becoming An Outdoors-Woman



**May 19-21**  
 Texas Baptist Encampment in  
 Palacios

**Oct. 27-29**  
 Camp For All in Brenham

# TEXAS GAME WARDEN FIELD NOTES



## Game wardens aid fire victims

While those Panhandle fires were raging, TPWD employees were helping. Game wardens there logged 137 hours in wildfire assistance, helping to route fire trucks, conduct rescues and evacuations, locate bodies, and distribute food and water to stricken communities. Fires affected other regions besides the Panhandle. On March 12-13, Irion County Game Warden Shane Lewis spent 40 hours without sleep helping ranchers and firefighters battle blazes, including a fire that burned 400 acres of his father's ranch.

## Warden injured by reckless shooter

Game Wardens Jesse Garcia and Kevin Fagg received a report in Goliad County of someone killing deer and leaving it (waste of game). They arrived at the scene, a six-acre pasture surrounded by houses, and began investigating. They eventually found a dead deer, and while they were at the carcass, a shot rang out. Garcia was grazed in the knee with a rifle bullet, although the injury was not serious and he is reported to be in good condition. The shooter, who apparently had fired into the brush without a clear view of his target, was arrested and charged with deadly conduct.

## Oh, y'all have game laws here?

On Jan. 22, Tarrant and Wise County game wardens teamed-up to patrol southern Wise County for waterfowl hunters. After hearing numerous shotgun blasts coming from a sandpit located about a half-mile from a county road, the wardens entered the property on foot, initiating contact with the hunters. Upon completion of the contact, the wardens found numerous violations including possession of lead shot and exceeding the daily bag limit. The hunters were found with a total of 17 ducks, five of which were redheads. Appropriate citations and restitution are pending.

## And they apply to out-of-state hunters, too?

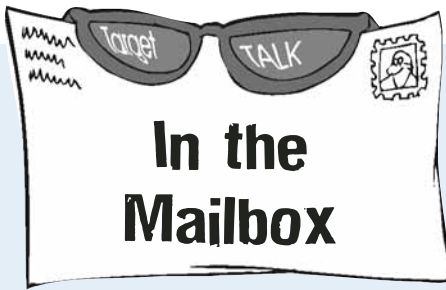
On Jan. 20, a Calhoun County game warden teamed-up with a United States Fish and Wildlife Service special agent and arrested six Delaware hunters involved in multiple waterfowl hunting violations near the Guadalupe Delta. The arrest resulted in 32 citations for taking geese in closed season, over the limit in ducks, possession of toxic shot shells, and no non-resident hunting licenses or waterfowl stamps. Criminal cases will be filed in the federal court. Restitution will be filed with the State Attorney General's Office for the birds.

## Honestly, we're just bad shots

On Jan. 21, a Montgomery County game warden was working an area where he believed some hunters had been hunting roosting wood ducks. Sure enough, right at dusk the shots started. Dean apprehended two men for hunting after hours. The two men had two ducks. They said it was because they were not good shots, and they had probably killed most of the birds in the area on previous hunts. Cases are pending.

## Just say "no parking"

A Lampasas County game warden located a vehicle parked alongside the roadway near the Lampasas River. Unable to locate the driver in the riverbed, the warden requested a deputy to stand-by while he attempted to find the driver, suspected of trespassing. The deputy happened to be a K9 officer and after the officers discussed the truck and location, both decided that the dog should make a trip around the vehicle. The K9 alerted on the vehicle, and Hill was able to locate the female driver trespassing on the adjacent property. After a search, 10 grams of methamphetamines, less than two ounces of marijuana, pipes, syringes, razor knives and other drug paraphernalia were found in the truck. The suspect was transported to Lampasas County Jail and second-degree felony charges are pending along with existing pending drug charges from Travis, Bell and Bastrop counties.



**Dear Staff:**

This is a letter of thanks to the people who supported me and prayed for me during my cancer surgery in December. I had no idea the vastness of prayers until a recent conversation with Mr. Erwin. There are so many to thank as I have been truly blessed with great friends and a wonderful family – not only my immediate family, but my extended family within Texas Parks and Wildlife. A huge thanks goes to Duke and SaraLynn Walton for their love and support during this time. Another big thanks goes to Heidi Rao and IHEA. Also, add to the list Ken Grau and John Meekins. There is no way I could ever convey my feelings about the care shown me.

I still have a ways to go but indications are there is no more cancer and radiation probably will not be needed. I am working on the physical therapy part now so I will be able to draw my bow come bow season. I hope to turn my experience into a positive thing and try to keep others from going through what I did. I am going to go to churches, expos, schools, etc., and any place that wants to hear me. My first obstacle has passed as I have assisted on two courses and have given a speech at a church expo which gave me the confidence to once again teach hunter education, which I am looking forward to doing for a long time. Again, thanks to all who prayed and supported me.

I have my cancer story on my Web page and folks will have to go through a warning page at the beginning to see it because of the graphic nature of the photos during my surgery. I will be happy to address any group or organization regarding my situation and how to prevent it. Look at the following Web site for the story: [www.outdoortexan.com](http://www.outdoortexan.com). Much love to you all and God Bless.

Curtis Ansley, Shepherd

**Dear Staff:**

I wanted to send you a report on the Trappers Workshop that I went to in Cushing that Harold Renfro and his family put on recently. I think I enjoyed it as much as any workshop I have ever attended! It really shows when a person loves what they are doing. Not only does Harold trap, so do three of his kids, Brandon, Erin and "Miss Sara," the youngest!

One of the things I always cover in my hunter education course when I have adult men present is the fact that they will spend the money to buy the clothes, boots, firearms and supplies for themselves but won't buy the RIGHT stuff for the wife (or girlfriend, which ever is the case) and kids, because "they will just out grow it!!" What a monumental mistake because if they don't have the right clothes, boots and gear they won't enjoy themselves and won't want to ever go back again!

Harold has brought his kids into the sport the right way and it shows. They were decked out just as Harold was at the beginning of the class he told us that he normally had another man assisting him and that he was sorry that he could not help with this class. I don't know what, if anything, the other man could have taught us that Harold and his kids didn't. They were GREAT at what they do and can show even an old dog such as me new tricks and help me enjoy the lesson!

Happy Trails, Duke Walton

**Dear Staff:**

Thank you and everyone else for the excellent Hunter Education Class last weekend. My daughter, Kristin, and I really enjoyed it and feel like we learned a lot. Kristin hunted alone this



morning for the first time (although she didn't see anything worth taking and should have been with me – see photo). This was out at our place in Lone Oak. This was all while my husband was on a hunting trip at my best friend's place down in Uvalde. Mine was bigger! I had my nine-year-old with me looking for a close shot at a doe (we just had an open sight .223, break open rifle with us because Kristin had the scoped .243 with her).

It was the first time I had field dressed a deer. I was thankful that you showed that video on how to do it – it worked out perfectly. You'll laugh at this. My husband had taken all of the good knives with him on his hunt, and I field dressed this buck with a kitchen knife from our cabin. Worked like a charm.

Thanks again.

Allison Glastad, Heath, TX

**Dear Staff:**

Wow! That's the best word I can find for the Trapper Workshop recently held in Cushing. The instructor was Harold Renfro. This was his second trapper education course and the first one he has done on his own as his assistant had not been able to attend. Mr. Renfro's absolute passion for trapping was evident from the very beginning. He loves it and gladly shares with others. He did have some assistance during this class.

His wife and his children were also very much into trapping. (See article on next page.) It is, for them, a family affair. Friday night was some classroom work and general discussion about trapping. Saturday was more classroom and hands on as we made our own snare traps. After lunch we went out to some property that Mr. Renfro was given permission to bring the class. On this property were several beaver dams, and some prime bottom hay pasture was ruined, and turned into a marsh by the beavers. The owner was

having Mr. Renfro come in to trap the beavers along with nutria and otters. We trudged through the muck and watched as Harold and his sons set trap after trap. Along the way, he went over what to look for and proper techniques.

Saturday night we meet back at the Lions Club and enjoyed wonderful beaver chili. Sunday we meet back at the property and checked traps. We ended up with one otter, two nutria and three beavers. Harold was very pleased as he said the first night on a new set usually doesn't do that good. Anyhow, this workshop makes the "Top Five" list for me. It was enjoyable, entertaining, informative and had a very personable touch due to Mr. Renfro and his family. The instructors attending were Duke Walton, Roy and Laura White and me. A great workshop was missed by many instructors.

Curtis Ansley, Shepherd

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# Family Side Business Teaches Children How To Trap Critters

By Christine S. Diamond, The Lufkin Daily News (Reprinted with permission)

**The beating pulse of biology and earth science has come to life for the Renfro children as their father imparts the ways of the woods to his brood of youngsters in an unlikely way. In the early misty morning on a cold winter day, they see, hear and understand things that others may miss.**

After four months of observing and studying nature's litany of footprints under his father's tutelage, 13-year-old Brandon not only knows which member of East Texas' animal kingdom left the print, but he can track the critter as well. "I know just about every one you can point at," Brandon said. A year ago, Harold Renfro said, he noticed his four children were showing signs of boredom so he decided to revive a family tradition — trapping.

"You learn a lot about the natural world when trapping," Renfro said. At age eight, Renfro's father took him out on their family land in Hudson for his first lesson in trapping. "He said he wanted to catch 'coons," Renfro recalled of that wintry morning.

The sale of the raccoon skins brought in extra cash for the Renfro family. "I sold my first hide when was 13 — I got \$35 for it," Renfro said. "I was excited to get a check for \$35 for one

raccoon hide. Hides brought in good money then." Renfro's wife Diane remembers accompanying her own father and grandfather at age six on trapping expeditions. Renfro grew up trapping on land owned by his father, grandfather and aunt in the Hudson area — until he discovered the Angelina River bottoms. Brimming with otters and a variety of other animals, the river bottoms became Renfro's trapping grounds from then on.

A year ago, Renfro — deciding it was time to teach his own children the art of trapping — embarked on a mission to trap nuisance beavers that were building destructive dams on private property near their home in Cushing. Along the way, the Renfro brood saw and learned how the beaver population has exploded in East Texas — to the point that the animals build their homes in ditches and culverts. Left unchecked, the beavers' work stops the flow of water and causes destructive flooding of yards, streets



and timberlands. According to Brandon, their first catch was a raccoon — which uses the beaver's dams as their own personal highways. Since then, Sarah said, the family has trapped raccoons, beaver, bobcats, skunk, mink, nutria, mountain lion and armadillos. Nutrias, 18-25 pound furry rodents, sometimes associated with golf courses are everywhere, Renfro said, "cause millions of dollars worth of damage." "I've caught so many things it ain't funny," Brandon said. "The first thing I caught was a beaver," said 10-year-old Aaron. "I am a trapper and also a hunter" he concluded.

Because beavers are nocturnal animals, seeing one — even at a zoo — is a rare opportunity, Renfro said.

Trapping these 50-pound creatures of the night has afforded the Renfro brood numerous opportunities to examine the beavers' large pancake-like, muscular tail. Under their father's watchful

diseases easily contracted by people, they are careful to avoid being cut or bitten. Hidden dangers lurk in the alluring water of streams and lakes, they've also learned. The names of diseases like beaver fever roll off their tongue. "You don't get in the water when you have cuts on you," Brandon said. As their family's interest in trapping picked up, Renfro started receiving requests from landowners to take care of pesky beavers.

Renfro went to Louisiana where he took the National Wildlife Control officer's test and received his license. While most states recognize and require this license, Texas does not. Instead, before Renfro could be paid to trap and remove squirrels, Texas law says he must have a pest control license. This goes for snakes, skunks or any other rodent that might invade a person's home or yard, he said. "There is a fine line between pest control and wildlife management," Renfro said. "We do not use chemicals."

**Beaver burgers, beaver chili and beaver fajitas are just a few favorites the Renfro trappers have cooked on the grill. In fact, beaver fajitas were the main entree at a recent birthday party where all of Brandon's guests attested to enjoying the East Texas delicacy.**

eye, the children have learned to skin and to clean their catches. "A beaver that size can take two hours to skin," Brandon said as he ran his fingers through the soft, warm pelt lying on the table in front of him.

Each child has his own beaver hide, Renfro said. That is, each child except Joshua. "Lord knows I don't want any dead animal in my room!" the 11-year-old said. While just as interested in the world outside and all his father has to teach, Joshua has already chosen his own style of hunting — behind the lens of a camera. Nor is Joshua as enthusiastic about seeing the inner workings of the creatures the family catches. As the dissection takes place, Renfro hangs each organ on a clothesline and gives an anatomy lesson. "We are so used to it, it doesn't faze us," Brandon said. Then they prepare the meat for eating. While Diane supports her husband's efforts, she herself isn't a fan of the extra work it creates. "I don't cook it, and I don't eat it," she said. Her children and their friends, however, do enjoy cooking and eating the beaver meat. Beaver burgers, beaver chili and beaver fajitas are just a few favorites the Renfro trappers have cooked on the grill. In fact, beaver fajitas were the main entree at a recent birthday party where all of Brandon's guests attested to enjoying the East Texas delicacy.

As their understanding of the natural world grew, the children became cautious rather than fearful. Aware that animals carry

Trapping is a proven form of wildlife management, Renfro said, and he'd like to see Texas recognize that. "It takes a lot of woods skills and knowledge to be proficient," Renfro agreed. The art of trapping has changed a lot since Renfro, himself, was a boy. That's why he is offering classes to train other youth and their families in the ways of the woods. "With animal rights, we have to change our method of trapping," Renfro said. Today's traps don't have the vicious teeth of yesteryear's devices. "It's either a more lethal means where the animal is killed instantly, or snares, where the animal is caught unharmed and can be released, or relocated, unharmed," Renfro said.

"It takes courage," said nine-year-old Sarah, Renfro's daughter who learned to trap last winter, "to make sure your fingers don't get caught in the trap." And so a year after introducing his children and their friends to the world of trapping, Renfro held his first class Dec. 9-11. "I'm going to show kids the different traps, how to read animals signs and look for them," he said — "basic woods skills that even if they never trap again they'll have these skills."

Renfro's class, which includes classroom and field exercises as well as membership to Texas Trappers and Fur Hunters Association, costs \$30 for those under 17 and \$35 for adults. For more information, call Renfro at (936) 326-4774 or e-mail him at harold\_renfro@yahoo.com.

# Kudos



## New Hall of Fame Members

Shown here are the latest instructors who have successfully been inducted into the Texas Hunter Education "Hall of Fame" during the recent Instructor Annual Conference held in Nacogdoches. Left to right is Terry Erwin presenting plaques to four Area Chiefs: "Odie" O'Dwyer, Copperas Cove; Cindy and George Sykora, Waco; and Jim Haynes, Richmond. These Area Chief instructors represent a total of 56 years of teaching and 3,694 students. Congratulations for a job well done!

## Top Firearm Awards Presented

During the Instructor Awards Banquet held in Nacogdoches, these individuals were presented with gift certificates to receive their top firearm incentive awards from McBride's Guns in Austin. Pictured left to right with Terry Erwin are Donnie Kee, Area Chief, Lufkin (2500 Point Handgun Award); Charles Snowden, Area Chief, Linden, (3000 Point Rifle); Danny Odem, Area Chief, Orange, (2500 Point Handgun); James Davis, Area Chief, Pasadena, (2500 Point Handgun) and Jim Schaefer, Grandview; (2500 Point Handgun) Congratulations!



Shown here is Jim Schaefer right after redeeming his gift receiving his handgun award from Joe McBride in Austin. Congratulations Jim and sincere thanks to Joe McBride for his continued support of our incentive program.



Left to right is Curtis Ansley, Bobby Wood, Duke Walton, John Meekins shown presenting Bobby Wood with a Certificate of Appreciation for putting on annual Expos in Cleveland to promote hunting and youth activities, and for the use of his Baptist Church in Cleveland for hunter education.

Shown here are Matt "Pot" Mercer and Joe Rogers during the Annual Instructor Conference held in Nacogdoches on Feb.18-19. "Pot" is displaying his camouflage suspenders he was presented during the event. Thanks to Joe and "Pot" for the tremendous job they did in hosting the event. It was truly one of the best Texas has ever had.



Hunter Education Specialist Kent Irvin receives his 10-year plaque from Terry Erwin during the Area Chief Regional meeting held in Grand Prairie in January. Kent started with the department in the Wildlife Division, left the department to complete his bachelor's degree, then rehired on with Hunter Education as a Training Specialist in 1999. While with hunter education, Kent continued his education and completed his master's degree last year. Congratulations Kent!



"To all to whom these presents shall come, Know ye, that DUKE WALTON is hereby commissioned an Admiral in the Texas Navy with all rights and privileges appertaining thereto and with the duty of assisting in the preservation of the history, boundaries, water resources, and civil defense of the state. In testimony whereof, I have signed my name and caused the Seal of the state of Texas to be affixed at the City of Austin, this, the 15th day of February, A.D. 2006." Signed by: Governor Rick Perry and Secretary of State Roger Williams.

This award was presented to Duke by the Brotherhood of the Admirals of the Texas Navy on Feb. 15, 2006 for the volunteer time and work that Duke has given to the youth of the state of Texas. Congratulations Duke!

# Geocaching

By Denise Garza, A&M Cooperative Extension

Do you have the travel bug? What about the technology bug? Last spring many hunter education instructors satisfied both during the GPS Workshop in College Station. In addition to GPS history, application and instruction, we were introduced to *Geocaching*.

A cache (kash) is: a. A hiding place used especially for storing provisions, b. A place for concealment and safekeeping, as of valuables, or c. store of goods or valuables concealed in a hiding place.

Geocaching involves caches hidden all over the world and provides GPS coordinates for finding them.

Geocache coordinates are maintained at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com). Anyone can visit this site and download GPS coordinates for their area. There are over 2,000 sites alone in and around College Station. Just type in your zip and choose your city. You will then be able to view cache sites in your area or the area you are visiting. There are sites located around the globe from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe.

During our GPS Workshop in April, teams were formed and given GPS coordinates and sent out to find some cache sites. Cache sites are rated on a five-star rating for difficulty and terrain (one star being the least difficult). Some require a lot of "bush whacking"; others are very easy. Some of our sites led us to the George Bush Presidential Library, an old historic home site and several city parks. Be sure you print out

the written clues, because many of the caches are hidden from plain view and hard to find. One cache was inside a post. Another one was inside a one-inch pipe sealed with an end cap drilled into a large rock and painted to camouflage it.



Many of the sites have themes, such as "Quackers." This site was around a lake with lots of ducks. All of the sites have logs that you can sign once you find them. Some of the sites have caches large enough to contain items to trade or take. One was titled "Lost Marbles." At this site you could sign the log and take a marble. The one at Wolf Pen Creek said to bring a pin or pen with you for trade. Each site offered enjoyment of the outdoors and the challenge of using your GPS equipment. Whether finding the site was easy or difficult, we discovered new places. I have lived in College Station for 14 years now and never knew some of these places existed.

So if your travel and/or technology bug starts to itch, look up your town and see if there is a cache for you to discover. You will gain both GPS skills and outdoor enjoyment.

## KATHY'S KORNER

Hi Folks! Yep, it's me again. I really wanted to thank all of you, and especially THEIA President, Tom Stashak, for presenting me with my birthday cake at the annual conference in Nacogdoches. It had only a few candles on it, but I guess that is what keeps me young. It was special, and meant a lot. Thanks!

I also wanted to let you know that we are still receiving courses without the funding. I cannot process the paperwork until this funding is received by our office. Therefore, please remember to get me your paperwork and appropriate fees within seven (7) days of the certification date!

I know you will like the new 10" X 13" envelopes because you will not have to fold the paperwork. That will help me, as well, when I scan the forms. Use up the old envelopes first, though, like instructed in the Editor's Corner.



K A T H Y

# For Your Information

*From NSSF*

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Approves Four Nontoxic Shot Types

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently approved four new non-toxic shot types for waterfowl and coot hunting in the United States. “The Service’s approval of these four shot types demonstrates our determination to make it easier for waterfowl hunters to comply with the restrictions on lead shot. Hunters now have a wider choice of shot types and this will continue to lessen the exposure of waterfowl to lead,” said Service Director H. Dale Hall. “The Service appreciates the efforts of the companies that have developed alternatives to lead shot.”

The approved shot types are:

- A formulation of tungsten-iron-copper-nickel (TICN) shot, composed of 40-76 percent tungsten, 10-37 percent iron, 9-16 percent copper and 5-7 percent nickel produced by Spherical Precision, Inc. of Tustin, California;
- A formulation of iron-tungsten-nickel (ITN) alloys composed of 20-70 percent tungsten, 10-40 percent nickel, and 10-70 percent iron produced by ENVIRON-Metal Inc. of Sweet Home, Oregon;
- A formulation of tungsten-bronze (TB) shot made of 60 percent tungsten, 35.1 percent copper, 3.9 percent tin, and 1 percent iron produced by Olin Corporation of East Alton, Illinois; and
- A formulation of tungsten-tin-iron (TTI) shot composed of 58 percent tungsten, 38 percent tin, and 4 percent iron produced by Nice Shot, Inc., of Albion, Pennsylvania.

Waterfowl can ingest expended lead shot and die from lead poisoning. Efforts to phase out lead shot began in the 1970s, and a nationwide ban on lead shot for all waterfowl hunting was implemented in 1991. Canada followed with a complete ban in 1999.

A study in the mid-1990s suggested that the nationwide ban in the United States on the use of lead shot for waterfowl hunting has had remarkable success. Six years after the ban, researchers estimated a 64 percent reduction in lead poisoning deaths of surveyed mallard ducks and a 78 percent decline in lead pellet ingestion. The study concluded the restrictions on lead shot have prevented the deaths of thousands of waterfowl.

With the approval of these new shot types, the list of approved shot types for waterfowl hunting now includes bismuth-tin, iron (steel), iron-tungsten (2 types), iron-tungsten-nickel, tungsten-bronze, tungsten-iron-copper-nickel, tungsten-matrix, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-tin-iron, tungsten-tin-bismuth, and tungsten-tin-iron-nickel.

For more information on toxic and nontoxic shot, please see [http://migratorybirds.fws.gov/issues/nontoxic\\_shot/nontoxic.htm](http://migratorybirds.fws.gov/issues/nontoxic_shot/nontoxic.htm).

## Equipment Sales Up 8 Percent In '04

Hunting-related equipment sales saw the highest percentage increase of all athletic and sports equipment in 2004, according to new data from the National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA). NSGA’s report “The Sporting Goods Market in 2005” estimates sales of hunting-related equipment totaled \$2.8 billion in 2004, up 8 percent from the previous year. The next-highest category was tennis-related equipment sales, which rose 5 percent. Archery increased 4 percent, camping 3 percent, golf 3 percent, bowling 3 percent, fishing 2 percent, and baseball/softball 2 percent.

Within the hunting-related equipment category, firearms saw a 9.5 percent sales increase in 2004 to \$1.9 billion, according to the report. Rifle sales (\$722 million) showed a 16.5 percent increase, handgun sales (\$524 million) increased 10.4 percent; shotgun sales (\$534 million) were up 1.9 percent and air gun sales (\$120 million) rose 3 percent. At \$2.8 billion in total sales, hunting-related equipment ranked third among all athletic and sports equipment categories in 2004, with only golf (\$3.1 billion) and exercise equipment (\$5 billion) ranking higher.

## Teenage Girls And Shotguns . . .

The number of teenage girls participating in shotgun sports is up dramatically over the past five years, and there’s every indication that parents are pleased with their daughters’ new pastime. Across trap, skeet and sporting clays, the number of female participants age 12-17 rose 56 percent—from 133,000 to 208,000—between 1999 and 2004, according to a National Sporting Goods Association report. The upward trend also has been seen in SCTP, which in 2005 alone saw an 84 percent increase in participation by girls from elementary through high-school age. In a survey of SCTP parents, 94 percent said the competitive shooting program is a positive influence in their child’s development. In fact, the same percentage of parents would support shotgun sports as a school-based athletic program.

*"A thing is right  
when it tends to  
preserve the integrity,  
stability and beauty of  
the biotic community.  
It is wrong when it  
tends otherwise."*



## Leave No Trace in the Great Outdoors

By Capt. Game Warden Robert Goodrich

I recently attended a course to become a "Leave No Trace" Instructor for the Boy Scouts of America, and more specifically, my sons' troop. The Master Instructor, Charlie Thorpe, was dedicated to the concept that the use of the outdoors in America brings with it a great ethical responsibility to keep it as pristine as possible for the next person or generation to come. That vision has come alive all across America in the concept of "Leave No Trace."

The concept is not new, as many people have heard that you should leave nothing but your footprints in the wild, but LNT goes further than that. It gives you a set of seven principles to educate outdoor users in all kinds of situations. The idea is to change the behavior of outdoor users through education and to view this land as a community to which we belong and to treat it with love and respect from the backyard to the back country. A quote that Charlie used often to make that point was, "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it

tends otherwise." – Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*

The Boy Scouts of America have mandated that no boys' summer camps may operate without "Leave No Trace" instructors on staff. The U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service have formed a partnership with the "Leave No Trace" Center to establish a curriculum for its visitors.

As a member of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department team, I know this program could benefit every department in educating their user groups. This education could come back to us all in the better preservation of existing resources and infrastructure.

I challenge all my team members and fellow educators to incorporate the "Leave No Trace" ideas into their training and awareness programs. The LNT Web site ([www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org)) will help that challenge along. As a volunteer instructor, I plan to assist in any workshops that can help promote this concept.

## Biologists Watch Drought

In spite of some rain that hit certain parts of Texas with a cold front this year, the drought situation in most of the state is worsening.

For example, Wildlife Division Region II/District 3 in western North Texas reports it "has seen less than one inch of combined total precipitation since Aug. 15, 2005," which has resulted in "little to no cool season plant germination" and "an overall decline of habitat conditions." Chaparral WMA in South Texas reports "forbs production is non-existent and grasses show no green plant material" and "ground-nesting bird survival will likely suffer as a result."

A report from Mason Mountain WMA notes a small positive: "the warm winter has made the dry conditions bearable for most species." Observers say a critical factor now is whether we get good rain this spring, that things will be much worse if not. Others note it's important not to present the drought as a disaster for hunting, since it's early yet to make that call and hunting can actually play a valuable role in landscape management during drought.

Meanwhile, Gov. Perry recently declared all 254 Texas counties disaster areas, requesting federal disaster relief for farmers and ranchers. Cindy Loeffler in Coastal Fisheries is collecting information from field employees and represented TPWD in the Drought Preparedness Council meeting.



# Teachable Moments

By Volunteer Master Instructor Jim Schaefer

Whenever something doesn't go right during a Hunter Education course we, as instructors, use the opportunity for a "teachable moment." Some of the students and I had one of those moments recently. Fortunately none of the students or I were involved in this mishap.

While taking the last group of students through the Hunter Skills Trail, we heard two shots fired nearby. That normally wouldn't be a problem because the class was being conducted at Alpine Gun Range, but the shots came from the other side of a Sporting Clay field just off the range property at about 5 p.m. on an overcast day. Then we saw a blue heron fly over us from where the shooting had occurred. Not thinking someone would shoot at this bird, I mentioned that

if one of these birds would land near where you are hunting, it would make a great "confidence decoy."

We had almost completed the Skills Trail when on the path lay the blue heron, wounded. I immediately grabbed my cell phone and dialed one of the several game wardens assigned to Tarrant County that help with my classes. Officer Padgett, who I called, was at the other end of the county. He told me that officer McCall, who had been at this class earlier, was off duty. Game Warden Clint Borchardt was dispatched to meet me at the classroom.

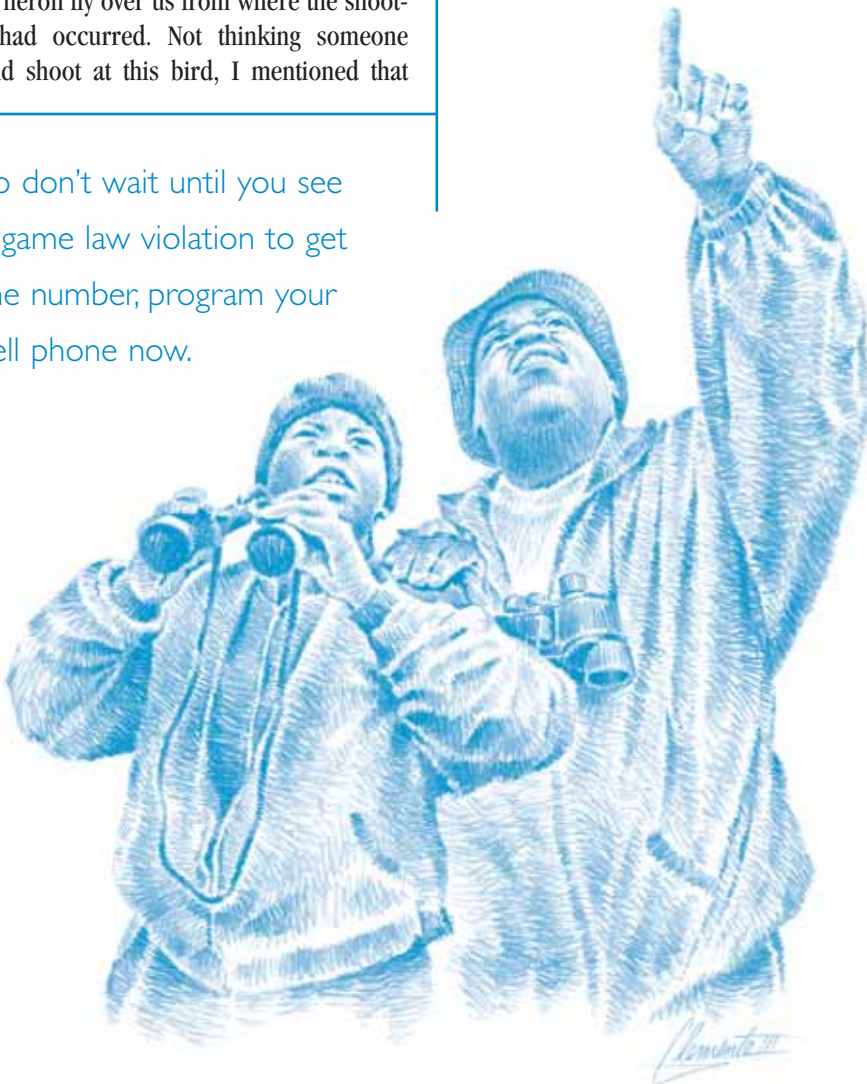
Officer Borchardt arrived and my daughter Kandice and I took him to where the wounded bird sat in the field. Clint caught the blue heron with a little help and placed it gently into a cage. Using the GPS unit on his dashboard of his truck to mark our location, I pointed out the direction where the shots came from. Office Borchardt started his investigation.

I cannot exactly tell you what he did or how, but from the information I gave Game Warden Borchardt, he was able to connect the dots. He found two suspects and after some questioning, was able to get a confession from one suspect to shooting the bird. Clint instructed me to call the hot-line and give them my information; he had already given them the rest of the details of the incident.

Now if you didn't catch the "teachable moment" here it is. Someone shot and killed a protected, nongame bird, a Class C Misdemeanor with a fine of \$25 to \$500. Since I hadn't pre-programmed the Operation Game Thief hot-line number [(800) 792-GAME] into my cell phone, it was faster for me to dial a game warden direct. So don't wait until you see a game law violation to get the number, program your cell phone now.

I want to thank the two other volunteer instructors, Brian O'Dwyer and Chris Ryan, and my unofficial assistant, my daughter Kandice, who with their help the class of 62 students concluded on time.

So don't wait until you see a game law violation to get the number; program your cell phone now.



Operation  
Game Thief  
(800) 792-GAME

# Training Efforts and Workshops



## Area Chief Regional Workshops

Shown here is Area Chief Instructors who attended the regional workshop held at the Grand Prairie Gun Club. During this meeting, program updates were provided and discussions of upcoming events or happenings about the state were included. Thanks to those who attended.



## Texas Archery in the Schools Program

Heidi Rao hosted an intense workshop for Boy Scout leaders of the Sam Houston Council in the Houston area. The Archery in the School Program is the fastest growing program in the nation and this group of leaders felt it extremely important to take the training, gain certification and offer the program for their Scouts.

An Exotics Workshop was hosted by Duke Walton in Porter, Texas. Shown left to right are the following individuals: Sam Riley, Fred Wenzel, Joe Drobniak, Curtis Ansley, Ken Grau, Kayla Garza (Curtis' daughter), Duke Walton, Don Barker and Bruce Robinson.







Heidi Rao and a group of instructors from East Texas were fortunate in having a representative from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service present a workshop on "Importation and Exportation" of items allowed brought into and shipped from the United States. Instructors learned the requirements for processing items and what can and cannot be done according to federal law. It was a great workshop, and instructors will be able to pass on the information to students who wish to travel outside U.S. borders to hunt.



Shown here is the group who attended the Western Big Game Workshop held in New Caney on March 25. Thanks to Walt Isenhour, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, who presented these past two years. Here, he receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Area Chief Duke Walton.

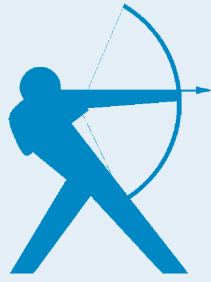
## Visitors From Spain

As we all know, Texas is one of the greatest locations in the world to hunt, and this proves out by the recent visit of seven bow hunters from Spain. Jorge Amador (second from the right and his brother Alberto, third from the right) and a group of their friends traveled to Texas on Feb. 28 for a javelina and wild hog hunt near Laredo. On their way, they took time to visit the new Cabela's store in Buda.

Shown here during their visit with Terry Erwin, who assisted with IBEP and hunter education certification a few years back, is the group just before they went inside the store for a three-hour shopping spree. One commented, "Going to Cabela's for us is much better than visiting Disney World."

Welcome to Texas, guys!





# THE BOWHUNTER

## TEXAS BOWHUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

### Safety Vests

By Timm Getts, IBEP Instructor, Plano

Year after year we as instructors read and hear about all the people who have fallen from their tree stands. We here the reasons why like, “the harness gets in the way,” “does not fit well over my hunting clothes,” or “I never thought about wearing one.” Well, I had the pleasure of attending the ATA trade show in Atlanta this year and my goal was to see and try out the new vest style full body harness.

My first stop was the **Integrated Safety** booth to meet with Tim Wilcox. Tim demonstrated the vest for me and then allowed me to wear one. I was amazed how simple it was to get the vest on and adjusted. My concern was how the vest would feel to a hunter if they fell out of their stand. They allowed me to hook myself up to a tripod device and fall. Now I weigh over 200 pounds and the vest supported my weight and kept me in the upright position. My weight was distributed evenly and there was very little discomfort. I lowered myself to the floor, unlatched the vest and walked away very impressed.

My final stop was the **Hunter Safety System** booth. I met with Jim Barta who is Vice President of HSS. We found a vest for me to try on and made some adjustments. I walked around the booth and it was easy. The vest did not hinder my mobility. I squatted down, stretched and even attached myself to a pole to see what the vest would feel like if I fell out of my stand. I had no problems with this vest either. The designers are hunters and they know what needs to be made to keep us all safe.

The rest of the day I kept thinking to myself about the tree stand safety part of our course and how easy it would be to show our students that all the known reasons for not wearing a full body harness could be addressed by this style of safety system.

I ordered one and tested it out in my backyard. It took less than five minutes to adjust and then secure myself to my red oak tree. I was able to move around and it would not interfere when I drew my bow back.

Our students rely on us to give them the most useful up-to-date information, and tree stand safety is one of the most important. We can show them that wearing a full body safety vest is not uncomfortable. It will not interfere with their hunting and it needs to be part of their hunting equipment.

## The Hunter Safety System®

Treestand Manufacturers Association (TMA) recommends that individuals purchase the **Hunter Safety System** vest as part of their normal equipment. It is one of the finest and most comfortable safety harness systems available on the market today, and carries the TMA seal signifying it meets TMA Standards. It has the ease-of-use, quick-cinch tree strap, tear-away tether stitching, quick adjustable features that make it one of the easiest to use.

For a catalog and more information on special pricing for instructors on this vest or related equipment, please contact them at (877) 296-3528 or [www.huntersafetysystem.com](http://www.huntersafetysystem.com)

## Treestand Safety Workshops Coming

There will be a Treestand Safety In-Service Workshop for any instructor interested on **May 19-20 in Nacogdoches** and **June 9-10 at the Grand Prairie Gun Club**. Times for both workshops are 6-10 p.m. on Friday and 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Actual Instructor certification will be given for this course and instructors will be able to instruct students. Treestand Manufacturers Association (TMA) will have staff present the entire course during each of the two-day, 12-hour sessions. TMA will provide all the training materials and equipment for the workshop at **no cost to the instructor**. In fact, all equipment used for the training will be awarded to the participants via a drawing at the end of the sessions.

If interested, please contact Joe Rogers in Nacogdoches at (936) 556-0947, or for the workshop in Grand Prairie, contact Kent Irvin at TPWD at (972) 263-1219 or Jan Heath at (972) 986-8247 to sign up or for more information.

## NBEF Online Course Now Acceptable

Texas has joined other states in offering the NBEF *Today's Bowhunter* online course as part of the certification process. If a student chooses to do the online course for a fee (not associated with TPWD course fee), and successfully completes it, they will be issued a "**Field Day Qualifier Certificate**," which will allow entry into an IBEP Field Day hands-on field course for final testing and certification.

IBEP instructors must conduct an actual skills-trail and live fire activity, do a one-hour presentation on Ethics and Responsibility, and administer a written exam (student must score 80%) and the student must successfully complete all portions in order to gain certification.

IBEP In-services were held in Del Rio, Houston, Grand Prairie and Austin this year and provided the updates covering this information. If interested in participating in the Skills-Trail Field Day testing, please contact our office at (800) 792-1112 for more information.

## NEW IBEP INSTRUCTORS

### November

Curtis Ansley	Shepherd
Richard Reed	Montgomery
Russell Roberts	League City

### March

James Faver, Jr.	Cleburne
Gerald Blakely	Clifton
Michelle Webb	Clifton
Thomas Webb	Clifton
Steven Sears	Millsap



**TEXAS  
PARKS &  
WILDLIFE**

## **Target Talk**

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

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